



22 Márta / March 2006

A chairde

Republican Sinn Fein extends greetings to Estat Catalonia on the occasion of your VII Congress. We salute your continued and unbroken struggle for Catalanian independence since 1922. Republican Sinn Fein, who last year celebrated the centenary of its foundation in 1905, is proud to take its stand alongside the Catalan people. We also extend solidarity to the other stateless peoples of Europe and the world who strive for national independence.

In Ireland this year we are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the 1916 rising as well as the 25th anniversary of the 1981 hunger strikes. The Irish struggle for an All-Ireland Democratic Socialist Republic continues today. 25 years after the deaths of Bobby Sands and his comrades' Republican prisoners are once again being denied full political status in the British occupied Six Counties. Harassment of Republicans by both the British and 26-County states is also ongoing.

The failed and sectarian Stormont Agreement of 1998 has clearly failed to deliver a just and lasting settlement. That can only come about by ending British rule in Ireland. Republican Sinn Fein and the Republican Movement are determined to continue the struggle for a free and independent Ireland.

Let both the Irish and Catalan people can move forward together towards freedom and nationhood.

Des Dalton  
Vice President  
Republican Sinn Féin