



*Anniversaries by their very nature compel us to reflect on the past. It is with great pride that I reflect on the considerable achievements of Fianna Fáil since the foundation of the Party in 1926.*

– Bertie Ahern T.D.

**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
1926 - 2006



# 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

1926 - 2006

*The Advance of a Nation 80 Years of Fianna Fáil*

## NATIONAL POLICY

Adopted at the Conference in Dublin, 14th April, to launch new National Organisation

### Primary Principles and Aims.

To establish beyond question the independence of Ireland, the complete supremacy of the Nation in its economic life, and the restoration of its territorial unity.

To bring into one constitutional movement all citizens of good will who realize that national peace is necessary to national prosperity and who are ready to utilise the powers and machinery of Government already gained for national advancement.

To amend the Constitution so as to bring it more into conformity with the national ideals and traditions of the people.

### General Programme.

#### Language.

To make the Irish language, in the minimum time, the spoken and written language of the people of Ireland.

#### Education.

To make adequate provision to bring educational and cultural facilities within the reach of all.

#### Economics.

To use the fiscal powers possessed by the State for the protection and assistance of our existing industries and to encourage the growth of others.

To develop the water power, the coal and peat resources of Ireland so as to provide and distribute electric power throughout the country and thus enable factories to produce goods at a minimum cost to the consumers and compete on equal terms with the producers of other countries.

To secure cheaper transit facilities by the efficient working of railways and by improving canal and road

To give special attention to the development of sea fisheries, the provision of adequate piers, harbours and other facilities; the improvement of machine and the marketing of fish; the adequate policing of coast; the assistance of our sea-coast fishing population by the provision of boats and encouragement of co-operation.

### Agriculture.

To encourage development of agriculture by sea fisheries, the provision of adequate piers, harbours and other facilities; the improvement of machine and the marketing of fish; the adequate policing of coast; the assistance of our sea-coast fishing population by the provision of boats and encouragement of co-operation.

### Finance.

To ensure an equilibrium in national revenue and expenditure by far as possible normal expenditure out of revenue and by spreading the payment of expenditure over a period of years.

To reduce to the fullest extent possible civil administration and the creation of a new machine in conformity with the requirements and resources of the nation.

### Defence.

To secure a reduction in the cost of the re-organisation of the National Defence on a territorial basis in an atmosphere in accordance with national traditions and under the guidance of national records.

### Foreign Relations.

To encourage and welcome the construction of the Irish race throughout the world.

To cultivate friendly relations with Governments of other countries and to safeguard and strengthen the position of Ireland in the world.



*80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
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## An tOchtó Cothrom

Á Chur I Láthair Ag An Taoiseach, Parthalán Ó hEachthairn TD.

Táimid ag cruinniú le chéile anocht mar chomhaltai den ghluaiseacht náisiúnta is Fianna Fáil ann, chun cothrom ochtó bliain de chruinniú bunaidh an pháirtí seo 'gainne a cheiliúradh. Bhí aidhmeanna agus cuspóirí Eamon de Valéra, Sheáin Lemass agus ghlúin bhunaithe Fhianna Fáil misniúil, uailmhi-anach agus forásach.

Ag teacht as tréimhse chorrathach dó, lena n-áirítear Cogadh na gCarad, thiomnaigh Eamon de Valéra a pháirtí nuabheirthe don phróiseas daonlathach agus thug aghaidh ar ghluaiseacht a thógáil a raibh go neamhbhalbh uathí:

"Chun neamhspleáchas na hÉireann a chur ar bhonn do-shéanta, forlámhas iomlán a bheith ag an Náisiún ar a shaol eacnamaíoch, agus a chríochnaíocht a athbhunú:

"Chun a thabhairt isteach in aon ghluaiseacht bhunreachtúil amháin, saoránaigh na deathola go léir arb eol dóibh gur gá síocháin náisiúnta a bheith ann chun rathúnas náisiúnta a bhaint amach agus atá réidh chun cumhachtaí agus sásra Rialtas atá bainte amach againn cheana a úsáid chun dul chun cinn náisiúnta a aimsiú".

