

SAOIRSE

IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT



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Easter Ceremonies 2005



• Hunger striker Francis Hughes's relatives at the opening of the Republican Garden in Bundoran (see page 3 inside).



• (left to right) Belfast, Easter Sunday: Leo Martin, Billy McKee, Brendan Magill and Brendan Burns (see page 7 inside).

Unjust agreements must go

THE voiceless and downtrodden have lost a champion of their cause with the death on April 2 of Pope John Paul II. Irish people could easily identify with his remarkable life of struggle, coming as he did from Poland, a country which like Ireland had endured many centuries of foreign occupation.

He opposed both communism and the unbridled capitalism of the West and supported the cancellation of Third World debt. In a revealing tribute on RTE television the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, spoke of his conversations about Europe with Pope John Paul when he was working with him in the Vatican in the early years of his pontificate. This was before the end of the Cold War and the collapse of communism in 1989.

The Pope told him that the Yalta Agreement between Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill at the end of World War II was "wrong" and it had to be ended. This, said Archbishop Martin, amazed him as it was in complete opposition to the official views of western

governments at time who were attempting to engage with the Eastern regimes, controlled from Moscow.

But Pope John Paul had lived under the Nazis and then the communist regime in his native land since 1945 and he knew the carving-up of Europe between East and West was wrong. He believed in a "Europe from the Urals to the Atlantic", an aspiration shared by the Republican Movement in Ireland.

In a similar fashion, Irish Republicans recognize the partition 'settlement' of 1920-21 which divided Ireland as being wrong and unjust. The Government of Ireland Act of December 1920, passed by the British parliament in Westminster without the support of a single Irish vote, unionist or nationalist, divided Ireland as cruelly as Germany was split in two at Yalta, 25 years later.

The subsequent Treaty of December 1921 was imposed under threat of "immediate and terrible war" by the British in Ireland. The years that have passed since have not legitimised the division of our country any more than the totalitarian regimes of Eastern Europe were legitimised during their 44-year existence.

The Stormont Agreement of April 1998 was similarly imposed under the threat that the

only alternative was a return to another 30 years of conflict. Republicans know that their political position is opposed by the Dublin and London administrations and those farther afield. They will not alter their principled position while partition and foreign occupation is now insultingly described as "democracy" by politicians in Leinster House and Westminster. Fifty years ago Leinster House politicians took the moral view that partition was an 'evil' – now they have gone over completely to the unionist and British viewpoint.

Irish Republicans will not recall fondly Pope John Paul's Drogheda speech during his visit to the 26 Counties in 1979. His intervention then was badly advised as he did not confront the basic question of the suppressed national identity in Ireland. The same national identity which was so vital to the Polish people during the long years from the 1790s to 1918 when their country disappeared from the maps of Europe.

In his Drogheda speech Pope John Paul accepted the *status quo* of a partitioned Ireland and said that 'justice' could be achieved within that *status quo*. And, of course, if you accept partition and foreign occupation, then reforms such as civil rights, Sunningdale and the Stormont Agreement are not worth the mountain of sacrifice that has been made in the last three decades. People only make such sacrifices to oppose foreign occupation and the suppression of their national identity.

CABHAIR

Irish Republican
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ANNUAL
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REUNION
West County Hotel
Chapelizod, Dublin
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Buffet Supper, €25



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Special Branch harassment continues

IN A statement on April 3 the Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton has spoken out against the latest case of 26 County Special Branch harassment of RSF members.

"In yet another example of the ongoing Special Branch campaign of intimidation directed against members of Republican Sinn Féin, five of our members, including a 16 year old girl were accosted by seven armed Special Branch members in Dublin on Saturday, April 2. They were on their way to an RSF education seminar in

Parnell Square when they were set upon.

"Without identifying themselves five Special Branch men seized one of the men and handcuffed him, a second car containing two Special Branch members then arrived. They singled out the woman and the 16-year-old girl for a full body search. At this point the young

girl became very distressed. They threatened all with arrest if they refused to give their date of birth, which by law they are not obliged to. They held the group for about 20 minutes.

"This type of harassment is not new to members of Republican Sinn Féin and is part of a concerted campaign of intimidation. All with the purpose of criminalising and isolating RSF and its members. This state campaign has also included the illegal seizing of €1,000 by the Special Branch last November, again with the

intention of disrupting our normal political activities. Such terror tactics will not deter Republican Sinn Féin or its members from continuing to campaign for an end to the British occupation of our country and the building of a New Ireland."

On March 28 the home of a Republican Sinn Féin member in the Ballyseedy /Ballymacelligott area of Kerry was raided and searched at 8am by three members of the 26-County political police.

Czech president criticises 'empty' EU constitution

CZECH President Vaclav Klaus has warned that the EU constitution is "empty and bad" and a "danger for democracy and freedom in Europe".

Vaclav Klaus called for a constitutional referendum in the Czech Republic, calling the EU "a post-democratic institution".

"I'm afraid of Europe," said Vaclav Klaus to Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine* newspaper. "I am very sure the majority of Europeans understand what I say and have similar worries. Sadly the debate over the constitution is in the hands of people, in the hands of Europeanists who have tied their future to the EU."

"These people need international organisations like the EU. It is a perfect forum for them to receive work, salary, profession and reputation. For these people who breakfast in

Venice, lunch in Dublin and dine in Stockholm in the evening, it's a case of Kundera's *Unbearable Lightness of Being*. For them it is a paradise they have to defend."

Vaclav Klaus said he differentiated clearly between European integration, which he favours, and the deeper European unification he opposes and which he sees as "tied to Jacques Delors and the Maastricht Treaty".

Increasing EU competences fail to address the absence of a "European people", he said, and would do nothing to create one. Former communist countries had already fought against the idea that "more regulation from above is needed, the more complicated the system."

EU states could go to war, says NATO head

NATO's secretary-general has suggested that the EU's new battle groups could be used to go to war. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told the Spanish newspaper *El País* he did not accept a claim by EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana that the EU would never go to war.

"I don't believe that's true. Why is the EU creating 'battle groups'? It is not just to help rebuild a country. The battle groups are not for building schools," he said.

The NATO chief's comments also contradict claims made by the Vice President of the EU Commission, Margot Walstrom, who during a visit to Dublin on March 10, claimed that the EU constitution did not clear the way for the formation of a European army.

EU member states agreed last year to set up 13 so-called battle groups, military units up to 1,500 strong that could be deployed quickly both within the EU and internationally.

Despite claims by EU officials

that the battle groups would be used to help stabilise conflict areas and to protect humanitarian missions, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said that once these units are operational they could amare robust mandate.

"It may be that to keep the peace combat is necessary. If the EU creates battle groups and NATO a rapid-reaction force, I would say we shouldn't think the EU is for soft power and NATO for tough power," he said.

Most EU states have agreed to take part in the proposed battle groups, whilst the Dublin government has said it will amend legislation so as to allow the 26-County State's participation.

Gearrscéalta

Provisional thuggery in Strabane

ON March 4 last an Irish night was held in Sigerson's GAA Club in Strabane, Co. Tyrone. During the function several people were ejected by the Provisionals, despite the fact that none of them was causing any trouble.

A number of people (who had nothing to do with organising the function) came around the tables with lottery tickets – the proceeds of which were said to be going to Provisional prisoners. When those sitting at one table (including a former H-Block hunger striker) said they were not interested, they were told that this would be their "last time in the Club".

Meanwhile another person, seeing that tickets were being sold, went around with sponsorship cards for a head shave on St. Patrick's Night in aid of CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund). He was approached by a man and told to "put [these] in [his] pocket or get out".

When asked under what authority this was being said, he was told that it was on behalf of the management of the Club, and so he complied. However he was still forced to leave, and the person issuing the threat added that he represented the Provisionals' military body in Strabane. Others in the Provo's company also became aggressive.

This represents a clear abuse of power by the Provisionals. Furthermore it must be asked whether Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is to allow itself to be used in such a blatantly partisan manner.

Escalation of intimidation by Provos

IN A statement the PRO of the newly-formed Thomas Harte Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin, Lurgan, Co Armagh said that in an attempt to stop the organising of the Cumann, the Provos have threatened and abused its members.

The statement continued: "Colin Avery was so badly beaten that he spent three nights in hospital. He received a badly fractured arm that is still swollen and scarred and stitches to his head."

"Since his release he has been visited by the RUC/PSNI who informed him of a threat to his life by the Provos."

"On the night of Holy Thursday the Provos, in an attempt to stop the sale of Easter Lilies, accosted a young member on the street and gave him a beating. They patrol the streets in a van and all of them, including the gang leaders, are known."

"Their latest action on Easter Sunday morning was to remove the wreaths left at the Republican Plot in St Coleman's Cemetery following our Commemoration. The wreaths were left on the dump with old wreaths but the one from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was torn to pieces."

"So much for people who portray themselves as Republicans. They are thugs, and true Republicans will not be cowed or intimidated by their tactics."

"Their actions will be made known to the people of Lurgan and will not be tolerated by the Republican Movement."

Seán Keenan Memorial vandalised in Derry

IN or around the early hours of March 26, the Celtic Cross memorial in Fahan Street, Derry City, to veteran Derry Republican Seán Keenan was vandalised for the third time in the past year. Anti-National elements had sprayed red, white and blue paint on the monument.

Despite the presence of a British spy-post overlooking the area, and several houses nearby, it seems that these people are not deterred from attacking a memorial to a great Republican, and Honourary Vice-President for life of Republican Sinn Féin.

Furthermore when members of Republican Sinn Féin returned on Easter Sunday evening to lower the National Flag (which had been hoisted that morning), it was discovered that the tricolour had been removed.

We appeal to those involved to respect the memory of a true Republican who believed, like Wolfe Tone, in uniting Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter. Republican Sinn Féin will clean the monument shortly, and restore it to its original state.

Results of Dublin raffle

MARCH Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 331; 2nd prize 065; 3rd prize 166; 4th prize 335; 5th prize 224; 6th prize 240; 7th prize 293; 8th prize 318.

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published 4/5/2005**



- is committed to supporting prisoners for which CABHAIR is responsible
- is generating publicity in support of Irish national independence.

**We need your support. Our website address is:
<http://irishfreedom.net>**

I would like to join Republican Sinn Féin
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Sinn Féin Poblachtach

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or 229 Falls Road, Belfast
e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie
<http://rsf.ie>
or contact your local paper seller for details

**For a full
British
withdrawal
from
Ireland**



OUR AIMS

For a full British withdrawal from Ireland ... The establishment of a true 32-County FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ... The establishment of a new all-Ireland parliament, completely outside the present partitionist set-up, to oversee the running of the new neutral non-aligned Ireland ...

OUR HISTORY

Formed in 1905 ... We are the oldest political organisation in the country ... Organised throughout the 32 Counties ... We have continuously rejected the failed political entities of the Six and 26 Counties in existence since the British partitioned our country ...

Republican garden opened in Bundoran

ON Easter Monday, March 28, 2005, a Garden of Remembrance was officially opened in Bundoran, Co Donegal to honour those who gave their lives in the cause of the All-Ireland Republic.

The parade assembled at the East End and marched behind a piper and the Tricolour through the town to the Garden where a crowd of approximately 1,000 people heard Joe O'Neill declare the Garden officially open when he asked Martin McGrath, Jimmy McElhinney, Emmet Dillon and Pat Barry to open the gates. He said the garden was to remember the 'brave patriots who, in the face of the enemy, never showed cowardice or betrayal, but at all times showed dignity and respect for the cause they had fought for'. Joe then called on Fr Des Wilson to bless the Garden.

Music for the afternoon was provided by The Fenians, Peggy Kelly, Frankie McKiernan and Joe O'Neill, and included *Four Green Fields*, *Michael Gaughan*, *Boys of the Old Brigade* etc and some Irish airs.

Richard Walsh, Derry, read the 1916 Proclamation and Pat Barry, Bundoran, recited *The Mother* by Padraig Pearse.

The families of the Volunteers 1973-1984 unveiled a magnificent Celtic Cross while

Eileen McElhinney, Letterkenny, read the Roll of Honour to Paddy Carty, Sean Crow Loughran, Dermot Crowley, Anton Mac Giolla Bhríde and Ciarán Fleming.

The families and friends of the Bobby Sands, Francie Hughes, Ray McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee, Mickie Devine, Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg unveiled 12 plaques in their honour.

Brendan McLoughlin, an

ex-hunger striker who was in the cell next to Joe McDonnell, unveiled a plaque to Wolfe Tone and all who gave their lives for Irish freedom and all who gave their lives because of England's occupation. Declan Curneen sang a song he composed in memory of Ciaran Fleming, and Ann O'Neill Pastor sang *Shall My Soul Pass Through Ireland*.

Dr Sean Maguire, son of the late General Tom Maguire, the last faithful member of the Second All-Ireland Dáil Éireann who died in 1993 at the age of 101, unveiled a plaque to the 10 hunger strikers 1917-1946.

A wreath was laid on behalf of all those who died on hunger strikes by Ann O'Neill Pastor and Mary Ward, widow of the late Pat Ward, Donegal, whose early death can be attributed to hunger strikes. Phyllis Cullen and Mary O'Neill laid a wreath of the Five Volunteers. Ann Sheerin and Margaret McGrath laid a wreath at the Wolfe Tone Plaque. A decade of the Rosary was recited by Fergus McCabe.

The flag was lowered by Bill Tompkins, Boston, USA while the piper, Seán Doyle, played a lament. Séamus McGowan and Mick Cullen unveiled a plaque on the wall outside the gate.

Joe then introduced Fr Des Wilson who gave a very fitting oration. Joe thanked all those who attended and all those who made the Garden possible.

The ceremonies concluded with the playing of *Joe McDonnell, The Men Behind the Wire* and then *Amhrán na bhFiann*.

A Souvenir Programme is available from Joe for €7 including postage.



• Relatives of five IRA Volunteers who gave their lives for Irish freedom unveil the memorial in the Republican Garden.



• Relatives of hunger strikers Joe McDonnell and Martin Hurson beside the plaques in the Republican Garden.

Údarás: SFP i lár an aonaigh i gConamara



I dtoghlaigh Chonamara don Údarás fuair Tomás Ó Curraoin, iarrthóir Shinn Féin Poblachtach, 848 vótáir den chéad rogha, sin méadú de 219 nó 34.82% ar thoghcháin 1999.

Bhí sé san iomaíocht go dtí an 13ú chomhairleamh nuair a bhí

the full picture is not available of the count for the Galway constituency in the Údarás na Gaeltachta elections.

Suffice to say that Tomás Ó Curraoin increased his vote by 35% on his 1999 performance – from 629 to 848 first preferences. He was in seventh place for six seats and remained in the running until the 13th count. A full account will be given next month.

Bhí Tomás ar bharr an chomhairimh sna boscaí i mBearna (2 bhosca), Na Forbacha, i mBuailte Beag agus i mbosca amháin i gCnoc na Cathrach ar imeall chathair na Gaillimhe.

Tá Tomás ag dlúthfaí a chuid tacaíochta i gcónaí agus ag cur leis. Is féidir a rá go bhfuil Sinn Féin Poblachtach i lár an aonaigh maidir le Gaeltacht Chonamara de!

