

Easter Monday: 12.45pm, Garden of Remembrance, march to GPO, O'Connell Street
Óráid: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

Brit forces attacked in Armagh, Derry

MEMBERS of the RUC/PSNI guarding the site where a British military helicopter crashed in south Armagh came under attack on March 19. Up to 30 petrol bombs were thrown by youths in Crossmaglen, along with stones.

Six members of the British Crown Forces were hurt when the Lynx military helicopter came down in a field close to Lismore housing estate and the grounds of the Crossmaglen Rangers GAA club on March 18. A total of six people were injured, two British airmen and four members of the RUC/PSNI. A number of them suffered serious, but not life-threatening, injuries.

Two RUC/PSNI vehicles were damaged in the trouble. On March 18, an ambulance taking a casualty from the crash was forced to stop because of hostile crowds. A

group of youths ambushed the vehicle in Crossmaglen as it drove towards the Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry. Stones, fireworks and snowballs were hurled at the crew.

Provisional representatives tried to prevent youths from petrol bombing the RUC/PSNI as they guarded the stricken helicopter and things quietened down. However another attack took place later in the evening. Provo MP Conor Murphy encouraged people to collaborate by passing on information to the British colonial police.

It was reported that the

British Colonial Police (RUC/PSNI) came under attack at around 1.30am on Saturday, March 24, in the Fahan Street area of Derry City.

Stones were thrown at the RUC vehicle, causing two windows in the car to be broken. It is understood, however, that on this occasion the occupants escaped injury.

SDLP Councillor Seán Carr called on anyone with information about the attack on what he styled "our emergency services" to become an informer.

On March 23 up to 20 petrol bombs were thrown at Crossmaglen RUC/PSNI barracks in south Armagh. A fire in the grounds of Crossmaglen barracks was extinguished following the incident. The British colonial

police earlier reported hearing automatic gunfire in the north of the village.

There had been unrest in the area since March 18 when members of the British Crown Forces were attacked by local youths following the downing of a British army helicopter.

In Lurgan, Co Armagh the RUC/PSNI came under attack on March 22 while investigating the death of Paul Magee in Shankill Street. They were attacked with stones and bottles.

On March 23 RUC members again came under attack by crowds throwing stones and bottles in the Tullygally area.

The RUC/PSNI were again attacked in Lurgan on March 30 following the arrest of six people and raids on their homes (see page 3).

Fires gut protected buildings

A REPORT in the Irish Mail on Sunday by reporter Neil Michael outlined the problem in Parnell Street/Capel Street, Dublin in regard to mysterious fires that have almost demolished two 17th Century buildings designated as 'protected structures' and regarded in 2001 by the 26-County Department of the Environment as 'of national importance'.

All that is left of the buildings, one dating back to the late 1600s, is a pile of rubble. Three fires have mysteriously gutted the buildings over the last few years.

A builder applied for, and received, planning permission — on appeal — to develop the triangular site on Parnell Street/Ryder's Row near Capel Street. The Republican Sinn Féin head office is situated on

the triangle but is not owned by the developer.

The developer, a member of the Fianna Fáil national executive and a close friend of Bertie Ahern, received a €3 million interest-free loan from a Dutch bank after lobbying on his behalf by the 26-County Embassy in The Hague.

The builder was unavailable for comment to the reporter but a Dublin solicitor who is also named on the planning permission, Valentine Kirwan, said that "the fires were unconnected to the

development of the site". He said "We had absolutely nothing to do with the fires and it is entirely coincidental that they affected buildings we want to develop."

He also said that the architectural and historic merit of the site 'was a matter of opinion and viewpoint'. "It is almost laughable to suggest there was anything worth preserving," he is quoted as saying. "You might as well bankrupt yourself if you comply with what some conservatives want."



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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 . . .

I would like to join Republican Sinn Féin
Ba mhaith liom bheith i mo bhall de Sinn Féin Poblachtach
Ainm
Seoladh

Tel: Age (if under 21) . . .
Send to:
Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01-872 9747; Facs: 01-872 9757.
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

Gearrscéalta MI5 recruit Six-County spies

BRITISH MI5 spymasters have begun to recruit for their new Six-County HQ.

It is the first time that the notorious British intelligence organisation has publicly advertised for staff in the Six Counties, but despite the fact that the location of the £20 million Six-County base is known, the ads refer only to the "greater Belfast area".

MI5 has placed ads on its Internet site for an English language monitor to study intercepted communications between al-Qaeda suspects.

It also wants to recruit "administrative assistants" and an "administrative officer" who will "compile evidence against terrorist suspects".

The Hollywood HQ, in the grounds of the British army's Palace Barracks, will deal mainly with international radical groups, but agents there will also monitor Irish Republicans.

The £23,578 a year Administrative Officer post advertised on the website shows that MI5 staff at Hollywood will be working across the Six-Counties and the UK.

71% of PSNI/RUC were RUC members also

IT was reported on March 6 that the RUC/PSNI is still overwhelmingly made up of members who served in the RUC almost six years after it supposedly replaced the force. Despite the British Patten Report and natural wastage, 6,508 men and women currently serving in the RUC/PSNI wore the uniform of the RUC. That figure represents 71% of the RUC/PSNI's present rank and file and includes full and part-time reserve members.

Memorial rededicated, vandalised once again

A MONUMENT to 1981 hunger striker Raymond McCreesh was rededicated on the day the Camloch man would have celebrated his 50th birthday.

The monument was badly damaged in a sectarian attack in 2006 but has been fully restored and on Sunday February 25 there was a short rededication ceremony at the site in Camloch.

Members of the McCreesh family, local clergy and a large crowd from the Camloch and South Armagh communities attended the unveiling of the restored granite monument.

Chairperson of the Camloch Cultural Society, Tommy Lynch, who chaired proceedings, said it was a poignant occasion as it marked Raymond McCreesh's 50th birthday.

He thanked all who had helped restore the monument and said that memorials throughout the world dedicated to fallen soldiers had been left untouched and that he hoped those who "like thieves in the night" had come to the site and attacked the monument would leave it be.

Fr Brian McCreesh, on behalf of the McCreesh family, thanked all those present for the ongoing care and support they have shown his family.

The memorial was damaged again on March 29. The monument, in Camloch, was daubed with paint. Loyalist slogans were painted on nearby walls.

Arrest and charging of candidate 'a disgrace'

IN A statement on March 14 Michael McManus, Republican Sinn Féin candidate in Fermanagh/South Tyrone, called the arrest and subsequent charging of independent candidate Gerry Mc Geough and Vincent McAnespie as a disgrace and a shameful exercise on the part of the British to show who really is the boss.

"The election results and in particular the successful effort on the part of the censors within the media to prevent any airing of the Republican viewpoint has emboldened the enemies of Irish Republicans, and those who chose to vote for the Provos and the SDLP should now hang their heads in shame.

"We warned that a vote for either party was a vote to support this armed wing of the Crown Forces."

Results of Dublin raffle

MARCH results: 1st.prize ticket no 037; 2nd prize no 028; 3rd prize no 124; 4th prize no 084; 5th prize no 306; 6th prize no 109; 7th prize no 108; 8th prize no 045.

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Gearrscóalta

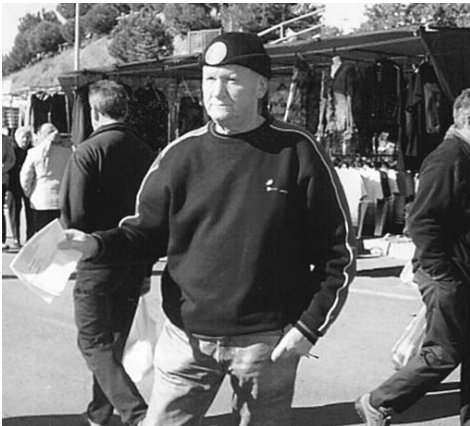
Picket in Co Down for Maghaberry prisoners

ON March 31 the Republican Prisoners Action Group (RPAG) held a successful protest in Castlewellsan, Co Down.

Protesters from all over the Six Counties and local activists took to the streets to continue the support campaign for the Republican Prisoners in Maghaberry Jail. The prisoners have now been on protest from June 2006.

The RPAG has been to the front in highlighting the ongoing prison protest and have taken the protest to every occupied county in the Six. There have been solidarity protests and information events throughout Ireland, the USA and Europe and a large number of events were held in Scotland by the Glasgow RPAG.

The local people of Co Down responded well to the protest and over 1,000 leaflets were handed out. Many people did not know the prisoners were protesting because of the continued failure of local and national media to publicise the issue.



• Dublin RSF Ard Chomhairle member, Dan Donoghue handing out leaflets supporting the political status in Maghaberry jail in Malaga, Spain in January.

SDLP/Provos seek to criminalise Republicans

IN A statement on April 1, Richard Walsh, Derry Ard Chomhairle member of Republican Sinn Féin said the recent heavy-handed arrests of six people in Lurgan, Co Armagh, had again shown that the British Colonial Police (RUC/PSNI) have not reformed, nor has anyone "put manners" on them.

He said: "The arrests were predictably followed by outrageous comments from both SDLP and Provo mouthpieces Dolores Kelly and John O'Dowd. These two British apologists rushed in to condemn those arrested, and Nationalist youths who had displayed their ongoing hostility to the British Crown Forces whilst the RUC were raiding houses.

"Now that all six of those arrested by the RUC have been released without charge, it is time for Ms. Kelly and Mr. O'Dowd to retract their comments and publicly apologise to those arrested. In the absence of such a retraction and apology they can only be presumed to support attempts to criminalise those who continue or are perceived to oppose English rule in Ireland."

Solidarity with Scottish Independence

ON Saturday 31 March, 700 people marched through the centre of Edinburgh in support of Independence First, the campaign for an independence referendum for Scotland.

In an expression of solidarity with the cause of a free Scotland, members of Sinn Féin Poblachtach from Dublin and Scotland marched behind the banner of the local Francis Hughes Cumann. Many people expressed their appreciation at the presence of Irish Republicans on the march and a large quantity of copies of SAOIRSE was sold.

The march coincided with the latest opinion poll, the third in as many days to put the Scottish National Party ahead of Labour by a clear margin, suggesting it will be the biggest party in the Scottish Parliament after the elections on May 3.

The poll ratings are the best the SNP has ever enjoyed this close to an election and they have made party leader Alex Salmond confident enough to talk about a "new dawn" for Scotland and predict "absolute calamity" for the Labour Party.

Harassment of Republicans continues

THE harassment of members of Republican Sinn Féin continues on both sides of the British imposed border.

On March 29 a car was stopped on the Antrim Road in Lurgan, Co Armagh around 10.30pm by 30 RUC/PSNI members. The four people inside were members of the Thomas Harte RSF Cumann, on their way to sell SAOIRSE.

They were taken out of the car, put into forensic suits and handcuffed and threatened they would be shot if they made any move. Their homes and the homes of two others were searched during the night, one at 4am. Two people were arrested the next day.

The only thing taken during the searches were mobile phones but a lot of damage was done to the houses during the searches. One raid took seven hours and in another a 13-year-old boy was made to stand in his underpants for four hours and was not allowed to dress himself.

On the night of March 30 rioting took place in the Lurgantarry estate and the RUC/PSNI came in heavy-handed. When one young girl resisted arrest, they pulled off her top. Three young men were beaten with batons and injured.

The Dublin-Belfast railway line was closed and only reopened on April 2. Crown Forces were attacked as they searched the railway line and damage was done to the line.

All six were released without charge on March 31 but all were subjected to DNA testing.

In the run-up to the Stormont elections in the Occupied Six Counties many of the members and supporters were stopped, questioned and delayed on their canvass for no other reason than to disrupt their canvass. The Director of Elections, Michael Lavelle,



• Rioting in Lurgan on April 19, 2006 — the more things change the more they stay the same.

was singled out for particular attention and on two occasions was held for more than an hour while his car and himself were searched.

Since then two plain-clothes RUC/PSNI have called to the Republican Sinn Féin office on the Falls Road on the pretext of looking for video footage covering the outside of the shop in their investigation into a murder. The murder that took place was nowhere near the office and could have no possible bearing on video footage outside the office. The 'normalisation' policy of accepting British rule did not take long to come to the Falls Road so soon after the Provisionals accepted British policing. Not for many years have two RUC men walked down the Falls Road on their own without the full back-up of the British Army let alone knock on the door of a Republican office.

Towards the end of last week two members of Republican Sinn Féin in Belfast were visited in their homes by uniformed

RUC/PSNI members and informed that their lives are under threat from a previously unknown group.

entering the house when Brennan pulled up along side them and asked for their names and addresses and asked one

In Dublin in the early hours of March 14, the home of a member was raided by plainclothes gardai. At about 4am they knocked up the family and in a very aggressive way proceeded to turn the house up-side down. Out in the garden ornaments were overturned and the garden shed emptied of its contents.

They said they were looking for a gun and said that the raid was in direct relation to a shooting that had taken place the previous evening. Naturally nothing was found and the gardai moved out leaving the house and shed in shambles.

On two occasions over the last month members of a family were stopped and questioned in Tallaght. The first was by Special Branchman Eric Brennan and the second time by Sgt O'Reilly. One of the family members is a member of RSF so again the pressure is being applied to people to leave the organisation. The first occasion two people were

non-member why was he going to the house of the member. On the second occasion a car with three male occupants (one a member) was taken from people for no reason on a regular basis. Money too is taken from people without any justification. The public coming into the bookstore in Parnell Street are subjected to stop, question and search when they leave — in some cases they have been told that they are not to go into the shop again.

If you are stopped by the gardai/Special Branch, ask for identification, why you are being stopped and under what act. Write down their names and if you are unhappy with their conduct go to a solicitor, don't put up with intimidation and harassment.

Sharing power with DUP a 'shameful act'

THE shameful decision of the Provisional leadership of Adams and McGuinness to agree to administer British rule with the DUP on the date of the Loughgall murders was condemned on March 26 by Joe Lynch, Vice-Chairperson of Comhairle na Mumhan, Republican Sinn Féin.

He said that May 8 was the anniversary of the killing of eight men who died in the campaign against British occupation in Ireland and a civilian.

"It is a shameful act by Adams and his supporters in that it is an insult to the memory of men who died in the struggle for the All-Ireland republic," he said.

"It is akin to the Provos dancing on the coffins of dead men. In fact their pathway to political power is littered with dead bodies of men and women who believed in the unity of Ireland and the All-

Ireland Republic as proclaimed in 1916.

"The operation at Loughgall was compromised by an agent within the Provisionals and it has been shown that they were also infiltrated by MI5 and British army agents.

"By agreeing to share power with the DUP on the date of the Loughgall killings the Provisionals have now finally discarded any Republican mantle and now the only honourable option open to them is to give up the noble name of Sinn Féin. They have abandoned all vestiges of Irish Republicanism."

DUP and Sinn Féin water charges u-turn

ON April 2 the We Won't Pay Campaign (against water rates in the Six Counties) attacked the DUP and the Provisionals for announcing that they are to introduce water charges through the Assembly.

Secretary of the non-payment group Gary Mulcahy said "Mitchell McLaughlin and Ian Paisley Jnr's comments are a slap in the face of everyone who voted for these parties after being told that they opposed water charges during the elections."

"The sheer brazenness of these politicians is staggering. Only a few weeks ago these parties claimed they were opposed to water charges but now they have the nerve to say that people will have to pay for the maintenance of our water and sewerage service through water charges. Why do they fail to mention that we already pay for water through the

rates? Have the DUP and [Provisional] Sinn Féin all of a sudden contracted a mysterious case of collective amnesia?"

The We Won't Pay Campaign said that "mass non-payment will teach these gangsters on the hill a lesson if they go ahead and introduce water charges. There is no support for this double-tax in working class communities across Northern Ireland.

"If they send bills to households they will be met with a mass boycott and the new Minister for Water Charges Conor Murphy will be left with egg on his face."

For The Record

THURS. MARCH 1: A firearm was found in an alleyway close to Magirr Park, Strabane.

Eighty jobs will be lost when Daewoo plant closes in Co Antrim next month.

Patrick McTaggart from Portlengone, Co Antrim was fined £2,000 for allowing illegal waste from the 26 Counties to be dumped on his lands.

MON. MARCH 5: Seizures of Class A substance cocaine have risen by 93.1% in the past year in the Occupied Six Counties and at least 22 deaths resulted from drug use.

Three people were hurt as trouble flared at a cross-community football match in Derry in which baseball bats, hammers, bottles and bricks were used.

More than 1,200 RUC/PSNI members have left the force over the last three years.