"Chun an Bhunreacht a leasú ionas gur mhó a bheadh sí i gcomhréir le hidéil agus le traidisiún náisiúnta na ndaoine".

Tá sé oiriúnach go háirithe go gcestar ar a chéile sinn sa seomra stairiúil seo, arb é láthair an chéad chruinniú de Dháil Éireann é, sa bhliain 1919. B'í seo an áit freisin, inar tionóladh Ard-Fheiseanna Fhianna Fáil ó 1929 go 1969.

Cuireann cothroimí, as a nádúr féin, ar bhóithrín na smaointe sinn. Is le bród nach beag, a bhreathnaím féin siar ar a d'éirigh le Fianna Fáil a chur i gcrích ó bunaíodh an Páirtí i 1926. Rinneamar Bunreacht a sholáthar - Bunreacht na hÉireann - atá fós inniu ina bhunchloch den sochaí seo 'gainne, geall le seachtó bliain ón tráth a reachtaíodh é. D'éirigh linn polasaí eachtrach nuálach a leanúint le linn an Dara Cogadh Domhanda.

De réir a chéile bhogamar ar aghaidh chun geilleagar a bhunú a raibh a shuíle thar cósta amach ar an domhan mór aige. Sa bhliain 1973 chuamar isteach san CEE, ar cinneadh stuama é, gur féidir linn roinnt mhór de na hathruithe dearfa agus de na deiseanna nua a fheicimid thart orainn inniu, a rianú siar chuige. De réir a chéile thosaigh "geilleagar an Tiógair Cheiltigh" ag teacht ar an bhfód. Cuireadh stop leis an imirce, cuireadh deireadh le scáil dhortha na difhostaíochta agus tháinig claochlú iomlán ar an sochaí seo 'gainne.

Gach tráth cinniúnach díobh sin i ndul chun cinn an Náisiúin seo 'gainne, shocraigh Fianna Fáil, sa Rialtas, ar pholasaithe misniúla.

Is eagraíocht náisiúnta sinne, agus creidim féin go ndearna muid an dúshlán a chomhlíonadh a leag ár gceannaire bunaidh síos ag cruinniú tosaigh an pháirtí ceithre scór bliain ó sin. I gcúrsa a chéad aithisc d'Fhianna Fáil, leag Eamon de Valéra síos dúshlán faoina mbráid siúd a bhí ann. Dhearbhaigh sé:

"Ní tasc éasca é ár dtír a shaoradh. Tasc is ea é nach féidir a dhéanamh riamh gan an díogras agus an fuinneamh sin a thagann ó intinn phaiseanta na ndaoine, agus ní féidir an intinn phaiseanta sin a dhúiseacht má imímid ó ghnéithe réalacha an tsaoil laethúil."

Is páirtí é Fianna Fáil a d'fhan riamh gar do na daoine. Tá súil mhór agam go bhfanfaidh sé amhlaidh i gcónaí.

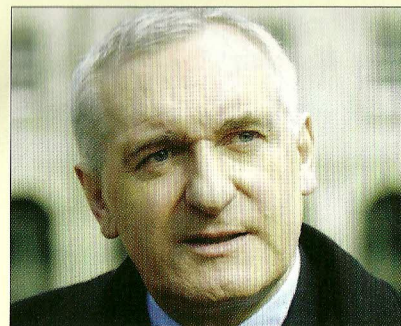
Anocht, cuimhnimis tríd an gceol, tríd an drámaíocht, tríd an amhránaíocht agus trí mhacasamhail de shaibhreas agus éagsúlacht dá ndearna Fianna Fáil. Tá súil agam go mbaineann sibh taitneamh as an tráthnóna agus go leanann Fianna Fáil de ról tosaigh a bheith aige i bhforbairt na hÉireann le linn an chéad ceithre scór bliain eile.

*Bertie Ahern*

Bertie Ahern, TD

## The 80th Anniversary

Introduction by An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD.