1,229 bainte amach aige. As this paper goes to press

Tomás Mac Curtáin remembered

ON Sunday, April 3 the Mac Curtáin/Mac Suibhne Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Cork held a commemoration outside the home of the murdered Lord Mayor, Tomás Mac Curtáin, in Blackpool, Cork.

The proceedings were chaired by Terence Varian and a wreath was placed on behalf of RSF by Alfie Mc Avoy. A decade of the Rosary was said, followed by a lament by a lone piper. Terence Varian then gave the oration in the course of which he gave the history of Tomás Mac Curtáin "Irish patriot and soldier, in pursuit of liberation and the establishment of a sovereign, independent Irish Republic".

"In both the north and south poverty is at chronic levels. There are shortages in affordable housing, patients in our A&E units are forced to wait on trolleys for treatment, and the gap between rich and poor is ever widening. This in the post-Celtic Tiger era in a

country that is now one of the worlds wealthiest. Our cherished folk and native culture is swamped by a media bombardment of capitalist orientated Anglo-American popular values. Here the sovereignty of our nation is continuously eroded by the growing power of the European Union.

"The Dublin government offers a capitalist playground where ministers currently display a feverish greed for the Washington Dollar – prostituting what was once neutral Irish soil so that American planes and troops can go and continue to carry out their illegal occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In doing so the Dublin

Administration has placed itself in the ranks of George Bush's Coalition of the Willing. This abandonment of neutrality is done against the wishes of the Irish people. Republicans must remain at the forefront of opposition to this illegal war.

"The way forward for Ireland is through the Éire Nua programme for a totally new Ireland with separation of church and state and a pluralist society. A new federation of the four provinces including a nine county Ulster would bring power nearer the people, help correct East-West economic imbalance and provide a solution to the Ulster situation.

"In this the centenary year of Sinn Féin those who are not entitled to use the honoured name have tarnished it by their actions. Throughout 2005 Republican Sinn Féin will celebrate 100 years of resistance to British rule and we call on all Republicans to support us.

For The Record

MON. MARCH 7: Staff at the office of the [British] Ombudsman in the Six Occupied Counties confirmed it had passed information to the RUC on seven Provos suspended by their party after the murder of Robert McCartney.

Electronic tagging could be introduced soon in the Six Occupied Counties after a number of changes were made to the law in Britain under the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

A tribunal in England has been told that an Irishwoman was told to get out of Britain if she 'could not speak the Queen's English'. Ann Neylan said she was told in abusive language to 'go home' because of the way she spoke.

TUES. MARCH 8: A review of more than 2,000 unsolved murders in the Six Occupied Counties could take up to six years according to British Secretary of State Paul Murphy and Chief Constable Hugh Orde.

The Department of Health in Dublin failed to deal with 30 years of illegal charges to nursing home patients according to the Travers Report.

WED. MARCH 9: The Barron Report into the 1976 loyalist murder of Séamus Ludlow is to be published soon.

THURS. MARCH 10: Sixty per cent of nationalist voters polled in the Six Counties believed that the Provos should disband now.

FRI. MARCH 11: Michael McDowell, the Justice Minister in the Free State, is planning to introduce Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) similar to those in England.

Serious divisions emerged between the British and Free State governments over the way inquiries were conducted into the murder of Pat Finucane.

SAT. MARCH 12: The Orange Order voted to end its century-old link with the Ulster Unionist Party.

MON. MARCH 14: The RUC rejected criticisms of their handling of the Robert McCartney murder. They have been accused of turning away a man who tried to make a statement.

TUES. MARCH 15: Robert Humphries, Ballyfermot, Dublin was charged at a special sitting of the Special Criminal Court in Dublin with membership of an unlawful organisation. At the same court Garret Kelly, Clondalkin, Dublin was charged with membership and unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition.

British Irish Human Rights Watch and the CAJ expressed concerns about the terms of reference given to the inquiry into the murder of solicitor Rosemary Nelson. Rosemary Nelson was murdered six years ago today when loyalist placed a bomb under her car in Lurgan.

WED MARCH 16: Mitchell Reiss US Envoy to the Six Occupied Counties, expressed concern that the new legislation governing inquiries could potentially reduce the independence and



• Newly-erected banner on Republican Sinn Féin's Ard-Oifig in Dublin city centre marking the organisation's centenary.

transparency of investigations.

THURS. MARCH 17: US Defence Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz has been nominated by George Bush as the next chief of the World Bank.

One RUC man was injured in Derry after about 100 youths were involved in clashes with the RUC/PSNI.

Judge Cory warned that that the proposed new Inquiries Bill would 'thwart inquiries at every step'.

Hundreds of New York City firefighters boycotted the St Patrick's Day Parade in protest at being ordered not to wear their traditional green berets.

FRI. MARCH 18: Unionist parties failed to reach an electoral pact following talks in Belfast arranged by the Orange Order between UUP leader David Trimble and DUP leader Ian Paisley.

SUN. MARCH 20: The RUC were stoned by a crowd of youths in Church Rd, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim.

Jose Luis Rodriguez called on the banned Basque separatist party to denounce ETA if it wished to take part in regional elections next month.

TUES. MARCH 22: Amnesty International, Human Rights First, Pat Finucane Centre in

Derry and INQUEST have expressed concern over the new proposed legislation governing how public inquiries are carried out.

WED. MARCH 23: A former associate of murdered LVF leader Billy Wright, Colin Robert Armstrong, has almost stg5million seized by the Assets Control Agency.

Noel Conroy, The Garda Commissioner, has pledged to provide training for gardaí in the handling of informants.

Martin Manseragh (FF) said he heard it at the highest level on the British side that the Pat Finucane murder was a can of worms.

Art Sherwin, Kildare was charged at the Special non-jury Court in Dublin with membership of an illegal organization.

Fr Willie Purcell said that some unscrupulous farmers are paying asylum-seekers as little as €1 per hour.

Pressure is growing on the Free State Justice Minister to reverse the deportation of Nigerian student Olunkunle Eluhanla.

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors support the creation of DNA database.

THURS MARCH 24: John Joe McCusker, Newtownbutler, Co Fermanagh was charged with membership of the CIRA from 1996 to

Saoirse-Irish Freedom — Aibreán/April 2005

March 22, 2005, causing an explosion with intent to endanger life on June 14, 2004 at Lurgan Golf Club and attempting to cause an explosion with intent to endanger life at Roslea RUC barracks on October 11, 2003.

Descendants of the men and women who formed the City Hall Garrison during the 1916 Easter Rising gathered in Dublin to unveil a plaque in the memory.

The inquiry into the murder of Rosemary Nelson has been widened to look into the possibility of collusion with state agencies, including the British Army.

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors advised its members this week not to take part in a secondment programme between Gardai and the RUC/PSNI.

The scope of the enquiry into the murder of Rosemary Nelson has been widened to see if the Northern Ireland Office, the RUC or British Army had any involvement in her murder.

Almost half of Derry's population is deemed to be living in socially deprived areas.

FRI. MARCH 25: St McNissis Primary School in Larne was attacked by arsonists and two mobile classrooms and their contents were destroyed. Two gravestone in a nearby graveyard were also damaged.

A District Court Judge in The Free State received expenses of €86,451 in 2004.

SAT. MARCH 26: Richard Moore, who, as a child of 10, was blinded by a rubber bullet fired from a distance of 10 yards, has denounced the decision of the Policing Board to adopt a new type of plastic bullet. The 'less lethal' Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP) was accepted by a 'substantial majority' of the board.

Pope John Paul II died at the Vatican in Rome after a long illness.

SUN. MARCH 27: Loyalists attacked the home of a nationalist family in Ahoghill, Co Antrim. Kathleen McCaughey said she was awoken in the early hours of Sunday morning to find a man standing on the stairs shouting "Get out you fenian bastards or I'll be back".

MON. MARCH 28: A nationalist man, Martin McAllister, was so badly beaten at his home by loyalists that was taken to hospital. The men pulled a gun on him and threatened to kill him. Inside the flat, where Martin had Celtic tops, the attackers stuck the tops to the wall with a knife and daubed "Taigs Out" on the wall.

TUES. MARCH 29: Margaret McCauley, sister of hunger striker Mickie Devine, died suddenly at home. She had attended an unveiling of a Garden of Remembrance for the 1981 hunger strikers in Bundoran the previous day.

The UDA expelled the east Belfast leader Jim Grey on the grounds that he had become an 'increasing embarrassment to the UDA'.

Judge Jorge Enrique Torres, in his signed dissenting opinion (on the Colombia 3) said much of the evidence used to convict James Monaghan, Niall Connolly and Martin McCauley, was "questionable".

SAT. APRIL 2: Josephine Milnes, whose son was killed in an apparent hit-and-run collision in March, said one of the men in the car had 'wider republican connections'. She believes that her son was beaten up before he was run over.

IMEACHTAÍ

POW PICKET AT GPO DUBLIN
SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2005, 12.45pm-2pm
Come along and show your solidarity with the political prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry Jails.

UNVEILING OF CENTENARY PLAQUE ON BELFAST OFFICE
229 FALLS ROAD, BELFAST
SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 12 NOON
UNVEILING BY BILLY MCKEE

ANNUAL HUNGER STRIKE RALLY
GPO, DUBLIN, MAY 7, 2pm
Assemble at Garden of Remembrance at 1.45pm and march to GPO
Speaker: Fergal Moore, Monaghan

REPUBLICAN FUNCTION
NEW DROP INN, BALLYBOFEY

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2005, 10pm
in aid of the Garden of Remembrance, Bundoran

ANNUAL BOBBY SANDS LECTURE
DUBLIN, MAY 10
This year the theme of the lecture is 'Sinn Féin — 100 years of unbroken continuity'.
Speaker: Des Dalton, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin

REPUBLICAN BALLAD SESSION
MUSIC BY GERRY MACGREGOR AND ERIN'S OWN
SATURDAY, APRIL 16
8pm TILL LATE
THE OLD BARN (UPSTAIRS), LONDON ROAD GLASGOW
Ticket: £3
All proceeds go to CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners' Dependents Fund)

PETER AND ELLEN FARLEY

TESTIMONIAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, MAY 22ND, 2005
HILTON/ WOODBRIDGE IN ISELIN NJ, USA, 1.30pm

CUMANN NA SAOIRSE NÁISIÚNTA (NATIONAL IRISH FREEDOM COMMITTEE) WILL HOST THE THIRD ANNUAL PETER AND ELLEN FARLEY TESTIMONIAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

O'SULLIVAN/ENRIGHT CUMANN
Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry
Anyone wishing to join should contact 087-2113130

REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN
ANYONE WISHING TO JOIN THE ORGANISATION IN ENGLAND SHOULD WRITE TO: BM 1798, LONDON WC1N 3XX

NORTH AND SOUTH
TULLAMORE BALLAD GROUP
Available for functions throughout Leinster and Connacht
Contact Paul at 087 6 222 381

Sinn Féin 100 Committee — Sinn Féin Poblachtach programme of events for 2005

• **A Proud History Gives Confidence of Victory** by Margaret Buckley will be reprinted and an update added. It will be published for Bodenstown.

• **Biography:** The launch of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's biography will take place towards the end of the year.

• **Handing over of personal papers to UCG:** Ruairí Ó Brádaigh will hand over some of his personal political papers to UCG towards end of year.

• **Unveiling of Centenary Plaque on Belfast office, 229 Falls Road, Saturday, April 16, 12 noon.** Unveiling by Billy McKee.

• **Lecture in Conway Mill, Belfast, 2pm** by Des Dalton, Leas-Uachtarán Sinn Féin Poblachtach and Seán Ó Bradaigh. Theme: *The Centenary of Sinn Féin.*

• **Bobby Sands Commemorative events:** A rally will be held on May 7, 2005 at the GPO, Dublin, Assemble Garden of Remembrance, 2pm. The Bobby Sands Memorial Lecture is planned for May 10, date and venue and other events to be confirmed in SAOIRSE.

• **Bodenstown, June 12, 2005:** An tUachtarán Ruairí Ó Brádaigh will this year give the oration at the grave of Wolfe

Tone in Bodenstown in honour of the centenary.

• **Public meeting:** A public meeting at the Ambassador Cinema, Dublin (the first meeting of Sinn Féin took place in the former Rotunda building) will be arranged for November. The meeting will cover the founding and continuance of Sinn Féin and will include the reading of a document from the first meeting in the Rotunda in 1905.

• **Video/DVD:** We hope to produce a video/DVD which would be a fantastic achievement if we could show the unbroken line between 1905-2005. We would be grateful if anyone who has

footage of any Republican events, ie footage of Six-County repression by British Crown Forces, Ard-Fheiseanna, commem-orations, or other relevant material, could lend it to us as a matter of priority. Seán Ó Brádaigh will narrate.

• **Commemorative Calendar:** Now on sale (see add page 1). The calendar is a special one with dates and photographs of historical events/people. Will be collectors' item in years to come! Price E6/E5, available from Ard-Ofiig.

• **Laminates:** Laminated pictures from the calendar are available in Irish Freedom Press Bookshop..

• **T Shirts/Badge:** Polo shirts with RSF Logo/Badge are available also, E20. A special commemorative metal badge is also available, E5.

• **Events outside of Dublin:** All counties are instructed to organise some event to Commemorate the 100 anniversary.

• **Finance:** All counties must raise finance for the Sinn Féin Centenary Committee. As everyone knows, without finance we cannot function.

• **Ard Fheis 2005:** This will be a very special occasion and all members should make plans to attend.

• **SAOIRSE** will carry a list of all events organised for

the Centenary throughout 2005. Please ensure that your event is sent to the paper in good time for publication.

• **Dan Keating is now the Patron of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.** He celebrated his 103rd birthday in January 2005.

If you would like a copy of our policy documents or any of our literature, please contact our offices at:

Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, Phone: Dublin 872 9747; email: saoirse@iol.ie or 229 Falls Road, Belfast, Phone: Belfast 90 319 004, email

RSFBELFAST2004@aol.com.

RUC WATCH AS 14-YEAR-OLD BOY ATTACKED

A Belfast Chronology

Friday, March 11, 2005. A lorry was burnt out in the loyalist Bevlvoir Estate. It was believed the lorry was attacked because it carried 26-County number plates.

Two men suspected of involvement in the Robert McCartney murder were caught up in another bar fight in which it was claimed that a woman was hurt in the Markets area of Belfast after an altercation in a local pub.

Thursday, March 17, 2005. St Patrick's Day brought trouble in a number of areas of Belfast which lasted a number of hours. In the nationalist Bone area of north Belfast a confrontation between a group of people and the RUC/PSNI the paramilitary police used Mace spray and a number of women and children who had nothing whatsoever to do with the confrontation suffered the effects. The spray hit them in the face and eyes leaving them unable to see and suffering severe pain. These innocent victims of this RUC/PSNI action were treated with cold water by people who came to their aid.

Sunday, March 20, 2005. There were reports of a 12-year-old nationalist girl being attacked by a number of youths in a sectarian attack that seen her badly beaten. It was believed that the girl who was named as Megan Brown from the Whitewell area of north Belfast was walking home in front of her mother when a group of girls set upon her pushing her to the ground and kicking and beaten her around the face.