TUES. MARCH 6: Garda Commissioner Noel Conroy appointed Assistant Commissioner Nacé Rice to oversee the implementation of 84 recommendations contained in the Garda Inspectorate's first report.

At least 70 people were killed and hundreds were injured as a massive earthquake hit Indonesia.

Meánscóil Dhoire, one of the three post-primary Irish language schools in the Occupied Six Counties, is to close due to financial problems and falling numbers.

WED. MARCH 7: Voting took place in the Stormont elections.

A petrol bomb was thrown at St Theresa's Primary School in Lower Shantallow, Derry. The school was being used as a polling station.

Cillian Kelly, Carpenterstown, Dublin pleaded guilty to membership of an unlawful organisation at the Special non-jury Court in Dublin. He was remanded on bail.

Two hundred and eighty workers at Procter & Gamble factory in Nenagh, Co Tipperary face redundancy over the next two years.

THURS. MARCH 8: The DUP polled 30.1% and the Provisionals polled 26.2% in the Stormont elections. The SDLP, Alliance and UUP polled 14.9%.

A new book on Seán McCaughey was launched entitled *Finely Tempered Steel*. McCaughey died on hunger and strike in Portlaoise prison in 1946 under the de Valera government.

Gerry McGeough, an independent candidate in the Stormont election, was arrested outside the polling station in Omagh. Vincent McAnespie was arrested in Aghnacloy, Co Tyrone. Both men were being questioned about the attempted murder of UDR man Sammy Brush, 25 years ago.

FRI. MARCH 9: The National Commission on Restorative Justice was set up in the 26 Counties to examine the effectiveness of two existing pilot projects in Nenagh, Co Tipperary and Tallaght, Dublin. District Court judge Mary Martin will chair the seven-person commission.

A CD/DVD replication company, Zomax/MPO, Blanchardstown, Dublin, announced the loss of 98 jobs.

The Irish Nurses Organisation (INO) took part in a protest outside the Mater Hospital in Dublin over pay and conditions.

Protests continued across South America over the visit of US President George Bush.

SUN. MARCH 11: Irish businesses were asked to support an international campaign against the use of flags-of-convenience (FoC) ships in trade through Irish ports. The campaign was initiated by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and is backed by its trade union affiliates, including SIPTU. Under such flags, (FoC), vessels are registered in states which do not recognise employment protection and safety legislation under the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Maritime Convention. It is estimated that up to one third of all ships using Irish ports are FoCs.

MON. MARCH 12: Six nationalist children aged between 10 and 15 years were arrested and questioned for several hours after clashes along an interface area in the Waterside area of Derry.

Raymond McCord is in Washington to seek backing from the Presidential candidates in his bid to bring prosecutions against members of the RUC who shielded the killers of his son Raymond. Raymond was murdered in 1997 by alleged Special Branch agents. Files relating to the killing have "gone missing" or have been destroyed.

Vincent McAnespie and Gerry McGeough were charged with attempting to murder an Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) soldier Sammy Brush in 1981. Lawyers for the pair said that there is no evidence and no case to answer and called the

arrests political.

David Rupert, FBI agent and supergrass, may not give evidence at the compensation case brought by relatives of those killed in the Omagh bombing in 1998 due to concerns over his health and security. He was due to give video-link evidence from the US where he is in an FBI witness protection programme but the FBI stated that they would 'no longer co-operate'.

The Commission of Investigation report into the Dublin and Monaghan bombings in 1974 was formally handed over to Bertie Ahern. No one has ever been charged with the bombings in which 33 people lost their lives and over 200 injured.



• Youths attack RUC/PSNI vehicles on March 19 at the scene of the Lynx helicopter crash in Crossmaglen, Co Armagh the previous day.

TUES. MARCH 13: The Irish Language Bill, which was to go through Westminster this week, has been shelved. British Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure Maria Eagle (who organised the consultation process) told the House of Commons that 'further consultation was needed to build consensus around future legislation'. Nationalists deny that further consultation is needed and believe that unionists are trying to scupper the Bill.

Six of the seven British soldiers tried for ill treatment of "suspected insurgents" – one of whom died – in Iraq were cleared in a court martial. The soldiers were serving with the Queen's Lancashire Regiment in Basra in 2005.

DUP leader Ian Paisley met British Prime Minister Tony Blair and chancellor of the exchequer Gordon Brown for talks in relation to a power-sharing executive in the Occupied Six Counties.

Workers at the Liebherr plant in Killybegs staged a 24-hour stoppage to highlight their concerns at the company's decision to close its defined benefits pension scheme for new employees.

Justin McCarthy, Cashel and with an address in Dundalk Co Louth was jailed for five years at the Special non-jury Court in Dublin after pleading guilty to delivering a booby-trap explosive device to a man at a hotel in Drogheda in 2005.

Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez visited Haiti and promised \$120 million in aid to the country.

WED. MARCH 14: Almost 500 jobs were lost at three companies in Waterford, Kildare, Limerick and Meath as well as in the Mobile phone company O2.

Don Bulman, Cork, was sentenced to four years imprisonment for membership of an illegal organisation.

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties claimed that the Criminal Law (Defence of Life and Property) Bill 2007 proposed by Michael McDowell is giving homeowners 'a licence to kill'.

THURS. MARCH 15: Omagh District Council was censured by the Equality Commission over the way it dealt with unionist complaints regarding a Republican garden and plaque in Dromore, Co Tyrone. The Council must now carry out an equality assessment before it decides to sell the site of the Hunger Strike Memorial to the committee that built it.

Hamas and Fatah agreed yesterday to form a Palestinian National Unity Government but Israeli officials said there would have no contact with it.

Niall Dillon won a High Court challenge to the Vagrancy (Ireland) Act 1847 which prohibited begging in a public place. The Act was introduced during the Great Hunger and those convicted were sentenced to one month in prison. Niall Dillon ended up homeless due to personal problems and was arrested for begging.

The United States, Russia, France, China, Germany and Britain announced an agreement to impose new UN sanctions on Iran for its nuclear programme.

FRI. MARCH 16: Archbishop Alan Harper was enthroned as the new Church of Ireland Primate of all-Ireland.

Extra RUC/PSNI members were on duty in Lurgan, Co Armagh for the Orange march through the town. Around 2,000 Orangemen and 15 bands from the Lurgan District LOL No 6 were restricted

in where they could march and to only one hour.

SAT. MARCH 17: The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) is demanding 'more clarity' from the Provisionals on policing.

SUN. MARCH 18: An RAF Lynx helicopter carrying RUC/PSNI and British army personnel crash landed in a field in Crossmaglen injuring six of them.

Intercultural and Anti-Racism week was launched in Dublin.

MON. MARCH 19: Facilities for young offenders in the 26 Counties are under-utilised according to new figures published in the *Irish Times*. Fifty-four young people were detained in the five child-

Thirty protesters occupied part of the Corrib Gas terminal site at Bellanaboy, Co Mayo to highlight fears over possible contamination of the local water supply after seepage of a brown-coloured liquid from the site.

FRI. MARCH 23: Fifteen British military personnel were captured by Iranian authorities at Shatt al Arab waterway, which divided Iran from Iraq. Iran said they were in Iranian waters and they are being interrogated.

SAT. MONDAY 24: Intensive behind the scenes talks continue between the DUP and the Provos in an effort to find a way forward to form a power-sharing executive.

A group of leading European intellectuals wrote to the 27 EU heads of State gathered in Berlin to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, attacking them over their celebrations asking "How dare we Europeans celebrate this weekend while on a continent some few miles south of us the most defenceless, dispossessed and weak are murdered in Sudan?" Seamus Heaney was one of the signatories.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for the creation of a European army.

MON. MARCH 26: The Democratic Unionist Party and the Provisionals signed up to an agreement making way for the setting up of the Stormont assembly on May 8.

DUP councillor Sam Gaston resigned from the party over its decision to share power 'with nationalists'.

Several European ministers backed a call by the Environment Minister in the 26-County administration for the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield to remain permanently closed.

Brigitte Mohnhaupt was released from prison in Bavaria, southern Germany having served 24 years as a member of the Baader-Meinhof/Red Army Faction organisation.

TUES. MARCH 27: Five judges in the Supreme Court, Dublin are to hear a legal challenge by Barry O'Brien, Mountain Court, Dundalk who is charged with membership of the IRA in the Special non-jury Court, Dublin. O'Brien took a judicial review in the High Court and that was under review in the Supreme Court.

Jim Allister, MEP resigned from the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) stating that he could not enter the assembly with the Provos until such time as their Army Council is abolished. He said he believed that there was 'considerable unease' among the DUP grassroots over Ian Paisley entering the assembly with the Provisionals.

The British parliament passed emergency legislation confirming May 8 as the date for the commencement of the assembly in Stormont.

The 26-County administration reneged on a promise to cut the pay of lawyers at the Mahon Tribunal from the end of March as they caved in to pressure from the lawyers. Senior Counsel will continue to be paid almost €2,500 a day as the ministers decided not confront the lawyers on the issue.

The family of Allen McCullough, murdered by Mo Courtney in a UDA feud, said they will continue to fight for justice after Mo Courtney was sentenced to eight years after pleading guilty to manslaughter in a retrial – with time served on remand he will be free in two years.

WED. MARCH 28: Almost €30 million has been spent on three independent inquiries into collusion-linked murders despite no evidence yet being heard. Fees for senior counsel are €200 per hour, junior counsel at €100 and solicitors at €150.

Hugh Orde, chief constable in the Occupied Six Counties is set to stay on in that position for three more years.

The Provo's director of elections in the 26 Counties, Dawn Doyle, said that the leadership will participate in a tour of the 26 Counties in the run-up to the forthcoming election in which 38 candidates have already been named.

Bertie Ahern announced that it would be unlikely that anyone would be prosecuted over the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan bombings in which 33 people died and over 300 were injured.

A poll in Scotland suggested that the Scottish Nationalist Party could be the biggest single party after the May 3 election.

THURS. MARCH 29: Nationalists in the Six Occupied Counties complained at the lenient sentence given to loyalists involved in up to 20 criminal cases.

The police ombudsman in the Occupied Six Counties is to investigate the arrest of Gerry McGeough who was freed on bail.

The monument to hunger striker Raymond McCreech was damaged by vandals. The monument, in Camloch, was daubed with paint. Loyalist slogans were painted on nearby walls.

A new report, *Fair Play? Sport and Social Disadvantage in Ireland* found that people on low income and with low educational attainment are far less likely to participate in sport than those with higher incomes and third level education.

Maritime protest over Corrib pipeline

ERRIS fishermen concerned at the impact of the Corrib gas pipeline on water quality in Broadhaven Bay were reported on March 16 to have carried out a series of "maritime exercises" in training for possible sea protests.

Members of the Erris Inshore Fishermen's Association say they are still considering staging a sea blockade if Shell E&PI goes ahead with the pipeline which will have an outfall point outside the bay. Broadhaven Bay is a Special Area of Conservation, and the EIFA has expressed concerns to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Community, Rural, and Gaeltacht Affairs over possible damage to fish stocks.

Pat O'Donnell said the EIFA was prepared to use its vessels to block Broadhaven Bay. "If Shell goes ahead with this pipeline, it will meet resistance," he said. "There is no consent on land or in the sea," he added.

The possibility of mass protest in the bay has not been ruled out by the EIFA. "Anyone with experience on the sea, we will consider allowing them to join us," Pat O'Donnell said.

In the meantime some 30 protesters occupied part of the Corrib gas terminal site in Bellanaboy, Co Mayo on March 22 to highlight their

fears over possible contamination of local water supplies.

Activists made their way on to the site through a gate in the afternoon. A number of gardai were on standby during the protest but did not interfere.

The incursion followed an earlier seepage of a brown-coloured liquid from the site. Local streams feed into Carrowmore lake, the source of drinking water for thousands of homes in the Erris area.

A spokesman for Shell E&P Ireland, Christy Loftus, confirmed last evening that the report of a seepage was being investigated by the company as well as by Mayo County Council and the North Western Regional Fisheries Board.

Some 100,000 cubic metres of bog had been excavated and removed last year when the company decided to suspend excavations and haulage in the face of ongoing opposition.

It was reported on March 29 that Independent Mayo TD Dr Jerry Cowley said he intended to ask Judge Carroll Moran of the Circuit Court who acts as the State's complaints' referee in relation to phone-tapping, to



• Shell security men filming the protesters at the construction site at Bellinaboy Bridge on March 30.

investigate alleged surveillance of telephones held by himself and six prominent members of the Shell to Sea campaign.

This was the second attempt in Leinster House by Dr Cowley this month to press Michael McDowell on the issue by naming himself and the six Shell to Sea members in a series of written questions.

The Minister said in a written reply that the interception of telecommunications was governed by the Interception of Postal Packets and Telecommunications Messages (Regulation) Act, 1993.

Dr Cowley claimed a "series of unusual

coincidences" had alerted him to the possibility of surveillance of landlines and mobile phones of those involved in opposing aspects of the Corrib gas project.

"I am not the only one to hold these fears. People who have taken a particular stand on the Corrib gas dispute approached me on a number of occasions expressing their suspicions," Dr Cowley told the Connaught Telegraph.

"They are convinced their telephone conversations are being monitored because there is compelling evidence of it happening.

"I am genuinely concerned that I am one of the people

under surveillance."

Dr Mark Garavan, who is running as an Independent in the Seanad elections, confirmed that he was one of the six identified by Dr Cowley in Leinster House as being allegedly affected by surveillance.

Dr Garavan said. "My efforts in the Corrib gas campaign have been exclusively centred on using political and legal means to redress the problem."

On March 30 eleven Shell to Sea activists entered Shell's construction site at Bellinaboy Bridge on to seek answers about contaminated water run off from the site. Concerns

about the water, (particularly aluminium levels) have been ongoing, but were exacerbated by a diesel spill on March 24 which is still visible in water running off the site. The group entered the site around 3pm with the intention of speaking with Tom Doyle, environmental officer on site.

After making their way onto the site cross-country without much fuss they entered the central area to speak with health and safety officer. They were informed that they were trespassing. Protesters related their concerns said that they wished to speak with Tom Doyle, a name passed onto them by John Cronin in the Bangor Shell office. They were told that no such person existed.

Several security officers from the site requested that protesters leave and began to film and take photographs of the group. Protesters were on the site for twenty minutes to half an hour before the Gardai made an appearance. Two 'paddy wagons' drove onto the site and Gardai trooped out. Campaigners had already decided to leave the site and before the "Shell cops" could do anything campaigners informed the attendant security personnel of their intentions to walk out the front gate, which they did followed by Gardai on foot and in the vans.

Development Fund Special Appeal

Republican Sinn Féin

We are embarking on a development and modernisation programme for our organisation. This will include recruitment, publicity, upgrading our technology, and office accommodation. This will cost a considerable amount of money.

However, we know we can call on you for your support and we will contact

all who support our aims and objectives with details of our plans and how they can help to attain our goals, in due course.

All subscriptions, large or small, can be sent to the treasurer of the Republican Sinn Féin Development Fund at Head Office or made payable to:

**Republican Sinn Féin
Development Fund, AIB, Capel
Street, Dublin 1.**

Account number: 15411-097.
All donations will be appreciated and acknowledged.



TB scare — action now needed

AS World TB Day was marked around the globe on 22 March, parents were anxiously waiting for children attending two crèches in Cork to be screened after it emerged a woman who contracted the disease worked in both centres.

Ironically, at a time when the disease is becoming a serious issue in Ireland again, the BCG vaccine to prevent TB infection

is readily available across the country apart from Health Service Executive (HSE) South, the Cork-Kerry region,

where the disease is at the highest level in a decade.

The HSE says a group has been set up in Cork to progress the rollout of the BCG vaccination for newborns during 2007, in line with national policy.

A spokesperson for Republican Sinn Féin, Cork

said that, "In a further setback, Munster's only TB testing lab has been shut down because the ageing prefab at Cork University Hospital deteriorated badly over the winter. This is unacceptable. In the public interest, a greater sense of urgency is clearly warranted."

Protest as Polish workers laid off

AN unofficial protest was held recently in Athlone, Co Westmeath by 20 Polish men who said they lost their jobs on the construction of a €400 million project because they asked a union to represent them in a pay dispute.

The men staged their protest at the entrance to the Athlone Town centre site after they were laid off by a Galway-based sub-contractor. SIPTU official Pat McCabe said the men had been processing a claim for unpaid wages through the Rights Commissioner.

He claimed that they were told by their employers, Denis O'Connell Dry Lining Ltd, that their jobs might not be secure if they continued to be represented by the union.

The men were subsequently laid off and decided to stage a protest to highlight the difficulties they were having. They joined SIPTU some time

ago and the union was made aware that they were being paid anything up to €5.50 below the registered minimum hourly rate for the construction industry.

