

# An Phoblacht

## REPUBLICAN NEWS



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# BRIT GUNFIRE OPENS 1980

**THE RATTLE OF BRITISH and loyalist gunfire, resulting in four deaths, and the blocking of a legitimate protest march, inaugurated 1980 in the North. And, as republicans repeatedly point out to those political and moral leaders who decry nationalist resistance as the cause of violence in Ireland, they should direct instead their attention to an honest examination of the real source of Ireland's tragedy — British imperialist intervention in our country.**

On New Year's eve pro-Brit assassins operating out of the loyalist Shankill area burst into the home of the Cairns family in the nationalist Clonard district of Belfast and opened fire, injuring sixty-year-old Patrick Cairns and fatally wounding his twenty-year-old son Sean, who died the following day.

### PARAS

A few hours after the attack, and into New Year's day, British paratroopers staking out the Tullydonnell area near the South Armagh border opened fire without warning on members of their own regiment whom they presumed were IRA Volunteers. Undoubtedly had their victims been IRA members then the British army would have claimed as they have done on numerous occasions in the past,

that they had been shot at first before opening fire.

This incident highlights and exposes the murderous, trigger-happy intentions of the British army. Even the anti-republican Belfast *Irish News* was forced to put into context the death of the two soldiers, a lieutenant and a private in the Second Battalion, Parachute Regiment.

It said:-

*"The shootings are being investigated by the RUC, and the British army spokesman would say little about the incident which is embarrassing to them on two counts. The first is that two soldiers were shot dead by their comrades in a reputedly highly-trained and efficient unit. The second is that they were shot without warning."*

*"According to the book this cannot happen because soldiers are duty bound to challenge potential targets before opening fire."*

*"Military sources agreed that it was difficult to understand how the leader of a patrol could be shot dead by his own men in error if he had first been challenged."*

*"The 'stake-out ambush' by the unit is a standard technique widely used by the British army."*

### JOY-RIDERS

That evening in West Belfast British soldiers again blatantly ignored their yellow card rules, (limiting the circumstances for opening fire) when they shot dead sixteen-year-old Doreen McGuinness and seriously wounded her male teenage companion as the two 'joy-riders' drove down Whitelock Road.

The Brits later embellished their account by saying that a soldier was knocked down by the car at an army checkpoint, but this disputable detail was added only after the girl's death and did not appear on earlier radio news bulletins.

Again the Brits had opened fire without warning and that action typifies exactly how they ruthlessly attempt to impose their rule. In the past eighteen months British soldiers or RUC men have killed or seriously wounded at least ten other teenagers joy-riding in nationalist areas of Belfast.

Not only have British forces absolutely no right to be in Ireland, never mind imposing the death penalty on mischievous teenagers, but meanwhile loyalist assassins can tour nationalist areas in stolen cars and motor-bikes before they also throw in their weight to keep nationalists in check.

Monday's murder of Sean Cairns was accompanied by no outcry or even comment from politicians or leading churchmen. Had he been an RUC man or a prison warder then we would have heard stern condemnation of the IRA. Sean Cairns' death was one death that did not 'reproach' Charles Haughey.

### H-BLOCKS

The institutionalised violence of the Northern state is always ignored.

Last Tuesday thousands of people attempting to protest 'within the law', as it were, against British torture in the H-Blocks were prevented from doing so. Direct-ruler, Humphrey Atkins, signed an order prohibiting the march from leaving West Belfast, and his gunmen in the RUC and British army in a military show of strength stopped the peaceful protest by visibly threatening violence — on show were riot shields, snatch squads, plastic-bullet guns and armoured cars.

When all this is reduced down to the basic facts what emerges is that Britain can only rule in the North, and support the loyalist cause, by using violence, torture and suppression against the nationalist people. British rule has become sophisticated and subtle, and may deceive or be conveniently veneered to suit many people, but inevitably it bares its bloody hands and shows that republicans, who desire peace probably more than anyone else in Ireland, are right in their analysis of how to rid this country of that evil.

## ADAMS ARRESTED

**GERRY ADAMS, vice-president of Sinn Féin was arrested out of a house in Belfast's Andersonstown estate on Wednesday afternoon.**

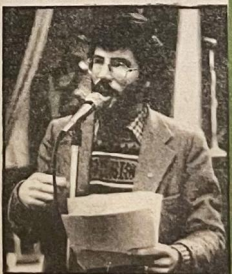
As we go to press he is being held at the notorious Castlereagh barracks under the section of 'emergency' legislation which allows the RUC to hold him for three days.

During the afternoon a large force of Brits and RUC surrounded a house in Cavanmore Gardens. Before they entered it by breaking through a window Adams phoned the Falls Road Republican Press Centre and informed them of the situation.

They, in turn, informed the press and television who were on the scene for Adams' arrest. During the raid on the house several phone calls were made to it by pressmen trying to speak with Adams but the RUC stated that Adams was not allowed to speak with them.

For several months now sections of the media have been waging a campaign against Adams claiming that he is the mastermind behind the IRA's recent reorganisation. Within hours of his arrest the British national news was claiming that the RUC had arrested 'the Provisional IRA's top chief'.

In 1978 Gerry Adams had a charge of IRA membership against him thrown out of court when the RUC failed to supply any evidence. On that occasion he spent nine months in jail on remand before being released.



Adams at Dublin H-block conference last month. He also attended the New Year's Day H-block march in Belfast the day before his arrest.



RUC contain H-block protestors within nationalist ghetto of West Belfast on New Year's Day. See page 4 for report on the National Smash H-block Committee march.



## ON THE SCRAP-HEAP

THE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM with which demoralised British troops are backed by the apathetic British people in waging war in Ireland, has been illustrated by the treatment meted out to a Narrow Water ambush survivor. In a cheap publicity stunt in the English city of Nottingham, the Lord Mayor, Dennis Birkingshaw, took a young severely-injured Para survivor around in a wheelchair on a Christmas-time tour of the shops. But only three shops offered free gifts to the former Para and the Lord Mayor accused shop-keepers of being 'mean' and said that he 'would have thought that more shops in a city the size of Nottingham would have donated presents'.

The Brit, who later returned to hospital, faces an uncertain future with respect to job prospects, having been thrown like hundreds before him onto the human scrap-heap, being of no more use to the British war-machine (a senior military spokesman claimed he 'may be considered' for a desk job).

## UDR man dies

YET ANOTHER UDR MAN has died in a mysterious car crash involving no other vehicle. A full-time Fermanagh UDR man was killed on Thursday 27th December when driving alone in his car on the Linstown to Lack road. His car went off the road, struck a tree and rolled into a field where it was immediately engulfed in flames. It is not known whether alcoholic fumes added fuel to the fire.

## Clown prince Charles

CLOWN PRINCE CHARLES, that freakish off-spring of the royal pastime of in-breeding, has once more publicly exposed the arrogance and racism. For which the English establishment are so infamous. On the Thursday before Christmas, he made a vicious anti-Irish political speech in London at St. Paul's Cathedral, to two thousand bejewelled lackeys and lickspittles including other members of his sponging family (such as Princess 'Piggy' Margaret), Brit premier Thatcher and former premier Callaghan.

He described those in the forefront of Ireland's freedom struggle as some of the 'most cowardly minds imaginable' and as 'sub-human'. It is this kind of imperialist mentality — dubbing the 'natives' as 'sub-human' which has been used to justify (and leads to) acts of mass murder and plunder as practised by empire-builders and war-mongers such as Charles' late uncle, Mountbatten, whose assassination by the IRA provoked this unprincipled outburst.

## Toothless biter bit

THE NORTH'S new Ombudsman, Robert Dickson, due to take up office last Tuesday, was himself found guilty of maladministration in 1975 by the then Ombudsman. When Dickson was director of the Antrim county education committee a complaint was lodged against him by a school principal and the Ombudsman found Dickson had been 'precipitate and unfair in relieving the principal of part of his responsibilities'. An embarrassed Northern Ireland Office spokesman refused to comment on this disclosure by Dickson's victim in a letter to the *Belfast Telegraph* (December 28th) of how the North's latest toothless biter was once bit, but on Wednesday Dickson announced that he had withdrawn from the appointment, which is now being re-advertised.