We gather this evening as members of the national movement that is Fianna Fáil to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of our Party. The goals and aspirations of Eamon de Valéra, Seán Lemass and the founding generation of Fianna Fáil politicians were brave, ambitious and progressive. Emerging from a turbulent period, which included the fight for independence and the tragic civil war, Eamon de Valéra committed his fledgling Party to the democratic process and set about building a movement that unashamedly sought:

*"To establish beyond question the independence of Ireland, the complete supremacy of the Nation in its economic life, and the restoration of its territorial unity":*

*"To bring, into one constitutional movement, all citizens of goodwill who realise that national peace is necessary for national prosperity and who are ready to utilise the powers and machinery of Government already gained for national advancement":*

*"To amend the Constitution so as to bring it more into conformity with the national ideals and traditions of the people".*

It is particularly fitting that we assemble in this historic chamber, which was the venue for the first meeting of Dáil Éireann in 1919. It also played host to Fianna Fáil Ard-Fheiseanna from 1929 to 1969.

Anniversaries by their very nature compel us to reflect on the past. It is with great pride that I reflect on the considerable achievements of

Fianna Fáil since the foundation of the Party in 1926. We have delivered a constitution, Bunreacht na hÉireann, that is still the corner stone of our society today, nearly seventy years since it was enacted. We successfully pursued an innovative foreign policy during World War II. We gradually moved towards the formation of an outward looking economy. In 1973, we joined the EEC and so many of the positive changes and new opportunities we now see can be traced to that prudent decision. Gradually, the "Celtic Tiger economy" began to emerge. Emigration was halted, the dark spectre of unemployment was ended and our society was transformed beyond recognition.

At all of these pivotal points in the progress of our nation, Fianna Fáil, in government, took courageous policy decisions.

We are a national organisation and I believe we have lived up to the challenge laid down by our founding leader as set out at the inaugural meeting of the party 80 years ago. During the course of his first address to Fianna Fáil, Eamon de Valéra laid a challenge before those assembled. He asserted:

*"The freeing of our country is not an easy task. It is a task that can never be performed except with enthusiasm and energy that spring from the passionate feeling of the people, and such passionate feeling cannot be aroused if we move away from the realities that affect their daily lives."*

Fianna Fáil has always been a Party close to the people. It is my fervent hope that it will always remain so.

This evening, we will remember through music, drama, song and images the rich and varied record of achievement of Fianna Fáil. I hope that you enjoy the evening and look forward to Fianna Fáil continuing to play a leading role in the development of Ireland over the next eighty years.

*Bertie Ahern*

Bertie Ahern, TD



## *The Advance of a Nation 80 Years of Fianna Fáil*

**Programme** Sunday May 14, 2006

- 5.30 p.m. Archival Exhibition in the Oak Room, Mansion House, Dublin.
- 7.00 p.m. Welcome by Mary Kennedy, MC for the evening.
- 7.10 p.m. Actor Barry McGovern recites Eamon de Valéra's address to the inaugural meeting of Fianna Fáil in La Scala Theatre
- 7.20 p.m. Minister Brian Lenihan TD:  
An historical narrative on the achievements of Fianna Fáil
- 7.30 p.m. Guest of Honour:  
An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, TD, Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil
- 7.45 p.m. Music by The Celtic Tenors
- 8.30 p.m. Archival Exhibition in the Oak Room



De Valéra entering the Mansion House.  
Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis, 1949

## **Eamon de Valéra's Address to the Inaugural Meeting of Fianna Fáil**

*La Scala Theatre, 16 May 1926.*



Seán Lemass is carried shoulder high by supporters following his bye-election victory; Dublin South, 19 November 1924.

Mr. De Valéra, having been introduced as President De Valéra by the Chairman, said,

"CITIZENS OF DUBLIN,"

I am sorry that my first words must be to correct the Chairman, I am not here as president of anything. I came here simply as a private and with a private's liberty. Is it necessary to say that I come as a Republican? I have not lost faith in Republicanism. In fact, it is because I have not lost faith in it that I am here. I could not stand by and allow the movement to be brought into a position in which it must appear to be reduced, and to degenerate, as time went on, to an empty formalism. To allow that, when I am convinced that the Republican movement can be restored to its former robust

strength, would be to prove false to the Republican rank and file, and to the nation.

The freeing of our country is not an easy task. It is a task that can never be performed except with the enthusiasm and energy that springs from the passionate feeling of the people, and such passionate feeling cannot be aroused if we move away from the realities that affect our daily lives.