Around three hours after the protest began SIPTU was contacted by the employers' group IBEAC offering to meet the union and the men then called off their protest.

Pat McCabe said the decision to protest was made by the men and SIPTU didn't know anything about it. He said "the men obviously felt they had to do something to bring some attention to the situation, and they have certainly achieved that".

Publication of tribunal documents allowed

ON March 29, 2007, by a three to two majority, the Supreme Court refused, to give the Mahon planning tribunal an order banning publication by the media now and in the future, of documents circulated in private by the tribunal in advance of its public hearings.

The order sought, according to Justice Niall Fennelly, had no legal justification and would breach the right to freedom of expression, including the free communication of information, guaranteed under the Constitution and European Convention on Human rights.

It ruled that the tribunal had no legal power to designate as "confidential" material released by it and no power to stop by court order those to whom it communicated its briefs from communicating their contents. However the possibility that individuals who were aware of impending media publication of information communicated in confidence by them to the tribunal, which they could show was private and personal

such as bank accounts, was left open by the judge and they could, he said, succeed in seeking such injunctions.

The case arose when *The Sunday Business Post* published three articles by Barry O'Kelly in October 2004. The tribunal claimed that the articles were based on leaks of "confidential" tribunal documents and such publication breached the rights of people to 'fair procedures before the tribunal, to their privacy and to protection of their good name'.

Initially the High Court refused to grant an injunction preventing publication but placed a restricting order on publication pending the appeal to the Supreme Court by the tribunal.

Daonlathas?

LE TAMALL, níl le cloisteáil ó Dhr Paisley, ceannasaí de chuid an DUP, ach an achainní chéanna, mar éileamh: Daonlathas! Anois, agus le fada an lá, tá sé cruthaithe ag an bhfear bocht, bail ó Dhia air, nach ina amaid atá sé.

An amhlaidh nach dtuigeanann sé céard í is brí leis an téarma céanna? Nó an amhlaidh nach bhfuil ach an t-aon chloch amháin ar a phaidrín, mar atá na Sé Chontae, stáitín saorga tacair bréige, é gearrtha amach ó Chúige Uladh, ó oileán na hÉireann, trí bhrúidiúlacht na Breataine? Dáiríre píre, is í an fhírinne lom gur gearrtha amach ón ndaonlathas atá na sé chontae údáí.

Go cúramach glic a gearreadh amach an giota céanna ó dhaonlathas na hÉireann, sa chaoi go mbeadh móramh ag mionlach ó thaobh dhaonlathas na hÉireann de, ach iad ina dtromlach áitiúil, a

bhuí d'arm forghabhála.

Ón bhliain 1921, an bhliain a rugadh mise, atá an scéal náireach céanna amhlaidh, náireach go háirithe toisc nár rinne rialtas ar bith de chuid Bhaile Átha Cliath gearán gearrtha amach ó bith sna Náisiúin Aontaithe, ná sna Aontacht Eorpach, faoi.

NAOI GCINN

Minic go leor is ea a chloiseann muid ó bhéal amach Phéaslaf, agus eile, an téarma úd *Ulster*, sa chaoi go bhféadfá a cheapadh go raibh grá acu don gcúige céanna, go dtí go gcuirtear in iúl duit nach é Ulaidh atá i gceist acu, ach an

giota de a dtugann siad *Northern Ireland* air sa chéad anáil eile. Naoi gcontae atá i gCúige Uladh le fada an lá, agus i bhfad roimh 1921.

Má bhíonn an Dr Péaslaf ionraic, ní mór dó easpa daonlathas bun agus barr deighilt na hÉireann, deighilt Uladh, a aithint. Iarsmaí na plandála, atá dflis i gcónaí don Bhreatain, a éascaíonn an éagóir, ach caithfear cuid mhaith den mhilleán a chur ar pholaiteoirí na hÉireann, thuaidh agus theas, thoir agus thiar.

Ach tá formhór an phobail, faraí, ar seasamh leis an *status quo*, más fíor don shuirbhé i ndiaidh suirbhé. Aineolas, d'eile! Córás oideachais atá lofa.

Mar a dúras cheana anseo, tá ceangal bunúsach ann idir loighic agus oideachas. Ach ní mhúntear loighic sa mbunúscoil, ná sa mheánscoil. Fé mar atá i go leor eile tá rialacha mar bhonn faoin loighic, rialacha a chabhráíonn go mór le machnamh a dhéanamh agus le teacht ar fhírinne.

Ó Dhia atá meabhair, intinn, intleacht, againn, ach ní mór dúinn iad a oiliúint, a ullmhú, don saol. Sa mbaile a ba chóir tosú leis an gcuid sin den oideachas, ach sa scoil caithfear cur leis sin uilig le cabhair ó shaineolaithe. Ní mór dúinn ábhar riachtanach a bheith ann mar loighic sna scoileanna.

STAIR GAN MEAS

Bearna eile in oideachas an stáit seo an meas oifigiúil ar stair na hÉireann, nó easpa measa i ndáiríre: Ní ábhar riachtanach é don Ardeist agus, dá bhrí sin, don ollscoil.

Sin is cúis leis an oiread sin aineolais ar stair ár dtíre ag formhór an phobail, nó cén fáth a bhfuil muid mar atá, Béarlach aineolach gallda cloíte?

Nuair a bhíonn pobal chomh lag sin ó thaobh oideachais de, ró-éasca atá sé ag polaiteoirí neamhscrúpallacha agus ag meáin gan choinsias dul i bhfeidhm orthu ar bhóthar na mbréag.

Luath nó mall, faoi thionchar a leithéide, caithfear

foc as, agus ag foc go trom atáimid, Dia linn, idir eatarthu marú ar na bóithre agus dúnmharú sna tithe, agus méadú ar gach cineál coirúilachta.

RÉ NA SAINTE

Ní nach íonadh agus an saol nua mar atá in Éirinn inniu tá tráth ar adhradh Dé, agus an tsaint i réim. Buíochas mór le Dia, d'éirigh liomsa bóthar Dé a aimsiú in athuair tá tamall ó shin ann, agus gach lá, chomh fada agus a thig liom, téim ar Aifreann, agus éistim leis na seanscéalta ón Sean-Tiomna, agus an scríos a tháinig i réim in Iosrael i ré na sainte.

Ach ansin tháinig amach na fáithe. Inníu, cá bhfuil na fáithe lenár ndán a mheabhú dúinn ar an mbóthar go hlfreann?

Formhór na bpolaiteoirí inniu agus iad ag tacú le concas na Breataine sna Sé Chontae: Cé a cheapadh go bhféadfadh a leithéid a tharlú? Airgead ó do phóca anois ag neartú na Stormainte! Ar ndóigh, agus an aiste seo á scríobh agam, níl deireadh na

caibidle ar m'eolas.

BRÍB MHÓR

Stormaint go beo arís agus a bhuí sin don bhríb mhór ó Bhaile Átha Cliath agus ó Londain, an tsaint i réim arís eile?

An dream flannbhuí i mbun oibre arís le ré uafáis eile a dhathú lenár gcuid fola?

Agus toghcháin eile fós romhainn sna 26 Chontae: Beag an seans le hathrú ar bith ...

Sibhse atá dflis fós do Dhia agus d'Éirinn, ní mór daoibh a bheith i mbun achainní do Dhia le go ndúise pobal na hÉireann ón tromlúf. Ach tá solas éigin againn fós maidir le hathréimíú na Gaeilge.

Níl aon amhras ann ach go bhfuil ag éirí le pobal a labhartha an teachtaireacht a neartú thuaidh theas. Sa nGaeilge atá ár ndóchas. Bí páirteach sa mbrú agus labhair go minic agus go poiblí i ágas beidh linn, le cuidiú Dé.

Cáisc faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise go raibh agaibh uilig.

— **Deasún Breatnach**

Shortcomings 'not addressed'

IN A statement on March 12 the Irish language movement Conradh na Gaeilge said that the measures announced by the 26-County Minister of Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, did not properly address the shortcomings in relation to the teaching and the learning of Irish in our schools.

While they welcomed the added recognition afforded to the oral Irish exam, any reform must embrace a holistic methodology.

Dáithí Mac Cárthaigh, President of Conradh na Gaeilge said: "I am very disappointed that the Minister of Education and Science is not addressing this problem in an integrated manner. She is focusing on one level of the problem and is ignoring in effect the other levels. The learning and the teaching of Irish must be developed at the

three levels in a holistic manner, ie in the primary schools, at second level and in the teacher training colleges."

Conradh na Gaeilge said it recommended that all trainee primary school teachers should be taught through Irish in an all-Irish environment, learning through and about immersion education, for the equivalent of one academic year of their training course.

The organization said: "The teaching and the learning of Irish at primary level should be developed by implementing the

Department of Education's own policy, ie that one subject, along with Irish, should be taught through Irish to all primary school pupils (initially on a pilot basis with the necessary support and training to be provided). Physical education, drama, or art could be the extra subject chosen to encourage the students to bring the language to life in the classroom.

"In relation to second level we agree that an extra emphasis should be put placed on oral Irish. This should be done preferably by developing two syllabi for Irish at second level with two separate examination papers for the Leaving Certificate and the Junior Certificate ('Irish Language' teaching and assessing the skills of understanding,

speaking, reading and writing using the Common European Framework as reference to be taken by all students, and 'Irish Literature' to be taken by higher level students only)."

Conradh na Gaeilge's recommendations include:

All trainee primary school teachers to be taught through Irish in an all-Irish environment, learning through and about immersion education, for the equivalent of one academic year of their training course, divided over the total length of that course and including the vital first few weeks. Students to be given the option to complete the entire course through Irish if they so wish.

One subject, along with Irish, to be taught through Irish to all primary pupils, initially on a pilot basis with the necessary support and training;

Two syllabi to be developed for Irish at second level with two separate examination papers for the Leaving Certificate and the Junior

Certificate:-

"Irish Language" to be taken by all students: teaching and assessing the skills of understanding, speaking, reading and writing using the Common European Framework as reference and encompassing language awareness.

"Irish Literature" to be taken by all higher level students and taught in an integrated manner with the "Irish Language" element at the appropriate level.

This will allow students at Foundation and Ordinary level to concentrate on acquiring Irish and have only one paper to sit at Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate level. The work load of literature for higher level students will be recognised by marking "Irish Literature" as an extra subject.

These reforms must be part of and a step toward an integrated language curriculum. Languages are acquired by use and practice. Other methodologies do not bear fruit.

The policy is supported by language experts such as Professor David Little, Director of the Centre for Languages and Communication Studies in Trinity College Dublin, and Caoimhe Máirtín, Educational Consultant. Other groups supporting this policy already include the Union of Students in Ireland, the Union of Secondary Students, Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (the central steering council for the Irish language community), Na Gaeil Óga, Ógras, Cumann na bhFiann and Spleodar.

This policy was developed based on talks with school pupils, teachers, principals, parents, language experts, teacher trade unions, student unions, Irish language organisations, staff members of teacher training colleges, civil servants, politicians and others in meetings and conferences over the past two years.

A copy of the full policy is available at www.cnag.ie

An Ghaeilge - 'paddy language'

TÁ sé ráite ag Máire Nic an Bhaird go ndéanfaidh sí achomharc in éadan a ciontaithe as 'iompar mí-ordúil' i gCúirt Cois Cuain Bhéal Feirste, Feabhra 26.

Ag labhairt di le nuachtán, *Lá Nua*, dúirt Máire Nic an Bhaird go raibh an bhreith a thug an Breitheamh Fiona Bagnall 'dochreidte' i gcomhthéacs na fianaise a tugadh le linn an cháis.

Le linn na n-éisteachtaí, tugadh fianaise go ndearna baill den RUC/PSNI cur síos ar na nGaeilge mar 'paddy language'.

Cuireadh i leith Máire Nic an Bhaird go raibh sí ag scairteach "Tíocfaidh ár lá" ach shéan sí é seo.

Ghearr an Breitheamh fineáil £100 ar an mhúinteoir óg. Dúirt an Breitheamh go raibh cuid den fhianaise a thug finnétithe an chosantóra ag teacht salach ar a chéile.

Dúirt an Breitheamh fosta nárbh ionann bheith ag labhairt i nGaeilge agus iompar mí-ordúil.

Dar le Máire Nic an Bhaird, áfach, gurbh í fianaise bhaill an RUC/PSNI a bhí deacair a chreidiúint.

"An bealach ar caitheadh liom i stáisiún na bpéas nuair a gabhadh mé, bhí sé ar nós rud éigin a tharlódh do dhuine le linn Aois Dhorchra na hEorpa.

"Troidfidh mé in éadan na breithe seo i gCúirt Chearta Daonna na hEorpa, más gá."

IMEACHTAÍ

ELECTION FUND-RAISER

DONN CARRAGH HOTEL
LISNASKEA, CO FERNAGH
FRIDAY, APRIL 20
Music by Foggy Dew
Doors open 9p.m. Táille: Stg £5.

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET

GPO, DUBLIN
SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 12.45-1.45pm

BOBBY SANDS MEMORIAL RALLY

SATURDAY MAY 6
GPO, DUBLIN
Assemble at the Garden of Remembrance 1.45pm.

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Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-1204592

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Republican Sinn Féin, Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown
Anyone wishing to join should contact Ard-Oifig, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Mac CURTÁIN / Mac SWINEY CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Cork
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-3352006 or visit our website www.rsfcork.com

BRUGHA/SABHAT - HURSON/SANDS CUMAINN

Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick
Anyone wishing to join should contact Ken at 087-9531249

<http://www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinlimerick/index.htm>

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Anyone wishing to join should visit our website: www.freewebs.com/rsfdublin

RUC/PSNI OPEN FIRE IN BELFAST

A Belfast Chronology

Friday, March 2, 2007: Shots were fired through the bedroom window of a house in Cranbrook Court, Ardoyne, north Belfast where an eight-year-old had only just left the room. Several shots were also fired into the family car.

Two members of the British Paratroops Regiment, who gave evidence against Christie Walsh, west Belfast which led to his receiving a 14-year jail sentence for possession of a coffee jar bomb in 1992, may have to appear in court after the Court of Appeal agreed to reopen his [second] appeal following a review by the Criminal Cases Review Commission. The two soldiers have retracted their evidence but for legal reasons their statements have been disregarded. Christie Walsh has consistently denied the charge.

Monday, March 5, 2007: Around ten shots were fired into the home of Arlene McAlea and her partner in west Belfast. Three men attacked the house with a rifle and shotgun.

Around 250 ex-POWs published an full page advert in the *Irish News* calling for support for Independent candidates in the forthcoming Stormont election.

Saturday, March 10, 2007: George Cairns, who is partially deaf, was attacked by three loyalists from the Glenbryn area as he walked home along Alliance Avenue shortly before midnight. They hit him with an iron bar on the head and legs. A taxi driver intervened and the men ran off. George was treated in hospital for his injuries.

Clashes between nationalist and loyalists and the RUC/PSNI took place in the Ardoyne area of Belfast during the night when petrol bombs

were thrown. Two men were arrested.

A teenager charged with rioting in north Belfast was released on bail. He was ordered to stay away from the junction of Alliance Avenue/Ardoyne Road, Belfast.

Monday, March 12, 2007: Petrol bombs and stones were thrown during fighting in the Ardoyne area of Belfast. Stones were also thrown at the RUC vehicles.

Tuesday, March 13, 2007: Four firearms and other items were seized as searches continue in Belfast after the murder of two men, one each in north and west Belfast.

Petrol bombs, stones and bottles were thrown during trouble in the Ardoyne area of Belfast between nationalists and loyalists youths.

A group claiming to be made up of ex-members of the Continuity IRA and the INLA said they fired shots at homes in the Ardoyne area of Belfast in recent weeks.

A report in the *Irish News* stated that the RUC/PSNI has a fleet of 1,929 vehicles — a car for ever four of its more than 7,500 members. 1,062 are saloon cars; 372 are Land Rovers; 209 are four-wheel drives; 184 are vans; 110 are motorcycles. Members claimed almost £5 million sterling in expenses last year. The annual RUC budget stands at around 720 million sterling with the British Treasury topping up to the tune of up to £40 million sterling.

Wednesday, March 14, 2007: Bullets were fired through the home of a family in the Oldpark area of Belfast by the RUC/PSNI as they chased a man they wanted to arrest. No one was injured in the incident but the owner of the house, Kathleen Stuart said either herself or a child



• Sign of the times? — Provisional office on the Ormeau Road in Belfast.

could have been killed as up to five shots were fired.