## Ligoniel under attack

A Belfast father-of-seven, George McCorkindale, was shot several times and seriously wounded by a loyalist gunman, who, on the night of Wednesday 19th December, fired into his Ligoniel home.

The gunman arrived on a motor-cycle and after wildly firing several shots through the front window, escaped towards Silverstream, a nearby loyalist estate. Ligoniel is the smallest Catholic ghetto in Belfast, and is situated in a dangerous spot at the top of the Crumlin Road. It has suffered previous sectarian killings and on one occasion a 300lb car bomb wrecked scores of homes. The motive for this latest attack was undoubtedly sectarian with the added element that the victim is a convert to Catholicism from Protestantism.

## Elected to be interviewed

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL have failed to condemn outright the political censorship on RTE which keeps Republicans off radio and television in the Free State.

At a meeting of the council before Christmas, a joint motion from the two Sinn Féin councillors Frank Glynn (who is council chairman) and Paddy Ruane called for the abolition of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Authority Act (1960). But the council would not accept that any Republicans should be allowed on RTE and instead passed a motion 'that all censorship of the media be abolished insofar as ELECTED PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES of political parties are concerned.'

This would apply to the twenty-eight Sinn Féin local councillors, thus giving a bizarre situation where republicans would have to successfully stand for election in order to be interviewed on RTE!

## Castlereagh victim

CASTLEREAGH HAS CLAIMED its most notorious victim: Kenneth Newman, the former RUC chief, who was replaced on New Year's Day by Jack Harman.

The former Newman left London in 1973 to become an RUC Deputy-Chief Constable, and at the time it was thought that his Irish 'experience' would be a stepping-stone to his appointment to the much-prized top cop job in Britain — Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police. At first things went relatively well for Newman: he duly became Chief Constable in 1976; he modernised the RUC's techniques (e.g. introducing ingenious finger-print machines and streamlining their administration); he restructured the RUC to combat the IRA's guerrilla warfare (introducing 'special patrol groups', 'divisional mobile support units', and 'regional crime squads'); and he played a leading role in the establishment of the H-Block conveyor belt whose Castlereagh 'interrogation techniques' produced self-incriminating statements from nationalist youth. But it was this latter 'success' which was to be his downfall. International exposure of these techniques of torture exposed Newman as incompetent in promoting the RUC as a 'normal police force' (as evidenced by the American arms ban).

So on his recall to London he has been removed from active police work and 'promoted' to a relatively quiet job, a training post, as head of the British Police Staff College at Bramshill (where at least his 'counter-insurgency' experience in Ireland will be of some use).

# FIANNA FAIL PLOTS

BY KEVIN BURKE

IT SHOULD BE an interesting year for Fianna Fail watchers (and who can afford not to be?) as the split which became apparent in the months leading up to the change in leadership is shown to be deeper than ever.

George Colley's challenge to new leader Haughey just before Christmas was the clearest indication that the party 'establishment' do not see the battle as over just yet.

### COLLEY

Sacrificing any chance of the 'good loser of the year award', Colley publicly stated, in a care-



Colley — still bitter.

fully prepared speech, that he had not at any time promised 'loyalty' and 'support' to his successful rival, as Haughey had claimed in his post-election speech, and moreover Colley, with open bitterness, soundly castigated the majority in the party who had not given their loyalty and support to Jack Lynch during the year (i.e. those who had not voted for Colley in the subsequent leadership election). He went on to propose the theory that support and loyalty should therefore be withheld from the new leader 'at least for the life of the present parliamentary party'.

Haughey, with only six votes between himself and Colley was unable to deal with this attack in the way he obviously would have wished and instead, after a meeting with his rebellious deputy, had to settle for an agreed formula of words which described Colley's particular brand of 'support' and 'loyalty' for the future.

### O'DONOGHUE

Earlier, after Haughey had announced his cabinet, Jack Lynch plaintively made public the fact that he had made 'one request' of Haughey — to make sacked Minister for Economic Planning, Martin O'Donoghue, the next EEC Commissioner from the Free State — but Haughey had refused. The implication being that he was the sort who kicked a man when he was down.

O'Donoghue himself went on radio to make clear, not surprisingly, that he was not going to take the blame for the disastrous Fianna Fail economic policies — making the case that Haughey was a member of the cabinet which implemented

them. What was surprising and significant was the fact that on the same programme O'Donoghue refused to say a word against Fitzgerald and the opposition for the hysterical verbal attacks on Haughey in Leinster House, the day he was appointed premier.

### ANTI-HAUGHEY

All these 'incidents' together paint a clear picture — there is already a 'Haughey must go' group working within Fianna Fail. Although this group does not include all of those who voted for Colley — many of whom would at this stage prefer to rally behind any leader for the sake of their own seats, if for nothing else — some of the more powerful party members could well take an even more cynical view of things.

Haughey, cannot rely on the support of the majority of his cabinet colleagues, most of whom voted 'for Colley, and most of whom he had to continue with because of his slim victory and the inexperience of his own supporters. This means that Haughey's policies can be given a rough ride merely through the unco-operativeness of certain ministers.

At the same time the boat cannot be rocked too hard as the presidency looks more likely than ever to be up for grabs before the summer of this year. (Hillery qualifies for a presidential pension in March and is thought almost certain to resign shortly afterwards). A Fianna Fail party in disarray, on top of the embarrassment inevitably surrounding the resignation of the Fianna Fail president, could badly affect Jack Lynch's hopes of going to the Park, so no serious moves can be made until that is sewn up.

The anti-Haugheyites would then see Haughey being forced by an uncontrollable cabinet and open criticisms and disagreements in the parliamentary party to call a hasty election. He would do this in order to get the personal endorsement of the electorate, which he is so anxious for, so that he can then deal with his opponents within the party.

### O'MALLEY

But the anti-Haugheyites do not see a Fianna Fail government (which will have to take very unpopular measures this year because of the economic crisis they have created) winning an early election.

So a defeated Haughey would go, the backbenchers would have had their fling and learnt their lesson, and a new establishment-type leader would be elected. He would probably be Des O'Malley who was one of the few who they consider put on a 'good performance' in opposition before.

After a short interim Coalition government (and who wants to govern in the disastrous economic years forecast for the early eighties?) Fianna Fail would be back in office — this time, they would hope, with a much narrower (and

therefore more controllable) majority.

This then is the scenario certain leading lights in Fianna Fail are now looking towards.

But there are a number of difficulties in their way, the chief one being that time is not on their side.

Haughey has already named ten of his own men as Ministers of State and announced that he will create five more posts early this year so that he is sure of some 'talent' emerging of the not very high standard required for a cabinet post.

### CABINET

The appointment of a new EEC commissioner in a year's time will give him an excellent excuse for a cabinet reshuffle and he would no doubt take the opportunity to drop another couple of his enemies and replace them with some of his own men who would, by then, have shown some promise in the junior posts. Thus he could get the upper hand in the cabinet power-struggle and greatly reduce the ability of the present party establishment to influence events.



O'Malley — the new hope?

So the anti-Haugheyites do not have too much time to perfect their plans and put them into operation. If their amazing (leadership-election) miscalculations are anything to go by a fair bit of blundering and ineptitude can be expected which will no doubt draw entertaining responses from hot-heads in the Haughey camp.

It may be over-optimistic to think so, but Fianna Fail should be well worth watching this year.



# Paras stake-out backfires

All the operations referred to here were claimed in supplied statements by the Irish Republican Army.

## WAR NEWS

THE MOST successful operation against British occupation forces in the fortnight covered by this 'WAR NEWS' was carried out by members of the British Parachute Regiment last Tuesday when a foot-patrol mistakenly shot dead one of their own Lieutenants and a Private in a stake-out near the South Armagh village of Tullydonnell.