You all know the political conditions at the present moment. You know the fundamental fact is that the majority of the Irish people are at heart as anxious for national independence as they were eight or ten years ago. The problem is how to reunite them and make their desire for independence effective.





First Fianna Fáil Cabinet, March 1932. Standing (L to R) Seán MacEntee, Seán T. O'Ceallaigh, Senator J. Connolly, Seán Lemass, Gerry Boland. Seated (L to R) Frank Aiken, P.J. Rutledge, Eamon de Valéra, Dr. Jim Ryan, Thomas Derrig, James Geoghegan.

#### A POLICY FOR UNITY

Can the people be brought together again for a great national advance? Merely to shout unity will not, we know, be enough. An adequate national policy must be found.

Cut in two, as the national forces are now – one section pulling one way, and the other the opposite way – it is vain to expect progress.

The imperial forces are certain of easy triumph. They defeat one section of nationalism within the Free State assembly. Then they combine with that section to defeat us – the

other section – outside. Victory for nationalism cannot come like that. Means must be found to bring the national forces together – together at least to this extent – that the two sections will in the main proceed along parallel lines and in a common direction so that the resultant of their combined efforts may be the greatest possible.

The duty of Republicans, to my mind is clear. They must do their part to secure common action by getting into position along the most likely line of the nation's advance. If you want to know what the direction of that line of

advance at this moment is, ask yourselves what line a young man would be likely to take – a young man, let us say, with strong national feelings, honest and courageous, but without set prejudices or any commitments of his past to hamper him – who aimed solely at serving the national cause and bringing it to a successful issue.

#### THE OATH THE OBSTACLE

Such a young man examining the situation would see, to begin with, the country partitioned – North separated from South. Here in the Twenty-Six Counties he would see an assembly of elected representatives in control of the actual powers of Government and claiming to rule by the authority and with the sanction of the majority of the people. Yet he would know that nearly one-half of the electorate was shut out from having an effective voice in determining its rulers, and that fully two-thirds was opposed in spirit to the existing regime. He would have no difficulty in tracing the anomaly to its source, the Oath of Allegiance to a foreign power acquiesced in by the majority under the duress of an external threat of war. The pretence at democracy, and the misrepresentation of the real wishes of the people which that pretence covered, he would recognise as the immediate obstacle to a unified national effort at home, the barrier to any enthusiastic support from the friends of Ireland abroad, and the screen by which England's controlling hand was effectively concealed from a great many of the Irish people themselves and from the outside world. He would see that by isolating the oath for attack, the whole situation, and England's ultimate control, would be exposed. He could scarcely doubt that, the real feeling of the

people being what it is, the oath would fall before a determined assault, and he would set out to attack it as being the most vital and, at the same time, the part most easily destroyed of the entire entrenchment of the foreign enemy.

He could see ahead, once the oath was destroyed, promising lines for a further advance, with the nation as a whole cutting the bonds of foreign interference one by one. Finally, with a untied sovereign Twenty-Six Counties, the position would be reached in which the solution of the problem of successfully bringing in the North could be confidently undertaken.

Today we are making a new start for another attempt to get the nation out of the paralysing "Treaty" dilemma. The abolition of all political tests is still the *sine qua non*.

#### PURPOSE OF FREEDOM

So far I have spoken on the political side of our programme. I cannot say all the things I want to say at this meeting, but I would like to touch, if only slightly, on the social and economic side as well. I expect that most of you are Republicans, as I am, not so much because of any doctrinaire attachment to any special form of government, but because in the conditions of Ireland, Independence and the Republic must be in practice one and the same thing.

I think I am right also in believing that Independence – political freedom – is regarded by most of you, as it is regarded by me, simply as a means to a greater end and purpose beyond it. The purpose beyond is the right use of our freedom, and that use must surely include making provision so that every





### First Fianna Fáil Party to enter Dáil Éireann

The party took their seats in Dáil Éireann on 11 August 1927.

