

DT027 - Tolerating IRA arms

In his speech in the Queen's Speech debate, Mr Mandelson, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the decommissioning issue was stuck in the middle of the road, adding 'It is going to have to be addressed.' It has for years been addressed, readdressed, and looked at all over and from all angles. Still it is stuck there in the middle of the road. How can this be?

The IRA has huge dumps of lethal illegal weapons dotted about in various places in the Republic of Ireland. Why are they allowed to remain? Though illegal, indeed criminal, they are officially recognised to exist by the Irish Government. Arrangements are made for them to be gazed at (sorry inspected) by an international group of the great and the good who are supposed to detect any use of the weapons or other disturbance of the dumps.

I say again, how can this be? The dumps belong to the so-called Irish Republican Army. Why does the proper Irish Army, organised by the Irish democratic state, not move in, take them over, and destroy them - as it surely could if its controlling government wished? Obviously its controlling government does not wish, and that has always been the root of the trouble.

The Republic of Ireland prides itself on adhering to the rule of law, prized in democratic countries as the badge of high civilisation. Yet it allows this gross and festering affront to the rule of law to continue unchecked in its midst. I repeat: how can this be?¹

Note: Main letter, published under headline 'Irish army should destroy IRA weapons'

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