The Paras, whose nerves have not yet recovered from their loss of sixteen men at Narrow Water, are obviously in much need of yet another morale-boosting visit from Margaret Thatcher, who in South Armagh, a fortnight ago, donned (for the TV cameras) the Paras red beret, which is increasingly becoming the Brit dunes' cap.

The IRA, meanwhile, carried out a number of ambushes of British forces, the most successful, and the most unusual, being the fatal ambush of an RUC man south of the border in County Monaghan. Also, Derry's main post office was devastated by a massive van-bomb and Belfast's city hall only just missed getting the same message.

### LETTER BOMBS

In mid-December the IRA displayed their tactical flexibility by launching a spate of letter bombs against establishment figures in Britain — the bombs were posted in Belgium. Targets included Tory Employment Secretary, James Prior; Institute of Directors chairman, Sir William Mather; National Enterprise Board chairman, Sir Arthur Knight; British Steel Corporation chairman, Sir Charles Villiers; the city bankers Hill Samuel chairman, Richard Lloyd; and Lord Croham, an industrial advisor to the Governor of the Bank of England and former head of the Civil Service.

A statement claiming responsibility for the attack was issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin. The IRA's particular aim was to bring to the attention of the British people the torture of political prisoners in H-block. Their statement pointed to the hypocrisy of those in the public eye in Britain, particularly church leaders and leading liberals, who, were the H-block situation to exist in Eastern Europe (with, for example, Czechoslovakian dissidents incarcerated in naked solitary confinement for 24 hours a day), would vigorously publicly denounce that situation, but on the H-blocks they remain silent.

The IRA also pointed out that their targets, none of whom were

injured, were lucky this time, but that the IRA will learn from their mistakes, and so the situation in the H-blocks had better be resolved.

### PUNISHMENT SHOOTING

The Belfast Brigade of the IRA carried out a punishment shooting of two young men who were wounded at the Hitching Post Bar at Stewartstown Road on Tuesday 18th December.

### WEDNESDAY 19th DECEMBER Derry

During the evening the centre of Derry was rocked by a 200lb. van-bomb explosion that caused extensive damage. The van-bomb was parked outside the city's head post office.

It went off half-an-hour after the IRA had telephoned warnings to ensure that there would be no civilian casualties. It was the second massive van-bomb to rock the city within a fortnight. The explosion left a huge crater in Custom House Street, damaged premises in Waterloo Place and Shipquay Place, as well as causing glass damage in

Guildhall Street, Shipquay Street and the Strand Road.

The Post Office was severely damaged — in front of the building a line of telephone boxes just folded up. Other premises damaged were the offices of Radio Foyle, the Port and Harbour Commission and the Northern Bank, as well as shops and offices in Shipquay Place.

### SATURDAY 22nd DECEMBER Co. Monaghan

An RUC Reservist was shot dead by the IRA near the village of Glasslough, County Monaghan, during the afternoon. The RUC man, who was stationed at Moy barracks, County Armagh, was ambushed by IRA volunteers who were lying in wait for him by the road-side. The IRA volunteers fired more than twenty shots into his car as he drove towards Glasslough, before making good their escape in a commandeered van.

A garda spokesman later said that it was a 'well-organised ambush'. During the evening and the following day, the gardai — backed by Free State troops — carried out a

large-scale, but fruitless, search operation for the IRA volunteers.

Leading SDLP-man Austin Currie, reportedly a personal friend of the dead RUC man, condemned the attack as a 'barbaric act'. Currie, however, is one of those nationalist politicians who, riding on the back of the IRA successes, will be hoping for a fat salary and a prestige position in any new devolved regime that Atkins might assemble at the Stormont conference starting on Monday.

### MONDAY 24th DECEMBER Belfast

An attempt to set off a massive bomb in Belfast city centre was unfortunately foiled by British bomb disposal men, following the IRA's routine telephone warning clearing the target area of civilians.

The bomb, which contained more than 300lbs. of explosives, was in a commandeered post office van which was parked by IRA volunteers in Donegall Square Mews near the city hall at about 5p.m. The adjacent area was cordoned off for the whole evening causing traffic chaos whilst it took the Brits more than five hours to defuse the bomb.

### SATURDAY 29TH DECEMBER Belfast

During the evening an IRA active service unit launched a gun attack against an RUC patrol at Carlisle Circus, near the centre of Belfast. No hits were claimed, no enemy fire was returned and the unit returned safely to base.

### SUNDAY 30TH DECEMBER Belfast

Just before 2p.m. a Brit saracen ran into deep mud on waste ground on Belfast's Upper Whitelock Road in the vicinity of their new metal monstrosity — the Whiterock fort which displaced much-needed factories.

As the panicking Brits desperately struggled to free their vehicle, an IRA active service unit commandeered a nearby house in New Barnsley Crescent. The IRA fired five high-velocity shots at the bogged-down Brits but no hits were claimed and no enemy fire was returned as the saracen lurched clear.

### TUESDAY 1ST JANUARY Lisnaskea

It was just six minutes after midnight when the IRA launched an ambush on the RUC in Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh.

A bomb blast damaged a shop in the town's Main Street and when the RUC arrived to inspect the damage, IRA Volunteers opened fire on them from a concealed and elevated ambush position. The IRA claimed no hits.

The RUC returned fire but the Volunteers returned safely to base. The IRA later pointed out that the ambush, just a few minutes into the new decade, illustrates their determination to relentlessly pursue the national liberation struggle to its final conclusion.

Derry's main post office gets the message





# New Year's Day March, Belfast

## SMASH H-BLOCK

REPORT BY SEAMUS BOYLE

**TONS OF MILITARY HARDWARE** and thousands of troops and RUC men confined the first march organised by the National H-Block Committee to the nationalist ghetto of West Belfast last Tuesday 1st January.

Despite being prevented from reaching its intended destination — Long Kesh prison camp — the march, when it thickened into one assembled crowd confronting the Brit/RUC blockade on Stewartstown Road, demonstrated not only the massive support for the protesting prisoners, but again the sectarian nature of the British state of 'Northern Ireland', given how the marchers further passage was declared illegal.

Leo Wilson (National H-Block Committee PRO) stated to the RUC that the ban on the hitherto legal march, ostensibly on the grounds that it would provoke communal strife, showed that double standards were being applied. Last summer the RUC gave loyalists clearance to march through Keady in South Armagh, a town which is 90% nationalist, and on July 12th they sanctioned the Orange parade to go through the nationalist Obins Street in Portadown.

### PROTEST

After Leo Wilson's verbal protest the marchers sat down in silent protest and were addressed by An tAthair Piaras O'Duill (the organising committee's chairman). He said: "We came here in a peaceful way, to have a peaceful demonstration. We have been met by nothing but a show of force, and a prospective show of violence. We do not want that. Just as the H-Block men are protesting non-violently in the prisons we too came here to follow likewise".

He appealed to people to march up Lenadoon Avenue to the shops where a public meeting would be held. Though there still had been no violation of Brit law rows of Special Branchmen with cameras repeatedly photographed marchers, as had soldiers in Andersonstown barracks, in an attempt to deter and intimidate people from taking to the streets.

The walls of Lenadoon, where the Brits broke down the 1972 bi-lateral truce, abound with republican slogans the sight of which were a delight to the contingents on the march from Derry, Dungannon, Lurgan, and from the Troops Out Movement in Britain. They read 'Provos are the people and the people are the Provos', and 'Casement '79', a reference to the massive 'Brits Must Go' march last August at which armed IRA Volunteers made a spectacular appearance.

At the public meeting Leo Wilson condemned the RUC for blocking the march. He said: "Nothing has changed. Injustice still stalks the land. The RUC's idea of justice and impartiality applies to one section and one section only of the population".

Telegrams of support were read out from solidarity groups in Australia, France, Portugal, Germany and the Basque country. A personal message from film star Vanessa Redgrave pledged the support of the Workers Revolutionary Party, of which she is a member.

Pacifist campaigner Pat Arrowsmith who is a member of Amnesty International and the Troops Out Movement said she felt a great compliment in being invited to speak. She said there was and could be no difficulty for pacifists and those active in anti-war movements in standing on such platforms as the H-Block issue.