Members of the RUC/PSNI opened fire on a car they were chasing in the Ardoyne areas of Belfast. Up to six shots were fired, no one was hurt.

Six people were sentenced terms of imprisonment and community service and placed on probation having being found guilty of rioting in the Whitestock area of Belfast after the rerouting of an Orange parade in 2005.

The loyalist Ulster Political Research Group called for an end to what they called 'a media campaign of hate' against Torrens Knight. Knight received 12 life sentences for his part in the Greysteel murders in 1993 and the murder of four Catholics the same year. They also deny that

Knight was an informer for either MI5 or the RUC. Knight was released under the Belfast Agreement in 2000.

A concrete security sanger, situated between the High Court and the Magistrates Court at Laganside, Belfast was removed.

Thursday, March 15, 2007: In the Appeal Court in Belfast, Colm Murphy and Séamus Daly lost their appeal against a ruling that ordered the production of documents held by their solicitors in the 26 Counties who acted for them in the special non-jury court in Dublin. Both men along with four others are being sued by the relatives of those killed in the bomb in Omagh. A judicial review is being heard in the High Court challenging the Lord Chancellor's decision to grant legal aid of £860,000 sterling to

the victims and their relatives.

Friday, March 16, 2007: The editorial in the *Irish News* said that the firing of live rounds in a residential street in north Belfast by the RUC/PSNI was hard to justify.

In a statement to UTV the Continuity IRA denied involvement in the killing of two men on March 12.

Wednesday, March 21, 2007: RUC/PSNI members patrolling nationalist areas of west Belfast are handing out their mobile phone numbers to residents in an effort to improve relations and build trust between the two. Over 7,000 leaflets will be distributed with names and numbers of the community RUC members in and around the Poleglass, Twinbrook and Lagmore areas.

Nuala O'Loan, RUC Ombudsman in the Occupied Six Counties, cleared an RUC/PSNI member who shot Paul Donnelly in Belfast city centre four and a half years ago. She said it had been 'necessary' for the RUC member to shoot the man, who was critically injured, as he believed he was reaching for a weapon.

An RUC/PSNI member fired six shots at Kyle Wylie after he got out of a car in the Oldpark area. He was questioned for a number of hours before being released. The British Police Ombudsman is investigating the shooting.

Friday, March 23, 2007: Joseph Mackin, Whitecliffie parade, west Belfast was charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition in suspicious circumstances.

Monday, March 26, 2007: Joseph Mackin, west Belfast was refused bail in the High Court in Belfast.

Tuesday, March 27, 2007: The RUC failed in their bid to have Ihab Shoukri returned to jail for "serious breaches of his bail conditions".

An Taisce seeks to challenge M3 construction

ON March 30 the heritage organisation, An Taisce, said it is to seek permission from the High Court to challenge the construction of the M3 motorway, in legal action that could have implications for the 26-County State's entire road building programme.

An Taisce said the National Roads Authority had failed to comply with legislation obliging it to produce a draft plan for the construction and maintenance of the national roads system every five years. Because of this, it said the procedure followed in relation to the M3 motorway between Clonee and Kells was completely flawed. An Taisce described the building of the M3 as having very major consequences for a range of environmental issues, and it said it would have adverse effects on the national monument at the Hill of Tara.

Mr Justice Peter Kelly refused to grant permission for An Taisce's challenge without hearing from the National Roads Authority and 26-County Minister for Transport, Martin Cullen.

He said negotiations are underway and may even be completed between the NRA and the contractor who is going

to build the motorway. Justice Kelly was not prepared to take the risk of jeopardising those negotiations without hearing from the NRA.

The case will come before the court again on April 4 when the NRA and Minister Cullen will have the opportunity of making submissions.

The Campaign to Save Tara warmly welcomed the High Court action taken by An Taisce. The Campaign claimed that much needed improvements and upgrades to National routes, as well as the promised by-passes, are stalled by the M3 proposal because of the contractual restrictions placed on Meath County Council by the PPP funding mechanism.

The Campaign expressed dismay that Justice Kelly, who heard the application, cited the danger of jeopardising commercial negotiations between the NRA and private consortiums, as a reason for

refusing to grant permission for An Taisce's challenge.

In a statement Michael Canney from the Campaign to Save Tara said, "We would have hoped that the historical and cultural importance of the Tara complex and the urgency in preventing any further destruction, would take precedence over any commercial concerns."

He added: "Our National routes are being deliberately downgraded to make way for privately-owned and heavily tolled PPP motorways such as the M3. The roads of Meath are a disgrace, and the commuters of the county are bearing the brunt of a lack of investment in infrastructure over the last decade."

Recently in the Tara Valley an ancient burial ground, comprising of stone-built underground chambers, has been dismantled and removed from Rowestown. The National Monument at Rath Lugh has been damaged. The archaeological digs have expanded to such an extent that the whole proposed route south of the existing N3 has become one huge site. The Discovery Programme, a state funded



• An aerial view of Tara.

research effort undertaken in 1995, described the Tara landscape as 'a mosaic of monuments'. This was rejected by the NRA before archaeological began.

Archaeological works are now concentrated at Lismullen, and there is speculation that a major new discovery has been made at this location.

Michael Canney said: "The great lie from the NRA and the Government is that this road

will help ease the misery of commuters. Any new motorway feeding directly into M50 at Blanchardstown will have a minimal effect on journey times. It will lead to greater traffic volumes and further chaos on the already grossly overcrowded M50. Dropping this proposed route would be the most sensible, practical, consensus building policy option, and alternatives could deliver immediate relief

for commuters.'

In Dublin recently artist and comic-maker Hugh Mc Laughlin was handing out Tara Vigil Leaflets on the streets of Dublin. He was approached by a member of Dublin City Council (DCC) Litter Service 'Operatives' and asked to move on or he would be prosecuted and/or fined under litter laws. He gave out the leaflets and refused to be bullied. The gardai were called but did not prosecute nor did they take his name as he wasn't doing anything illegal.

Once again Dublin County Council is refusing to understand and admit the democratic right to free speech or to advertise protest and overstepping bureaucratic bounds by isolating individual activists and threatening them with the 'Law'.

Republican Sinn Féin members are constantly harassed when leafleting and RSF posters advertising events are constantly removed by these same officials, although it is legal to erect posters advertising an event, provided they are removed within seven days after the event takes place.

Partition still cause of conflict

ON March 11 the annual Parle, Hogan and Creane commemoration was held in the Garden of Remembrance at the Old Jail in Wexford town.

With a colour party standing guard of honour, Jimmy Kavanagh chaired the event and welcomed the people of Wexford and Republicans from Enniscorthy, Limerick and Kildare who had gathered there.

He began by asking Paddy Hogan to lay a wreath on behalf of the families and then Tom Malone laid a wreath on behalf of the Wexford Republican Graves Association, Seamus Mac Suain on behalf of the Republican Movement and Jim Kavanagh on behalf of the Rafter/Mellows Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Enniscorthy. The Cathaoirleach then asked Margaret Kavanagh to lay a wreath at the hunger strikers' monument.

Richie Birley read the Wexford Roll of Honour. A minute's silence was observed, with Zappa Murphy dipping the Tricolour on the flagpole along with the flag-bearer of the colour party.

He then called on Des Long, Cathaoirleach of Comhairle na Mumhan, Republican Sinn Féin, to give the oration.

Des Long said that the right of the Irish people to national self-determination will never be extinguished as long as Republicans continue to point out that partition continues to exist

and British troops still occupy part of Ireland.

He went on to say that in the Six-County elections RSF candidates stood up against the Provisionals on an abstentionist basis and attracted considerable support highlighting that fact that there are Republicans who refuse to accept the Stormont Agreement.

Condemning the Adams leadership, he said the Movement was subverted, splits were engineered, Leinster House was recognised and weapons obtained for the freedom of Ireland were decommissioned, and finally the British police in the Six Counties were approved, endorsed and supported by the Provos.

"We reject the Stormont Agreement because it will not bring about a new and united Ireland. It is a fudged agreement that promises two opposing outcomes. It cannot please either Nationalists or Unionists- it is a stand off and that is the simple truth. Yet the real reason for conflict remains and that is the British presence in Ireland. Partition is still in place.

"We here today know that truth and we will not be silenced — we are saying that partition still exists and it has been the cause of conflict for generations. Allow me



• The Colour Party at the Old Jail in Wexford at the Parle, Hogan, Creane commemoration on March 11.

to borrow some well-known words when I say: 'The British haven't gone away you know!' Let me add to it: 'Partition hasn't ended you know!'

"Therefore the root cause of conflict still exists- and partition is

enforced by the British military and police presence in the Six Counties and in the wider society by the supine media who continue to actively promote the normalisation of British rule in Ireland. We will continue to

oppose it."

Jimmy Kavanagh closed the proceedings by saying a message of support had also been received from the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise jail.

Media blackout gives expected results

IN the six constituencies which Republican Sinn Féin contested on an abstentionist basis, despite a media blackout and harassment by British forces, the candidates received the following results: West Belfast Geraldine Taylor received 427 votes; East Derry: Micky McGonigle, 393 votes; Mid-Ulster: Brendan McLoughlin, 437 votes; Upper Bann: Barry Toman, 386 votes; Fermanagh/South Tyrone: Michael McManus, 431; West Tyrone: Joe O'Neill, 448.

Reacting to the results Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President, Republican Sinn Féin, said on March 9 that given the almost total media blackout of Republican Sinn Féin during the Stormont election the results for its candidates were only as expected.

He said: "Even the name of

Republican Sinn Féin was suppressed by the Stormont regime's electoral body and a compliant media followed suit. Our candidates were styled 'Independents', taking away our coherent strategy and sense of direction.

"Although not registered as a



'party' at Leinster House for 40 years, the media in the 26 Counties do not class Republican Sinn Féin candidates as 'Independents', but treat them as an organised body.

"Indeed, on the TG4 television

programme *Seacht Lá* on polling day, a commentator [Joe Tiernan] stated that there was a complete block on publicity for Republican Sinn Féin and that there appeared to have been an agreement between the various channels to this effect.

"The result was, that denied publicity and even their organisation's name, our six candidates were consigned to a welter of Independent candidates, without the distinction of the Republican Sinn Féin title and direction. Of course the harassment by the RUC/PSNI of our election workers continued during the campaign.

"As to the general results, the DUP is moving towards a

monolithic Unionist Party such as existed up to the 1960s. With its increased vote it will impose even more humiliating terms on the Provisionals.

"The Provos, for their part, will go on to consolidate English rule here, to lead away from Irish national independence and secure lucrative positions of power for their leadership within the system.

"For Republican Sinn Féin the task must be to build support, to expose the direction of the Provisional leadership and the misuse of the unionist population by their leaders and by unscrupulous English governments."

Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement

ON this the 91st anniversary of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic, the Leadership of the Republican Movement sends greetings to members, supporters and friends throughout the world. We send a special greeting to our imprisoned comrades in Portlaoise and Maghaberry, Co Antrim and applaud the continual prison protest in Maghaberry which has been ongoing since last June. On this note we would like to extend our appreciation to the Republican Prisoners Action Group who have organised and promoted the outside activity in support of the protesting prisoners. We would like to thank all groups and all people who supported these protests.

Over the course of this Easter weekend comrades and supporters of the Republican Movement will assemble at gravesides, memorials and monuments to fallen comrades from many generations who have given their lives for the cause of Irish National Liberation. This year

many of us will assemble with a heavy heart following the further betrayal of the All-Ireland Republic by former comrades who have taken yet another step in treachery with their recognition of the RUC/PSNI, and their further acceptance and administering of British Rule in the occupied six northern counties. True Republicans will have watched with horror the antics and political posturing of the Provisional Leadership over the last twelve months in their attempts to placate militant Paisleyism and their eagerness to hold a special Ard-Fheis to rush through a motion to support the armed wing of the British Oppressor. The true Republican Leadership will never compromise and will never accept British Rule in any part of our Country.

In recent weeks we have seen yet another election to a British controlled assembly in the occupied part of our country. We note the involvement of Republican Sinn Féin who fielded abstentionist

candidates and we applaud all of those candidates, their agents and supporters who fought a superb political campaign against very difficult odds. We also congratulate all candidates who contested these elections on an abstentionist basis. Supporters should remember that the struggle for Irish National Liberation has never been measured by the number of votes which our movement have been afforded but by the commitment of the small numbers who have remained steadfast and loyal to the Irish Republic.

Our history has shown that the men and women of 1916 who proclaimed the Irish Republic were besmirched and indeed spat upon following the historic Proclamation. We should remember that political change can often take place very quickly and dramatically as was seen by the Election results just two years later in 1918.

Over the past twelve months our members and supporters were subjected to continued harassment,

arrests and false imprisonment on both sides of border. This is something that we have come to accept, and is a clear indication to everyone that nothing has changed, regardless of what many might think. True Republicans have always experienced such treatment but let our message be clear: we will not be intimidated or derailed from our continued resistance to British Occupation. We urge our members to be ever vigilant.

THERE have been further overtures to our Leadership from a number of British agents in various guises, including the Provisionals, to advance what they think will put into place the final piece of their sordid jigsaw for British Rule in Ireland. We say to all such on-comers that the Republican movement will not yield to any such agents. We are not for sale and we cannot be bought. This message should be understood by all our members, supporters and friends. There have also been continual attempts to besmirch the

Republican Movement by associating them with drugs, criminality and to recent murders in Belfast. The Leadership of the Continuity Irish Republican Army has already categorically denied involvement in any of this activity and reiterates it once more in this statement.

Due to the treachery of others our struggle faces greater obstacles than before, but this leadership is aware that there has always been a significant body of opinion in Ireland opposed to British Rule. The task of the Republican movement in the immediate future is to organise, harness and lead that support in opposition to foreign rule and British Imperialism. For this purpose we re-dedicate ourselves this Easter day.

An Phoblacht Abú!

— Issued by the
Leadership of the
Republican Movement,
Easter 2007.

1916 Easter Commemorations 2007

ANTRIM

Belfast, Easter Sunday, Republican Plot, Milltown Cemetery, 12 noon.

ARMAGH

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

Armagh city, Easter Sunday, Sandyhill Cemetery, 3pm.
Lurgan, Easter Saturday, commemoration at Republican Plot, St Colman's Cemetery, 3pm.

CLARE

Easter Monday commemoration, Drumcliff Cemetery, Ennis, 3.30pm. Wreath-laying ceremony at bridge in Killaloe.

CORK

Assemble at Wilton Roundabout, 2pm Easter Sunday. Parade to Republican Plot, St Finbarr's Cemetery.

DERRY

Cúchulainn Memorial, City Cemetery, Derry City, Easter Sunday, assemble at 12 noon.

Wreath-laying ceremonies at the following on Easter Sunday morning: The Loup Cemetery, 9am at the grave of Brigadier Seán Larkin; and the grave of Tommy Toner in Dungiven, 10.15am at the graves of Vols Kealy, O'Carolan and Kilmartin and hunger striker Kevin Lynch.

DONEGAL

Holy Saturday, Doneyloup, Castlefin 7.30pm. Clady Bridge, 11.30am. Drumboe Easter Sunday, assemble Johnson's Corner, Stranorlar, 2.30pm.

DOWN

Easter Sunday, Newry, 10 am, St Mary's Cemetery.

DUBLIN

Easter Saturday, 3pm, wreath-laying ceremony in Balbriggan in the Main Street at the bridge.

Easter Sunday, commemoration in Deansgrange Cemetery. Assemble 1pm at cemetery gates. March to Republican Plot.

Easter Monday, Assemble Garden of Remembrance 1pm. March to GPO.

FERMANAGH

Easter Monday. Grave of Roslea Martyrs. 3pm.

GALWAY

Assemble at Cathedral for parade to Liam Mellows Memorial, Eyre Square, Galway city, Easter Sunday, 11am.

Republican Plot, Donaghpatrick, Headford, Easter Sunday, assemble Queally's Cross, Cahirlistrane, 3pm.

GLASGOW

Easter Sunday commemoration and function. Details from SAOIRSE sellers.

KERRY

Cahersiveen, Easter Sunday, assemble 2.30pm at the Monument, The Square.

Tralee, Easter Sunday, assemble at Denny Street at 2pm parade to Republican Plot, Rath Cemetery. Killarney, wreath-laying ceremony at Republican Monument.

Easter Monday, Republican Plot, Listowel, assemble at graveyard gates, 1pm.

KILDARE

Easter Sunday, 12 noon, Republican Plot, Grey Abbey, Kildare town. Wreaths will be laid throughout the county.

KILKENNY

Holy Saturday, Mooncoin, assemble Technical School, 5.45pm, march to Jo Foran's grave in Mooncoin Cemetery.