Megan later said as she walked in front of her mum from the Abby centre the girls shouted "Fenian B" stay off our road and then carried out the attack on her. Megan's mother later thanked two Protestant women who came to her aid

and drove them home she also went on to say its shocking to think that children can be filled with so much hate to do what they done on Megan.

There were reports of trouble in the loyalist Bowtown Estate in the Newtownards Road area in which a number of cars were burned and stones and petrol bombs used to attack the RUC/PSNI. It was later claimed the trouble broke out after the RUC/PSNI closed down a loyalist drinking den in the area.

A petrol bomb was thrown at the Darragh home at Gunnell Hill in the Whitewell area of north Belfast.

Monday, March 21, 2005. There are reports today of a bomb scare in the Docks area close to the Fortwilliam area of North Belfast.

There were also reports night of raids being carried out in a number of areas in west Belfast its believed the raids are centred around areas close to the Falls Road.

It was also reported that a number of petrol bombs were thrown at the RUC/PSNI in the Broadway area of West Belfast at this stage its believed four petrol bombs were used to attack the occupation forces.

The sisters and partner of Robert McCartney received death threats claiming they were 'on a hit list'.

Tuesday, March 22, 2005. Four petrol bombs were thrown at the RUC in the Broadway area of Belfast.

Thursday, March 24, 2005. There are reports tonight of a number of weapons being found in West Belfast its believed at this stage an AK47 hand guns ammunition and bomb parts were found by the occupation forces in the Broadway area.

Friday, March 26, 2005. Martin Overend (35) of Broadway Towers, Belfast and



• **Republican colour party leads the Belfast Easter Sunday Commemoration in Milltown Cemetery.**

Patrick Thomas Crossan (34), Norfolk Road, Belfast was remanded in custody at Belfast Magistrates Court charged with threatening to kill a man and demanding £60,000 from the same man. Martin Overend were also charged with illegally possessing firearms.

Saturday, March 26, 2005. There are reports tonight of trouble near the junction of the Whitewell road and the Shore road in North Belfast bottles and other weapons have been thrown after a confrontation between loyalists and Nationalists the loyalists gathered to confront an Easter parade in the area held by the people of Bawnmore estate every year the loyalists were

also said to have been the worse for drink.

It has also been reported tonight that an incendiary device has been found in the Forestside shopping centre.

Monday, March 28, 2005. There were further reports of more incendiary devices being found in the Forestside shopping centre in South Belfast and further reports claim incendiary devices have been found at the Ards shopping centre, there are also reports tonight of a nationalist man being badly beaten in the Cliftonpark Avenue area of North Belfast the man is now being treated in hospital for his injuries his flat also in the Cliftonpark area was wrecked

its believed by the same sectarian gang.

An Asian man was attacked and badly beaten in his home on the Donegal Road by a group of what anti-racism campaigners call 'hard-line racists'. His attackers dragged him out on to the roadway where he was hit with a broken bottle. He was treated in hospital for cuts and bruises to the face and severe bruising all over his body.

Tuesday, March 29, 2005. Trouble broke out tonight in the Markets area after a 14-year old nationalist boy was set upon and beaten by loyalists those who witnessed the attack said an RUC/PSNI Land Rover set in full view of the attack, after

the attack took place the paramilitary police force flooded the Markets a show of force local youths put up resistance using what they found to hand to do so bottles bricks and at least one petrol bomb was used against the occupation forces.

Friday, April 1, 2005. A furniture store in High St, Newtownards, outside Belfast was evacuated while the Brit Army Bomb disposal experts made safe a device found there.

Monday, April 4, 2005. Brian Wootton, a 31 year-old Belfast man, who appeared at Belfast Crown Court charged with rioting, was arrested when the RUC seized footage from an RTÉ broadcaster.

Fíor Athbheochain

AN amhlaidh a bhí Coimisinéir na Teanga, Seán Uasal Ó Cuirreáin, pas beag ró-chúramach, ró-dhiscréideach, ina chéad tuairisc faoi shláinte na Gaeilge? Nó an amhlaidh a rinneadh cinsireacht ar an gcéad dréacht?

Dul amú ort! Ráfla dá laghad ar an dóigh sin níor airíos. Ach b'amhlaidh a rith an smaoineamh liom agus an t-ábhar chomh leochaillach céanna, agus a éascaí atá sé olc a chur ar dhaoine mór le rá, d'eile ach na maithe beaga, múinteoirí, státseirbhíshigh, polaiteoirí, an chlér, agus taibhsí cumhachtacha a dhúiseacht, Dia linn!

Tá sé in am dom a adhmháil go bhfuil ardmheas agam ar an gCuirreáineach agus ar a chuid oibre, chomh fada agus a théann sí, bail ó Dhia air.

Ach ní dóigh liom go dtéann sé sách fada lena scéal, nó is í fírinne shearbh ár gcúise gur dearnadh feall mór forleathan ar an nGaeilge go dtí 1921, agus gach bliain ina dhiaidh sin, go dtí an lá inniu ann.

Forleathan a deirim: An chlér, na polaiteoirí, na scoileanna, na múinteoirí, na hollscoileanna, lucht gnó, na ceardchumainn ... Ar ndóigh, bhí eiseachtaí ann ach gann a bhíodh.

CLÉR CHEANNAITHE

Mar is eol, Seoirse Rí Shasana a bhronn suíomh Mhaigh Nuad ar an gClér Chaitliceach (viz. *Maynooth College 1795-1996*, le Patrick J Corish; Baile Átha Cliath, 1995).

Móid dílseachta don rí, an coinníoll a cuireadh. Móid í sin a bhain le gach éinne, chomh fada agus is eol domsa, idir chlér, mhúinteoirí agus scoláirí. Móid í sin, freisin, a cheangail muintir an Cholaíste leis an mBéarla, teanga an rí.

Ar aon chaoi, Béarla éigantach a bhí réim ann ag am an nuair a bhí leath na tíre, geall leis, ina Gaeltacht. I mBaile Átha Cliath féin lena linn bhíodh Gaeilge dá labhairt sa gCúm agus faoisín ar fáil san Ardeaglais i nGaeilge.

Ní léir dúinn gur polasáí ab ea é, polasáí ar son an Bhéarla mar mheán teagaisc, a fuair beannacht na Róimhe. Ach gíog ná míog aistí níor airigh muid nuair a cuireadh ruair ag an nGaeilge amach ó na mainistreacha aimsir na

Normannach agus an Fhraincis ina háit (viz. *Comhcheilg na Mainistreach Móire* leis an Athair Colm Cille).

NOD NA RÓIMHE?

Ach an amhlaidh atá an Róimh in éadan na Gaeilge ó aimsir N. Cholmbán (conspóid faoi chomháireamh na Cásca)? Is cosúil go maireann an claonadh úd: Diúltáíodh don Athair Colm Cille nuair a theastaigh uaidh mainistir lánGhaelach a bhunú. B'éigean dó cead a fháil ó bhunáit na gCistéireach.

Is fíor gur ord manachúil "tostach" atá i gceist ach ceadaítear caint nuair a bhíonn géarghá leis. Sa tír seo, is cosúil, Béarla amháin atá ceadaítear.

Tár éis a shaothar i nGaeilge a bheith fáite agus léite agam rinneas teagmháil leis an Athair Colm Cille trí mheán na litreacha. Sa litir dheireannach uaidh a bhí an scéal faoin ndiúltú. B'shin breis is dhá scór bliain ó shin.

Céadaíodh don nGaeilge, ceart go leor, in Éirinn nuair a tháinig an t-athrú i gcúrsaí litiúirge. An tArdeaspag Eoghann Cathal Mac Giolla Uaid a d'ordaigh go ndéanfaí Aifreann amháin ar a laghad a cheiliúradh i nGaeilge i ngach paróiste faoina chúram. Níl a fhios agam an amhlaidh a tugadh a leithéid d'aitheantas don nGaeilge in áiteanna eile ar fud na tíre.

'GAN ÉILEAMH'!

Tús maith leath na hoibre, a deirtear, agus ar feadh tamaill bhí mo rogha agam sa gceantar a bhfuil cónaí orm. Ach de réir a chéile b'amhlaidh a d'fhógair clér i ndiaidh cléire go rabhadh le deireadh a chur leis an Aifreann Gaeilge toisc nach raibh ann éileamh air!

I nDún Laoghaire, agus sa gceantar maguaird, tá dhá sheipéall againn ina mbfionn Aifreann i nGaeilge fós ar fail. Ach sin a bhfuil ann don nGaeilgeoir ina theanga féin: Baisteadh trí Bhéarla, faoisín trí Bhéarla ...

B'fhéidir go bhfuil sócrú éigin déanta do na Gaelcoileanna, ní fheadar. Ó am go chéile cloisim gearán ó

cheantracha Gaeltachta gur cuireadh sagairt chucu gan Ghaeilge!

Tá sé thar a bheith in am d'eagras Gaelach éigin na cúrsaí seo uilig a phlé leis an gcliarlathas. Ba bhreá liom féin freastal ar Aifreann i nGaeilge gach lá ach tá ag teip orm fós.

Aithníonn na saineolaithe, idir Chaitlicigh agus eile, go bhfuil saibhreas as cuimse mór i spioradáltacht na Gaeilge, cé go mb'fhéidir nach bhfuil an béim chéanna uirthi sin inniu is a bhíodh le linn m'óige, nuair trí Bhéarla a chéadchualas féin fúithi.

Agus cleachtadh an Chreidimh ag trá chomh mór sin ar na saolta seo níor mhise don gCríostaíocht in Éirinn brath arís eile ar na naoimh Ghaelacha. Níor mhise freisin aitheantas a thabhairt do na Protastúin a rinne sárobair ar son na Gaeilge.

WILLIAM BEDELL

Ar na daoine is mó a thagann chun chumhne tá William Bedell (1571-1642), an chéad duine a d'aistrigh an Bíobla Naofa (an Sean-Tiomna) go Gaeilge, agus é ina easpag i gCo an Chábháin. Ach cén fáth gur chomh déanaí sin a rinneadh an saothar?

Ní feasach domsa cé chomh fada aspreag an t-aistriú spéis i measc na bProtastúnach. Ach toisc nár ar son na Gaeilge go bunúsach a aistríodh an Bíobla, ach le Protastúin a dhéanamh d'fhormhór mhuintir na hÉireann a bhí ina gCaitlicigh faoin am, ar éigean a cuireadh mórán spéis arís ann go dtí na 1800í, i gCo Mhaigh Eo, mar shampla.

Maidir liom féin, agus mé fostaithe ag an *Irish Independent*, ar chúis eigin chuireas suim sa bhfeair agus ar a chuid oibre. Thabharfadh a cheiliúradh deis mhaith do Phrotastúin agus do Chaitlicigh a theacht le chéile agus a bheith muintireach agus níos tuiscinnáil faoina gcéile, a cheapas.

Rinneas taighde, i Leabharlann Mharsh i mBaile Átha Cliath, agus in Ollscoil Chambridge i Sasana, mar san dá áit atá lamhscríbhinní Bhedell. I gCambridge, b'amhlaidh a bhí an LS i staid chontúirteach, agus rinneas gearán leis an leabharlann.



• *Séan Ó Cuirreáin*

LS SABHAILTE!

Roinnt seachtainí ina dhiaidh sin fuairas litir ón leabharlann le cur in iúl dom gur mar gheall ar mo ghearán a chuireas an LS i lámhaibh shaineolaí le haire a thabhairt di.

Trí aistí a scríobhas, iad bunaithe ar an taighde a rinneas, agus mhol mé go ndéanfaí cuimhneachán ar Bhedell i gCo an Chábháin.

Fuairas tacaíocht ó go leor daoine. Ghlac Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge leis an smaoineamh agus bhunaigh siad Féile Bhedell.

Ar dtús, d'éirigh go maith leis an bhFéile cé gur éirigh leis an Órd Oráisteach roinnt Protastún a chur ina coinne, níl fhios agam cén fáth, agus ar deireadh d'éirigh an Chomhdháil as, ar chúis éigin nach dtuigim go fóill.

Ar aon chaoi, d'éirigh linn roinnt Phrotastún agus Chaitliceach ar Gaeilgeoirí iad, múinteoirí agus eile, a thabhairt le chéile. Cheapfainn gur tháinig maiteas éigin as.

Trí chabhair ó Chonradh na Gaeilge, foilsíodh leabhrán faoi Bhedell, é bunaithe ar na haistí úd a bhí i gcló ar an *Irish Independent*. I mBéarla atá an leabhrán, *Bedell and the Irish version of the Old Testament*, a d'fhoilsigh *Clodhanna Teoranta*, sa mbliain 1971. faoi leasainm, Rex Mac Gall, a foilsíodh na haistí san *Independent*.

As cló, cheapfainn, atá an leabhrán céanna. Níor mhise é a athchló, ar son an Chreidimh, ar son na teanga, agus ar son an éiciúmeineachais, nó deis a thabhairt do Chaitlicigh, Protastúin agus eile a dhul síos an bóthar céanna, le chéile, faoi beannacht ár dTiarna. Is é an Bíobla a dhéanann comhphobal dinn uilig, mar Chaitlicigh, mar Phrotastúin agus mar Easaontóirí, nach fíor dom?

SCRÍOS AN GHORTA

Ó aimsir Anraoi VIII Shasana go láidir in éadan na Gaeilge a bhí réimeas na Breataine in Éirinn cé gur maolaíodh ar an nimh sna 1800í (viz. *Cath na Gaeilge sa Chóras Oideachais, 1893-1911*, le Donncha Ó Súilleabháin, BÁC, 1988).

Treoir eile atá againn ó Phádraig Ó Riagáin (*Language Policy and Social Reproduction*, Ireland, 1893-1993; Oxford, New York, 1997). San dá leabhair sin tá eolas faoi stádas na Gaeilge in Éirinn thar na mblianta.

In ainneoin chur na Sasanach i gcoinne na Gaeilge, d'éirigh léi fanacht beo, fiú sna bailte móra, go dtí an Gorta Mór, a bhain leath ár muintire leis, idir bás as ocras, nó an imirce, go háirithe go Meiriceá.

Ón Athrú Creidimh go dtí aimsir Chroimil bhí siarimirce ar bun in Éirinn ach ba iad na huaisle agus saighdiúirí ba mhó a d'imigh. Tráth an Ghorta, sa gcuid ba mhó, b'iad feirmeoirí agus siopadóirí, agus éinne eile ar éirigh leis an tairis a aimsiú, iad siúd a chuaigh i muinín na farraige siar.

Nuair a bhí an Ghorta thart, bhí dhá chóras in éadan na Gaeilge, d'eile ach an eacnamaíocht (eolas ar an mBéarla agus tú thar lear), agus an t-oideachas (Béarla éigantach sna scoileanna).

ATHRÚ TEANGA

Ón gcianaimsir, is maith is eol do na coilínithe an bealach is éascaí dóibh le pobal faoi ionsaí a smachtú, mar atá a gcuid cultúir a scríos, go háirithe a dtéanga.

I ngach áit, is dual meas a bheith ag an duine ar mheán a chuid oideachais. An bhunriail sin ar a n-eolas: níl de dhíth ar an stróinséir i dtír eile ach marú gan trócaire, a bheith foighneach, a theanga

a bhrú gan stad gan staonadh agus, de ghnáth, aige a bheas an tríú glúin.