The valid case she propounded, attacking hypocrisy and people with double standards, was in effect a counter argument to that coincidentally being put forward that very day in Longford by catholic bishop, Cathal Daly, who quite clearly and unjustifiably had not until now called for a resolution of the H-Block crisis because it was, he said, 'extremely difficult and delicate' to speak about the issue without being thought to endorse the policies of the I.R.A.

However, whilst still expressing this reservation at least Bishop Daly has added his voice to the growing concern, in contradiction to Belfast Alliance councillor John Cousins who suggested that there was apathy among the catholic community. Furthermore, Bishop Daly condemned increased British army repression.

In Lenadoon Avenue the demands of the political prisoners, which during the march had been carried on placards by former blanketmen, were repeated. These are 'No Prison Work', 'Full Remission', 'No Prison Uniform', and 'Own Education and Recreation'.

### O'DUILL

The final speaker An tAthair Piaras O'Duill said that he felt humble to be among "you who have struggled so much and fought tooth and nail".

He went on: "Far be it for me to condemn those resisting the criminal conspiracy by the state and occupation forces. I believe that British methods of suppression can never be equated with designs for peace. Institutionalised violence is a negation of peace itself and H-Block is part and parcel of the British conspiracy against us. It is basic to the policy against the Irish, to project the whole nationalist cause as a criminal cause".

An tAthair O'Duill praised the peaceful resistance of the prisoners and criticised leading figures and politicians who by their silence had facilitated the British in continuing with their 'fiendish propaganda'.

A spokesman for the National H-Block Committee later described the protestors conduct as "disciplined in the face of severe provocation by the RUC and British army".

He said such behaviour demonstrated "the political commitment of the marchers and obvious broad support for the five basic demands of the H-Block prisoners".

The march received good media coverage and whilst the majority of people mobilised were the committed, observers noted many new faces of people not necessarily republican supporters. The next 'Smash H-Block' march will take place in Coalisland on February 17th.



The front line of the march (above), being stopped by the RUC (below).



## Lurgan Marcher Assaulted

The first violence against those out to protest in support of the demands for political status last Tuesday was directed against a Lurgan youth on his way to Belfast.

A Lurgan bus carrying march supporters was stopped at Saintfield roundabout at a British army checkpoint manned by members of the Green Howards regiment. Everyone was taken off the bus, searched, and had their identities noted.

But seventeen-year-old Joseph Corey who was standing at the back

of the bus, and being sick, was given particularly vicious attention by a soldier called 'Nick the Greek'. He was hit in the eye, punched in the stomach and kicked between the legs by the soldier before being arrested.

However his fellow-marchers then completely blocked the main road in protest and the Brits said they would release him if the block was lifted. The people agreed, Joseph was released, and the Lurgan contingent successfully made its way to the march.





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# RESOUNDING REPUBLICAN SUCCESS



**LAST YEAR** was one of resounding Republican success when the IRA's cellular reorganisation was operationally vindicated, particularly through devastating use of remote-control bombs.

'79 was a year of consolidation when the Republican revival of '78 was confirmed with explosive promise of more to come in 1980.

The pinnacle of Republican achievement was on August 27th: at Mullaghmore the I.R.A. executed war-monger Mountbatten and at Narrow Water they mounted their most successful attack against British troops in 58 years, when 18, including 16 Paras, were wiped out in a double-bomb ambush.

The British ruling-class, by their screaming hypocrisy, obviously felt these blows. 'These Evil Bastards', screamed the *Daily Express* — a prejudice echoed by all the English gutter press. Noticeably it was the death of an aristocrat rather than of a platoon of plebeians, which captured the headlines.

Document 37, captured by the I.R.A. and published in May, had praised the I.R.A.'s capability and in particular their (bombing) ambush techniques describing them as 'discriminate' and 'ingenious'; it was extremely embarrassing to the British — particularly since its author, General

Glover had subsequently become their Northern Number Two.

In an honest assessment the report stated (contrary to Brit propaganda of a 'criminal conspiracy') that Republican Volunteers are not 'mindless hooligans' and that the I.R.A. is 'essentially a working-class organisation', which has 'the dedication and sinews of war' to sustain struggle indefinitely. The incoming direct-ruler, the idiot Atkins, bungled his way through a barrage of press questions — a regular event in the latter part of the year — and was unable to explain the credibility gap. Meanwhile the wee braggart Mason, for all his arrogant ravings, departed like a damp squib down a Yorkshire coal mine and spared everyone another one of his boring 'the I.R.A. are beaten' speeches.

Two notable I.R.A. propaganda coups were subsequently notched up.

Firstly at Belfast's Casement Park at the massive Sinn Féin 'Brits must go' tenth anniversary rally in August when armed Volunteers stood amongst the

joyful crowd and pledged that the struggle goes on: as one flourished a pistol another proclaimed 'And this is our means', whilst the crowd broke into chants of 'I.....I.....I.R.A.'.

Then secondly, in the autumn, the BBC's filming of the I.R.A. control of Carrickmore caused howls of Brit outrage, ('Treason' screamed the *Daily Mirror*), as the I.R.A.'s territorial control exposed the fallacy of British propaganda directed against the Free State as 'the I.R.A. base'.

Throughout the year the I.R.A. maintained attacks against all branches of the occupation forces. The result — 38 Brits killed, 10 U.D.R., 14 R.U.C. and 9 prison warders — made it the Brits' worst year since '73. Simultaneously the bombing of commercial targets provided a morale boost for the nationalist people, kept the Brits stretched, and confirmed the instability of their six-county colony.

Month by month Republican successes unfolded with few setbacks, as is outlined on the subsequent two pages of this paper.



Narrow Water August 27th.



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# RESOUNDING REPORT

BY PETER DOUGHERTY

## JANUARY

The IRA kept the British establishment on their toes as London targets were bombed. (During the year there were also two spates of letter bombs in England.)

The Dublin *An Phoblacht* fused with the Belfast *Republican News* to bridge partition with *AP/RN*; and in Dublin, Sinn Féin organised a colourful First Dail 60th Anniversary commemoration ceremony. (1979 was also the 100th anniversary of the birth of Padraic Pearse.)

In Bantry Bay a multinational oil company killed fifty workers by neglect — a sick testimony to Free State values. In Derry the people marched for the 14 slaughtered 7 years before.

## FEBRUARY

In a month of many marches (including the well-supported 'Stuff Mason' march), thousands marched in Belfast and Newry for the prisoners, and in Crossmaglen against the Brit occupation of the GAA pitch.

The Shankill butchers received nearly 2,000 years in jail, but only because one of their victims lived to tell the tale and survived an R.U.C. assassination bid.

Trooper Eddie Maggs went berserk and shot his corporal dead before being gunned down himself. His father said, "If only he had deserted everything would have been alright. Nine out of ten men out there must feel the same as he did."

The disintegration of the credibility of Jack Lynch's Fianna Fáil administration began. Without warning they introduced in their budget, a 2% levy on all agricultural produce in an attempt to ensure that farmers paid their fair share of tax. But in the face of rural protests the levy was cancelled and this backdown infuriated trade unionists and fuelled later massive tax demonstrations.

Sadly the much-loved singer Kathleen Thompson died. (The Republican Movement had already suffered a double-blow when Belfast Volunteers Lawrence Montgomery and Frankie Donnelly were killed in January by a premature bomb explosion. Later in the year British bullets killed Armagh Volunteer Peadar McElvenna, former blanket-man Martin McKenna died in a motor car accident, and veteran Republicans Joe Collins and Larry Grogan also died.)

Charges against twelve members of Belfast Sinn Féin, of I.R.A. membership and conspiracy, were dropped, and this failure to stifle the Northern voice and political arm of Republicanism was just one of many Brit failures last year.

## MARCH

Their next failure was the disruption of their conveyor belt of nationalist youth into the H-Blocks via Castlereagh (where the RUC brutalised self-incriminating statements from their interrogation victims). The Amnesty investigation, Dr. Irwin's 'tip of the iceberg' revelations, and the Bennett report severely restricted this flow of human cargo.