LAOIS/OFFALY

Easter Monday, Portarlinton, wreath-laying ceremony at the 1798 monument in the town square. Barrow House at the grave of Connor and Lacy. Wreath-laying at the grave of Walter Mitchell, Clara Cemetery, Easter Saturday, at 6pm.

LEITRIM

Easter Sunday, County Commemoration, Jamestown, at the grave of Vol Patrick Gill, 3pm.

LIMERICK

Easter Sunday, assemble Munster Fair Tavern, Mulgrave Street, 2.45pm, for parade to Republican Plot, Mount St Lawrence Cemetery.

LIVERPOOL

Easter Monday, 12 noon sharp, Fenian Monument, Ford Cemetery, Gosley Lane, Liverpool.

LONGFORD

Easter Sunday, commemoration Tubberpatrick Cemetery, Ballinamuck at grave of Gen George Blake (1798), parade forms up at 3pm.

LOUTH

Dundalk, Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremony Republican Plot, St Patrick's Cemetery.

MAYO

Kilkelly, Easter Monday, 12 noon, assemble at Church gate and parade to East Mayo Brigade Memorial on main Sligo-Galway Road.

MEATH

12 noon, Easter Monday, wreath-laying ceremony at Tom Allen Memorial, Longwood. Wreath-laying ceremonies will also be held at the Séamus Fox Memorial, Drumree, 1pm and at Ardbracken, Navan, 1.30pm. Summerhill, 1798 Monument, wreath-laying ceremony.

MONAGHAN

Easter Sunday, Commemoration, Urbleshanny Cemetery, Scotstown, at grave of Vol Seamus McElwaine 2pm.

NEW YORK

Easter Sunday, 9am at the grave of Joseph Stynes (Irish War Of Independence veteran), Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York. Organised by Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta (the National Irish Freedom Committee)

Easter Commemoration Mass and Breakfast sponsored by Sean Oglaigh Na h-Eireann/Friends of Irish Freedom, Kelly Ryan's Restaurant, 5790 Moshulu Avenue (in the Riverdale section of the Bronx), 10am. Tickets \$25.

ROSCOMMON

Ballinlough, Easter Sunday, 12 noon, parade to IRA Memorial. Elphin, parade to County Roscommon Memorial after 11.30 Mass.

County Commemoration, Kiltoom, at the grave of Comdt Toby Mannion, 3pm.

SLIGO

Sligo Town, Easter Sunday, assemble Sligo Cemetery gates 1pm and march to Republican Plot.

TYRONE

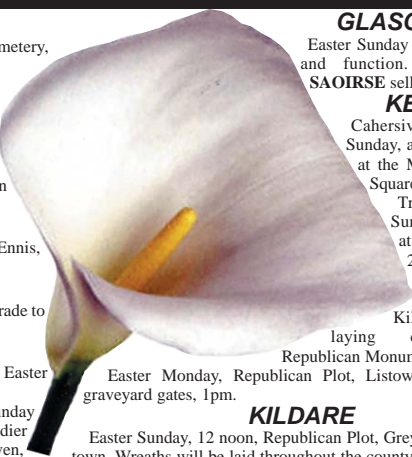
Easter Saturday, Edendork Cemetery, East Tyrone, 5.30pm at the graveside of Fian James Mc Caughey.

WESTMEATH

Easter Sunday, 12 noon, wreath-laying ceremony at Athlone Brigade Memorial. Wreaths will also be laid at memorials throughout the county. Main commemoration at 3pm, Kiltoom, at the grave of Comdt Toby Mannion, 3pm.

WEXFORD

Republican Plot, St Ibar's Cemetery, Crosstown, Easter Sunday, assemble at Crescent Quay, Wexford at 3pm. Wreath-laying ceremonies at the grave of Joe Whitty; and at the graves of Rafter and McCarthy in Morrinton Cemetery.



Collusion unit serving in Iraq

IT has been revealed that one of the British Army's most secretive covert units is operating alongside US forces in Baghdad.

Ironically, the revelation came only days after the US Congress called for an independent investigation into the killing of Pat Finucane, a sectarian murder in which the same unit was heavily implicated.

It was reported that the British army's Joint Support Group (JSG) is operating as part of a Baghdad-based counter-insurgency group known as Task Force Black, alongside the British army's SAS and the US army's Delta Force. Its intelligence is said to have contributed to operations against Sunni militias in southern Baghdad in recent weeks.

The JSG was previously known as the Force Research Unit. The change of name obviously reflects the notoriety that the agent-handling operation acquired in Ireland, where its agents were involved in numerous murders.

Perhaps the most significant of those agents was Brian Nelson, the UDA head of intelligence who was involved in planning the 1989 murder of Pat Finucane. The FRU attempted to protect Nelson by spiriting him away ahead of an arrest operation by the Stevens Inquiry, and perhaps also by burning down the Stevens Inquiry's offices.

Attempts to get at the full truth about Pat Finucane's murder have been stymied by the British Inquiry Act, legislation that effectively puts the promised inquiry under the control of British Government Ministers. The Finucane family has written to judges asking them not to take on the inquiry under these conditions, and so far the British Government has been unable to find a judge willing to do so.

Torture in Iraq similar to that used in Ireland in 1970s

IN 2003, an Iraqi hotel receptionist, Baha Musa, died after receiving 93 injuries during two days of beatings in British military custody in Basra. Now one is to be charged with the death.

This week a British military court marshal cleared two soldiers of charges in connection with the murder. The death was "investigated" by the British military and tried, inhouse, in a military tribunal. During the proceedings it emerged that many of the same torture practices employed at interrogation centres in Ireland in the early seventies had again been used by the British army in Iraq.

The most senior British army officer at the time of the Iraq invasion was General Mike Jackson who infamously claimed not to have seen any of his own men murdering civilians while he advanced up Rossville St on Bloody Sunday.

He was also based at Palace Barracks while prisoners were tortured there following internment. In 1971 he saw and heard nothing untoward. In 2003 officers under his command saw and heard nothing untoward. And Baha Musa is dead, beaten to death by soldiers.

WORLD NEWS

On March 14, 2007, Aljazeera News reported that two British soldiers have been cleared over the death of an Iraqi prisoner at the end of a six-month trial, the third costly prosecution in a row to collapse.

Major Michael Peebles and Mark Davies, an officer, were cleared of neglecting their duties three weeks after the judge ordered charges to be dropped against five of them. During the court martial, surviving victims flown in from Iraq described two days of near-constant abuse while prisoners of the British unit in 2003.

But they were unable to identify the soldiers who attacked them, because they were hooded during the beatings.

The only conviction secured in the longest British court martial in memory was against one of the five who had charges against them dropped. Corporal Donald Payne had admitted from the beginning to abusing prisoners.

But manslaughter charges against him were among those dropped.

The trial at Bulford in Wiltshire was the last and biggest of three high-profile courts martial of British soldiers accused of killing Iraqi detainees.

The other cases collapsed with no convictions, infuriating human rights groups — which accuse the government of failing to bring soldiers to justice — as well as supporters of the military who say it has pursued weak cases.

The latest case also raised questions over whether senior British commanders approved severe treatment of prisoners which Britain considers illegal under the Geneva Conventions.

Among those cleared was Jorge Mendonca, the former commanding officer of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, who had been the highest-ranking British officer to face a court martial in modern times.

Judge Stuart McKinnon said on Monday that he had ordered Mendonca cleared because both prosecutors and the defence agreed that Mendonca's commanders had sanctioned the abuse, known as "conditioning".

Prisoners were kept in "stress positions" and hooded for long periods to "condition" them for interrogations, practices which Britain considers illegal.

"It is now effectively common ground that brigade did indeed sanction the use of hooding and stress positions," McKinnon said. "That obviously contributed to the favourable result for Colonel Mendonca."

The others who were cleared were Wayne Cowcroft, a Lance

Corporal and Private Darren Fallon, each charged with inhuman treatment, and Sergeant Kelvin Stacey, charged with assault.

Fourth anniversary of the Iraq war commemorated

ON the afternoon of March 19 Cosantóirí Síochána held a wreath-laying ceremony at Shannon Airport to mark the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Deirdre Clancy of the Pit-Stop Ploughshares laid the wreath at the site of the old Customs Post at the Airport. The group also laid flowers with the names of several of those who lost their lives in the illegal war in Iraq.

Deirdre Clancy spoke of the importance of keeping the focus at Shannon Airport. "We owe it to ourselves to stand up against the militarisation of Shannon Airport and future generations and to the past who stood up against imperialism in an Irish context. We owe it our fellow human beings to stand up stand up for their right not to be a slaughtered."

Over a hundred daffodils were laid on the roundabout. These were dedicated to the many thousands of Iraqis who have suffered greatly and died because of the cancer causing depleted uranium.

Since the Dublin government voted to join the "Coalition of the Willing" over a million US troops have passed through Shannon Airport. During the ceremony a member of Cosantóirí Síochána highlighted the fact that the US military were shipping missiles and other major armaments of war through the Airport. Conor Cregan criticised the Dublin government for accepting dubious assurances from the US President George W Bush.

Protester calls for Queen of England to apologise

ON March 28 Toyin Adebute interrupted a church service in Westminster Abbey, London, to mark the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. He demanded an apology from the Queen of England and the British prime minister.

Toyin Adebute, who is a member of the human rights group Ligali, jumped up from his seat in the congregation and ran to the front of the altar and said "You should be ashamed" and "this is an insult to us" to the English Queen. He called on members of the congregation to leave in protest: "We should not be here, this is an insult to us. I want all the Christians who are African to walk out."

He was escorted from the church by security guards and arrested. He continued: "The Queen has to say sorry. It was Elizabeth I. She commanded John Hawkins to take his ship. The monarch, the government and the church are all in there patting themselves on the back. This nation has never apologised, there was no mention of the African freedom fighters. This is just a memorial to William Wilberforce."

The British royal family's involvement can be traced back to 1564 when Elizabeth I provided the slave trader John Hawkins with an armed ship to repel any foreign resistance. She received a share of his profits.

Tommy Farrell

REPUBLICANS in Dundalk and indeed throughout Ireland were saddened to hear of the death in March of Veteran Republican Tommy Farrell, aged 95 years.

Tommy was a lifelong Republican. He was very active in the H-Block campaign of 1980/81. He was a fluent Irish speaker and he received a degree from UCD in economics.

His brother Seán was interned in the Curragh Concentration camp for Republican activities in the 1940s. Another brother Joe was a Fianna Fáil TD.

Throughout his life Tommy

remained faithful to the Republican cause and in 1986 when former comrades deserted he remained true. He did not believe there were short cuts to Irish freedom. He was a member of Republican Sinn Féin to his death.

He will be remembered by all who knew him. Sincere sympathy is extended to his family and friends. I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh sé.

Joe Stewart

JOE Stewart, Ardoyne, Belfast died on March 24, 2007 and was buried on March 27, in the City Cemetery following Mass in Holy Cross Church, Ardoyne.

Joe was a staunch Republican and family man who spent a period of internment in Long Kesh. After 1986 he continued his Republican work as a member

of Republican Sinn Féin right up until he could no longer sell SAOIRSE shortly before his death.

Joe left instructions with his daughter that he wanted

Republican Sinn Féin to bury him and his wishes were carried out.

Leo Martin gave the oration at the graveside. Geraldine Taylor and Leo Martin presented his wife Lily with the folded Tricolour.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Lily and his five sons and two daughters.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam cróga.

Micí O Baoighill

MICÍ O Baoighill (Micí Bhell) who died suddenly in March was known widely among Republican circles in the Rosses and Gweedore in Co Donegal.

A committed follower of Sinn Féin Poblachtach's policy of a British withdrawal to ensure ultimate freedom, he espoused basic Republican principles fervently and fearlessly on every occasion.

Coming from a strong Republican background, his four uncles Clann Mhic Grianna, na scríbhneoirí as Rann na Feirste were interned in Newbridge jail in the 1920s. Seosamh Mac Grianna and his brother, Hudy, were on hunger strike with many other Donegal men and they were on the Republican side in the Civil

War.

Bhí Micí bródúil as a gcuspóirí sin agus lean sé an traisiúin sin go bás. Bhí brat na hÉireann ar an chónair ón mharbhan in otharlann Contae Leitir Ceanainn (Márta 15) go teach Pobail, Anagaire, an áit ar cuireadh faoi fhód é lá cirna mhárnach.

Ba é a chomharsanach agus a fhear muinteartha Pádraig Ó Baoighill a thug an óráid ag béal na huaighe agus dúirt sé:

"Poblachtach láidir a bhí i Micí nár thréig riamh an Phoblacht a troideach ar a son i 1916. bhí sé bródúil as a chuid

uncail as a seasamh ar son Poblacht sin do shaoirse iomlán na 32 Contae, scartha glan ó shlabhraí na Breataine agus nocht sé an tuairimí. Sin go láidir agus go díongháilte go lá a bháis."

"Bhí scaife mór ah aistriú an choirp as leitr Ceanainn mar a raibh Seosamh Ó Néill. Comhairle Uladh, Sinn Féin Poblachtach agus Poblachtámaigh eile i láthair agus ag an Aifreann an lá ina dhiaidh sin. Ba é an sagart ó hoireachtaigh SP agus beirt shagart eile a dúirt Aifreann an maibh agus luagh sé mórán de threithe Mhicí.

Thug Gluaiseacht na Poblachtach comhbhrón lena dhearthaireacha, Éamon, Feilimí agus gaolta go léir.

Jimmy Duffy

THE death took place in mid-January of Jimmy Duffy, Kilkelly, Co Mayo. He was 78.

Dan Hoban, Newport, spoke at his graveside in the local cemetery. He said that Jimmy was a well-respected local man who tended the graves of Republicans in East

Mayo who made the supreme sacrifice for Irish Independence.

He was George Harrison's main contact in Mayo and the two were constantly in

contact. George has supplied arms and equipment to the Irish Republican Army in Ireland for 25 years, from 1956-1981.

Unfortunately, both had lived to see that great arsenal destroyed by the Provo leadership on the orders of the British Government. It was a sad and treacherous end to a life time's work.

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán and by Ger Foran, Mooncoin Cumann. Other Republicans present included Richard Behal, Killarney, Seán Ó Brádaigh, Baile Átha Cliath and Walter Dunphy, Mooncoin.

Sincere sympathy is expressed to Al's wife Peggy (nee Cuffe), sister Rosaleen, brother Raymond, sons and daughters.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam cróga.

Al Ryan

ALPHONSUS Ryan died on January 14, 2007. A man who gave many years service to the Republican Movement, he was 72 years.

Joining the Movement in the early 1950s he was engaged on active service in the Six Occupied Counties, was imprisoned in Mountjoy and interned without trial in the Curragh Concentration Camp.

Al, as he was popularly known,

was deeply involved in the protests, both political and physical. Against the visits by British Royalty to Co Laois in 1964. He returned to active service in the early 1970s.

Republican Sinn Féin was represented at the obsequies by

WHAT THEY SAID

The problem is that the DUP is not essentially a political party at all, but a political rump dedicated to maintaining the old Northern unionist status quo. And to make matters worse, the party is composed equally of a religious and a political following; a sort of an amalgam of Taliban and technocrat.

— Sunday Business Post, March 11, 2007, Tom McGurk column.

While Ian Paisley is around, this strange political hybrid can be contained, but after Paisley is gone, the situation may be very different. The crisis will emerge when the leadership question arises — a Paisley Junior vs Peter Robinson contest might well ignite the DUP's maverick constituents.

— Tom McGurk.

Also significant was that the percentage difference between the total unionist first preferences and the nationalist first preferences were at its closest ever at only 4 per cent.

— Tom McGurk.

The overall picture after these elections is that the unionist and the nationalist voting blocs are almost equal in size, with the unionist parties taking six of the ten ministries and four other ministries divided three for [Provisional] Sinn Féin and one for the SDLP.

— Tom McGurk.

Protests at the Bellinaboy site in Co Mayo, where Shell is building its gas terminal, may intensify when the company starts the next phase of its project next month.

This entails the removing of 450,000 tonnes of peat from the site to clear the way for construction. Heavy traffic movements accompanying the work are likely to attract more protesters to the site.

— Sunday Business Post, March 11, 2007.

Shell plans to start building its terminal this autumn and will apply for consent to modify its onshore pipeline towards the end of the year.

All signs are that the protest group Shell to Sea and other protesters will continue to fight them every step of the way.

— Sunday Business Post.

The chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, Desmond Rea, said that inquiries into alleged past actions of the RUC were placing an unsustainable burden on the PSNI.