Idir an dá linn ní mór dó gach gcuid den gcultúr a scríos – ceol, amhránaíocht, féiltí náisiúnta agus áitiúla, agus a chuid cheoil agus eile a bhrú chun tosaigh, mar atá á dhéanamh, mar shampla, ag na Meiriceánaigh i láthair na huaire ar fud an domhain mhóir.

Scéal brónach a insíonn an stair dúinn, ach sa tír seo níl an stair éigantach sna scoileanna. Tig leat do shaol ar scoil a chaitheamh agus gan mórán di a thabhairt leat.

Fiú agus an stair á teagasc is beag a chloistear ar scoil faoin gcaoi a d'éirigh leis an mBéarla greim chomh láidir sin a fháil ar mhuintir na hÉireann.

Sin bearna a chaithefear a líonadh le go n-éirí athbheochan na Gaeilge. Ach an bhfuil páirtí polaitiúil an bith ann atá sásta tabhairt fúithi? N'fheadar ...

FEIDHM AG TEANGA?

Fíorstair na hÉireann a múineadh go forleathan in éindí leis an bhfirinne faoi stádas polaitiúil na hÉireann, thuaidh theas, agus ansin nach fíor é go bhfuil "poblacht" bunaithe sa tír seo? 'Tuigte? Mar nach bhfuil *liberté, égalité, fraternité* ag formhór mhuintir na hÉireann!

Dar le McDowell, ní mór don *égalité* a bheith mar chuid rianachanach den stát ...

An teanga a theagasc i gceart, le go mbí gach dalta líofa tar éis dó an bhunscoil a fhágáil, agus an córas céanna a leanúint sa mheánscóil agus ollscoil agus eile? An ndéanadh sin cúis? Ní dhéanadh.

Caitheadh an teanga sin a bheith áisiúil, luach a bheith ag dul léi! Cén chaoi ach Gaeilge a bheith i réim thús deireadh sa gcóras rialacháin, parlaimint, seanad, Gardaí, Arm, sa státseirbhís, ag gach leibhéal.

Chuaigh an Saorstát cuid den bhealach sin ar dtús ach, de réir a chéile, agus d'aon ghnó, cheapfaí, ag breathnú siar, b'amhlaidh a caitheadh an Ghaeilge ar leataobh agus an Béarla a chuireadh ina háit.

Sa mbliain 1973, mar shampla, cuireadh deireadh le riachtanas na Gaeilge sa státseirbhís. Fine Gae agus Lucht Oibre a rinne an feall. Ina n-éadan a bhí Fianna Fáil.

Ach nuair a bhí cumhacht athuair ag FF, faic ní dhearna siad le cúrsaí a iompú ina gceart, agus d'fhágadar a séala féin ar ionsaí eile fós ar an teanga.

Leor sin do mhí seo? Bheinn buíoch díobh ach bhuir dtuairimí a léamh!

— **Deasún Bretnach**

1916 Easter Commemorations 2005

ULSTER Antrim

BELFAST

THE Republican Sinn Féin Easter Commemoration in Belfast took place at Milltown Cemetery on Easter Sunday, a nine-strong colour party carrying the Tricolour the flags of Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna Éireann, Plough and the new flag of Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast, that was unveiled for the first time and carried as well as the Four Provinces flags led the parade through the cemetery followed by wreath bearers.

Around 100 people took part in the parade from the gates of the cemetery to the Sean-IRA, plot on the bright Easter Sunday afternoon. The proceedings were chaired by Veteran Belfast Republican Leo Martin who told the crowd of an attack carried out by the Provisionals on a member of Republican Sinn Féin in Armagh he also told of wreaths that had been placed on a Republican plot by Republican Sinn Féin in Lurgan being removed by the Provos and thrown into a bin.

The Proclamation of the Irish Republic was read by Karen Bracken and Veteran Belfast Republican Billy McKee recited the Rosary as Gaelige, wreaths were laid on behalf of Óglaigh na hÉireann, Cumann na mBan, Republican Sinn Féin, Fianna Éireann and the Republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons.

Geraldine Taylor read the Leadership Statement and a statement was also read on behalf of the POWs, the colour party then dipped the flags in honour and in salute of the Republican dead.

Brendan Magill gave the oration and spoke of the almost 500 Republican dead who lie in the cemetery. He spoke of Tone, Orr, Emmet, Pearse, of young Seán O'Riordan, just 13 years old a member of the Fianna done to death in Cawnpore street on March 23, 1972, of James McDade killed when placing a bomb at the Coventry Telephone Exchange and how he was brought back to his mother in plastic bags in bits.

Brendan went onto say that he was proud to be a Provo — Billy McKee was a Provo, Leo Martin was a Provo — “we aren't a shamed of that, but those who use the name today should be!” He said those who lie in these Republican graves did not die for anything less than the Irish Republic the Republic of Pearse.

On ending the proceedings Leo Martin called on true Republicans to come to the Republican Movement and he also thanked those faithful Republicans who came to honour our dead.

Armagh

A CROWD of about 100 people defied the bully-boy tactics of the Provisionals in Lurgan 24 hours previously, to turn out in Armagh City on Easter Sunday and make the Commemoration a great success.

Packy Carty of Dungannon did an excellent job of chairing proceedings.

And Mary Ward's oration struck a chord with many as this was particularly poignant occasion as those present remembered Gavin McArdle, Patrick Tierney and Gregory Trainor who are presently Prisoners of War.

Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement 2005

ON this the 89th anniversary of the historic 1916 Rising the Leadership of the Republican Movement extends fraternal greetings to members and supporters throughout the world. We particularly extend greetings of solidarity to all our imprisoned comrades held in British and Free State jails and we pay tribute to the Republican Prisoners Action Group who are engaged in a campaign against the British attempts to criminalise our POWs in Maghaberry jail. We extend fraternal greetings to all the people throughout the world who are struggling against forces of oppression.

Since last Easter the Irish people have once again witnessed yet another failed attempt by the British and their Irish agents to re-launch the partitionist parliament at Stormont. We have watched the continued grovelling of all shades of Irish nationalists to British rule in our country, but at the end of the day as we had predicted the grovelling was not enough for the British master.

It was however significant that once again the Provisionals were prepared to perform a final act of betrayal in destroying all the military material which does not belong to them, but to the Irish people.

The recent public exposé of their other criminal activities has contributed to a frenzy aimed against Irish Republicanism. This and the murder of Robert McCartney in Belfast are typical examples of what the Provos are about. It is not about freedom, it is not about justice, it is not about equality and, above all, it has nothing to do with the honourable Republican struggle to end British rule in Ireland once and for all. We again call upon this organisation to desist from claiming any linkage to this honourable cause as they attempt to usurp and sully all that true Republicanism stands for.

Recent acts of intimidation and thuggery illustrate the depths to which they are willing to sink. Republican Sinn Féin functions in aid of prisoners' dependants have been cancelled due to Provo threats and when they have been

allowed to take place, people have been intimidated by them during the course of the event. This criminality must be rejected.

OVER the past year our supporters throughout the whole of Ireland have been the subject of continued harassment, intimidation and false imprisonment at the hands of the British Forces of Occupation in the Six Counties and by their lackeys in the Free State.

We note the outcry from all quarters over the raid on the Northern Bank in Belfast, where has been the outcry over the theft of money from Republican Sinn Féin by the Free State police just a month earlier?

These same forces should well remember that they will not succeed where others have failed, and should be mindful of the true saying that it is not those who can inflict the most, but those who can endure the most who will finally over come.

The past twelve months have been a difficult time for those who remain committed to resisting the continued colonial occupation of our country. We are faced with an unprecedented combination of forces arranged against us. We will undoubtedly see in the coming twelve months a further renewed and forceful attempt to quell Republican resistance to this colonial rule, but let us again reassert our commitment and absolute determination to ensure that this resistance not only remains, but prospers.

There will never be an acceptance of colonial occupation, however it is remodelled. All Republicans committed to this resistance must unite under the banner of Irish Republicanism. Our unity of purpose will serve both to reject those who have usurped Republicanism and to resist the colonial occupier.

There will be no surrender, there will be no compromise.

Onwards to the Republic!

Frank Graham, Dublin, gave the oration.

SOUTH ARMAGH

Wreath-laying ceremonies at Killeen, Camloch, Edentubber, Jonsboro, Dromintee, Mullaghbabun, Cullyhanna, and Cloughogue.

Derry

THE annual 1916 Easter Commemoration took place at the Cúchulainn Memorial in the City Cemetery on Easter Sunday. Michael McGonigle of Dungiven chaired the proceedings.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Stephen Coyle, Glasgow. Damian McGonigle, Dungiven, also laid a wreath on the grave of Seán Keenan on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

The 1916 Proclamation was read by Richard Walsh, Derry, and Michael McGonigle read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. A decade of the Rosary was recited as Gaelige by Fergus McCabe, Omagh.

The oration was delivered by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President, Republican Sinn Féin, who made clear the Republican position that a “Six-County majority cannot decide Ireland's future” in response to the recent policy document from the SDLP. Ongoing Provo intimidation was also highlighted.

The proceedings ended with Whitey O'Neill playing Amhrán na bhFiann on the fiddle.

Down

NEWRY

A FIVE-strong colour party led Newry's annual commemoration to the Republican plot at St Mary's Cemetery.

In his opening remarks Chairperson Ruairí White, Ard Chomhairle Republican Sinn Féin, thanked everyone for attending the commemoration in what was RSF's centenary year.

Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, Newry and by Helen Murphy on behalf of RSF, Newry and Dundalk and a wreath was also laid on the grave of Joe Conway, a life-long Republican after whom the Cemetery in Newry is called.

The Proclamation of the Irish Republic was then read by Jimmy Lygott, which followed by a minute's silence in memory of Ireland's fallen heroes.

A decade of the Rosary was then recited in Irish by Nuala Moore.

Damien McAteer read the statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement before Ruairí White introduced the main speaker, Fergal Moore, Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, Monaghan, who gave a fine and fitting oration, in the course of which he said:

“This year sees the centenary of Sinn Féin. To commemorate this Republican Sinn Féin is holding a series of events across Ireland. We call on all Republicans to support us as we celebrate 100 years of resistance to British rule. We can best do this by reclaiming the name of Sinn Féin from those that have tarnished it. For nearly 20 years false Republicans have been using the name of Sinn Féin for their own political ends.

“They have been conspiring with the British and Free State governments to sell out Irish freedom and to copper



• A section of the crowd at Milltown Cemetery, Belfast on Easter Sunday.

Gavin's father laid a wreath on behalf of the prisoners while Patrick's brother laid a wreath on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin, Armagh.

Michael Monaghan read the proclamation and Barry Morgan read the Roll of Honour.

But it was eight-year-old Conor Hughes who stole the show by reciting a decade of the Rosary in Irish. His grasp of our native tongue put many adults present to shame.

Despite the Provisionals whispering campaign that our Easter ceremony

was a flop (yert another Provo lie), Republican Sinn Féin in Armagh hope to build on the great success that was Easter Sunday 2005 and make the Cumann stronger.

LURGAN

The Tom Harte Cumann, Lurgan held their Easter Commemoration at St Colmans Cemetery, Lurgan on Easter Saturday.

The proceedings were chaired by Padraig MacCionnaith who welcomed the large crowd of Republicans from

south Armagh, Armagh City, Keady, Belfast, Dungannon., Coalisland, Monaghan and Lurgan.

The Proclamation was read by Shane Hughes and Paddy Fox read the statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Wreaths were laid by Colin Avery on behalf of the Republican Movement; Celene Donnelly on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach and Patsy Carty on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Tyrone. Nuala Moore recited a decade of the rosary and

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fasten British rule here. They have sold out that which Pearse and Connolly gave their lives for. They have trampled on that which the brave Newry men who lie here fought and died for. It is time they gave up the name of Sinn Féin and ceased the charade of pretending to be Republican."

Donegal

THE County Donegal Easter Commemoration took place on Easter Sunday in Stranorlar, Co Donegal.

The parade marched to the Drumboe Martyrs Memorial in the town where proceedings were chaired by Joe O'Neill, Bundoran. A decade of the Rosary was said in Irish by MJ Begley of Fanad; the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Michael McGonigle, Dungiven and the 1916 Proclamation by Richard Walsh, Derry city.

Ester McElhinney, Letterkenny, read the Donegal Roll of Honour and wreaths were laid by James Sweeney, Glasgow, Mary O'Neill, Bundoran and Margaret McGrath, Bundoran.

The oration was delivered Republican Sinn Féin President Ruairí Ó Brádaigh who said "Several generations subsequent to the Easter Rising of 1916 Ireland remains partitioned and unfree, the British government and its occupation forces are in charge in the Six Counties, and the effort continues to induce the nationalist population to accept that situation.

"Seven years after the Stormont Agreement was signed it still had not worked. But the endeavour to get the entire body of nationalists to endorse and administer English rule here continues.

"Faithful Republicans believe with 1916 leader James Connolly that 'the British government has no right in Ireland, never had any right in Ireland, and never can have any right in Ireland'.

"The SDLP in its policy document published last week repeats that a united Ireland depends on a majority in the Six Counties.

"True Republicans insist that the British government and its occupation forces must give a date for disengagement and then the whole Irish people, acting as a unit, can determine how they will live together and govern themselves.

"To an elected All-Ireland Constituent Assembly Republican Sinn Féin will bring its ÉIRE NUA proposals for a new four-province federation, including a nine-county Ulster, with optimum devolution of power to the regions and districts.

"However, the flame of true Republicanism still burns brightly, in spite of harassment by British forces, 26-County Special Branch and Provos on the ground. The undiluted gospel of Irish Republicanism is being proclaimed this Easter in every county in Ireland, in England, Scotland, North America and Australia."

Following the commemoration a wreath was laid, as has been done every year, at the Memorial in Drumboe Woods which marks the spot where the Drumboe Martyrs were shot by Free State forces.

Tyrone

ON Easter Saturday Republicans gathered in Edendork cemetery at the Grave of Fian James McCaughy to pay their respects to him and to all those who gave their lives in the cause



• The Dublin parade passes the Parnell Monument on its way to the GPO on Easter Sunday.



• Fergal Moore, Monaghan, speaking at the Republican Plot in St Mary's Cemetery, Newry.

of Irish freedom.

The Commemoration was chaired by Packy Carty, PRO of the McKearney/McCaughy Cumann, Dungannon and was attended by members of the newly formed Tom Clarke Cumann in Coalisland. The Proclamation was read by Aiden Quinn and Fred Telford read the Roll of Honour. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, Republican Sinn Féin, the POWs and Coalisland Republican Sinn Féin.

The oration was given by Frank Graham, Dublin.

In his closing speech the chairperson stressed the importance of standing firm in the face of the recent Provo aggression in Lurgan and the need to do more for the POWs. He praised Dungannon and Coalisland for their hard work in forming the two Cumann and to all those who continued to work hard for Irish freedom.

MUNSTER

Clare

UPWARDS of 50 people attended the Co Clare Easter Commemoration at Drumcliff Cemetery, Ennis on Easter

Sunday.

