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At the Celtic League Conference in Harcourt Street, Dublin (from left): Mr. Yann Fouere, the Breton vice-president of the League; Mr. Filip Soleig, Brittany; and Mr. Peter Berresford Ellis, author of "The Creed of the Celtic Revolution".

CELT NATIONALISTS SEEK 'COMMONWEALTH STATUS'

"THE SCOTS and Welsh National Parties are agreed in demanding Commonwealth status for Scotland and Wales," said Mr. Gwynfor Evans, Welsh Nationalist M.P., at the closing session of the Celtic League Conference in Dublin.

"This," Mr. Evans added, "would give them not only control of their domestic life, including its financial and economic aspects, but also control of defence and the right to apply for seats in U.N.O. and take their places in the councils of the world."

"The biggest achievements of Ireland," he added, "have been on the world stage. She should be joined there by Scotland, Brittany and Wales."

"Whatever the effects of entry into the Common Market may be for England," said Mr. Evans, "for Wales and Scotland, with no government of

their own, they would at present be catastrophic."

Breton worries

He added: "I am quite sure that, in a comparatively small number of years, we are going to see in Wales and Scotland the status for which we have been working."

Even Mr. Evans would admit that, compared to the Bretons, his people have relatively little grievance.

Mr. Yann Fouéré, Breton vice-president of the Celtic League, said: "Our teachers are nominated from Paris; our schools forbidden to teach Breton language and history. For just under 1,000,000 Breton native speakers, we have exactly a minute and a half television time in Breton per week."

At a session in the afternoon Dónall Uas. Ó Móráin, Ceannasáí, Gael-Linn, had posed the question to what

extent a common development of Celtic culture was possible.

He felt that, while Celtic cultures could develop on parallel lines and, indeed, cross-fertilise each other, a common culture was not possible.

"The Celtic peoples have no common political authority, let alone having a common sympathetic political authority. A further complication is that both urbanisation and cultural independence have developed at different rates among all Celtic peoples."

"The Welsh," he said, "have as much cultural independence as we have political independence."

Earlier speakers at the Congress had included Maolsheachlainn Uas. Ó Caollaí, Uachtarán, Conradh na Gaeilge and Pádraig Uas. Ó Conchúir, London, Editor of the Celtic League's journal, "Celtic News."