"We are in the business of political reform" declared an unusually honest delegate at the Sticks' annual conference.

The IRA, in favour of rather more rapid change, destroyed two barracks: Kinawley was hit by a flying horse-box trailer and Newtownhamilton was hit by mortar bombs and not one of the six-counties was left untouched in a co-ordinated bombing offensive against nineteen towns. The IRA's tactical flexibility was demonstrated once more in that banks, symbols of the economic oppression of the nationalist people, were the prime targets.

In Dublin 200,000 trade unionists took to the streets in protest against their economic oppression, in particular the Leinster House taxation policy. The prolonged postal workers strike had also got underway and was only to end when the postmen's militancy brought them partial victory after nearly twenty weeks, despite vicious attacks on their picket lines by gardai.

But Jack Lynch's problems were only starting.

And in London the British election campaign opened with a bang when an INLA bomb killed Airey Neave.

## APRIL

Republican booms continued with massive car bombs in Omagh and Markethill and two British soldiers were shot dead at Andersonstown barracks.

The pressure on the Brits was showing, one deserted and another shot his wife dead.

Then in 9 days the IRA killed 9 British forces. Two Brits in Ballymurphy; one UDR man; one prison warder; four RUC men (a half-ton bomb destroyed their landrover on the previously 'safe' Newry to Bessbrook road); and a Brit Cadet Captain on the Falls Road. (The INLA killed a tenth, a prison warder.) The Republican leadership warned of further heavy casualties, as the IRA are 'organised and trained for a long war'.

Speculation abounded that internment would be re-introduced as the Brits' man-in-the-media Chris Ryder, floated this 'solution'. But internment (even if called 'selective detention') would have been a big step backwards for the Brits whose 'criminalisation' propaganda had continued.

At Easter Commemoration,



ceremonies around the country, the Republican leadership accurately forecast of Fianna Fáil: "Their repression of Republicans in common with their opposition to the legitimate demands of workers, will intensify in the months ahead as we increasingly expose their hypocrisy."

Two more UDR men were shot dead and a bomb destroyed Belfast's Motor Tax Office.

## MAY

A slogan-writer on the Falls Road aptly captured the mood of the moment: 'We're in heaven, Provos have leak 37' and in Lisnaskea the IRA shot dead two undercover men who stopped their unmarked car to buy *AP/RN* from a street seller.

On the day that a blockbuster bomb rocked Belfast city centre — the full force of the blast hitting Windsor House, its tallest building — Kieran Nugent, the first man to defy 'criminalisation' was released. He was greeted on the Falls Road by a rapturous crowd.

(By the year's end 10 more victorious 'blanket men', and 2 women 'on protest', had been released. Whilst 400 prisoners continued their heroic struggle, the formation of a broad-based National H-Block Committee brought in welcome forces in preparation for the New Year of militant campaigning.)

In mid-May the IRA caused more than £2 million of damage with car bombs in Dunganannon, Banbridge and Ballymena, displaying their ability to systematically breach British 'security'. A day of disruption soon followed (a regular occurrence during the year) as with the minimum of effort the IRA planted hoax bombs on the main cross-border roads and railway and also in Belfast.

## JUNE

Two RUC men were killed in a landmine attack near Crossmaglen. One was a Superintendent — the most senior RUC man to be killed

in the war. A crack in the 'primacy of the RUC' appeared when the leader of the RUC's 'trade union' demanded "the army must play a more active role in the security field".

Three days later in a daring daylight raid on UDR headquarters in Belfast, the IRA killed a UDR man with machine-gun fire from an open-backed lorry. Then more than 100 Volunteers carried out a co-ordinated bomb blitz destroying six hotels. The attacks, widely reported abroad, once again brought home to potential tourists (and others) that a war is being waged.

After Paisley's monster victory in the EEC elections he publicly crowned himself Orange King and the message was clear: Loyalty remains on the ascendancy amongst the Northern protestant people. In the 26-counties Fianna Fáil's performance was disastrous, amounting to a clear rejection of their policies on all fronts. In the simultaneous Southern local elections Sinn Féin won 30 seats.

At the annual Bodinstown

commemoration Gerry spoke on the need for any politics to back gains and pointed out Republicans, "we stand 'have-nots' against the

The asSASins of John Boyle at Dunloy 'not guilty'. But given to the case, meant that whereas had been 8 stake-outs '79 there was none. A tactic had become usual of their bungling. (It remains a danger when claim IRA men are army

## JULY

A step-up in cross-Free-State collaboration with the announcement (1) of a new Garda deal with what he called professional enemy. Successful operations: only 48 hours after Brit was killed in C

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# REPUBLICAN SUCCESS



## OCTOBER

Bombing continued with an attack against the garrison town of Lisburn and the destruction of the Belfast Gas Department's main office.

With increasing tension being created between the British army and RUC by the IRA's unrestrained successes, Maurice Oldfield, former head of MI6, was drafted in as Brit Operations Co-ordinator, an appointment also seen as introducing more sophisticated methods of Brit intelligence gathering. Ironically, on the day of Oldfield's arrival an under-cover Brit was shot dead in Belfast.

Further it was announced that GOC General Creasey was to be replaced by General 'Swaggerstick hero' Lawson, and RUC chief Newman (an Englishman) was to be replaced by Northern Irishman Hermon — suggesting a continuation of 'Ulsterisation'.

Jack Lynch agreed to Thatcher's arrogant demands for an extension of Brit border over-flying, with increased patrolling by Free State troops and garda checkpoints being used to prop up partition, but he was under increasing nationalist grass-roots pressure, and the ESRI survey (72% of people in the 26 counties in favour of Brit withdrawal) was further embarrassment.

Meanwhile a majority of the North's local councils called for a curfew in nationalist areas. And Princess Margaret called the Irish 'pigs'.

Two UDR men were shot dead in South Tyrone/Fermanagh, and one Brit and one RUC man were killed when the IRA audaciously raked a landrover with fire at Belfast's Springfield Road barracks front entrance, only the week after a similar attack on the rear entrance.

## NOVEMBER

Brit gunmen took over Belfast's Whiterock Industrial estate, replacing factories with a fort, and built another spy-post at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Despite Brit claims of increased 'security' two more prison wardens were shot dead and when a Brit was killed in South Armagh, a nosy spotter plane, interrupting a routine IRA checkpoint, came under M60 fire.

Lynch revealed 4,000 miles away, the existence of a much-denied air corridor whilst Fianna Fail suffered two crushing by-election defeats in his home county of Cork cementing his decision to quit.

Atkins launched a 'political initiative' designed to 'devolve power' and dissolve international criticism of inactivity. Gerry Fitt

was so eager to grab at anything that he toppled over, leaving John Hume to lead the SDLP to the Stormont conference table, once some suitable face-saving formula about an 'Irish dimension' had been found.

The IRA struck in five of the six-counties when more than 100 Volunteers launched a co-ordinated bomb blitz against commercial targets in ten towns, causing tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage and widespread disruption.

## DECEMBER

Lynch lay idly down, which at least was a novelty after 10 years standing idly by. And on one day three different Northern courts dealt with serious assault cases involving the three main branches of the repressive state forces: the Brits, the RUC and the UDR — who were castigated for mutiny at Magherafelt.

The IRA shot dead the second-in-command at Crumlin Road prison; daringly destroyed buses at Rathfriland; and hit commercial targets in Derry and Lisburn.

In South Armagh four Brits narrowly escaped death when their truck was wrecked by a bomb. But not so lucky were four killed instantly when a landmine disintegrated their landrover in County Tyrone.

New Free State premier Charlie Haughey, in a deliberate effort to firmly distance himself from, and to under-cut, Republicanism, condemned the ambush in strong terms: "their deaths reproach us all".

## 1980 THE NEW YEAR

Haughey and Hume have signalled continued collaboration, and the Brits are engaged in a combined political and military drive against Republicans: the Atkins conference plus repression. Thus, Republicans can expect, if not 'selective detention' then a judicial mechanism for making IRA membership charges stick more easily.