Proceedings were chaired by John O'Mahoney, Clare Republican Sinn Féin spokesperson. Jean McNamara laid a wreath on behalf of the James Connolly Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Ennis and wreaths were laid on the graves of four Republicans executed by the Free State and one who was shot by Blueshirts in 1934.

The oration was delivered by Seán Ó Sé, Dublin.

Cork

CORK Republicans assembled at the Wilton Roundabout in Cork city on Easter Sunday and, led by a colour party consisting of members of Republican Sinn Féin and Cumann na mBan, as well as three pipers, marched to the Republican Plot in St Finbarr's Cemetery.

The proceedings were chaired by Donal Varian, Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, who welcomed all those present and said he was glad to see such a good turnout. Wreaths were laid by Kitty O'Brien on behalf of Cumann na mBan, by Lita Ní Chathmhaoil on behalf of the Republican Movement and by John

Murphy on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

The 1916 Proclamation was read by Terence Varian and the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement by Alfie McAvoey Kitty O'Brien said a decade of the Rosary as Gaelige.

The Last Post and Reveille was sounded by two buglers and the oration was delivered by Lita Ní Chathmhaoil, Ard-Rúnaí, Republican Sinn Féin.

In the course of her oration she said: "Republicans and the ordinary people have been betrayed by the Provisional leadership. Recent acts of intimidation and thuggery illustrate the depths to which they are willing to sink. Republican Sinn Féin functions have been cancelled due to Provo threats and when they have been allowed to take place, people have been intimidated by them during the course of the event. This criminality must be rejected.

"In this, the centenary year of Sinn Féin, those who are not entitled to use the honoured name have tarnished it by their actions. Throughout 2005 Republican Sinn Féin will celebrate 100 years of resistance to British rule

and we call on all Republicans to support us.

"Faithful Republicans will not support English rule in the Six Counties or collaborate with it through the Establishment south of Britain's Border. We will not be co-opted. Today, as we commemorate our Republican dead, British MLAs and MPs will be addressing 1916 commemorative ceremonies throughout Ireland. They are also organising many well-funded events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Sinn Féin. Let them take note — they have forfeited the right to stand at the graves of our Fenian dead, they are no longer Republicans, in 1986 they forfeited the right to use the honoured and honourable name Sinn Féin. Let them change their name to some new title that better describes the type of grubby politics they are engaged in, along with the Free State parties they emulate."

Kerry

TRALEE

IN Tralee a large crowd turned out to pay their respects to those who gave their lives in the fight for Irish freedom. A Republican Sinn Féin colour party led the parade followed by a piper and accordion player. Leading the Republican attendance was Dan Keating, veteran Republican (who is 103 and walked all the way to Rath Cemetery) and Séan Murphy.

The proceedings were chaired by Eamon Breen, who also read the statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. Wreaths were laid by Dan Keating on behalf of the Republican Movement, Séan Murphy on behalf of the Republican POWs and Eugene Dene on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

A decade of the rosary was recited by Fionnuala Kissane and the Proclamation was read by Siobhan Walsh.

Matt Leen read the following statement from the POWs in Portlaoise prison:

"Today marks the 89th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising. The Easter Rising was another significant time in the Republican Chronology in our nations struggle for independence and again brave Irishmen and Irishwomen took up arms to break the connection with the foreign oppressive enemy.

"Eighty-nine years on, and we still have Six Occupied Counties. We have seen an agreement which has copperfastened British rule and seen the surrender of arms procured for national liberation. The honourable men and women who sacrificed their lives throughout Ireland's struggle, would turn in their graves if they could see the current climate.

"All of us gathered here today, are here because we seek to break the connection with England. We have followed the ideals of the 1916 martyrs. We are opposed to the occupation of our 6 counties and as long as one British foot remains on Irish soil, we will always see Republican resistance.

"The current climate is tough at the moment but we must persevere. There is still a lot of hard work to be done. It is not over until the Brits have gone home.

"We urge our leadership today to get a sustained campaign going once and for all and we as Republicans denounce any involvement with

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anything other than Republicanism, as such involvement would tarnish our credible movement and most of all, such involvement blackens Republicanism.

"When the signatories signed the historic Proclamation, they had one objective in mind and that was an independent 32 county Irish republic.

"To accept anything less than that is the ultimate betrayal to all those who gave their lives for Irish freedom.

"The Republican Prisoners, Portlaoise prison.

"Tíocfaidh Ár Lá."

Eamon Breen then introduced Josephine Hayden, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin who in the course of her oration sent solidarity greetings to the Continuity POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise. She continued: "The repression and harassment of Republicans continues unabated — on four fronts, the Free State, the RUC, the Provos and George Bush's America.

"After the Ard Fheis in Dublin last November, the Special Branch illegally seized €1,000 of Republican Sinn Féin's money which has still not been returned. Had any member of RSF stolen €1,000 from a hotel safe they would be standing in the Diolpck court in Green street awaiting transport to Portlaoise.

"House raids, stop and search, arrests and seizure of property continues unabated. During this week three Republicans, one a member of the Ard Comhairle of Republican Sinn Féin, have been arrested and remanded in the Six Occupied Counties on trumped-up charges. Two weeks ago, a function organised by Republican Sinn Féin, was hi-jacked by the Provos and our members threatened, including Brendan McLoughlin, a former H-Block POW from Derry.

"This is not an isolated incident. Several functions have been cancelled by management after approaches by either the Branch or their new pals the Provos. Republican Sinn Féin is on the banned list in the USA and fundraising is prohibited. We cannot remain silent on these abuses. We must resist attempts to be coerced into silence. Too many people have given too much for us to stay silent now."

The ceremonies concluded with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

LISTOWEL

A commemoration was held at the Republican Plot in Listowel Cemetery at 12 noon on Easter Sunday. The 1916 Proclamation and the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Sullivan/Enright Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel.

John T Sheedy, Youth Officer, Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, republican Sinn Féin gave the oration. He called for support for Republican prisoners incarcerated in British and Free State jails and said there would always be true Republicans who would rise up against the British Forces of Occupation.

He concluded: "Today we have the Free State collaborating with the British to defeat the Republican Movement but if the British could not defeat the Irish in over 800 years, they too, are wasting their time. They are only one arm of the British machine of tyranny.

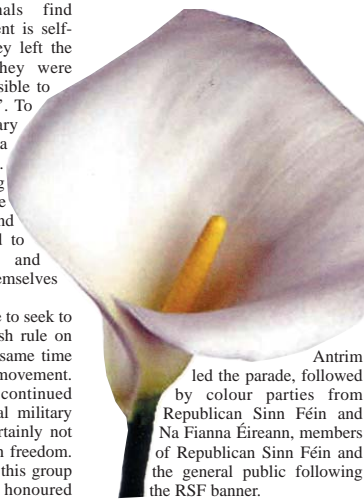


• Donal Varian, chairing the commemoration in the Republican Plot, St Finbarr's Cemetery, Cork.

fix that the Provisionals find themselves in at the moment is self-created. In 1986, when they left the Republican Movement, they were warned that it was not possible to have a 'foot in both camps'. To be both a revolutionary movement and a constitutional political party. Whilst enmeshing themselves further within the partitionist system north and south, they have continued to placate their members and supporters by portraying themselves as a radical organisation.

However it is not possible to seek to administer and police British rule on the one hand whilst at the same time claim to be a revolutionary movement. The rationale for the continued existence of the Provisional military group in this context is certainly not for the achievement of Irish freedom. The continued existence of this group masquerading under the honoured name of the Irish Republican Army is an affront to all Irish Republicans.

They are not an army of national liberation but have degenerated into a criminal militia, whose purpose is to control through fear the nationalist community, maintaining the Provisional's stranglehold. Their



"Despite every obstacle; in the face of every adversity, we stand here and we affirm again the right of the Irish people to the ownership of Ireland... to be sovereign and infeasible. We stand by that principle and we will not be moved."

DEANSGRANGE

The annual commemoration took place in Deansgrange, Dublin on Easter Monday. Pádraig Ennis, carrying the Tricolour, led the parade.

Andy Connolly chaired the proceedings. Róisín Hayden read the 1916 Proclamation and Jimmy Murphy read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. Andy Connolly then called on Peig Galligan from the National Graves Association who gave a short oration. The proceedings concluded with the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

Kildare

KILDARE Republican Sinn Féin held their annual 1916 commemoration at the grave of Eugene O'Rourke on Easter Sunday, March 27 at 12noon.

Matt Conway, Kilkullen chaired proceedings. Jim Meehan, Newbridge, laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement. Kitty Hawkins, Ballymore Eustace recited a decade of the rosary.

The Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement and the 1916 Proclamation were also read.

Wreaths were also laid at Milltown Bridge, the grave of Frank Driver, Ballymore Eustace, Hollywood, Co Wicklow, Kildare Town and the Connor/Lacey monument at Barrowhouse Athy.

Laois/Offaly

REPUBLICANS gathered in Portarlinton, Co Laois for the annual commemoration on Easter Monday, March 28 at 2.30pm. Gathering at the East End Hotel and led by a piper and a Na Fianna colour party they marched to the 1998 monument in the town centre.

RSF Vice President, Des Dalton, Kildare, chaired the proceedings and called on John Sheridan, Tullamore to lay a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement, chaired ceremonies. A wreath was also laid on behalf of Na Fianna Éireann. Following a minute's silence the piper played a lament.

A member of Na Fianna Éireann read the 1916 Proclamation. Seosamh Ó Maoilean read the Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement. A statement was read by a member of na Fianna on behalf of the Republican Prisoners, Portlaoise jail.

RSF Ard Chomhairle member Tomas Ó Clerigh, Dublin, gave the oration, in the course of which he said that the ongoing collaboration with British imperialism by the 26-County State can be seen even to the extent of allowing the British war machine free public relations exercises.

"From February 24 to 28 last a British Royal Navy vessel, HMS *Illustrious* was docked in the River Liffey and children from impoverished areas of Dublin were given a guided tour of the ship.

Illustrious is an aircraft carrier and it was from such vessels that Britain



• The Easter Sunday Commemoration at the Republican Plot, Crosstown Cemetery, Wexford.

"So, as we leave here today, we must carry on the work of those who came before us and defend the Republic proclaimed in 1916."

CAHERSIVEEN

South Kerry Republicans held their annual 1916 commemoration in Cahersiveen on Easter Sunday, March 27 at 3.00pm. Pádraig Garvey, Rúnaí, Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, chaired the gathering at the 3rd Kerry Brigade monument in the town centre proceedings. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Tom O'Sullivan, following which Pádraig Houlihan recited a decade of the rosary. Following this two local musicians played a lament on accordions. The proclamation and the Easter statement from the leadership of the Republican movement were then read.

RSF Vice President Des Dalton, Kildare who in his speech called on the Provisional military organisation to disband, delivered the oration. "The

actions and activities have dishonoured the proud and noble name of Irish Republicanism. It is time for them to disband, handing their weapons over, not to the forces of the British crown, but to those willing and determined to continue the fight for Irish freedom."

Tipperary

On Easter Sunday, commemoration a wreath-laying ceremonies took place at the Hunger Strike Memorial, Banba Square, Nenagh.

LEINSTER

Dublin

OVER 200 people gathered at the Garden of Remembrance on Dublin's Parnell Square to commemorate the 89th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

A lone piper from the Glens of

Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Andy Connolly then called on Seán McGoldrick to deliver the main oration in the course of which he said that no Irish Republican in the course of over 200 years has endured exile, imprisonment or death just so that former comrades could police and administer British rule in Ireland, sit in the Partitionist assemblies of Stormont or Leinster House or maintain offices at Westminster.

He concluded: "As some attempt to hijack the legacy of 1916 and all that it stands for to advance their own anti-Republican agenda we must remain steadfast in our commitment to ending the British occupation of our country and building an Ireland worthy of the ideals set out in the Proclamation of 1916. We must also by our actions and conduct prove ourselves worthy of it. Our task is great but we must set ourselves to it. It is our duty as Irish Republicans.

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and the US launched their murderous bombings of the Iraqi people.

"The so-called liberals who denounce the fight for Irish freedom have made no outcry at this attempt to brainwash Irish schoolchildren.

A wreath was laid on the grave of Walter Mitchell in Co Offaly on Easter Saturday.

Longford

THE County Longford Easter Commemoration was held on Easter Sunday in Drumlisk at the Memorial Cross which marks the spot where Lieut Thomas Kelleher was killed in action against British Crown Forces on June 19, 1921.

The first commemoration organised by the Committee was held in 1925 and it has been held since without a break. Seán Lynch presided and welcomed all those who attended with a special welcome to the relatives of Lieut Kelleher, IRA.

Bernard Casey, nephew of Comdt Barney Casey, carried the National Flag. Tomás Mac Ruairí recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish and Lorraine read 1916 Proclamation. Wreaths were laid by Stephen Fulham and Peter Rogers. The Chairperson read the Easter Statement.

The inspiring oration was delivered by Niall Fagan, Co Meath who said in the course of his oration that the ÉIRE NUA programme of Republican Sinn Féin provides the key to a just and lasting peace and a true All-Ireland democracy.

He concluded: "You can make this happen by joining in our campaign and by organising in your local areas. We need funds to move the campaign into gear, now more so since we had the Special Branch rob our funds following the 2004 RSF Ard-Fheis."

The 2006 Easter Commemoration will be held in Newtownforbes Cemetery at the graveside of Vol John Mahon.

Louth

DUNDALK

REPUBLICANS in Dundalk assembled at the Lisdoon Arms pub and marched to the Republican Plot in St Patrick's Cemetery.

The 1919 Proclamation was read as was the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. Wreaths were laid at the Republican Plot and a stirring oration was delivered by Fergal Moore, Monaghan.

Meath

WREATH-laying ceremonies were carried out by the Thomas Allen Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, at the Thomas Allen Memorial in Kilglass Cemetery, Longwood. Thomas Allen was killed at the Four Courts on Easter Thursday 1916.

Wreaths were also laid at the Memorial to Fian Séamus Fox, killed in Stephen's Green in 1916 at Knockmark cemetery, Drumree and at the grave of George McDermott who was killed during the Civil War in Ardbracken, Navan.

Portlaoise Prison

REPUBLICAN prisoners aligned to the Continuity IRA held an Easter Commemoration in Portlaoise prison on Easter Sunday morning.

The prisoners held their own commemoration as in previous years several groups had participated at one



• Andy Connolly chairing the Easter Commemoration at the GPO in Dublin's O'Connell Street.

commemoration. All Continuity prisoners present at this year's commemoration agreed that their identity as a separate group must be reinforced and maintained.

A spokesperson for the prisoners said that "We are not part of a broad front and we are not going to amalgamate with any other group, especially when other groups are undermining our honourable Movement for their own gains and agendas".

The commemoration commenced with the reading of the 1916 Proclamation which was followed by the main oration. The Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was also read and the proceedings ended with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

The Republican prisoners in Portlaoise sent solidarity greetings to comrades in Maghaberry jail.

Wexford

THE Republicans of Wexford turned out in huge numbers for the traditional Easter Sunday march.