Back Row (L to R) T. Powell, T. Mc Ellistram, S. Hayes, M. Kennedy, S. MacEntee, G. Boland, F. Carney, P. O'Dowd, W. O' Leary, M. Corry, S. French. Standing (L to R) D. Corkery, T. Derrig, M. Killilea, J. Colbert, S. Moore, A. Fogarty, J. Ryan, P. Boland, P. McCarvill, N. Blaney, P. Smith, T. O'Reilly, P. Belton, M. Kilroy, T. Tynan, P.J. Rutledge, S. Lemass, F. Aiken, P. Houlihan. Front Row (L to R) S. Holt, M. O'Reilly, J. Victory, T. Mullins, Countess Markievicz, E. de Valéra, Mrs. T. Clarke, D. Buckley, E. Carty, T. Crowley, J. Tubridy, P.J. Little. (S.T. O'Kelly, F. Fahy and E. Mullen also elected but do not appear in this photo.)

man and woman in the country shall have the opportunity of living the fullest lives that God intended them to live. It is only since I have found how neglectful of this purpose many of us are inclined to become, that I have been able to sympathise fully with James Connolly's passionate protest: – 'Ireland, as distinct from her people, is nothing to me; and the man who is bubbling over with love and enthusiasm for "Ireland," and yet can pass unmoved through our streets and witness all the wrong and suffering, the shame and degradation brought upon the people – aye, brought by Irishmen upon Irish men and women – without burning to end it, is, in my opinion, a fraud and a liar in his heart, no matter how much he loves that combination of chemical elements he is pleased to call "Ireland".'

Freedom that our people may live happily and rightly – freedom to make this nation of ours great in well-being and noble doing – that is what political independence must mean, if it is to be at all worthy of the efforts and sacrifices that have been made to secure it; and it is in no small measure that we might be in a position to get as close as possible, and as soon as possible, to that side of our work that I am so urgent that we should follow the line of political action which I have outlined. Whilst waiting for the achievement of the full political independence we aspire to, the Republican deputies would be able to take an effective part in improving the social and material conditions of the people and in building up the strength and morale of the nation as a whole.

### EMIGRATION – UNEMPLOYMENT

The best of our people—the young men and women of vigour and enterprise, the foundation on which the whole future should be built—are daily being taken from us. We are being bled by an emigration worse to-day than almost at any time since the exodus that followed the Famine. That must be stopped. And then go out into the city, or into one of our country towns, or even into the heart of the country itself, and see the condition of the of the unemployed there! I have said it before, and I repeat it here, and I believe most right-thinking men will agree with me, that it is a primary duty for any government in any civilised country to see that men and women will not starve, and that little children will not starve through opportunity for useful work being denied to the breadwinner. I, for one, would feel that I was not acting according to my best feelings, and to the lights of my reason, if I held back when I might take an effective part in the fight to make good that view. There is an opportunity immediately at our hand for doing great uplifting social work in Ireland. Had our nation secured its complete freedom it would, I believe, be now leading the way for the world in solving peacefully some of the problems that are likely to be solved elsewhere only by violent revolution. As a nation we have a wonderful opportunity and as Republicans we have a glorious mission, if only we will rise to it ...



## Fianna Fáil - the Republican Party

### *History of the Party*



De Valera and colleagues entering the Dáil in 1927

In response to the signing of the Boundary Agreement between Great Britain and Ireland in December 1925, an extraordinary meeting of Sinn Féin was held in March 1926 to discuss the future of the party. Failing to get an agreement, Eamon de Valera resigned as leader of Sinn Féin and took rapid steps to establish a new national movement. On 16 May 1926, the inaugural meeting of Fianna Fáil was held in La Scala theatre in Dublin. Among the founding members were Seán Lemass, Gerry Boland, Countess Markievicz and Frank Aiken.

The new party set about building up the organisation with gusto, focusing initially on reorganising a large portion of the population which had become disenfranchised and disillusioned with politicians who failed to represent their views. In August 1927, Fianna Fáil Deputies ended the policy of abstentionism and took their seats in Dáil Éireann. This resulted in a forceful and robust opposition to monitor and challenge the actions of the Cumann na nGaedheal government.