One sinister feature of the latter months of '79 unfortunately doubtless to be continued in 1980, was the emergence of a new loyalist assassination campaign. The UDA having got no nationalist takers for an independent North' reverted to killing Catholics, ten in all, to maintain Orange rule and say 'Croppies lie down'.

But whilst the Brits remain, despite their loyalist and pseudo-nationalist allies, there will be no lying down done by Republicans.

Gerry Adams for revolution... out that as... and with the... "the haves".

bombs disrupted the telephone network in South Derry and Tyrone; border posts were blasted; and a typically successful six-county-wide disruption operation was mounted.

## AUGUST

August was a Republican month. Two Brits were killed in an explosion near Armagh City and an RUC man was shot dead in Belfast on the same day. The Casement Park rally and arms display soon followed.

In London a massive 'Brits Out' protest was supported by the Young Liberals plus a promisingly broader spectrum of opinion than usual. One speaker was former Captain Michael Biggs, who won a discharge from the British army in May as a 'conscientious objector' to the Irish war.

It was also back to the point, Carnore Point that is, for thousands of people protesting at the Free State government's intention

to build a nuclear power station there; but their energy was being channelled into useless projects doomed to end in defeat.

As the summer days came, and quickly went, so did Mountbatten and 18 Brits.

## SEPTEMBER

Jack Lynch was summoned to Downing Street and off he trotted to do the Iron Maiden's bidding. Euro-MP John Taylor called for mass murder by loyalists in the South, but already they had started their dastardly deeds in Belfast.

And with the H-Block struggle 3 years old that was another thing for Republicans not to be happy about.

But the IRA bombed Dungannon yet again and as an element of 'normalisation' was derailed with the town's 'security gates' re-erected, a commandeered train was also derailed, once more blocking the main cross-border route — Northern Ireland Rail-

ways later admitted that 20% of its service is disrupted by the IRA.

Eamonn de Valera's granddaughter Sile fired the first blow in the internal Fianna Fail battle to unseat Jack Lynch when she challenged his openly collaborationist policies at a Fermanagh commemoration.

With the execution of a warden and the assistant governor of Crumlin Road prison the IRA stated "prison wardens are only targets because of the H-Blocks".

A quiet week-end, at least with respect to IRA operations coincided with the papal visit. But the IRA made it clear: no apology was due.

Although not beaten, the IRA was called upon to surrender, whilst the British sat grinning at the spectacle of Republicans being excommunicated by collaborationist Irish politicians and a slavish Irish media. The IRA reaffirmed, "In all conscience we believe that force is by far the only means of removing the evil of the British presence in Ireland".



**duir  
siad**

"Whatever is said or done at this conference will have no enduring significance. It is not a conference which can give us anything in any way. The nationalist people are merely being invited to legitimise British rule and British activities."

Homer column, Andersonstown News, on the Atkins conference which is due to start on Monday.

"It will be a miracle, nothing less, if a formula which has evaded Ulster for 58 years can be found, against a likely background of ceaseless IRA activity, in the Eighties. But the penalty for failure — continued economic decline, combined with a growing law and order problem and the possibility of a critical look from Westminster at Ulster's future viability."

Belfast Telegraph journalist Barry White, looking even further ahead.



"If the necessity arises Mr. Haughey will be capable, as was his eminent predecessor Cammion de Valera, of dealing with the utmost ferocity with the IRA and it will be easier for him to do so because his party believes — as they never quite believed of Mr. Lynch — that Mr. Haughey does want the British out of Ireland."

Journalist Mary Holland in the New Statesman.

"General Sir Ian Freeland — whose obituary in 'The Times' this year praised his delicate handling of the North. I shall be remembered chiefly here for his handling of the Falls, particularly for the two-day curfew which produced a large haul of young and old men, five dead soldiers, 15 soldiers and 60 civilians injured and countless Provok."

Irish Times Belfast correspondent Fergus O'Connor.

"The Provisionals are now a dominant force, a fact of life accepted by everyone — including the British army, whose assessment is that they will not be beaten in the foreseeable future."

Irish Times Northern editor David McKittrick.

# Loyalist Gun Attack on Clonard Home

BY PETER HAYES

A GUN ATTACK last week by loyalists on a nationalist family in Belfast has left one dead and one injured. The attack took place in Tralee Street in the Clonard area shortly after 5p.m. last Monday as the Cairns family were preparing to celebrate the coming of the new year. Twenty-year-old Sean was shot dead and his sixty-year-old father, Patrick, received a serious gun-shot wound to the face.

Under the cloak of darkness a three-man gang had arrived by car outside the Cairns home. Whilst one man remained in the car and a second stood in the street, the third walked into the house and opened fire.

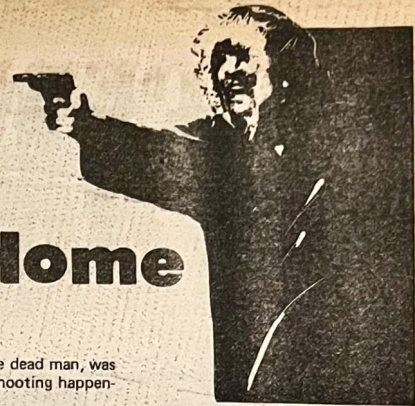
Deirdre, a sister of the dead man, was in the house when the shooting happened.

She recalls:

"The gunman came into the kitchen, he was dressed in a large coat with a hood pulled up over his head. Immediately on seeing my daddy he opened fire on him and then when he saw my brother he shot him as well."

Her father, Patrick, was lucky to survive. A bullet ricocheted off his cheekbone, into his mouth, smashed several teeth and was slowed down in the process eventually ending up in his stomach after he swallowed it.

However, tragically, her brother Sean was not so fortunate. A bullet hit him on the temple fatally injuring him, he died the next day in hospital.



It is a miracle that not more of the Cairns family were shot given that the room was packed and that three young children were sitting beside their grandfather when he was shot.

Following the shooting, the assassins sped off in their car, abandoning it at a barrier between the Clonard and the Shankill, before casually walking into the Shankill.

Once again the foul deed of a pro-British gang has brought misery and heartache into the home of a nationalist family — a gruesome New Year reminder of the meaning of British and Orange rule for the nationalist people.

# IS THE CRUISER SPRINGING A LEAK?

ACCORDING to an article about Conor Cruise O'Brien entitled 'Is the Cruiser springing a leak?' by Magill editor Vincent Browne in the January issue of that magazine, "there are signs that the Observer's journalists are now limbering up for a major confrontation with the Cruiser on his increasing imperial interpretation of his role as Editor-in-Chief."

Following "the termination of Mary Holland's contract as Dublin correspondent of the Observer after 11 years covering Irish affairs for the paper.... on December 11 an unusually large meeting of the Observer's NUJ chapel passed unanimously a motion expressing deep concern about the implications of Mary Holland's case, and asking the Editor in Chief to meet the chapel in person as soon as possible, to explain his views." But their concern was not limited to the one case. Journalists are "also deeply concerned over Dr. O'Brien's increasing autocratic handling of a whole range of editorial matter." After his appointment two years ago, "for a while all went well. However, there were slightly curious incidents, like the somewhat obnoxious signed editorials on Ireland and the occasion when the Cruiser, ... insisted on writing a second review of a play by Belfast dramatist Stewart Parker, considerably more acclamatory than that of the paper's own drama critic."

## ZIMBABWE

"The first signs that all might not continue quite so rosy had nothing to do with Irish coverage, but concerned the paper's obnoxious correspondent on African affairs, David Martin. ... In the Rhodesian conflict he was known to be close to the front line black governments and to the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front of Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo. It was on this score that he fell foul of O'Brien, who seems to have regarded

Mugabe, in particular, as a black extension of the Provisional IRA. ... From his early days at the Observer O'Brien made no secret of his disapproval of Martin."