Led by a smartly turned-out colour party, the large crowd marched from Crescent Quay to the 1798 Memorial in the Bullring and then along the main street of Wexford. The parade then proceeded by coach and car to Crossstown Cemetery and marched to the Republican Plot where they were welcomed by former POW Séamus Mac Suain who chaired the commemoration. Alli Black read the 1916 proclamation, the Wexford Roll of Honour was read by Richie Bierney and the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement by Robert Kearns.

Margaret Kavanagh laid a wreath on behalf of the Wexford Republican Graves Association and Harry Kelly, brother of PJ, a current POW in Portlaoise jail, laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement.

The oration was to have been given by Fermanagh man John Joe McCusker who was arrested by British Crown Forces during Holy Week and is now in Maghaberry jail in Co

Antrim on trumped-up charges.

At short notice former POW Jimmy Kavanagh took on the task and gave a stirring oration. Following his speech a minute's silence was observed with the dipping of the Tricolour. Séamus Mac Suain then thanked all those who attended and invited everyone to a function in Jack Bailey's bar where an evening of singing, porter and laughter was enjoyed by all.

Over the weekend wreaths had been laid in Enniscorthy at the Post Office for Morris Millane, at the Séamus Rafter Monument in Abbey Square and on the grave of Edentubber Martyr George Keegan.

Wreaths were also laid at the Kyle Cross Memorial and on the graves of Michael Morris in Crossabeg, Joe Whitty in Ballymurn and Mick and John Radford and Con McCarthy in Murrinstown. As always the wreaths were handmade by Margaret Kavanagh who was presented with a box of chocolates by Billy Phillips on behalf of Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearaill as a very small thank.

An annual Mass was celebrated in Roew Street Church for those who died for Ireland, attended by the Wexford Corporation members and local Republicans on Easter Sunday morning.

CONNACHT

Galway

"THE so-called 'peace process' would not bring peace to Ireland, because everyone involved in it accepted the presence of the British Government in Ireland", said Liam Cotter, speaking at the Republican Sinn Féin Easter Commemoration at Donoghpatrick Cemetery, Headford, Co. Galway, on Easter Sunday.

"There can be no peace in Ireland until the entire British Government, and every last British soldier leaves this country for good, never to return", he continued.

"The people calling themselves Sinn Féin have gone down a road of

capitulation to the British Government that even Eamonn de Valera refused in the 1920s — by the destruction of their weapons — weapons which were paid for by the Irish people to free this country. This entire peace process is about suits, money and Merces — and it will end when the gravy train runs out. Republican Sinn Féin will continue to oppose British rule in Ireland, and will do so until the Irish people are left in peace to decide their own future," he said.

The commemoration was held after a march from Caherlistrane, led by a colour party and piper.

Ceremonies were chaired by Frank Glynn, Milltown, a former Chairman of Galway County Council. Seán Mac An Iomaire (Galway City) led the pairín for the souls of the Republican soldiers buried in the cemetery. Maitias Ó Gormaille (Tuam) read the 1916 Proclamation. John Clarke (Craughwell) read the Roll of Honour of the Galway men and women who had died for Irish freedom. The Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Mait Ó Brádaigh (Bearna).

The following wreaths were laid at the graveside: Joe D'Arcy on behalf of the family of Tony Darcy, hunger striker; Dan Hoban, on behalf of Mayo Republicans; Nora Shaughnessy, on behalf of the Newell family; Emma Ní Cheallacháin, on behalf of Cumann na mBan; Bart Gormley, on behalf of the North Galway Comhairle Ceantair of Republican Sinn Féin; Tom Moylan, on behalf of the Moylan family; Ger Hoade on behalf of Galway Comhairle Ceantair of Republican Sinn Féin; Maura Darcy-Tierney on behalf of the Darcy-Tierney family.

Leitrim

ON Easter Sunday morning North Leitrim Republicans held wreath-laying ceremonies in Rossinver, at the grave of Vol Jack McCabe and in Manorhamilton at the memorial to Capt Phil Gilgunn, 12.30pm.

The main Easter Sunday Commemoration took place at Aughnasheelin, Ballinamore, at the

graves of Séamus Wrynn and the O'Reillys.

Proceedings were chaired by Declan Curneen who also said a decade of the Rosary in Irish. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Gráinne Lavin, Arigna and the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read by John McGrath. Wreaths were laid by Mícheál McDonagh on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin and by Eileen Wrynn of the Wrynn family.

The oration was delivered by Róisín Hayden, Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, Dublin who said that Republicans would never accept British rule in any part of this island be it from Stormont or Westminster.

She went on: "Pat Doherty held a party in his offices in Westminster on Patrick's Day. Is this the action of a Republican? I think not. These people have no right to call themselves Republican and should drop the honourable name of Sinn Féin instead of dragging it through the mire (where they are themselves). They would do well to remember the words of Liam Lynch over 80 years ago, 'If I were to stand alone I will not voluntarily accept being part of the British Empire. We have declared for an Irish Republic and will not live under any other law.'"

Mayo

REPUBLICANS assembled in Kilkelly, Co Mayo on easter Monday behind the National Flag and a piper and marched behind through the town and out to the East Mayo Brigade Memorial.

Wreaths were laid at the Memorial with a special wreath being laid in memory of the late George Harrison. A decade of the Rosary was recited as Gaeilge by Seán Mac an Iomaire.

Following the reading of the 1916 Proclamation, the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Dan Hoban, who also chaired the event. Dan then introduced the main speaker, Seán McGoldrick, Dublin and Sligo, who reminded those present of the goals of the 1916 Rising which are still those of Republican Sinn Féin.

The ceremony concluded with Amhrán na bhFiann.

Roscommon

THE annual Easter 1916 Commemoration ceremonies under the auspices of the Co Roscommon IRA Commemoration Committee took place at three venues throughout the county on Easter Sunday.

Following 11.30am Mass in Elphin a parade marched to the County IRA Memorial at Shankill Cross. There Dermot Mullooly, Strokestown, presided at the ceremonies.

Patsy O'Connell, Elphin, recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish and read the Proclamation of the All-Ireland Republic 1916. Róisín Hayden, Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, Dublin, read the Co Roscommon Roll of Honour.

Joe Kelly, Kilglass laid a wreath on behalf of the organising committee and Farrell Conry, Elphin, laid another on behalf of Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry, Co Antrim jails.

At 12 noon in Ballinlough a brief ceremony took place at the IRA Memorial to Comdt Pat Glynn and

1916 Easter Commemorations 2005

Lieuts Michael Glavey and Michael J Keane who were killed in action by British troops at Ballinlough barracks in 1920.

Michael Hannily, Ballinagare, presided. Stephen French, Lisacul, read the 1916 Proclamation and Berney Doherty, Lisacul read the Roll of Honour.

The Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Joe Murphy, Ballinlough. Michael Foley, Dublin laid a wreath on the memorial.

The main county commemoration was held at 3.30pm at Cloontuskert Abbey Cemetery, Curraghroe, at the graves of Lieut Seán Scally and Captain Michael Greally, IRA.

Lieut Scally of Portnahinch died in a field hospital on Inchenagh island, Lough Ree on May 11, 1921, having been mortally wounded by a trigger-mine placed by British forces in a trench near Beechwood on the main Roscommon-Lanesborough Road.

Captain Greally of Doughill was executed by Free State firing squad in Mullingar military barracks on March 13, 1923.

The parade formed up on the Ballyleague Road and headed by a colour party and the Raheen Pipe Band marched to the cemetery. The National Flag and the flags of the Four Provinces as well as the Starry Plough, the flag of the Irish Citizen Army and the Sunburst of the Fianna Éireann scouting movement were carried.

At the gravesides Dermot Mullooly presided. Patsy O'Connell recited the decade of the Rosary in Irish and Michael Hannily read the 1916 proclamation.

Pádraic Cryan, Cortober, read the Roll of Honour and Joe Murphy read the Statement from the leadership.

The Last Post and reveille were sounded by Bugler Patsy Haugh, as flags were dipped in salute.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the relatives by Séamus Scally, Roscommon (nephew of Seán Scally) and Mrs Máiréad Tiernan, Soughill (niece of Michael Greally). Other wreaths were laid by Joe Kelly, Kilglass and Farrell Conry, Elphin.

The oration was given by Dr Seán Maguire, Castlebar, son of Comdt-General Tom Maguire, GOC Second Western Division, IRA. He read one of the last letters of Michael Greally, written in Mullingar barracks a few hours before his execution in which he redeclared his Republican principles.

"Mullingar Barracks
2.30 o/c 13/3/23

My dear Miss O'Brien

I know you will be surprised to hear of our capture at Oldcastle and charged with taking part in raid on banks and we have been told about two hours ago we are to be shot at eight o'clock this morning, myself and Leo.

We have had Father Kelly and we have arranged to serve at our last Mass tomorrow fully resigned to God's all-powerful will. But there is one thing you can rest assured – we will die like all true Soldiers of the republic which must live on because great men have made it. So we die true to our oath, true to Ireland and true to the dead. May God give the boys strength to carry through to realise the hopes of Pearse, Connolly, poor Mellows and the rest of our glorious dead.

My reward for travelling to Dublin in 1916 and suffering unknown hardships since in prison and outside has been execution at the hands of my



• The colour party before the start of the Tralee parade, Co Kerry on Easter Sunday.

own countrymen.

I am sending my few things onto there and my brother will call for them later on when you can give him all if you don't wish to take a souvenir in remembrance. If Paddy comes out remember me to him. I know he is true, pray for me and I'll pray for you when I go to heaven. Tell your mother and Josie also to pray for me.

Goodbye in this world from your dear friend.

Michael Greally
God save the Republic."

Dr Maguire went on to deliver a stirring oration.

SCOTLAND

Glasgow

MEMBERS of Glasgow's Irish community including representatives from the GAA, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann and Conradh na Gaeilge gathered in Pearse Park GAA Ground on Easter Sunday for the annual 1916 Rising Commemoration. The ceremony was chaired by John Kelly who, in his opening remarks, thanked the large crowd for attending on behalf of the Francis Hughes Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

The Proclamation was then read by Tony Pearson. Brief biographical sketches of patriots born in Scotland and who sacrificed their lives for Irish freedom were given. Tom Moore described the contribution made by Volunteer Charles Carrigan who was killed during Easter Week. Paul Murphy spoke about James Connolly who was executed for his role as Commander-in-Chief of the Republican forces during the Rising, and Carole Gault outlined the part that was played by Volunteer Iain MacKenzie Kennedy who was killed by the Free State in 1922.

A spirited reading of the Statement from the Leadership of Sinn Féin Poblachtach was given by Joseph McAleer. A wreath was laid on the monument to Pearse, by Siobhán Kelly, and a Decade of the Rosary was recited by Sean Feeney of Conradh na Gaeilge. The ceremony concluded with the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann.



• The Easter Commemoration at Drumcliff, Ennis, Co Clare.

ENGLAND

Liverpool

An Easter Commemoration was held at the Fenian Monument in Ford Cemetery Liverpool. Members of Republican Sinn Féin travelled from all parts of England to attend. Faye Kelly (Liverpool) chaired the proceedings and also laid a wreath at the monument. Jim O'Dwyer (London) said a decade of the Rosary and read out the Roll of Honour. Liam Kelly (Liverpool) delivered the Easter Oration. Afterwards a pleasant and enjoyable social function was held at a venue in Liverpool city centre.

London

ON Good Friday wreaths were laid and tributes rendered at the graves of Irish Republicans buried in St Patrick's Cemetery at Leytonstone in London's East End.

St Patrick's Cemetery holds the graves of many Irish Republicans who died in exile. To name but a few – Seán McGrath, OC London IRA in the 1920s. His wife Ellen McGrath, London Cumann na mBan, who as a young girl, Ellen Barrett, prepared

Rising in Dublin, Ireland.

Brian Mór Ó Baoighill, life-long Irish Republican, chaired the event and also served as Master of Ceremonies. Brian, explained the connection that his on-display original painting, depicting the anniversary of Sinn Féin, had with the women and men that led the 1916 rebellion against British rule in Ireland.

Brian introduced Máiréad Dorry, daughter of the Kerry Republican Séamus Ó Dubhda who read the Proclamation. Brian read the Easter Message from the Leadership of the Irish Republican Movement. Maggie Trainor read Cumann Na Saoirse's Easter Address. Maggie, who is national coordinator for the Irish Republican Political Activists Support (IRPAS), made an appeal for support for Ken Tierney, the US honoree at annual CABHAIR Dinner in May in Ireland.

Brian Mor complimented the next speaker Brian Wardlow for having organised the NIFC information booth in New York on St Patrick's Day. He explained that the display consisted of three storyboards that embodied the essence of the NIFC's program and associated campaigns. The overall theme was to preserve our Irish-American cultural heritage. The storyboards depicted the plight of our Fenian forebears and their legacy to us i.e., to support the activists who oppose the ongoing British occupation of six of Ireland's counties and, to promote the ÉIRE NUA program that provides for reunification of Ireland in the context of a British withdrawal.

John McDonagh (Mac) co-host of radio WBAI's RFÉ show who co-sponsored the commemoration was the next speaker. As usual, Mac moved right in, noting that the people of the 1916 Rising were fighting to get the MP's out of the British parliament, while today's Provos were fighting to get into the British parliament. He also said that he felt sure that the only thing that would happen on Easter 2016, on the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising, would be that leading Provos would be getting their pensions from the British exchequer in London for a job well done.

The final speaker proved to be a pleasant surprise. Brian Mór introduced Seán Ó Brádaigh who was in town for a few days. According to those present with long memories, Seán delivered the best speech that they heard at any Easter in New York. Seán gave an account of the Irish Republican Movement that he joined as a 17-year old. As a young republican he met and worked with some veterans of 1916. He said that although there were many who disagreed with their visions and policies, they and their movement were considered to be honest and that their word was their bond.

Seán's speech was very well received. He explained what true Irish Republicanism is about and how it has kept that truth alive in Ireland, despite the present downward spiral into corruption by those who work for the British and call themselves Republicans. He noted that the murders and robberies carried out by the Provos suit British, the Unionists and the Irish Free State interests as it allows them to demonise the name of true Republicans who carry on the noble work of the patriots of 1916, who lived and died for a 32-County Irish Republic.

USA

New York

CUMANN na Saoirse Náisiúnta/National Irish Freedom Committee, along with its co-sponsor Radio Free Éireann, held its annual Easter Commemoration at McGee's, on West 55th St. in Manhattan on Easter Sunday, March 27th to mark the 89th anniversary of the 1916 Easter

Thanks For Support For CABHAIR

A chara

On March 17, last, RSF held a successful function in (Saints and Sinners) Dublin. During the night members of RSF and Na Fianna took part in a sponsored head shave to raise funds for CABHAIR, the Republican Prisoners Dependent Fund.

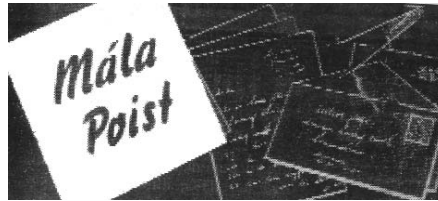
I would like to express my thanks to the many people who made the night possible. To the fundraisers in many of the 32 Counties as well as Scotland and England.

To the three lads who took part, I hope you come back again next year for a repeat. To the 'barber' who has decided to open his own place on the strength of the three head shaves (he is taking some lessons!).