In March 1932, Fianna Fáil formed its first government and embarked on what was to be a sixteen-year period in office; building an Ireland that reflected the desires of a newly

independent country. With de Valera at the helm, the Party introduced a rapid succession of republican policy innovations. In 1932, Fianna Fáil abolished the Oath of Allegiance to the British monarchy. The same administration also withheld land annuities previously being handed over to the British government. In July 1937, the Irish people adopted Bunreacht na hÉireann, the Irish Constitution, a document that has stood the test of time and is the legal cornerstone of our society to this day. In 1938, the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed. This provided for the return of the 'Treaty Ports' of Cobh, Berehaven and Lough Swilly. The removal of British troops from these facilities, in turn, ensured that Ireland was free to choose her destiny during World War II.

During the war, de Valera pursued a policy of neutrality. De Valera's policy meant that Ireland was not exposed to the ravages of one of the most cataclysmic conflicts ever recorded.

In 1948, Fianna Fáil was replaced in office by an Inter Party Government led by John A. Costello. Fianna Fáil subsequently returned to power in 1951 and set about reforming the public health system, introducing comprehensive welfare supports aimed at mothers and

young children. Following an election defeat in 1954, Fianna Fáil quickly regained power in 1957, a position the Party held for sixteen years.

Seán Lemass succeeded Eamon de Valera as leader of the Party and Taoiseach in June 1959. Lemass implemented the 'First Programme for Economic Development' which made the decisive shift from protectionism to free trade. Grants and tax concessions were given to companies to set up in Ireland. Because of the 'Programme,' the Irish economy grew at a rate of 4% per annum. A second, even more ambitious, 'Programme for Economic Expansion' commenced in 1963.

During his tenure, Lemass extended the hand of friendship to Northern Ireland. On 9 January 1965, Lemass traveled to Stormont in great secrecy for talks with the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Capt. Terence O'Neill. In February, O'Neill returned the compliment and visited Dublin. Subsequently meetings between ministers from both sides of the border became more frequent. In November 1966, Seán Lemass announced his retirement from politics and Jack Lynch became the third leader of Fianna Fáil.

The Lynch era was a time of considerable challenges. In 1969, the 'Troubles' engulfed Northern Ireland but Lynch guided the country through these difficult days and ensured unity by peaceful means remained for Fianna Fáil the only way forward. As Taoiseach, Lynch was a strong advocate of Irish entry into the Common Market. On 1st January 1973, Ireland joined the European Economic Community (EEC). In 1977, Lynch delivered a massive Fianna Fáil victory, winning a 20-seat majority in Dáil Éireann. However, by 1979, Jack Lynch had resigned his position as leader of the Party.

On 11 December 1979, Charles J. Haughey was elected leader of Fianna Fáil and Taoiseach. He inherited a country whose economy was

being badly hampered by the effects of the oil crisis. In 1981, Fianna Fáil faced a period in opposition. However, just as in the 1950s, the Irish body politic began to shift on loose sands. The party returned to office for nine months in 1982. However, in December 1982 they were replaced by a Fine Gael - Labour coalition. After a period of opposition, Charles Haughey led Fianna Fáil back into government in 1987. During this period in government, he focused on economic issues and sought to provide a stimulus for recovery. According to any measure, by the time Haughey left office in 1992, the dire state of the Irish economy had considerably improved.

Albert Reynolds was elected leader of Fianna Fáil on 11 February 1992. Following a short-lived coalition with the Progressive Democrats, Reynolds formed a new government with the Labour Party. Reynolds put the Northern Ireland situation at the top of his political agenda. His efforts bore fruit in December 1993 with the signing of the Downing Street Declaration which paved the way for the paramilitary ceasefires of the following year.