"I think there's a case for a commission to seek to understand our past that will

relate to the victims and will come forward with options or how we deal with it," he said.

— Irish Times, March 15, 2007, Stephen Collins in New York and Denis Staunton in Washington.

Speaking at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on Wednesday, [Bertie] Ahern made a glowing reference to Tony Blair, saying he had done more for Ireland than any other British prime minister, including Gladstone.

— Irish Times, March 17, 2007, "Inside Politics" by Stephen Collins.

This is not a sentiment universally shared among nationalists or unionists. Some would suggest a more appropriate comparison would be with Lloyd George, who brokered the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 by telling lies to both sides and who left office in a scandal about the sale of peerages.

— Stephen Collins.

It all [a deal on March 26th] may come down to whether Mr Blair's secret deals with both sides unravel under pressure.

— Stephen Collins.

However, from the voting pattern of Green supporters [in the Stormont election] who did vote down the ticket it is clear that two-thirds of these voters came from the minority nationalist community — and barely five per cent of their preferences were exercised in favour of DUP candidates.

— Irish Times, March 17, 2007, Garret Fitzgerald's Saturday column.

Two-thirds of Alliance voters passed their next preferences to unionist rather than to nationalist candidates, confirming what has been believed to be the ethnic balance of Alliance support.

— Garret Fitzgerald.

However, in the two cases in which Green Party candidates were still in the running, one-third of Alliance preferences went to them.

— Garret Fitzgerald.

Má thairgeann Rialtas na Breataine ciste sách mór chun gurbh fhéidir táillí uisce a chur ar an mhéar fhada, dlús a chur le feachtas fiontair don earnáil phríobháideach agus chun an bonneagar a fheabhsú beidh sé ri-dheacair ag Ian Paisley an t-eiteachas a thabhairt do chumhacht.

Ahair gur breabhadh, mealladh agus bagairt é; is cuma.

— Foinse, Máirtín 18, 2007, colún le Póilín Ní Chiaráin.

Léirigh sraith altanna sa nuachtán, an *Guardian* an tseachtain seo gur chreid idir gháirde agus lucht a cháinte gur "cheannaigh" Blair aontachtaithe agus poblachtánaíthe (sic) go minic chun an próiseas a choinneáil sa tsíol.

— Foinse, Póilín Ní Chiaráin.

Is le leasuithe ar



• Stormont Castle, the seat of British rule in Ireland.

fhóráilacha Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, le geallúint faoi pharaimileataigh ar a dteitheadh, le postanna, le hardghradam nó seifteanna eile a rinne sé [Blair] é go dtí seo.

— Póilín Ní Chiaráin.

B'fhéidir nár éirigh leo a chinntiú go fóill go mbeadh rialtas logánta sa Tuaisceart a bheidh seasmhach, daingean ach ní beag an dul chun cinn a rinne said [Blair agus Ahern].

Muna bhfuil de dhíth anois ach airgead, bheadh sé amaideach, dí-chéillí an seans a chur amú.

— Póilín Ní Chiaráin.

A national poll found that seven out of 10 Irish people want the proposed M3 moved away from Tara. But these seven out of ten people are ignored.

— Sunday Tribune, March 18, 2007, letter to editor from Mark McMullan, Booterstown, Co Dublin.

Successive Irish governments did not do enough to investigate the 1974 Dublin/Monaghan bombings which killed 33 people, the government-commissioned report by Patrick McEntee, SC is expected to say when it is made public within the next fortnight.

— Sunday Business Post, March 18, 2007, article by Colm Heatley in Belfast.

Recent official investigations into British government collusion with loyalists in a string of attacks in the south in the 1970s have concluded that the British state was involved in carrying out attacks in Ireland.

— Colm Heatley.

Advocates of a united Ireland should be prepared to consider radical new proposals such as a role for the British monarch;

allowing the national parliament to sit in Belfast; and electing members to a reformed British House of Lords, Fine Gael TD/MEP, Gay Mitchell, has argued. Mitchell made his comments earlier this month [March] in a previously unreported Dáil (sic) speech, "What Kind of Ireland?"

— Sunday Tribune, March 25, 2007, Shane Coleman, Political Correspondent.

In fact, impetus for European unity was and remains economic, the blather about peace in Europe masking that hard reality.

The essential idea was to create a single market in Europe. Everything else surrounding the project has been about — or tangential to — a single market with the free movement of good, labour and capital.

— Sunday Business Post, March 25, 2007, "Between the Lines" by Vincent Browne.

Within individual states, there are redistribution mechanisms, mainly through the tax system, but in Europe there are none. The European market-driven superstructure has weakened the redistribution mechanisms of member states (because of competitive pressures on taxation between states). So the EU has become an engine of inequality.

— Vincent Browne.

And there is another disquieting consequence. The EU has also become an engine of anti-democracy.

The [European] Commission has the sole power to initiate legislation (and this isn't a bad idea, for it stops the more powerful states ganging up on the others).

Until recently the Council of Ministers had the sole power to sanction such

legislation or not, and it operated in secret in so doing. It may be the only legislative body in the world, outside of China and possibly Burma, where a legislature operates in secret.

The council [now] has to share some of its legislative power with the European Parliament, but the fact remains that the council has most of the power and is accountable to no one.

— Vincent Browne.

The IRFU and the FAI will not need to borrow any money to pay for the €365 million redevelopment of Lansdowne Road, following a deal reached with the [Dublin] government.

Under the deal, the government's €191 million contribution towards the stadium's redevelopment will be used before the FAI and the IRFU are forced to spend any money.

— Sunday Business Post, March 25, 2007, report by Ian Kehoe.

The reaction to the financial package for the North announced on Thursday [March 22] by Gordon Brown, the British Chancellor, was at best indifferent and at worst dismissive among the business community.

The main points ... are as follows:

The Ulster Defence Association (UDA) will be given stg £1.2 million (€1.7 million) to "rehabilitate" itself. However, the UDA is still involved in crimes, including prostitution and drug dealing, and has refused to decommission.

— Sunday Business Post.

Northern Ireland is simply a world away in terms of economy from a region such as the south of England, and it needs to be treated instead as part of the island of

Ireland," said John Spangler (managing director of Seagate Technologies' Limavady branch).

— Sunday Business Post.

The suspected murder of Pakistan's cricket coach [Bob Woolmer] highlights the corruption that is rife in all professional sport.

— Sunday Business Post, Tom McGurk column.

Given its unique role and place — and most of all, the loyalty that sport commands in society — it provides a walkover for those who are congenitally and determinedly dishonest. In the first instance, its unique structures, inherited from its former amateur days, have rendered it vulnerable.

— Tom McGurk.

It seems that torrents of money daily flowing secretly down all the channels, have washed our sport and our dreams away.

— Tom McGurk.

Senior counsel Patrick McEntee's investigation into the 1974 [Dublin and Monaghan] bombings, which claimed the lives of 33 people, is expected to be critical of the Garda investigation into the atrocities.

— Sunday Tribune, March 25, 2007, article by Mick McCaffrey, Security Editor.

Dissident Republicans will be under heightened surveillance in the run-up to [Stormont] devolution May 8th.

— Irish Times, March 29, 2007, quoting statement by Bertie Ahern in Leinster House.

The financial package [to Stormont] included £35 billion (sterling) over four years from the UK (sic), and noted £400 million (sterling) would come from the [Dublin] government to improve infrastructure.

— Irish Times, again quoting from Bertie Ahern in Leinster House.

Madam - Lest the nation gets euphoric over the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, let it not be forgotten that the value of fish taken in that period by other EU members from what were once Irish waters is far greater than the value of all the benefits received by Ireland.

And now we are back at the stage of paying back for that "help" from Brussels. Yours, etc,

Arthur Reynolds, Blackrock, Co Dublin.

— Irish Times, March 29, 2007, letter to the editor. Is this the man who used to edit the magazine, *The Irish Skipper*?

It should be clear that what they (Sinn Féin and the DUP) are doing is implementing the policies which have been consistently pursued by the SDLP.

— John Hume, Irish News, March 27, 2007.

The Good Friday Agreement, again heavily negotiated by the SDLP, is identical to Sunningdale.

— John Hume.

Croke Park and Emmet's Epitaph

A chara

Shane Coleman (Sunday Tribune, March 4, 2007) quotes and then paraphrases Francis Fukuyama's phrase "the end of history" when, in referring to the Ireland/England rugby game in Croke Park he writes that possibly we are seeing "the end of history between Ireland and England". Not quite yet!

The small matter of 'unfinished business' remains. His misty-eyedness should not detract him from what is fact. Further in his article he ponders "I couldn't help thinking of Robert Emmet's line from the dock about his epitaph not having been written until Ireland had taken her place among the nations of the world". Then he goes on to say, "obviously, Ireland took its place among the nations of the world a long time ago..."

Eh? When did that happen? Like others who can be conveniently blinkered when they do not want to see, Shane Coleman seems to have forgotten that six of Ireland's north-eastern counties are still under British rule – a very long occupation.

Far from being symbolic in the way he means, the playing of *God Save the Queen* in Croke Park shows how ignorant the British Establishment is when it comes to the history between Ireland and England.

Furthermore, just because people refer to the 26 Counties as 'Ireland' does not make it *de facto*. When Ireland gains her full freedom, ie the 32 counties, she will return to being the Nation she once was. Then we can assuredly write Emmet's epitaph – but not till then.

CATHLEEN KNOWLES
McGUIRK
Dalkey, Co Dublin

Rud Is Measa

A chara

Bhí ócáid stairiúil ar an teleifiseán am tráthnóna inné díreach tar éis a cúig a chlog faoi 'Rugby Union' ag teacht amach ó Pháirc an Chrócaigh i mBaile Átha Cliath. Níl suim dá laghad agam in aon spórt, ach chuir mé mo theilifís ar siúl chun na foirne Sasanach agus Éireannach a fheiceáil sular thosaigh an spórt ceart.

Ach is rud is measa a chonaic mé sin an 'béal dúnta' ag cúpla ceann de na fir san fhoireann Éireannach nuair a bhí an tAmhrán Náisiúnta Amhrán na bhFiann ar siúl. Cén fáth?

Cén saghas oideachais a fuair na daoine sin? Bhí mise ar scoil ó míle naoi gcéad seasca ceathair go dtí seachtó a hocht in Éirinn. Ag a sé bliain d'aois, bhí mé in ann Amhrán na bhFiann a chanadh le mo

rang go léir. Níl suim dá laghad agam in aistriúchán as Béarla fós. Bhí mo Ghaeilge ceart go leor ansin. Cad a d'aithrigh ina diadidh sin mar gheall ar dhaoine atá i bhfad níos óige ná mise anois? Is deacair é a chreidiúint arís go mbíonn daoine tar éis dul ar scoil ar feadh trí déag nó ceithre déag bliain agus i rith an ama sin



• Republican Sinn Féin picket on Croke Park in protest at the England-Ireland rugby match on February 24 last.

agus ina dhiaidh sin níl siad in ann focal Gaeilge a labhairt chuig éinne!

Tar éis na hocht gcéad bliain (agus níos mó) a chaith rialtas na Sasana in Éirinn fós scríos siad ár gcultúr – an ceol, cúrsaí breithiúnaí, reiligiúin, teanga, cúrsaí tráchtála, béaloideas na hÉireann agus a lán rudaí eile. I rith an 'PR exercise' agus an 'Revisionism' a bhí ar siúl inné ba chóir do fhoireann na hÉireann go léir, ní go leor an tAmhrán Náisiúnta a chanadh go ceart as Gaeilge.

Bheadh sé fíor shuimiúil a fháil amach an raibh an lucht éisteachta ag seasamh suas nuair a bhí *God Save the Queen* ar siúl. Níor chuir an BBC aon cheamaráí ar na gnáth daoine i rith an cheoil sin, ach bhí siad ar an bhfoireann Sasanach. Is dóigh liom go raibh na fir sin go léir, ní go leor in ann na focail chearta a chanadh gan fadhb ar bith.

Cá bhfuil an Ghaeilge san Eoraip anois, go mórmhór sa Pháil (Pale) agus i dTeach Laighean?

MAIRE NÍ DHUIBHIR
Londain

No 'Joint Anthem'!

A chara

All the hype about how happy the Irish are to have the English anthem sung at Croke Park, the site of the English military auxiliaries' massacre of innocent Irish civilians on our first Bloody Sunday, has its true intent revealed in the Irish Times of March 1, 2007 (Letters to the Editor).

John Fleetwood Snr suggested that "Great Britain" and ourselves have a joint anthem sung to the tune of

God Save the Queen. Then the paper obligingly printed the words including the very offensive "we'll all enjoy common heritage"!

These are two different countries, one of which still occupies the other. The English team had to have an Irish teacher in to inform them why many Irish were upset that they were to sing their national anthem on the site of their government's unapologetic massacre of innocent Irishmen, children and a woman – all enjoying a game in Croke Park. There is no "common heritage" to "enjoy" as Mr. Fleetwood tries to suggest. Ireland and England still have unfinished business to take care of – the English occupation in the north of Ireland. We are on opposite sides of history. Let England take care of its own country – not ours.

There will never be an "our national anthem" unless this mindless hype continues to the point of total surrender. Attacks directed at the protesters of the rugby game to "Get over it" are part of a new game plan- occupation of the whole of Ireland. This cultural genocide is becoming more blatant.

Ireland wakeup! If you ignore history you are condemned to repeat it. First the attempt to control our country was made with tanks. Today it is made with "friendly" fire. The aim is the same - a "joint anthem". A joint country! Thank you, Mr. Fleetwood, for pointing this out to us.

MARY BERHAN
Co Wicklow

Always Unhelpful

A chara

Bertie Ahern has said the

'dissidents' are unhelpful.

Genuine Republicans would like to say to Bertie Ahern:

We will always be unhelpful to the British government in Ireland.

An Phoblacht Abú!

BRENDAN TOBIN
Enniscorthy, Co Wexford

Crucial Time in Fight for Irish Freedom

A chara

I would like to offer my appreciation and support to all the true Republicans who worked and voted for the RSF candidates in the recent farcical and stage-managed elections in the Six Occupied Counties.

We knew full well that the Provos and their cohorts in the media, the Free State and British governments would do all they could to stop our message getting across. By the same token we know that the Irish people can see through the treachery and duplicity being perpetrated by Sinn Fianna Fáil!

This is now a crucial time in our fight for Irish independence, so long denied us by our enemies and in recent years by former Republicans. Doing nothing is not an option! Waiting and seeing is what Adams and McGuinness hope we will do until we no longer see the obvious! These people are hell-bent in bringing to an end our right to an independent Ireland, free of foreign rule and foreign law.

This is your fight, my fight, our fight!

Tiocfaidh ár lá!

NON SELL-OUT

REPUBLICAN
Co Derry

Their Master's Voice!

A chara

Flushed with success in the assembly election the British-

number of death row convictions in the state. Many of these convictions were later overturned as blatant anti-Black bias was found in many of his decisions. However the Mumia case was not overturned, the reopening of the case would have discredited the entire justice system.

The evening's events will include talks by a delegation of top-level African American activists. They are in Galway as part of a world tour aimed at raising awareness about the miscarriages of justice, which have placed political prisoners on death row in the USA.

Speakers for the evening will include: Fred Hampton Junior, son of the legendary Black Panther chairman; Noelle Hanrahan, award-winning investigative journalist and director of Prison Radio; Move (Family Africa members), an African campaigner against the death penalty and leader of the struggle to get justice for Jamal; Carlos, Africa, jailed for fourteen years as a political prisoner due to his membership of the Move organisation; JR Valrey, Minister of Information of the Prisoners of Conscience Committee (POCC) and writer with the San Francisco Bay View newspaper, followed by an exclusive opportunity to preview the new documentary 'In Prison My Whole Life'.

This is the world premier of a new documentary that looks at the life of imprisoned political activist and former Black Panther member, Mumia Abu-Jamal. This documentary features Abu Jamal himself, Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky and Alice Walker. The film director Livia Guiggoili Firth, will be present at the Galway event. Amnesty international Ireland has recently launched a campaign to outlaw the death penalty and Galway's own literary festival Cuairt is also to focus on the death penalty this April.

The group will be available for interview.

For further details call Mick McGilligan at 087-6124011

Galway, April 10, O'Flaherty Theatre, NUI Galway. Admission free; April 11, Dublin; April 12, Belfast; April 13, Rosport. www.mumia.org.