Lastly and most important of all, thanks to those who parted with their hard-earned cash, a special to one group of individuals who gave 50euro each, proud of ye lads.

But every cent counts and there is always an on-going drive to raise funds for CABHAIR.

Our POWs are in the front line and we owe it to them to support them constantly. Just the price of a single pint or packet of cigs each week if donated would be such a



• (Left to right): Richard Walsh, Derry, Jimmy Murphy, Carlow, Gareth Piggott, Dublin who participated in a sponsored head shave for CABHAIR, with Matt Mullen, who did the honours.

Please note that all material for publication, articles, features, news reports, comhbhróin, congratulations and good wishes greetings, etc must be accompanied by a name, address, signature and telephone number for verification.

Letters to the Editor should be as short as possible and written or typed in double-spacing on one side of the page. Name and address must be included, but on request will not be published.

help to CABHAIR.

Put yourself in a POW's place for a few moments and ask yourself who would look out for your dependants. Then you have birthdays, Easter, Christmas, Communion and Confirmation, mortgages etc, the list is endless.

I plead all those who read

this to go out and make an effort to help in any way, big or small, to continue this task.

JIMMY MURPHY
Ballymurphy
Co Carlow

Leonard Peltier Still In Prison

A chara

In May it will be 30 years since the gunbattle at Oglala on the Pineridge Reservation in South Dakota for fighting the American government.

Leonard Peltier was sentenced to two life terms in Leavenworth penitentiary even though it was on his own land and was under attack from FBI agents. He is the longest serving political prisoner in America.

Please show your support for a true warrior. Join in the campaign for his release.

GERRY FOLEY
Liverpool

*Letters printed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of SAOIRSE.
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*Letters may also be faxed to
Dublin 872 9757 or sent by e-mail to
saoirse@iol.ie*

Basque prisoners on hunger strike

SEVEN hundred and twenty Basque political prisoners went on indefinite hunger strike in Spanish and French jail to get political status recognised.

The Basque Political Prisoners' Group called on the Spanish and French Governments to get into direct contact with the interlocutors and to use the prison policies to solve the whole Basque conflict.

The Basque Political Prisoners' Group (EPPK) began an indefinite hunger strike on March 18 to get the political status of Basque prisoners' recognised.

In a statement sent to the media the group, which brings together the 700 plus Basque prisoners dispersed throughout the world, explained that an indefinite hunger strike was part of the ongoing struggle it began at the beginning of January in support of their political status. This is the first time that the Basque prisoners in the EPPK have gone on a hunger strike all together at the same time.

EPPK members started by taking it in turns to hold sit-ins in January. The turn of the seventh sit-in finished its protest on March 17. The EPPK says that "punishment measures" of the governments have been the only reaction to the sit-ins held over the last few months. Basque prisoners in a number of jails in Spain, the Catalan Countries and France have been punished for supporting the struggle. Castellon, Villepint, Muret-Seysses, Cordoba, Murcia and Brieva are a case in point. Some prisoners were taken to punishment cells, others were not allowed to receive visits and most of them had disciplinary action brought against them by the prison governors.

The EPPK says the hunger strike begun on March 18 is "another step" in their struggle. It believes that recognising the political status of Basque prisoners would be an acknowledgement of their right to participate in the political process that could be started to solve the political conflict in the Basque Country. It has warned that an indispensable condition is the restoration of the prisoners' basic rights and dignified living conditions.

The statement received on March 17 went on to call on the Spanish and French governments to "get into direct contact" with the representatives of the EPPK and to use the prison policies to solve the Basque conflict". This is in line with the interview with Argi Perurena, the EPPK interlocutor, you can read below. At the same time the EPPK is demanding that "Basque prisoners stop being treated like hostages".

World News

The statement stresses that the EPPK's group of interlocutors is made up of Juan Lorenzo Lasca-Mitxelena, Anabel Egués, Daniel Dergi and Argi Perurena. The EPPK also points out that it will not do any good talking in an inappropriate and misleading way to the members who are not the interlocutors and about matters that are not part of our interlocutors' work. The statement goes on to express the EPPK's sincere thanks to all the people who have held rallies in favour of Basque prisoners' rights over the last few months.

US should leave Iraq, says soldier

A US soldier who recently returned from Iraq joined protesters in Dublin on March 11 to try to help mobilise a fresh anti-war campaign.

Kelly Dougherty, who spent eight years in the 'Colorado National Guard, said the longer she spent in Iraq the more convinced she became that American troops should be withdrawn.

"It seemed like many of the things we were doing were either counterproductive to bringing peace and stability or an obstacle to progress".

"For nine out of ten months in Iraq, our military unit did not have a translator, communications were restricted to pantomimes and a lot of misunderstandings arose from that".

"People were getting shot, or arrested. Their houses were getting searched and their property confiscated when we didn't really know what was going on." Kelly Dougherty, a biology graduate with Irish roots, who enlisted as a medic, added.

"Before the war started, I was opposed to it but I had an obligation with the military to serve. What I saw there turned me even more against the war".

One of her duties, she said, was to escort convoys of fuel trucks. When these broke down and could not be repaired, "we would have to destroy the vehicle, even though it had fuel or food or equipment in it. That caused a lot of confusion and frustration among Iraqis because they did not have any of these things and we were destroying them in front of them".

Kelly Dougherty said morale among her fellow soldiers fluctuated during her tour between April 2003 and February 2004.

While in Dublin, Kelly Dougherty met activists who are organising a rally in Dublin on March 19 as part of an international day of protest against the war in Iraq. She also expressed her support for the five protesters facing trial before the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court for damaging a US warplane in Shannon.

She rejected claims that conditions had improved in Iraq since the recent elections. "The responsible and right thing to do is to withdraw our troops and funnel all that money which is keeping our there to the Iraqi people", Kelly Dougherty said.

Control order legislation passed in Britain

NEW legislation, under the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, was eventually agreed on in the British parliament on March 11, 2005 after days of wrangling between the Commons and the House of Lords over the wording of the bill.

The new laws, which come into effect on Monday March 14, allows for controlled house arrest – indefinite detention without trial, electronic tagging, and the removal of several basic human rights such as freedom of movement, speech and association from individuals. The removal of these rights will be based on secret intelligence hearings from which the 'suspect' is excluded – the 'suspect' is not allowed to see the evidence against him/her.

Control orders prevent the individual from making mobile phone calls, and prevents them from making arrangements to meet friends outside their accommodation without prior permission from the Home Office. They are not allowed to make any arrangements. Friends and relatives who wish to visit them also have to have clearance from the Home Office. Home Office officials can enter and search the 'suspects' accommodation at any time.

Control orders are to be signed by a judge only except in case of an 'urgency' when they can be signed by the Home Secretary. In fact, it was it was the Home Secretary who signed the first 10 orders under the 'urgency' clause. Of course the standard of proof to implement a control order is based on "reasonable grounds" that a suspect may be planning a terrorist attack and not on 'the balance of probability' that they were.

WHAT THEY SAID

Some gullible people may have hoped at the outset that the “pan-national consensus” would deliver a measure of national self-determination.

But by 1998 – when the deal was published – it should have been obvious to almost everybody that what was on the table was no more than a complicated “fair deal” arrangement for northern nationalists.

— Daily Ireland, February 14, Damien Kiberd column.

Even that now is off the table: the southern political elite has chosen to tear up the Hume-Adams script and shatter whatever nationalist consensus existed at precisely the same time as Ian Paisley Senior has been selected to lead Ulster unionism into the promised land.

— Damien Kiberd.

And in a line loaded with historical significance, the [Provisional] Sinn Féin leader said he did not believe that the army council of the [Provisional] IRA was the government of Ireland and added that “of course” his party accepted the institutions of the state “as the legitimate institutions of the state”.

— Sunday Tribune, March 6, report by Shane Coleman, Political Correspondent.

After all, the 1952-1960 guerrilla war was colonial Africa's bloodiest uprising and a cornerstone of modern Kenya. Yet it was curiously neglected. There are hardly any books or plays on the Mau Mau.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, March 12, 2005, review by Declan Walsh of two books on Britain's “Dirty War in Kenya”.

British officials refused to declare the Mau Mau rebellion a “war” and refused to call detainees “prisoners” – exempting them from international human rights treaties signed only years earlier and less than a decade after the horrors of Auschwitz.

— Irish Times Weekend Review.

Land was at the heart of the Mau Mau uprising.

Throughout the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s British settlers flooded into Kenya to carve out vast ranches on the best land around Nairobi and the “white highlanders”. Many were retired soldiers from the World Wars, drawn by the promise of profit and privilege.

— Declan Walsh review.

As Anderson writes: “every white man who disembarked from the boat at Mombasa became an instant aristocrat”. Cheap African labour underwrote the dream. Their land seized, several million Kenyans were squeezed into ever-smaller “native reserves”. Movements to other areas were limited by the pass book, a hated system later notorious in South Africa.

— Declan Walsh.

On February 15th John Kelly, an ex-Sinn Féin member and IRA leader at the time of the Arms Crisis in 1970, wrote in the *Irish News*: “Have we the nationalist/republican community exchanged a fascist and sectarian orange jackboot for an increasingly fascist and totalitarian green jackboot?”

— Irish Times Weekend Review March 12, 2005 report by Gerry Moriarty.

Graffiti appeared in the Short Strand (Belfast) saying “Jerry (sic) Adams is a tout”.

— Gerry Moriarty.

The author, a former IRA prisoner, claims an acceptable deal was offered to end the republican hunger strike in the H Blocks in 1981 after four people had died. He alleged the IRA Army Council vetoed the deal, leading to another six unnecessary deaths. All this has been strongly challenged and a major dispute is raging.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, March 12, 2005, review by Deaglán de Bréadún of “Blanketmen: An Untold Story of the H-Block Hunger Strike”, by Richard O'Rawe, publ New Ireland 9.99stg.

Clearly in a normal society, most if not all of these men, as well as their women colleagues in Armagh prison, would have been leading conventional lives, picking up the children from school, heading for the pub on a Saturday night and so on.

— Deaglán de Bréadún. [Senator Edward] Kennedy has been particularly skeptical of the two governments claim that they had such



• The RUC/PSNI Policing Board voted on March 24 to use a new type of plastic bullet.

evidence (linking the Provos to the Northern Bank raid). When it was produced followed by the McCartney killing, Kennedy thought about jumping off the [Provisional] Sinn Féin bandwagon.

The final straw was the [Provisional] IRA statement which said the organization had offered to shoot the perpetrators of the McCartney slaying.

— Sunday Business Post, March 20, 2005, Niall O'Dowd article.

Adams made it clear that the ball was with (Provisional) Sinn Féin: that it had lost the initiative in the peace process and that it had to get it back. He also made it clear that it was first and foremost, an internal project for republicans to sort out.

There is clearly going to be a major reckoning for the [Provisional] movement in the wake of recent events.

— Niall O'Dowd.

Adams's own preference is perfectly clear. “Do I think we are going to be successful in bringing an end to the [Provisional] IRA? Yes, I do think so. We can't have an armed peace, or a situation where we have everything working in the process, but there would still be armed groups out there”, he said in an interview with the Irish Voice.

— Niall O'Dowd.

Along with joining the police board, (Provisional) Sinn Féin would then be required to support the Police Services of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and with it encourage young nationalists to take their places in any

recruitment drive.

But most critically of all, it would place (Provisional) Sinn Féin in a position where there could no longer be any prevarication about paramilitary criminality.

Such a move would also create a situation where continued [Provisional] Sinn Féin's political credibility.

— Sunday Business Post, March 20, Tom McGurk column.

Last week, [President] Bush announced that he would nominate Paul Wolfowitz, the US Deputy Secretary of Defense, to lead the World Bank. The international institution offers loans to developing countries, while often requiring enormous reforms in return.

Wolfowitz is the highest profile – and most devisive – defense deputy in years.

As the Bush administration's leading neo-conservative, he was one of the main architects of the war in Iraq.

— Sunday Business Post, March 20, Niall Stanage article.

Signing up to the police force would require republicans to divulge where illegal arms are held, and force them to disclose the identity of anybody who had possession or control over such illegal arms.

(Illegal arms are those not in the possession or control of the formal security forces of the two states, or those for which there is not a legal licence.)

— Sunday Business Post, March 20, 2005, Between the Lines by Vincent Browne.

The threshold for a united Ireland must be a majority in Northern

Ireland voting for it rather than unionist consenting to unification, according to the SDLP.

The SDLP in its unity document, *A Better Way to a Better Ireland*, published yesterday in Belfast, Dublin and Newry, urged the creation of a United Ireland based on the principles and protections of the Belfast Agreement.

— Irish Times, March 22, 2005

Latest official figure show that over 120,000 Irish children live in consistent poverty. This is absolutely staggering and nothing short of being a national scandal. Poverty is without doubt one of the greatest and most cruellest scourges to be inflicted on any child. The consequences are always negative, destructive, ever present and life-long.

— John Lonergan, The Voice Today, March 24, 2005.

How can we create a just, fair and equal society? The first thing we must do is to accept that our current society is fundamentally flawed and tinkering around with it will not deliver the required changes.

— John Lonergan.

We might begin this process by placing human needs and values and values at the top of our priority agenda – ‘people first’ must become our new national motto. We must ensure that basic living standards are made available for all our people and not just for those fortunate enough to be born into wealth and affluence.

Above all, we must address our housing policy and strategy. In my opinion housing is at the

very hub of our divided and unequal society.

— John Lonergan.

Nationalists reacted angrily last night after the [RUC/PSNI] Policing Board voted to adopt a new type of plastic bullet.

A spokesman for the board said a substantial majority of members accepted Chief Constable Hugh Orde's recommendation to take on the ‘less lethal’ Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP)

— Irish News (Belfast) March 25, 2005.

The Pat Finucane Centre said the decision [to vote for plastic bullets] would be a ‘child factor’ for Catholics (sic) thinking of joining the PSNI.

— Irish News.

The inquiry into the murder of solicitor Rosemary Nelson has been widened to examine any possible involvement by the [British] Army or intelligence agencies.

The British government confirmed yesterday that the terms of reference are to be extended before April 19, when the probe into the 1999 murder begins.

The move comes after concerns were raised by human rights groups and others close to the case....

— Irish News, March 25, 2005.

Vandals painted a slogan in Irish on the wall of the (Falls Leisure) Centre which translates as “Falls Leisure centre – Language Rights are Human Rights”. (“Ionad Shnámh na bhFál-Cearta Teanga Cearta Daoine”).

— Irish News.

The leadership of Republican Sinn Féin (RSF) will today call on the Provisional IRA to disband and cease “to control through fear the nationalist community”.

Speaking at an RSF Easter weekend commemoration in Cahersiveen, Co Kerry, the splinter (sic) organisation's Vice President, Des Dalton, is expected to accuse the Provisional IRA of degenerating into a criminal militia.

— Sunday Tribune, March 27, 2005.

However, rather than calling on the (Provisional) IRA to pass its guns over to the decommissioning body, the group will call on the Provisionals to pass them to “those willing and determined to fight for Irish freedom”.

— Sunday Tribune.