"This autumn, while the Lancaster House Conference was still in progress Martin was told that his Lusaka office was to be closed on the grounds of economy. The Observer also explained that it was not practicable to have someone covering Africa who is not acceptable in South Africa, though most British newspapers employ different reporters to cover the black African states and South Africa for precisely the reasons that few journalists are acceptable in both. It now seems that the furore over Mary Holland's dismissal may have had a restraining effect in the Martin case. He has now been sent to Salisbury for six months to cover the elections and what follows in Rhodesia, though a question mark still hangs over what happens to him after that."

## HOLLAND

"In the event the first major row, in October 1978, the 10th anniversary of the start of the Northern troubles, concerned Mary Holland's article on a Gerry woman she had known for the whole ten years, Mary Neils. The article commissioned by the magazine's editor, Peter Crookston, and received with a 'shout of praise', was an attempt to show how an ordinary woman with no initial republican views, could become caught up, through her family in the tragedy of the



Conor Cruise O'Brien

violence. Of her seven sons, the eldest of whom had been in 1968 and whose education was her major preoccupation, two are now on the blanket in H-Block.

"O'Brien's outrage at the article and the intemperance of his letters on this theme to Mary Holland caused considerable editorial shock in the Observer, not least because his remarks about Mary Neils, (in which he spoke of the 'killing strain' of republicanism running in families and the mother being usually the carrier), could have been actionable by Mrs. Neils."

"However as an exercise in frightening his staff the Cruiser's handling of the whole business was effective enough. In future no major feature was to appear in the paper or the magazine without his personal approval."

## CONTROVERSY

The next controversy between O'Brien and the Observer's journalists was over an article by the

paper's Scottish correspondent, Bryon Wilson, who "has always seen similarities between the problems of the West of Scotland and the West of Ireland and this article was about Inishturbo". The article was first accepted then rejected without explanation: "The chief sub-editor on the magazine told Wilson that O'Brien had killed it though the editor denies this."

## RECENT

More importantly "it has been Dr. O'Brien's activities in more recent weeks which have now alarmed wide sections of the Observer's staff."

In November he interfered with the Women's Pages of the paper and also "wrote an extremely strong editorial" on the sacking of British Leyland's chief convenor, Derek Robinson, "without either consulting or showing it to his industrial or business staff."

By the time Mary Holland had left the paper "there was a considerable body of journalists on the Observer who had no strong views on Ireland but were beginning to have very strong views about Dr. O'Brien and his propensity for rushing into print over the heads of his specialist staff."

"The Observer is already losing circulation steadily against the competition of the newly returned Sunday Times. At this juncture they (the Observer's American owners, the oil company, Atlantic Richfield) may not care to see the Observer rapidly acquiring a reputation, particularly given its past traditions as a great liberal news paper, as having an editor determined to use the paper to propagate his own political views and exclude anyone with whom he does not agree."



# THE DERRY ROAD HOGG

And a happy new year to all my readers!  
The Christmas revels were, of course,

scenes of some quite disgusting disreputable drunkenness, not least in Girdwood Barracks, when the sluices were really opened at both ends. It was this appalling spectacle that prompted me to investigate the problem of drunken driving over the festive period and, accordingly I betook myself to the Bladon Drive RUC social club, to have a few snifters and consult the experts.

It was an angry bunch of coppers that I encountered. It appears that, a week earlier the hated traffic branch had had the audacity to park outside the RUC social club with a breathalyser unit and proceed to request staggering constables to blow into their little blue bags. As a result, a punch up ensued between the boys in blue and an ambulance had to be called. Several prosecutions are reported to be in the pipeline, and morale is, not surprisingly, at a low ebb.

I shall have to instruct my new deputy the snivelling Jack Hermon, to put a stop to this and to hush the matter up. I shall also have to get him to do something about Sgt Hogg of Derry, the scourge of the motorist in the maiden city.

HUME

I first heard about the swine Hogg when I had occasion to visit the security forces in John Hume's bailiwick. John, who has promised to do a complete sellout when he resumes talking with the moron Atkins, had invited me down to Derry in a vain attempt to bribe me. We had lunch, naturally enough, in the Northern Counties Club in Bishop Street, where all the leading business and legal gentlemen go, and when we adjourned to the bar afterwards the talk turned to the traffic squad's crackdown on those who like a convivial tittle.

At once I was surrounded by a horde of redfaced drinkers shouting and begging me to do something about what they described

as an 'outbreak of swine fever in the city'. It transpires that Sgt. Hogg, a bearded and fanatical teetotaler, has been waging a campaign of terror, which included even booking his own wife for drunken driving.

JEFFERSON

One businessman who was waxing particularly violently against the Hogg was popular and well-known building contractor Jim Jefferson. It seems that Jim, whose wife the lovely Marlene Jefferson is DUP councillor, deputy mayoress, and next year's Mayor of Londonderry, is fond of his dram, unlike his abstemious wife.

Accordingly, he regularly gets plastered in the Northern Counties. A few months ago, feeling that he was in no fit state to drive, he phoned his sober son to run him home. The son duly obliged and Jim was soon being chauffeured in style home to the lovely Marlene, waiting with a rolling pin at their pleasant mansion at 22, Richill Park.

All went well until they got to

the Waterside, but then, alas, Jim decided to get himself what, I believe is known as a 'carry out'. Stumbling back to the car, clutching a large bottle of Scotch he came face to face with the bristly Hogg who was haranguing a sober Jefferson Junior.

STRAND ROAD

An altercation led to words and, without more ado, Hogg, clearly no respecter of persons, seized Jim and threw him in the back of a landrover and drove off towards the Strand Road Barracks. In the back of the vehicle, Jim alleges, Hogg and some of his cronies proceeded to put the boot in, inflicting several unfortunate injuries.

Jefferson was then chucked out on the pavement on the Strand Road and told to 'forget about all this or we'll charge you with assault and being drunk and disorderly'. Dazed, Jefferson staggered home, seeking sanctuary, but encountering only, I have to report, the wrath of the lovely Marlene.

Clearly something will have to be done about this bearded lout. I considered leaving it up to Marlene when she becomes Mayoress next year, but, in retrospect, when we consider the streetwalking activities of Belfast Lord Mayor Billy Bell's sisters and the drunken revelries of Elsie Kelsey, Lisburn's first lady,



By Maurice

It may be necessary to instruct Hermon to give him the push.

PHILBY

Finally, my attention has been drawn to various articles in foreign papers such as *Liberation* and *De Morgen* alleging that I, Sir Maurice Oldfield tipped off Kim Philby way back in 1949, that I unscrupulously misused my power to claw my way to the top, and that I am a ruthless and incompetent rogue.

Such stories may well be true but those who repeat them would do well to remember the rigorous

libel laws which pervade this country of ours. My solicitors have been notified.

A grim Maurice,

PS. My congratulations to Sir Barry Shaw, the D.P.P. on his knighthood. It is richly deserved. Never have I met such a cowardly lapdog in all my travels. His refusal to prosecute a single soldier or branch man for torture or brutality or the SAS for murder is in the finest British tradition of 'the Nelson touch'. Sir Barry has turned his so often that he is known in the business as Cyclops. Must remember to buy him a guide dog.

## O'CONNAILL OUTFLANKS THATCHER

DAITHI O'CONNAILL, Sinn Féin General Secretary, outflanked Margaret Thatcher during her recent visit to the United States on December 17th and 18th. O'Connell, after being spirited into the United States, received the same, if not more, coverage on the major television networks — ABC, CBS, NBC — than did Thatcher!

In numerous interviews he explained the struggle against the British presence. He was asked to comment on Thatcher's statement that the war in the north is an internal British problem and neither the business of the Dublin government nor the United States.

HYPOCRITICAL

He said:-

"Margaret Thatcher's definition of our struggle and the problem is hypocritical. First of all she cannot ignore the fact that what is going on in the north of Ireland is an age old struggle for freedom. It is a war of national liberation which has been fought down the

centuries, very vigorously during the '20 period and in our own time when we think back down this decade, it has been fought with an intensity unprecedented in the century as a whole.

"It is a conflict between the Irish people and the British occupying power — on the one hand we have the Irish demand for complete freedom and on the other England's determination to keep our people a subject race.