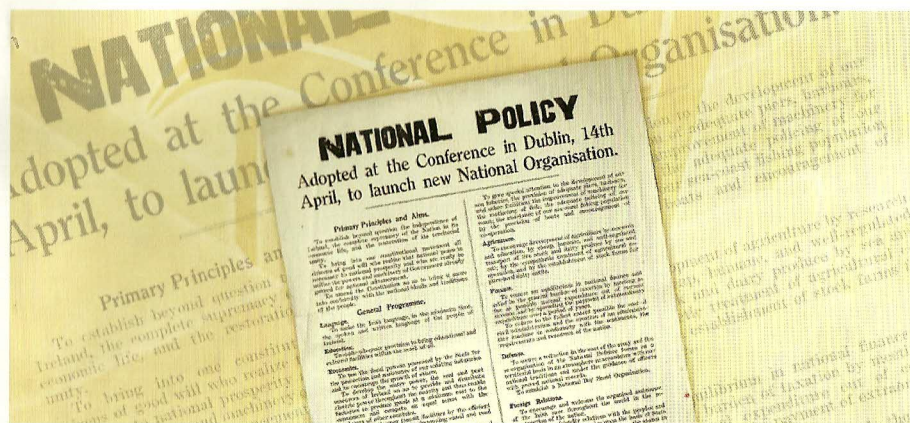
On 19 November 1994 Bertie Ahern was elected the sixth leader of Fianna Fáil. Following the 1997 General Election, Bertie Ahern formed a coalition government with the Progressive Democrats. Unprecedented economic growth and the restarting of the Northern Ireland peace initiatives, which culminated in the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, marked Ahern's first period in office.

The electorate gave a resounding seal of approval to Bertie Ahern when they returned him to office in 2002. It was the first time that a government was re-elected since 1969. This period of political stability has led to continued economic advancement, so much so that the Irish economy under Ahern has become an international model for success.



## Fianna Fáil Archival Exhibition

*The Advance of a Nation 80 Years of Fianna Fáil*



Fianna Fáil's First Policy Poster

One of the main elements of the party's 80th Anniversary celebrations is a major exhibition of artefacts selected from the Fianna Fáil Archives in University College Dublin.

The exhibition features significant photographs, election material including leaflets, flyers, historic election posters and internal party letters.

### Centrepiece – Fianna Fáil's First Policy Poster

The centrepiece of the exhibition is the first policy poster issued by Fianna Fáil on 14th April 1926. This recently discovered document is extremely rare and represents the starting point in the evolution of Fianna Fáil. It was the first policy document issued by the new 'National Movement'. The document predates the public announcement of the name of the Party.

The decision to use the name "Fianna Fáil, The Republican Party" was taken at a meeting

of the organising committee of the new party on 2nd April 1926. Details were not released to the media until 16th April 1926. This was a full month prior to the inaugural meeting in La Scala Theatre Dublin on 16th May.

This poster was the first public articulation of Fianna Fáil policy.

### Other Items of Interest in the Exhibition

A photograph of a large rally addressed by Eamon de Valéra in Fenway Park baseball stadium, Boston during a tour of the United States in June 1919. This picture illustrates the huge political interest amongst Irish Americans.

Another early photograph is a portrait of members of the first Fianna Fáil Parliamentary Party to take their seats in Dáil Éireann in August 1927.

Moving to the 1930s, there is an interesting photograph of British soldiers leaving their military base for the final time on Spike Island following the signing of the Anglo – Irish Agreement in 1938.

Also reproduced is a General Election poster from 1944 entitled "Keep the Wheels Moving". This poster reflects the high visual content which became a feature of election material of this time.

The exhibition includes two pages from the Minute Book of the National Executive dated 22nd June 1959. This entry includes a paragraph that marked the official handover of the leadership of the party from Eamon de Valéra to Seán Lemass.

The policy of Seán Lemass to transform Ireland into a more globally orientated country is reflected in the reproduction of a portion of the text of a speech given by Lemass at the Cambridge University Club entitled "The Role of Small Nations in the United Nations" on 31st January 1960.

Jack Lynch's time as leader is recalled in various photographs of his campaign trail. There is a reproduction of a poster calling for electoral approval for the decision to enter the European Economic Community.

The display includes a number of photographs of Charles J. Haughey speaking on platforms around the country. Also there is a photograph of Charles Haughey with the Kildare delegates of Ógra Fianna Fáil.

From the Albert Reynolds period of leadership there are a number of photographs; two in particular stand out. Firstly, a picture of Albert Reynolds and John Major leaving a conference

room during talks that led to the signing of the Downing Street Declaration. Also, a picture of Albert Reynolds, David Andrews and Bertie Ahern at the EC Edinburgh summit in 1992.