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

NO ethnic group has bled more for the United States since its inception than the Irish. Estimates put the Irish and Irish-Americans in the American Revolutionary Army and the irregulars (terrorists!) at 52%.

The United States has NEVER supported the Irish in their quest for full freedom from the British. This is a disgrace. Presently, we have a leader in the USA that considers Irish Freedom Fighters to be terrorists because they dare fight a tyrant for full freedom.

What would George Washington, who recognised the Irish help, say to George Bush who slanders us? The two, despite many imperfections, are set apart by one factor; Washington was a soldier, Bush is a coward. The following is a necessary recommendation.

A tribunal must be convened under Article 32 of the UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE to evaluate evidence regarding the alleged desertion of Lt George W Bush of the Texas Air National Guard while the United States was engaged in armed conflict with the forces of North Vietnam and the irregular forces of the Vietcong.

The members should be directed to listen to the charges and then determine whether Lt Bush should stand before a general court-martial to answer the charges.

The facts state that after graduation from Yale University, Bush was to be classified I-A for the draft, which would make him combat eligible. To avoid the Draft, Bush applied to join the Texas Air National Guard. There were approximately 500 others ahead of him in the queue.

'CHAMPAGNE UNIT'

It is noted that the Texas Air National Guard was known as the 'Champagne Unit' because it was a safe haven. There was a guarantee that those in the Guard would not be required to serve in combat. They would remain in Texas and fly planes. At that time, it was akin to the Civil Air Patrol, the Air Wing of the Boy

Scouts.

According to witnesses, Bush's father contacted prominent politicians requesting their intervention to bump his son to the head of the queue. In fact young Bush was put at the head of the queue and was indicted into the Guard.

Lt Bush attended his meetings and flew some planes, but the activity was not to his liking so he and others began having alcohol and drugs while on duty. His service became a party and he did not take his service seriously. He was there to avoid Vietnam.

When he filled out his guard application, he was asked if he wanted to volunteer for duty in Vietnam. Lt Bush checked the designation saying he did not want to serve in Vietnam. He chose to allow others to go in his place.

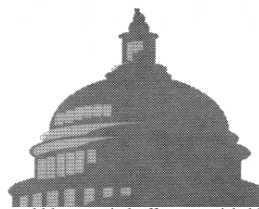
In 1972 Lt Bush decided he would transfer to the Alabama Guard and work in a political campaign for a friend of his father. His transfer was denied by his commanding officer. This was rescinded after political pressure by his father.

For the next 16 months, no one ever saw Lt Bush attend a meeting and in fact refused to take a required flight examination under a direct order. He would have failed it due to his taking recreational drugs, ie cocaine. He was, it is alleged, also dealing drugs.

He was known as a serious party guy, heavily into alcohol and drugs. He developed a serious substance problem. The Air Force Personnel centre in Denver, Colorado designated him a 'non-locatee', military parlance for deserter.

He was certified for immediate induction and assignment to Vietnam. According to military sources, Bush records were doctored to hide the facts and keep him out of Vietnam. His fellow soldiers said he was a spoiled crybaby and all those interviewed about his disappearance from duty verified they had not seen him at meetings for 15 months.

Lt Bush was Absent Without Leave and on 31st day became a deserter. The desertion of Lt Bush was during wartime and his case should be filed before a general Court-Martial. This



would be a capital offence punishable by death by firing squad as the ultimate penalty for conviction for desertion.

THERE is not a shred of evidence that Lt Bush served during those 15 months and there is no witness that saw him at meetings during the time in question, therefore, the evidence suggests that in fact the weight of evidence strongly suggests that Lt Bush did in fact desert his military obligation.

After returning to Texas, his records were scrubbed to clean up the desertion and his father, using his political influence, obtained an honourable discharge, which for a price were easily forthcoming.

During the consideration of cases by the Presidential Amnesty Commission in 1975, Lt Bush was listed as a deserter and it was noted that he had obtained a political discharge arranged by his father. The evidence is overwhelming and he did desert and it was noted also that THERE IS NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR DESERTION under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The Amnesty Commission confirmed Lt Bush as a deserter and should not have received a discharge other than dishonourable.

The mission of the Amnesty Commission was to make recommendations on cases. Lt Bush was to have his Honourable Discharge changed to a Dishonourable one on grounds of desertion.

It was further recommended that he be asked to surrender and be held in a prison facility and brought before a court martial and there given a dishonourable discharge and dismissed, although he could have gone on trial.

It has been brought to the attention of this tribunal, that as President of the United States, Lt Bush's father requested his son's military records and the offending evidence concerning the desertion and recommendations

for dishonourable discharge be removed. This was done so the record of the younger Bush would not come back to haunt him in the future.

We are well aware that during the Presidential Campaign on 2004, the issue of his desertion was made an issue. All the documents regarding the desertion were missing. We now know why they were missing. They were removed under order of the President of the United States.

This Tribunal, after consideration of the evidence and sworn testimony of an officer of the Office of the Judge Advocate General who has seen the unpurged file of Lt George Bush and the recommendations of the Presidential Amnesty Commission, conclude unanimously that this matter should be considered by a general court martial.

Lt George Bush is accused of desertion during wartime, a capital offence. The death penalty is the maximum punishment for this crime, but it should be recommended that Lt Bush may be allowed a plea where he would be branded on the cheek of his face with the letter 'D' for deserter that he might carry his disgrace in public.

DISGRACE AND SHAME

We note that over 58,000 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam conflict, while Lt Bush was abusing himself with drugs and alcohol. He should be held up as an example of disgrace and shame that would honour those that served.

Many of those who served in the military were opposed to the Vietnam Conflict, but no one should be opposed to the brave warriors who put duty before their own safety because they would not let someone else take their place. Lt Bush chose to party his way with drugs and alcohol, which he considered more to his liking than serving. That is the mark of a coward.

Lt Bush became Governor of Texas and leader of the US and continued his insensitivity to all but himself. As Texas chief executive, he set records having youth, retarded and innocent people executed.

Despite pleas for mercy from the likes of Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela and the Pope, Bush loves playing God. He has publicly stated he takes his orders directly from God and God would not direct him incorrectly.

In my personal opinion because of his consistent inhumane conduct, Bush

should still be put before a court martial even today. Remember, there is no statute of limitations on desertion and I feel confident with the evidence overwhelmingly against him, Bush could be convicted.

He is killing innocent Iraqis in record numbers and has sacrificed over 1,500 American soldiers for nothing. Someone has to stop him. I know many soldiers from the Vietnam era who served honourably who would gladly stand in a firing squad to shoot Lt Bush if he is convicted. After all, Bush himself is the biggest supporter of capital punishment.

I will say as a non-combatant veteran of the United States Marine Corps who served that I attended all my meetings for six years. I did nothing heroic, but hundreds of thousands did go into combat and deserve justice and that is to have military deserters punished. If Lt Bush does not fear the truth and believes himself innocent, let him voluntarily submit to a court-martial.

AMERICA has appointed itself the world conscience, yet it will not judge its own actions when they are wrong. It is easy to see why leader Bush declared you are with 'us' or you are with 'them'.

It just is not that simple because it is declared by an immoral man who claims to be a Christian and he makes the rules with the blessing of the American God, who ever that is.

In America today, if you dissent against God's self-appointed prophet, leader Bush, you are helping the enemy, his enemy, not yours. Remember Saddam never committed any act against America, in fact he was doing the bidding of America, Wouldn't that make him with 'us'? The Saudis fund al Qaeda and the 9/11 terrorists. Wouldn't that make them 'them'?

From my personal perspective, I support Republican Sinn Féin which is 'us' to me. By his policies, I am making after a raise \$13 less than last year, paying more for gas, paying more for medical insurance, paying more for prescription drugs and on and on...That makes Bush 'them' to me. Who is the enemy? It is all relative.

One thing for certain, if you are Irish-American, the Bush Klan is your enemy and if you live in Ireland, the peace processors have sold you out. Don't let anyone tell you who is 'us' or 'them'.

— Peadar Mac Fhínnín

Wexford martyrs commemorated

ON Easter Sunday, March 13 the annual Parle/Hogan/Crean commemoration was held in the Republican Garden of Remembrance at the Old Jail in Wexford.

The proceedings were chaired by Séamus Swan, Paddy Hogan laid a wreath on behalf of the families, Cecilia Conway laid a wreath on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Tom Malone laid a wreath on behalf of Wexford Republican Graves Association and Mrs Kavanagh (who handmade all the wreaths) laid a wreath at the Hunger Strikers Memorial.

The Wexford Roll of

Honour was read by Richie Bierney and the oration was delivered by former POW Jimmy Kavanagh.

In his speech he told how the three men were given just a few hours notice before they were taken from their cells, placed against the wall and callously shot down.

This and numerous other atrocities were the building blocks on which the Free State was founded.

He also mentioned that in recent weeks two local Republicans, Mark McMahon and PJ Kelly had been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, their "crime" being to oppose the ongoing partition of our country and the occupation of part of our country by a foreign nation.

"For that," he said, "they are now languishing in a Free State prison, and if this

is a crime then all of us here today are guilty."

The dipping of the Flag was then carried out by the Wexford colour party.

Séamus Swan then thanked all those who attended and reminded everyone that this was Seachtain na Gaeilge and that our national language is a deep part of what makes us Irish.

Beannachtaí

BIRTHDAY greetings to Matt Conway, Kildare who reaches his 70th birthday in April. From Geraldine McNamara and family, Tipperary.

I gCuimhne

LEEN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Leen, Tralee, Co Kerry on the death of his mother. From Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Republican Sinn Féin.

LEEN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Leen, Tralee, Co Kerry on the death of his mother. From the McNamara family, Tipperary.

LEEN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Leen, Tralee, Co Kerry on the death of his mother. From Lita Ni Chathmhaoil.

MURPHY, The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, extends sincere sympathy to Sarah Murphy, south Armagh on the death of her brother Daniel Hollywood.

MURPHY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Murphy, South Armagh on the death of her brother Daniel Hollywood. From Comhairle Uladh, Republican Sinn Féin.

MURPHY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Murphy, South Armagh on the death of her brother Daniel Hollywood. From the Willie Stewart/Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry/Dundalk.

MURPHY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Murphy, South

Armagh on the death of her brother Daniel Hollywood. From Ruairi and Naomh White, Newry.

MURPHY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Murphy, South Armagh on the death of her brother Daniel Hollywood. From the White family, Newry.

McCAULEY, The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, extends sincere sympathy to the McCauley and Devine families, Derry city on the untimely death of Margaret (sister of hunger striker Mickey Devine).

McCAULEY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the McCauley and Devine families, Derry city on the untimely death of Margaret (sister of hunger striker Mickey Devine). From Comhairle Uladh, Republican Sinn Féin.

McCAULEY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the McCauley and Devine families, Derry city on the untimely death of Margaret (sister of hunger striker Mickey Devine). From Bundoran Hunger Strike Committee.

McCAULEY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the McCauley and Devine families, Derry city on the untimely death of Margaret (sister of hunger striker Mickey Devine). From Comhairle Uladh, Republican Sinn Féin.

The Good Old IRA

AS Gerry Adams continues to meet with those who would allow themselves to be used in an attempt to brand all Republicans 'thugs' one is left to consider what is the master-plan behind his actions.

During the past weeks since the murder of Robert McCartney following a pub brawl in Belfast, Gerry Adams and many of his Ltd Intelligence buddies have called

for those responsible to give themselves up to the RUC/PSNI.

Gerry has ordered his elected party members to hand over the names of those involved to the RUC through intermediaries and has demanded that local Short Strand residents run to the RUC with information rather than demand that Gerry and his buddies deal with those they would claim to lead.

It is interesting to note that at no time has Gerry and Ltd Intelligence ever asked anyone to hand back money or give information about the Northern Bank Christmas give away.

It confirms the maxim that there is a great difference between a fool and an idiot. An idiot is born that way and must endure his sad lot where as a fool like Gerry is master of his own destiny but chooses his dismal outcome.

GERRY may choose to act the 'stage Irishman' and play to the British gallery when it comes to policing working class areas and diverting attention from the political colonisation of this island however, when it comes to real serious issues like money he is realistic enough to know when he has reached the limit of his audience's patience.

Of course as we have witnessed in the past, Gerry and

Company never do anything without a reason. These recent meetings with the McCartney sisters and others are merely the tip of the iceberg. We are watching the final attempt to criminalise Republicans.

One of those indicators comes not from the lips of Gerry Adams but from the relatives of those two victims he has begun to champion.

It is interesting that initially they have stated that those involved in the attacks on their

loved ones were 'ceasefire IRA men who had never fired a shot'. Therein lies the clue. It seems the 'Good old IRA' is about to GO away and those who do not will be PUT away.

Please address all letters of complaint to the editor at **SAOIRSE** — The Voice of The Republican Movement. If you have any other problems please keep them to yourself. I have quite enough of my own. Thank you.

— Mac Cool

Seán Keenan remembered in Derry

THE annual Seán Keenan Commemoration was held on March 6, and was attended by over one hundred people. A piper from the Glens of Antrim led, followed by a Fianna Éireann colour party.

The proceedings were chaired by Micky McGonigle, Dungiven. Fergus McCabe, Omagh, recited a decade of the



• The Seán Keenan Memorial in Derry's Bogside on March 6 last.

Rosary as Gaeilge. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Richard Walsh, Derry. Wreaths were laid by Damian McGonigle, Dungiven, on behalf of Comhairle Uladh, and a member of the colour party laid a wreath on behalf of the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Pat Barry, Bundoran, read a statement on behalf of the Republican Prisoners Action Group, and Stephen Coyle, Glasgow, read a

message of solidarity on behalf of the Francis Hughes Cumann, Scotland.

In a fine oration, Brendan Magill of Lurgan made clear that Seán Keenan would have no truck with the policies being pursued by the Provo leadership. "Seán Keenan was a man who was well-known throughout the world.

He co-founded NORAI in America along with Dáithí Ó Conaill, and would never have gone into

Leinster House or been part of a partitionist Stormont executive," he said. He also mentioned that Seán Keenan was made a Freeman of the City of Tripoli by Col. Ghadaffi.

Those present then marched behind the piper and Na Fianna to the Bloody Sunday memorial, where Richard Walsh laid a wreath on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin. The proceedings ended with the piper playing Amhrán na bhFiann.

Republican Garden Bundoran

THE Committee & Trustees of Republican Garden is pleased to announce that work has started on the Garden over the last few weeks.

Special Appeal for Funds

In remembrance

1973 Volunteer Paddy Carty, Bundoran, Dungannon

1973 Dermot Crowley, Cork City

1973 Sean Loughran, Dungannon

1984 Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, Magherafelt

1984 Ciaran Fleming, Derry City

The Hunger Strikers who died 1974-1981

Those who are being remembered all had some connections with Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal, Leitrim & Sligo Areas.

To complete the Garden it will cost €30,000, so we are asking you to give a donation please to any of the names listed below:

Chairperson: Joe O' Neill

Vice Chairperson: Jimmy McElhinney

Treasurers: Mick Cullen & Joe Dillon

Joint Secretaries: Mary O'Neill & Phyllis Cullen

Trustees: Pat Barry, Ann Sheerin, Martin McGrath, Declan Curneen, Séamus McGowan, Thomas Kelly and Mary Ward.

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