

THE OIL IS OURS!

■ It has now been proven that there is enormous mineral wealth in IRELAND and under our seas.

■ This wealth is owned by the GOVERNMENT on behalf of the people. If retained and DEVELOPED PROPERLY, it could provide VAST BENEFITS for EVERY IRISH CITIZEN

■ However, in recent years, successive governments have sold out this wealth to foreign interests.

■ The Resources Protection Campaign exists to fight this SELLOUT of our RESOURCES.

» A state oil company will ensure the development of petrochemical industries, thus providing thousands of secure jobs. Exports from these industries will create a vast new source of public revenue, thus enabling the government to greatly improve social services.

RESOURCES

PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

Twenty-nine miles off Kinsale, Co. Cork, enough methane gas has been found to supply Dublin's power needs for twenty years. Under a licence issued in 1959 and revised in 1970 the gas is owned 87½% by Marathon / Esso and 12½% by the State. The government is now negotiating a price to BUY BACK the gas from these companies. This licence, originally issued for £500, is now worth £300 millions. The Resources Protection Campaign believes that this agreement must now be revoked.

The Marathon licence gives that Company exclusive rights to explore for, and produce, oil and gas in an area of over 17,000 square miles off the Irish Coast, and is the only exclusive licence yet issued. There are now 65 internationally controlled oil companies seeking further exclusive licences for the remaining 80% of our Off-Shore territories. The Resources Protection Campaign believes that no further exclusive licences should be issued.

We believe that an integrated state oil company should be formed now, to explore for, produce, and distribute oil and gas, and to develop a petrochemical industry. State ownership must not be relinquished as in the case of our mines. It is only by retaining state control over each stage that the maximum return to the Irish economy from the development of our natural resources is possible. Worldwide experience has shown that the only motives of multinational corporations are rapid extraction and quick, high profits. A State oil company will ensure that the rate of exploitation, ultimate use of the oil and gas, and environmental protection will be controlled to the maximum benefit of the Irish people. It will also ensure that in a future energy crisis, Ireland, with control over its own energy supply, will not be at the mercy of the multinational oil companies.

• AN IRISH STATE OIL COMPANY

The Expertise

The multinational corporations hire their expertise from specialist contracting firms whose services are equally available to governments. This is how the successful state oil companies of Nigeria, Libya, Algeria and Norway were established. State control ensures that Irish people will learn the necessary technology in order to make us eventually independent in this area.

The Cost

It is cheaper to produce oil than any other mineral. In the North Sea, whose geological structures are similar to our own, the large sums of money necessary to develop the oilfields will be returned within one year of production. That is, after the first year's production, it is all profit until the well runs dry, which may take over thirty years. Already, in Ireland, Marathon has made three gas strikes from nine drillings, compared with a one-in-ten average in the North Sea. Up to now, worldwide oil exploration has been a very profitable business. With our geological structures and success so far using modern surveying techniques, it is a gilt-edged investment for our government.

The Use of Oil and Gas

Oil and gas are used as a fuel and in the generation of electricity. They are also used to make fertilisers and in petrochemical industries to make a wide range of goods such as plastics and medicines.

The Benefits

The development of our oil and gas resources will quickly produce a rapid reduction in Ireland's energy import bill of over £100m. By preventing the amassing of huge profits which would accrue to multinational corporations, a state oil company would make available cheaper electricity and fertilisers. For example, the Government is currently negotiating with Marathon to buy back the gas at Kinsale for the E.S.B. and N.E.T., who plan to build a power-station and fertiliser plant in Cork Harbour. If they were getting the gas from the state oil company, which would not be seeking enormous profit from it, the resultant cheaper electricity and fertilisers would immediately greatly reduce the cost of living for the Irish farmer and housewife.

If you wish to join the Resources Protection Campaign please complete the membership form overleaf and return to: RESOURCES PROTECTION CAMPAIGN, 113, St. Stephen's Green, DUBLIN, 2.

Subscription: 50p

Students: 25p

AN IRISH STATE MINING COMPANY

Over the last ten years the return to the State from the largest underground zinc mine in Europe (Silvermines) the largest single producer of silver in Europe (Tynagh), the finest barite deposit in the world (Ballynoe), and the largest mercury byproducts mine in the world (Gortdrum) has been £1.7million. The Resources Protection Campaign believes that this should not be allowed to continue. We believe that a state mining company should be instituted to control all future exploration and development with regard to mining in this country. In particular, we believe that the Navan Lead/Zinc deposit, the richest in the world, should be developed by this state mining company, and not by Tara Mines, whose shares are now controlled by three multinational corporations, Anglo-American- Cominco (34%) and Noranda (22%). The State mining company would control the rate of extraction from Navan to allow a smelter and subsequent metallurgical industries to develop. Rapid exploration for maximum profit, as with the oil companies, is what the mining companies want.

RESOURCES PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

The Resources Protection Campaign has now got four branches in Dublin City, and branches in U.C.D., T.C.D., Cork, Galway, Letterkenny, and Kilkenny. We want new members to be active locally in disseminating information to the public by holding meetings and forming further branches. We can be contacted at 113, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, 2. (Tel. 01-780299) where you can get the address of your nearest branch.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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Title: The Oil Is Ours!

Organisation: Resources Protection Campaign

Date: 1973 c.

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