

STOP THE ROBBERY OF IRELAND'S MINERAL WEALTH !

IRELAND NOW HAS:-
The largest known zinc-lead find in the world at Navan;
The largest underground zinc mine in Europe at Silvermines;
The largest producing lead mine in Europe at Tynagh;
Large mercury, magnesite, barytes and silver deposits at
Gortdrum, Bennettsbridge and Ballynoe;
Considerable wealth in oil and gas on the Continental Shelf;

THE CONSTITUTION STATES:- "all mines, minerals and waters belong to the State"
(Article 10). This position is ratified and enforced
by the Land Acts and the 1940 Minerals Act.

BUT, successive Governments have denationalised our minerals by giving our property away to international mining companies through State Mining Leases. The people have received minimal benefits from this and Irish minerals have been exported free of tax, and almost free of royalties, as raw ores to be processed and manufactured abroad. The new taxation policy does not alter the situation; the State still intends to give our mines away to the mining companies and it shortly is going to give Navan, the largest known zinc/lead find in the world, away to Tara Mines Ltd. Taxation yielding £130 million over twenty years will only secure for the Irish people 6% of the gross metal value of the Navan ores and present policy will mean that the country will also lose the massive potential for industrial development provided by the ores. AND, Government policy on Navan could well set a precedent for future discoveries on land and offshore. WE MUST STOP THIS SELL-OUT OF OUR WEALTH !

The RESOURCES PROTECTION CAMPAIGN is a broadly based, national organisation which has been founded to ensure that the people of Ireland get the maximum benefit from this country's considerable natural resources.

THE R.P.C. DEMANDS:-

- * That the Government should retain its ownership of Irish minerals and not relinquish them by granting a State Mining Lease to any private company
- * That all Government negotiations with Tara Mines Ltd should cease immediately in respect of a State Mining Lease for Navan
- * That the Government should grant the lease for Navan exclusively to the State-owned Mianrai Teoranta
- * That a State-owned smelter be established simultaneously with the development of Mianrai Teo.'s operations
- * That manufacturing industries be established to use the metals from an Irish smelter to create employment in this country from our own natural wealth

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP THE GREAT MINE ROBBERY:-

- * Together with others in the trade union movement, in all political parties, in community organisations, in the students' union and in other organisations, support the R.P.C.'s demands at every level - branch meetings, area meetings, trades councils, public bodies, student councils, right up to national conferences, executives and congresses;
- * Write letters to your local representatives, to your T.D.s, to the local and national newspapers and to the Minister for Industry and Commerce and his colleagues in the Cabinet, stating your views; do it now;
- * Join the R.P.C. through a local branch or by contacting the R.P.C., 113 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 (Tel 780299). Subscription: 50p or 25p for students, old age pensioners or unemployed; donations welcomed;
- * Talk to your friends and workmates, distribute leaflets and other information material, help organise a local branch of the R.P.C. or to arrange a public meeting in your own area.

This affects everyone in Ireland - your job, your home, the level of health, education and social welfare services. Ireland's newly found mineral wealth does hold the potential for an industrial revolution in this country. With this industrial development, based on democratic control of our natural resources, we can construct the kind of society we want in Ireland. But it all depends on you... and the others who care enough to.....

STOP THE SELL-OUT TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE !
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