JOAN O'NEILL
Galway

The Free Mumia Tour

A chara

Mumia Abu Jamal is an award-winning journalist who was charged on July 4th 1982 with the killing of a white police officer. He was convicted of the crime in a deeply-flawed trial. The presiding judge held the record

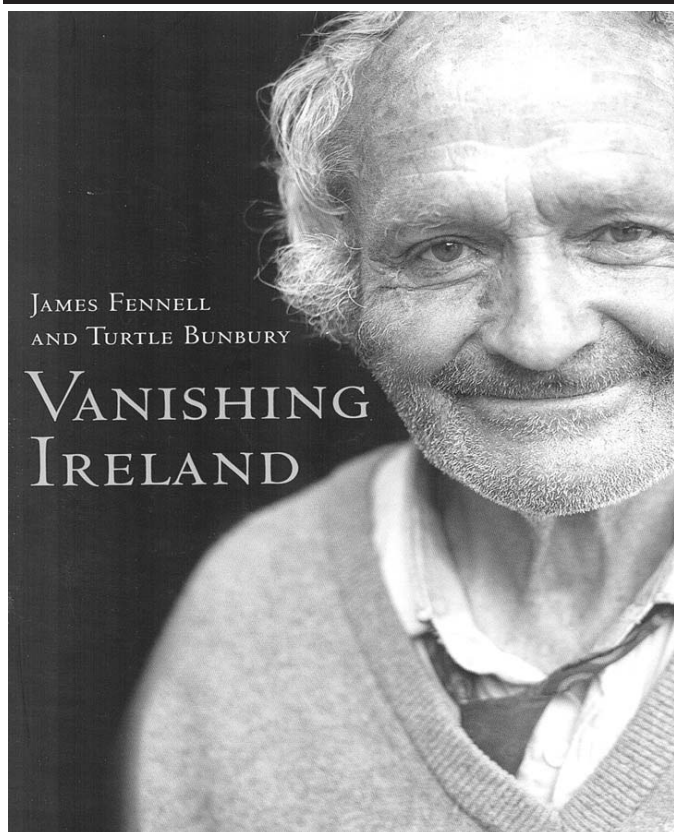
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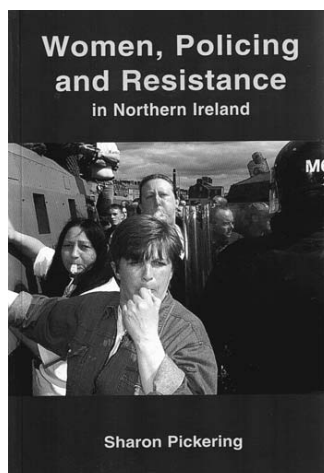
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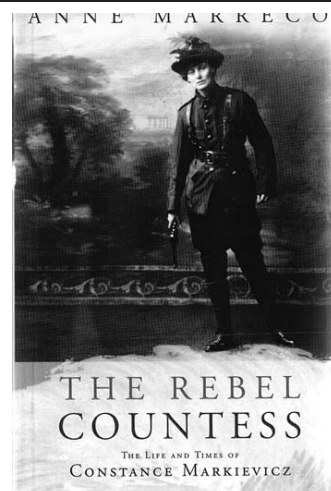
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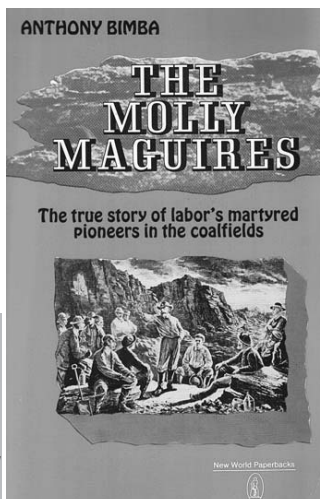
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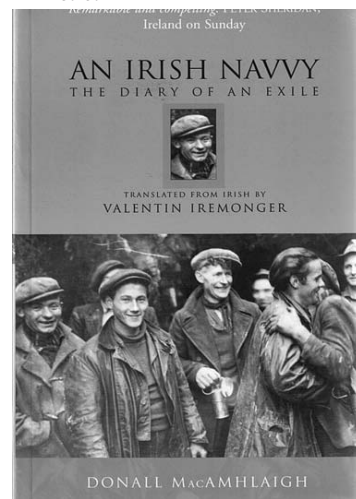
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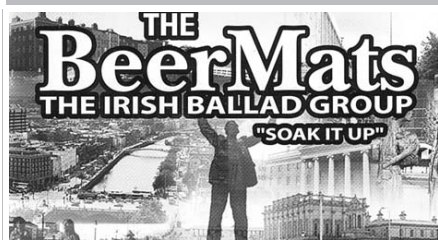
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Larger timber plaque 'Who fears to speak of Easter Week' €40

Other items include a selection of T-shirts €12; plaques of Pádraig Pearse and James Connolly €50

RSF hat €10

Other RSF merchandise: polo shirts €20; fleece jackets €35



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DEATHS OF SCEILG, ERNIE O'MALLEY

**50
Years
Ago**

E A S T E R
Sunday 1957 was
on April 21. With
continuing
operations in the
Resistance
Campaign to
British rule and
the election of
four deputies in
the 26 Counties,
the commem-

oration ceremonies everywhere were usually enthusiastic.

Easter Lilies were in evidence on all sides. Even the warders admitting visitors to the Republican prisoners in Mountjoy, Dublin, were wearing Easter Lilies while on duty at the prison gates.

A "packed" Sinn Féin rally was held in College Green, Dublin on Saturday night, the eve of Easter. Speakers were Tomás Ó Dúill, Vice President; Pádraig Ó Cuanacháin, Corcaigh; Seoirse Dearnle, Ard Chomhairle; and Seán Cronin, recently released from Mountjoy. Seán Ó Súilleabháin, presided.

The people were thanked for their support in the election. Tomás Ó Dúill, warned that the Irish people could not stand for coercion. Seán Cronin said the struggle in the north was directed against British Occupation and not against any section of the Irish people.

Next day John Joe Rice TD spoke at the 1916 Plot in Glasnevin Cemetery. The radio and press were continually drumming Imperialism into the ears of the younger generation he said.

"It was amazing that any nationality was left in the country at all so strong was the assault. The minds of the people were being moulded by the daily press masquerading as national newspapers."

The Belfast parade formed up inside the gates of Milntown Cemetery and headed by the tricolour marched to the Republican Plot.

An RUC stenographer took notes as Jimmy Steele gave the oration: "We are meeting under the shadow of the internment camp, the penal cell made possible under the infamous Special Powers Act.

"While there has been no attempt to stop us meeting, the eyes of our enemy are focused here today picking out future men and boys for future interrogation and probably internment."

An *t-Éireannach Aontaithe* *The United Irishman* reported: "Other plain clothes detectives were on duty in the cemetery while outside the gates a police car, crammed with armed men, waited. Extra police were on duty in the police stations."

In Newry more than 5,000 people took part. The Tricolour was carried, in defiance of the Stormont Home Affairs Minister, through Newry streets and on to St Mary's Cemetery. Dan Sheridan, Newry delivered the oration.

Four buglers sounded the Last Post and four bands participated. Later the flag-bearer, Robert Savage (63), John Martin Gardens, Newry was arrested and taken to Belfast prison.

At Foxhall, Co Longford, over 1,000 people attended and heard JJ McGill TD speak: "Today a wall of silence is erected around the Republican Movement. The people read or hear only what the politicians wish them to read or hear."

"You have elected a deputy who will sit in an All-Ireland Parliament only, and when that Parliament is set up, patrols, the Border and British Occupation will disappear for ever. God speed the day!"

Three bands and more than 1,000 marchers moved from Selton Hill to Fenagh cemetery, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim. Seán Cronin, Dublin spoke: "In this generation we must end British Imperial rule, achieve national independence and build a free nation with the ownership of Ireland in the hands of the Irish people."

In the exercise yard of D-Wing in Mountjoy Jail, the Republican prisoners lined up in military formation facing the execution chamber where eleven Republican soldiers from Kevin Barry (1920) to Charlie Kerins (1944) were hanged.

They heard Black-and-Tan veteran, Dan Gleeson of Nenagh, Tipperary, speak of building a New Ireland which would be a "shining example to the whole world."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a six-man colour-party marched to the graves of the 'Forgotten Ten' inside the boundary wall of the prison. There suitable honours were rendered.

From Manchester to Sidney, Australia, from New York to San Francisco and in 40 centres in Ireland itself, the Easter Message from the Irish Resistance Movement in Occupied Ireland was read.

It was distributed on their behalf by the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau and was essentially a



• Ernie O'Malley.

cry for help from the people north of the Border to Irish people in the 26 Counties and throughout the world.

It reads: "On this momentous Easter Sunday 1957, when Irish men and women meet to commemorate those who in every generation fought and died for Irish freedom, we the people of British-occupied Ireland call for assistance in our present day struggle for independence.

"Our fight is your fight and is a continuation of the same resistance to British rule for which our martyrs died.

"We base our claim for the support of the Irish people throughout the world on the Proclamation of 1916. This is our Declaration of Independence and Charter of Liberty.

"It sums up the hopes and aspirations of those who throughout our tortured history disputed and resisted Britain's claim to jurisdiction over Ireland. Nothing less can claim our allegiance and we will accept nothing less.

"We take the words of that Proclamation 'We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies to be sovereign and indefeasible' for what they are: the assertion of Ireland's right to freedom.

"And Ireland is not free today as we in the Six Counties well know. The British flag flies over us. We are subject to British law and Britain's will is enforced by an Army of Occupation.

"More than 40 years have passed since in 1916 this British rule in Ireland was challenged. In the heart of historic Ulster we of this generation have renewed that self same challenge and have joined issue with the common enemy.

"We believe that those of Irish blood everywhere will support our struggle because it is their struggle too. The independence of our country is the responsibility of all our people. It should take precedence over all other interests. It must if we are to succeed.

"It is bitter indeed to discover that while we face our oppressor here against such terrible odds there are Irishmen who, for the sake of power and influence, are prepared to abandon us – even try to prevent help reaching us, Irishmen who have descended so low as to side with our enemy in misrepresenting before the world the objectives of our revolt.

"But despite their efforts the support of the 26-County population has indeed been heartening. We are uplifted and encouraged in our fight when we see the return to the old allegiance and how brightly the torch of freedom glows.

"The magnificent success of Sinn Féin candidates in the recent election gives us new strength after being abandoned for so long. We know that the hearts of Ireland's people are still with those who are ready to do and die for Irish freedom.

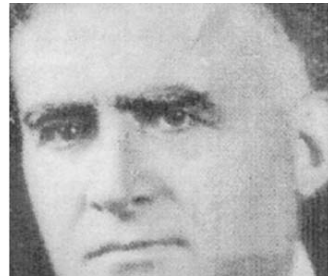
"In making this appeal for your support, it is but fair to warn of individuals or groups who, for their own ulterior motives, will pretend to connections and associations with our struggle.

"Assistance can most effectively be given us through the traditional Republican Movement which alone has supported and encouraged us through the years and whose constituent branches have preserved their continuity since 1916.

"Convinced of the justice of our cause and renewing here now our pledge to keep faith with our patriot dead, we call with confidence on our kin throughout the world to stand shoulder to shoulder with us in defence of our right to liberty."

This *tour-de-force* and heartfelt statement was penned in Mountjoy by Tony Magan a matter of days before his release on completion of sentence in April 1957. It was adopted by the leadership outside as the Easter Statement to be read at all commemorations under the auspices of the Republican Movement.

A photograph in the Republican organ for May '57 shows a huge crowd at an election meeting for Sinn



• 'Sceilg' -- JJ O'Kelly

Féin in Dublin in March. The caption notes that "support for Sinn Féin policy is growing by leaps and bounds in the Ireland of 1957.

"Since the 26-County General Election in March this support has increased out of all proportion to the votes cast for Sinn Féin candidates at that time. Our people are facing up to the challenges of today by rallying to the banner of Republican Ireland."

The editorial in the same paper headed "Who Fears to Speak.....", noted that "Police, Specials and British Army units 'stood to' throughout occupied Ireland as the people commemorated the 41st anniversary of 1916. Armed police lined the routes (of commemoration parades) and moved through Nationalist areas but everywhere the people showed new spirit and Tricolours were flying from one end of the occupied area to the other.

"The mass of the people paid their respects to Ireland's heroic dead not at these officially organised functions but at lonely Republican Plots throughout the land".

The *Belfast Telegraph* of April 20 in a special report: "Young (British) soldiers, sailors and airmen stationed in Northern Ireland, who would normally have been spending their Easter leave at home in Great Britain, will be on duty over the holidays.

"Security precautions have been stepped up and the Services, in common with the RUC, will be on special alert..... members of the Ulster Special Constabulary have been mobilised". The spirit of 1916 was truly abroad in the Six Counties that Easter of 1957.

The Republican organ in April reported on prisoners: 112 men in Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast; 7 men jailed in England and 55 in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin.

The following month it noted that Hugh Brady of Lurgan, Joe Campbell of Newry and Leo McCormack of Dublin, having completed their penal servitude terms, were not released from Belfast Jail but were interned.

"In the case of Leo McCormack (who as a Dubliner is considered a "foreigner" by Brookeborough) he was actually taken to the reception centre preparatory to release and then handed a document of allegiance (to the British Crown) to sign – when within sight of freedom.

Meanwhile, the anti-colonial struggle continued elsewhere. In Algeria the ALN (Army of the FLN – Front de Libération Nationale) in its fight against French Occupation Forces killed 25 French soldiers.

The *Irish Press* of March 29 reported that church bells rang in Cyprus and there was public singing as Cypriots celebrated the release of Archbishop Makarios and three other churchmen from internment without trial on the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean.

The *Irish Independent* of March 30 quoted Makarios as saying "he was not prepared to negotiate about the future of Cyprus unless he was allowed to return there". Mr. Lennox Boyd, the British Colonial Secretary had told the House of Commons the Archbishop would not be allowed to go to his native land.

The celebrations in Cyprus continued for 24 hours; "boisterous rejoicing" the *Irish Independent* called it. Then dusk-to-dawn curfew was again imposed. An official (British) proclamation said "the emergency regulations would be strictly enforced".

It was rumoured in Ireland that the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commission had intervened in the matter of Makarios and the three other churchmen being interned. Seán Mac Bride SC was said to be involved.

The *Sunday Press* of March 31 reported "The British Government stood shaken yesterday over the resignation of Lord Salisbury from the Cabinet in disagreement over the release of Archbishop Makarios – a severe blow to the fading prestige of the Conservative Party".

The last week in March also saw the deaths of two famous Irish Republicans, JJ O'Kelly (Seán Ó Ceallaigh) whose pen name was "Sceilg" (1872-

1957) and Ernie O'Malley (Earnán Ó Máille) 1898-1957.

Born in Valentia Island, Co. Kerry, Sceilg was a founder member of Conradh na Gaeilge in 1893 and was one of the foremost pioneers of the language revival. At various times he was secretary, treasurer and vice-president of Conradh. In 1919 he became President.

He was a writer and contributed to many publications in both Irish and English. As editor of *The Catholic Bulletin* in the year following the 1916 Rising he managed to evade English censorship because it was a religious magazine.

He was elected Sinn Féin TD for Louth in 1918 and became Leas-Chéann Comhairle and Minister for Irish in the First (All-Ireland) Dáil. He became Minister for Education in the Second Dáil (1921-22).

Sceilg resolutely opposed the Treaty of Surrender, toured the United States twice in 1922, first with Austin Stack and later with Fr. Michael O'Flanagan. He was known there as "the silver tongued orator of Madison Square Gardens. Sceilg and Father O'Flanagan went on to tour Australia, both were arrested, served sentences in jail and were deported to Europe on completion of their term.

Sceilg succeeded De Valera as President of Sinn Féin, serving from 1926 to 1931. He became Ceann Comhairle of the remaining Deputies of the Second Dáil and presided at its last meeting in 1938 when it delegated its executive powers of government to the Army Council of Óglagh na hÉireann.

The *Irish Independent* of March 27 traced his career in detail under the heading "Prominent Pioneer of Language Revival". The *Irish Press* covered the obsequies under "Great Funeral Tribute to Mr. JJ O'Kelly" in its March 29 edition.

The list of prominent people attending the funeral ran to 14 paragraphs. Of course those he sternly opposed, Eamon de Valera and Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh were there, as well as representatives of many aspects of Irish life: Irish language organisations, GAA, NACA, Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, INTO, educational life at all levels etc. etc.

The coffin was draped in the Tricolour, the pall bearers wore black berets and Seán Óg Ó Tuama, former President of Conradh and ex interné gave the oration in Irish.

"Throid sé go fiocmhár go minic agus labhair sé agus scríobh sé le fuinneamh. Bronnadh onóracha air i gcéin is i gcomhghar agus gach onór tuille go maith aige.