Bertie Ahern's skill as a negotiator has been a feature of his political career. Since being elected Taoiseach in 1997 this ability has brought him worldwide recognition. The exhibition reflects this in photographs which include An Taoiseach with Tony Blair, Bill Clinton and Gen. John de Chastelain.

Fianna Fáil would be interested in hearing from anyone who may have items suitable for deposition in the Party archive. The Party is keenly aware of the need to preserve historic items for future generations. Any person who may have items they wish to donate to the Party archive should contact Fianna Fáil Headquarters.

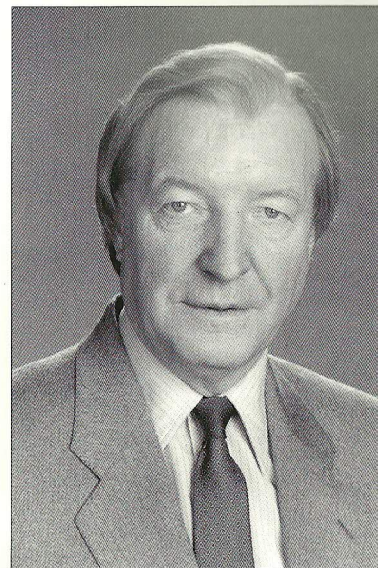
If, for the purpose of historical research, you should wish to view material from the Fianna Fáil archive, please contact:

Fianna Fáil Headquarters,  
65-66 Lower Mount Street,  
Dublin 2.  
or email [info@fiannafail.ie](mailto:info@fiannafail.ie)

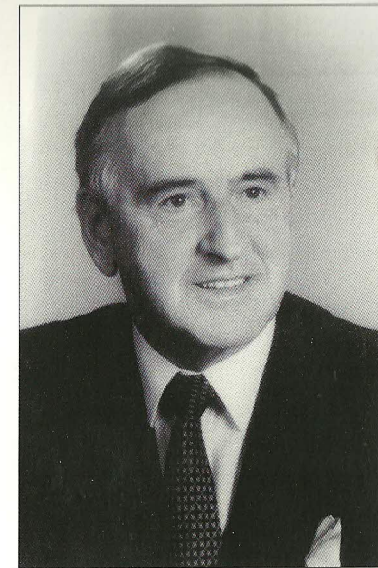




Eamon de Valéra  
 Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil  
 1926 – 1959



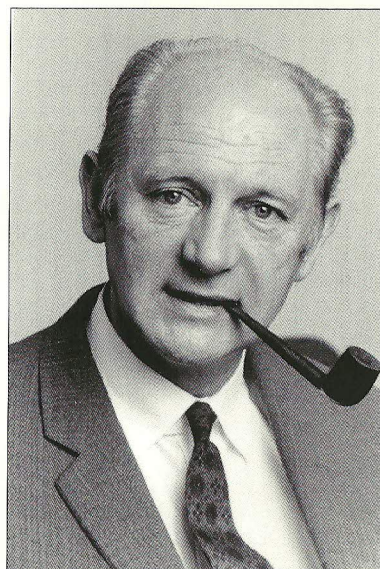
Charles J. Haughey  
 Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil  
 1979 – 1992



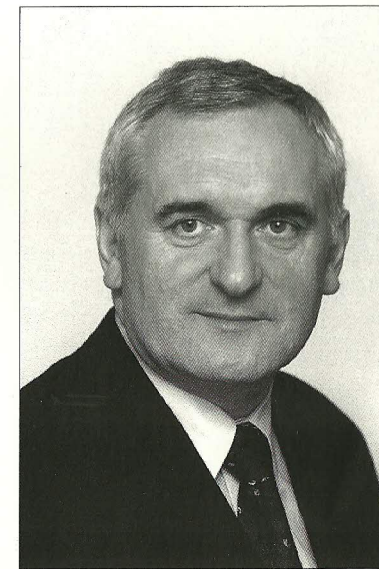
Albert Reynolds  
 Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil  
 1992 – 1994



Seán Lemass  
 Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil  
 1959 – 1966



Jack Lynch  
 Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil  
 1966 – 1979



Bertie Ahern  
 Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil  
 1994 – Present



# *Autographs*