

WHO IS CHUCK MALONE?

(And Why is He in Jail?)

Federal conspiracy law, upgraded during the Reagan Administration to help fight the War on Drugs, is now the weapon of choice against Irish Republicans and other political activists. Currently there are four people in Florida, four people in Boston, Massachusetts, and two in Montgomery, Alabama facing charges of conspiring to aid the IRA. One of the people in Alabama is Chuck Malone of San Francisco.

Life Long Republican

Chuck Malone joined Clan na Gael, the traditional support organization for Irish freedom, in the 1950's. He sold newspapers, Easter lilies, and tried to organize for the Republican Movement, but it was slow going in those days as the Border Campaign wound down.

When the Civil Rights Campaign began in 1968 Malone was in San Francisco. He joined a group called Citizens for Irish Justice and became its vice-president. In 1970, a year before internment began, he made his first trip to Ireland. He met with people he had previously known only by correspondence. He also made an evaluation of the split in the Movement and came back firmly pledged to the Provos.

Conviction For Gunrunning

With the desperate need of the IRA to re-arm after the Split and to defend the Nationalist neighborhoods of the North, the call went out for materiel. An odd assortment of weaponry began filtering into Ireland. In late 1972 the U.S. Government announced the seizure of a trunk-full of rifles that originated in San Francisco and arrested Chuck Malone.

Dubbed the "Golden Gate Gunrunner" by "Coast Magazine" Malone plead guilty to exporting arms without a license. He was given two years probation and a \$1000 fine. The terms of his probation made history. Malone was prohibited from associating with Irish people or, specifically, from drinking in Irish bars, joining an Irish Catholic Solidarity, or working for an Irish contractor. An appeal to the Supreme Court financed by the NAACP removed any reference to religious activity.

The Scouting Years

Under intermittent surveillance for years, Malone devoted his energy to organizing and leading Irish Republican Scouts, Fianna Eireann, and their adult supporters. The youngsters received lessons in Irish history, culture, scouting skills and outdoor experiences. They were a highly visible part of the Movement in their green uniforms. Their parents and associate members did fund raising for them and for their counterparts in Ireland.

Health Decline

Eventually Malone was no longer able to engage in scouting activities or even to work. He suffers from Parkinson's Syndrome, high blood pressure, the effects of earlier stomach surgery, and a cerebral hemorrhage. His general appearance today is one of diminished ability and frailty.

The New Charge

It was in this condition that Malone was arrested in January, 1990 and charged with conspiracy to ship assault rifles to the IRA. The charge originated in Montgomery, Alabama, through association with an activist there. Chuck was sent to Alabama to stand trial; and lacking financial resources, he requested a public defender. He was appointed an attorney who was pleading his first case in federal court. He knew little of federal conspiracy law and nothing of Ireland.

The jury heard testimony from an RUC expert on terrorism who branded the Fianna as youthful storm troopers. The only witness allowed for the defense was Chuck's daughter. The entire trial took only three days.

Sentencing has not yet been announced, but Malone faces a maximum of five years. In his condition that could be a life sentence. He is being held without bail pending sentencing, but his co-defendant was granted bail, because he is a local man with no previous conviction.

Building a Defense

A competent Civil Rights attorney has agreed to take the case on appeal to the Circuit Court. He is confident he can show that justice has not been served in the case of Chuck Malone. When an out-spoken Irish Republican is first entrapped and then railroaded it is an attack on the whole Movement, and an attack on everyone's civil liberties. When the charge of conspiracy is brought against Republicans in three different cities at the same time, it is a conspiratorial attack that must be fought.

You can help fight back by helping to defend Chuck Malone. A fund has been set up to defray legal expenses such as printing costs, research, computer time, etc. Any monies raised above the costs of the defense will be forwarded to the Constitutional Defense Fund which is helping the people on trial in Boston.

To send a donation or to remain on the mailing list for further information on this case fill out the coupon below and send to:

MALONE DEFENSE FUND
2966 DIAMOND STREET #165
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94131

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