Sceilg's writings were voluminous and included a substantial life of Cathal Brugha. His last attendance at an Ard Fheis of Sinn Féin was in 1950 when he was confined to a wheelchair. His legacy is one of remarkable courage, persistence and the written word – plus an inspiring life of service.

Sinn Féin representatives at his funeral included: Pádraig Mac Lógáin, Uachtarán, Máiréad Uí Bhuchalla agus Tomás Ó Dúill, Leas-Uachtarán; Míchéal Tréinfhír, Rúnaí and Seoirse Dearnle, Cisteoir.

Ernie O'Malley died on March 25, 1957. Outstanding as an IRA commander and as a writer, he was wounded in 1918 at Ballymoe on the Roscommon-Galway border and in a barrack attack at Rear Cross, Co. Tipperary in 1920. Captured in Kilkenny he endured severe torture by the British in Dublin Castle but would not reveal his identity.

He escaped and became GOC 2nd Southern Division. He was the first divisional commander to reject the Treaty of Surrender and repudiate the authority of the Provisional government of the Free State.

Later in 1922 he became Assistant Chief of Staff of the IRA with responsibility for Ulster and Leinster. In November of that year he was severely wounded, captured and imprisoned.

He was under sentence of death until his release in July 1924. In August 1923 he was elected Sinn Féin TD for North Dublin and was among those who undertook a 41-day hunger strike later that year.

He spoke in Limerick at Easter 1928 after which he went to the USA. There he drafted the early versions of his autobiographical "On Another Man's Wound" and "The Singing Flame". Having travelled throughout Ireland in the 1950s he published a series of articles in the *Sunday Press* on IRA operations in the Tan War. These were later collected into a book "Raids and Rallies" published in 1982.

He became an art collector and literary person, but his wounds bothered him greatly in later life and caused his demise at the early age of 59. A Republican soldier whose writings continue to inspire succeeding generations.

(More next month. Refs An *t-Éireannach Aontaithe* – *The United Irishman*, April and May 1957; *Irish Press*, March 29, *Irish Independent* March 27, 30 and *Sunday Press*, March 31.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON is filled with distrust at every level these days, even more distrust than normal. The two major parties distrust and most don't even like each other. Basically, you have two factions trying to control the country.

The American Republican Party (ARP) is the Party of Bush and they defend his actions even when they know the direction is the wrong one. Iraq and terrorism define the divisions of Washington, but there is a standoff with the Democratic Party opposition lacking the courage to act boldly.

The November election said the American people want change. Seventy percent of the people want the United States out of Iraq. The same people want the attack on the rights and liberties of Americans by Bush and the ARP to stop.

The American people were told lies about terrorism and who the terrorists are and the way to deal with the problem. The way the Bush Junta has preceded, innocent Americans are suspect if they speak out against Bush which is their constitutional right. Dissent is not the path to terrorism nor should it be interpreted as indirectly giving aid and comfort to terrorists.

Bush says the American people have to trust him to do what is necessary to combat terrorism and too many lived in the aura of fear created by the ARP so the people would not question the policies that would infringe their rights.

The bottom line is the war on terrorism has been a war on the rights of innocent American people who ask questions of policy being carried out in their name. How many plots have been discovered in the US? Next to none. The war on terror has been an excuse for the Bush administration to investigate and harass its domestic enemies.

Most of the world respected the United States under Bill Clinton because he tried to do the right thing. Good will continued when the US was attacked on 9/11/2001. Many countries had citizens killed in the World Trade Centre.

When the United States and its allies attacked Osama Bin Laden and his Taliban allies in Afghanistan, the

majority of the world's nations supported that effort. Iraq changed everything.

Iraq was unnecessary. It was a war George Bush wanted. He wanted to invade, conquer and control Iraq and get rid of Saddam Hussein and be called a warrior hero. He failed.

Where there was no terrorism in Iraq there is now a breeding ground for terrorism that will last for decades. Bush fomented terrorism and killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians.

He has lost Iraq and he has also lost Afghanistan which he could have won if he finished the job. He has also bankrupted the American economy. He is a failure and the American people spoke out in the 2006 election saying stop.

The onus is on the Democratic opposition which is in control of the House and Senate to attack Bush and hold him accountable for his actions in the war and especially his war against the American people.

The Federal law enforcement agencies like the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must be harnessed. Ironically the two agencies do not trust each other and they are out to show they are justified in their efforts to sort out domestic radicals.

DISSENTERS

Dissenters used to be the loyal opposition but now they are viewed as a part of the problem of the radical elements who do not accept US policy. The Democrats were elected to challenge the policies of Bush which has perceptually tried to make dissent and opinions giving support for Bush's enemies. Bush has not reigned in the abuse of the FBI and DHS, but is trying to expand it. Congress must act.

The DHS has created a new unit which will combat the threat posed by homegrown terrorists whether they are citizens or legal residents who conspire to plot attacks from inside the borders of the United States.

We are all aware that the FBI and other agencies are monitoring American radicals as well as foreign ones living within the borders of the



US. One thing to consider is the simple fact that there are already too many agencies spying on Americans and judging their ideas. They are counterproductive and work against one another. We need less not more.

What is a radical to Bush? It is anyone who does not agree with him and criticises him. He cannot go after officials, so the targets are ordinary Americans. Over the past five years of war, Americans intelligence and law enforcement has had very close partnership with their British counterparts.

M15 and MI6 and other British sources have been meeting continuously with Americans to share their experiences in the North of Ireland and how to monitor the civilian population who support dissenters.

THE Americans have been cooperating with the British for thirty plus years on Irish support groups in the US. The British suggested to the Americans that those who do not support the current peace process in the North are radicals who must be monitored.

The Brits tell the Americans that radicals cooperate with other radicals and the implication is that Irish radicals might someday be in contact with Muslim radicals in the United States. Assumptions are a way of life when you want to spy on Americans. Other left wing groups are also victims of this assumption.

The British told the Americans that they still monitor Republicans in Ireland regardless of the lull in violence because the situation could change at any time. People who do not tow the line must be suspect.

The way to get the United States away from the all-consuming victim mentality is to attack the government policies that in turn attack the rights of Americans.

There have been protests against the questionable practices involving invasion of privacy and the denial of the right to speech and assembly and the new Congress is listening. They are setting up hearings to make Bush accountable.

The FBI has been brought to task for the abuse of the use of NATIONAL SECURITY LETTERS (NSL) to obtain telephone records, medical records, financial records, library records and others of innocent Americans who merely express their views or are members of organisations with opinions of various US policies.

One area of particular concern involved the FBI seeking phone records of Americans calling abroad. This is suspect. The NSL were served on three phone companies for phone records for calls made to the Middle East, Britain, Ireland, Italy and Spain.

The procedure for emergency letters was not followed and not one phone call turned up suspect. The FBI requests contained false information and the matter is under investigation.

After pressure from Congress, FBI Director Mueller has said the practice would stop and admitted it was illegal but the FBI did not intentionally violate the law. This is a good time to contact the Congress about any abuse or harassment one might suspect has happened.

They are listening and they want to hold Bush accountable. The past decade the ARP has been in power and they refused to investigate the abuses of Bush for the past six years.

While the FBI is under attack, DHS has taken up the slack and has their new RADICAL GROUP UNIT ready to monitor domestic groups. Charles Allen, the units Chief said they will address all forms of extremist activity.

GATEWAYS

He says there are groups in the United States that serve as gateways for radicalisation. This is a new term and will allow him to develop his plan of attack.

Getaway radical groups are those who support policies that go against the US plan to spread democracy around the world. Bosnia, Iraq, Ireland, Afghanistan, were cited as areas of terrorism now turning to democracy.

Many organisations in the US are demonstrating against the Iraq War and they are all suspect. Many protestors have been jailed. The Radical Group Unit has called for religious, ethnic and social organisations to work with them in flushing out extremists. It is all the perception of fear that Bush uses to keep American support for their security and the willingness to sacrifice their liberties for some perceived safety net.

It has been six years since Washington has been alive at all and now Congress has a mission to investigate the abuse of civil liberties by Bush. Don't expect too much from the newly empowered Democrats, but they are listening to complaints from groups and individuals who have no chance to expose abuse for six years. It is time to attack.

Congress has protected Bush from investigation and rubber stamped all his illegal policy but now there is a way to vent anger. Polls in America show Bush below thirty percent favourable.

THIS means that members of Congress in his own party feel vulnerable since they supported him in his misadventures and want to distance themselves to save their own seats. It is a good time for those with issues to get attention by playing one party off another and in the process maybe see some results.

The worried ARP might react to an issue they have long ignored if they think it will help the Democrats increase their majority in Congress.

We in the Irish community have had the "peace" process forced on us and have been called extremists and radicals and dissenters for opposing it.

We need to repackage our views to form a new appeal. **If true Republican supporters were to meet their congressmen in their districts and state there is no long term hope for a British administered local government and what is needed is a long-term solution in a federal system similar to that in the United States, the vulnerable members might listen.**

Real democracy needs a solution not another steppingstone. We can expect no miracles, but we might get an ear. If a few ears open, they might ask what they should do and we would reply, that we want experts on a federal solution to come to the US and give the details for a true democratic unified Ireland. There is no room for political movement from now until the 2008 election here.

The British and their Free State supporters are resting easy and that is a good time to attack. It doesn't say much when the fate of the North is in the hands of Ian Paisley and Gerry Adams who is more British than the British.

As convulsed as it may be, Paisley has more courage than Adams who has sold out Republicanism for a lot more than 30 pieces of silver. His lifestyle costs a lot more than that.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

Comhbhrón

FARRELL. The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Tommy Farrell, Dundalk, Co Louth, who died recently. Go raibh suaimhneas síoraí dá anam nua.

STEWART. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Joe Stewart, Belfast who died recently. From the McKelvey/Steele Cumann, Belfast.

STEWART. The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Joe Stewart, Belfast, who died recently. I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh sé.

I gCuimhne

BALLYSEEDY MARYS — 84th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Timothy Tuomey, John O'Connor, George O'Shea, Michael O'Connell, John Daly, Patrick Buckley, Patrick Hartnett and James Walsh, unselfish upholders and fearless defenders of the Irish Republic, who suffered martyrdom at the hands of the Free State at Ballyseedy Cross on the night of March 6th, 1923. Remembered with pride by Sinn Féin Poblachtach Co Chiarraí and the Ballyseedy Memorial Committee.

BERGIN — 86th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Captain Seán Bergin, South Roscommon Brigade IRA,

killed in action April 19, 1921 in Loughlin Wood, Co Roscommon. Always remembered and never forgotten by the Kevin Coen Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, West Roscommon.

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CONROY — 86th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Vol Patrick Conroy, South Roscommon Brigade IRA, killed in action April 19, 1921 in Loughlin Wood, Co Roscommon. Always remembered and never forgotten by the Kevin Coen Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, West Roscommon.

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MCALINDEN, 25th Anniversary. In memory of Art McAlinden, Camloch, Co Armagh who died on April 20, 1982. Always remembered by the Moore family, Monaghan.

McDERMOTT — 86th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Vol Stephen McDermott, South Roscommon Brigade IRA, killed in action April 19, 1921 in Loughlin Wood, Co Roscommon. Always remembered and never forgotten by the Kevin Coen Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, West Roscommon.

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MURRAY — 3rd Anniversary. In loving memory of Margaret Murray, Roselaw, Newport, Co Mayo who died on March 30, 2004. Always remembered by the McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Mayo.

O'NEILL — 1st Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Vol William (Liam) O'Neill, who died on April 8, 2006 — a true Republican. Always remembered by his son gearóid. Daughter-in-law Margaret and grandchildren Tara, Donal Clodagh, Camill, Gearóid and Deirbhle.

Unholy alliance or let there be light?

WHEN Gerry Adams and Ian Paisley invoked the name of God and asked him to look over and protect their Stormont enterprise, they followed in the footsteps of all who have gone before.

You see, if God in his wisdom was responsible for setting up Stormont then he too was responsible for the 3,500 people who died in Britain's war in Ireland. In other words Paisley and Adams get out of jail and get to pass GOTCHA! (as a famous newspaper

remarked when the British attacked the *Belgrano* 25 years ago and indicated how they fight wars both in the south Atlantic and nearer home in this wee north Atlantic island of ours).

But let's not be begrudgers, credit where credit is due. Both Irishmen, Adams and Paisley, have arrived where many Irish have and do deserve to be. They are servants of the British and will be well-paid for being so. Over the past number of years both men have received many thousands of pounds from

the British exchequer. It is worth noting that in order to continue getting paid they will have to levy various taxes on the very people who have voted for them (see page 3).

THAT then is the irony of this situation. For now we begin the End Game of the political manoeuvrings which began in the early part of 1921.

Following a disastrous series of military setbacks Britain sued for peace. Elements representing the risen people recognised an opportunity to line their

own pockets and took it. In the course of the past 86 years that greed and selfishness has featured again and again among the cutest and the craftiest of each generation.

Sad really that intelligence should be diverted to such menial ambitions. Ernie O' Malley summed it up when he used the expression "It is easy to lie on another man's wounds". In Paisley and Adams we see no respecters of sacrifice or honour. Both men are shown in the end to have feet of clay.

It is ironic that those who promised so much should deliver so little. Thirty years of hardship and suffering has caused these men not to find a new way but rather to return to an old way. One where they ask not what they can do for their country but rather what the country can do for them.

Fairly ordinary men after all — men just like you and me. Or are they? When we go to the pub we buy our own drink. We farm our own land. We do our own job and we earn our own pay. And if no job exists we

take what we need to look after our own families. We take enough and no more and we wait for better times.

WHEN you really think about it these are not men like you and me. They are things which must live on the flesh of others. Adams and Paisley can keep their "God of fear and might". For myself I'll stay in the clean air with those who like the light.

— Mac Cool

REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN CO DONEGAL

Special Appeal for Funds - to pay off our loan of €5,000

THE Committee & Trustees of the Republican Garden are very pleased to announce that the Republican Garden is now open. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who gave donations, big or small. Without you it would not have been possible, together we can do great things.

1973 - Volunteer Paddy Carty, Bundoran, Dungannon
1973 - Dermot Crowley, Cork City
1973 - Sean Loughran, Dungannon
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The Hunger Strikers who died 1974 - 1981
Those who are being remembered all had some connections with Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo areas.

We are asking you to give a donation please to any of the names listed below:

Chairperson: Joe O'Neill
Vice-Chairperson: Jimmy McElhinney
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Joint Secretaries: Mary O'Neill & Phyllis Cullen
Trustees: Pat Barry, Ann Sheerin, Martin McGrath, Declan Curneen, Seamus McGovern, Thomas Kelly and Mary Ward.

NB. DVDs and Videos of the opening ceremony are available, price €20.



Ruling allows for opening of files

THE British House of Lords on March 28 ordered that all RUC intelligence files on the controversial security force killing of Martin McCaughey and Dessie Grew in 1990 be disclosed to allow a full inquiry into their deaths.

The two IRA men were shot dead by undercover members of the SAS near Loughall, Co Armagh in 1990. Grew had been shot 48 times and McCaughey 12 times. The families always claimed the men were unarmed at the time of their murder.

The RUC/PSNI chief constable must now provide the coroner with unedited intelligence reports into the shooting.

In 1993 the Director of Public Prosecutions ruled

that none of the soldiers involved would face criminal charges and in 2005 the court of appeal ruled in favour of the chief constable withholding certain information from the coroner.

Meanwhile the family of Pearse Jordan, shot dead on the Falls Road, Belfast in 1992 went to the British House of Lords to bring about changes to the Six-County Coroner's Court which would allow juries to return verdicts of either

lawful or unlawful killing.

The law lords ruled that the coroner's court should not be permitted to reach such verdicts but stated that the jury hearing Pearse Jordan's inquest could make "relevant factual findings pertinent to the killings".

The families of Geraldine O'Reilly and Paddy Stanley, Co Offaly, who were 14 and 15 years respectively in 1972 when they were killed in a no-warning UVF car-bomb in Belturbet, Co Cavan, called for fresh efforts to be made to bring the UVF killers to justice.

No one was ever charged with the bombing despite the fact that many names of known loyalists were

given to the Gardaí. Again despite the names being passed on to the Gardaí no one was ever charged with the Dublin and Monaghan bombings and two other bombings in Dublin.

CIE bus driver George Bradshaw and conductor Thomas Duffy were killed in an explosion near Eden Quay, Dublin in December 1972. In January 1973 another bus conductor Thomas Douglas died when a bomb was detonated in Sackville Place, Dublin.

Loyalists are believed to have been involved in the three bombings with assistance from British military intelligence.



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