"Thatcher says it has nothing to do with the south of Ireland, yet when the British Army are under pressure the first thing that happens is that London screams to Dublin for, what it calls increased security measures but in fact meaning increased oppression in the South. Such a demand was made on Lynch after the killing of Mountbatten. Lynch responded by allowing British aircraft to cross into the South."

CAUSE

O'Connell said he was in America to help break down the British wall of silence and explain the cause of the war in Ireland. He attacked the American government for banning Republicans from entering the country:

"Ian Smith could come and meet various people and put across his unjustifiable case for white rule in Zimbabwe . . . yet Irish

Republicans are denied access to the United States to put across our viewpoint."

Asked about the projection of the war as being religious, he answered: "It has always been part of British strategy in Ireland to portray the struggle as a sectarian war. Sectarianism is an evil thing. It is a vital part of the British strategy to use sectarianism. When, on two occasions the Republican Army entered into a truce with the British government there was a big increase in loyalist sectarian assassinations. . . . On a number of occasions it has emerged that elements responsible for the cycle of sectarian killings have been serving members of the British Army."

Commenting on the Atkins' conference talks due to start next week O'Connell said: "As a political initiative the talks are absolutely redundant and will be used as a smokescreen for intensified repression."

He praised the work of the Irish Northern Aid and the vital support it gives to the dependants of political prisoners. He commented on the strained relationship between the Irish National Caucus and the Republican Movement and said that it came as a shock to him to hear Father Sean McManus in London on August 11th condemn the struggle for freedom.





## No Respite

CHRISTMAS in the H-blocks brought, as expected, no respite for the blanket protestors from the now commonplace systematic brutality of bigoted prison warders.

Reports from H3-block indicate that several drunken warders urinated in one cell, over the prisoners' blankets and mattresses and poured a pot of urine over one prisoner, Tom McVeigh. This disgusting behaviour took place on Friday 21st December and preceded a beating by the same warders of prisoners Eunan Brolly (Dungiven), Seamus McCallum (Derry), Gerard Devine (Lower Falls) and Tom McVeigh (Andersonstown). The drunken warders had entered the prisoners' cells on the pretext of a cell search following a routine visit to the men from prison chaplain Father Toner.

## Leannann an Fulaingt

TÁ cúrsaí chomh hola céanna sna Blocanna H. Tá na príosúnaigh ag fulaingt an t-am ar fad. Lâigh mé cúpla cúntas i nGaeilge le déanaí a tháinig amach ós na Blocanna H.

Tá cur síos sna cúntais sin ar na hionsaithe a dheineann na báirdéir ar na príosúnaigh. De ghnáth tarlaíonn na hionsaithe nuair a bhíonn ag dul nó ag dul nó ag teacht thar nais ón aifreann nó ón gcúairt míósúil.

Usáideann na báirdéir rialacha ag iarraidh sprid fir na bpluideanna a bhreacadh. Riall amháin a usáideann siad ná a rá leis an príosúnach chogaídh a aghaidh a chasadh leis an bhfalla a fhad is a bhíonn air feith-eamh nuair a bhíonn doras á oscailt.

Níl na príosúnaigh chogaídh sásta glacadh leis na rialacha sin agus nuair a dhiúltaíonn siad iad a chomhlíonadh, tugann na báirdéir futhu. Bualtear iad agus tugtar cicéanna dóibh. Tarraingíonn na báirdéir na príosúnaigh chogaídh timpeall tré greim a thógáil ar a gcuid gruaige.

Tá cúntas léite agam leis mar gheall ar báirdéir ag caitheamh seile leis na fir an t-bpluid. De réir dealraimh tá na báirdéir ag iarraidh a chur in iúl dos na fir nach daoiné daonna iad ar chor ar bith.

Tá na príosúnaigh chogaídh ag brath ar tacaíocht ón dtaobh amuigh. Bíonn siad i gcónaí ag lorg eolais óna ngaolta mar gheall ar eogóid agus a leithéid a bhíonn ar siúl ar a son.

Tá sé de dhuilgas ar ghach duine gur fíid leis Éireannach a thabhairt ar féin cuidiú leo. Ní féidir le cúrsaí leantúnt ar ghach duine mar atá. Caithfidh gach duine cur chun oibre chun a gcéarta a bhaint amach dos na príosúnaigh chogaídh.

# R.U.C. ATTACK BELLAGHY MARCH

DEFENDING THE TRI COLOUR, the symbol of the Irish Republic, is not easy, especially when faced with scores of baton-wielding RUC men, who, fired with sectarian hatred, are intent upon seizing it. This was the task that befell several hundred H-block demonstrators on the Sunday before Christmas in County Derry.

At the start of a Sinn-Fein-organised march from Hillhead to Bellaghy the protestors were threatened by a senior RUC man (named Cummings), that unless they surrendered their flag they would be attacked, although he declined to say by who. The protestors told him to clear off, unfurled their flag and set off along the road in a determined mood.

After half-a-mile they were confronted with a cordon of riot-garbed RUC men and Brits, where they were again told to hand over their flag. They refused and defiantly blocked the road.

A half-hour stalemate ensued before an RUC snatch squad waded into the protestors' ranks, attacked the flag bearer and stole the tri-colour. The protestors erupted, stones and bottles hurtled down on the RUC, who baton-



RUC men in riot gear form a familiar cordon against republican marchers.

charged, arresting seventeen people, twelve of whom they injured.

The RUC, however, did not have it all their own way. Injuries they received included a broken jaw, wrist and toe. The cause of the RUC-created confrontation was ostensibly the tri-colour, however their display of vintage 'taig bashing' was also designed to please local bigots on the Magherafelt district council.

A year ago, for public relations reasons, of supposed impartiality, the RUC allowed a similar march over the same

route unhindered. Loyalist councillors led by Paisley's crony, the Rev. William McCrea, and Robert Overend (who also shot at the Burntollet marchers one year ago), unleashed howls of protests, demanding the resignation of the local RUC chief and Magherafelt district council passed a motion condemning the RUC.

This year the RUC took no chances of being lashed by loyalist tongues, they blocked the march and got stuck in to the marchers.

## H-Blocks - A case for human rights

"This attempt by the British to call political activists common criminals is basic to the whole British policy in the North. And until some commonsense realisation of the facts of life is forced upon the British, the grisly situation will continue."

This is not a quote from an H-Block Information Centre hand-out but is from what is probably the soundest article on the H-Blocks yet to appear in the establishment press. Written by journalist Claud Cockburn it was printed in the *Irish Times* on December 27th.

The article 'H-blocks - a case for human rights', started off by pointing out that "Mrs. Thatcher returned from the United States having failed to get one of the principle things she went for. She wanted the raising of the ban on the supply of arms from the United States to the RUC."

She wanted 'to repudiate the position' that "the United States should not provide arms to any 'faction' in Northern Ireland.... it was one more attempt by the British government to pretend that the struggle in the North is not a political battle, but some amazing outbreak of criminal activity."

Cockburn recalled that "It was after all a very long time before the leaders of the Patriotic Front were treated on their proper status" and it is 'relevant to consider in this context' the H-Block prisoners.

Cockburn recently received a smuggled plea for help from a 'blanket man': "The letter continues with detailed and horrible accounts of the treatment to which those political prisoners are subjected. It is a treatment which can only be explained by a belief that the prison guards concerned are deliberately inculcated with doctrines of sadistic violence and gross humiliation as a means of revenge on the authorities upon prisoners whose only crime so far as anyone knows, since they have not been tried by a legitimate court is that they are opposed to the regime under which they live."



Cockburn went on: "It is singularly horrible to see in the British press repeatedly offered as some kind of defence of the government's attitude that the condition of the prisoners is their own fault. This is equivalent to saying that any opponent of government who suffers personal privation as a result of his

opposition is responsible for his condition.

"One may remember that the same argument was used by the British government in India to excuse its brutal treatment of the followers of Gandhi before those followers became powerful enough to claim their rights without the British having the power to flog or starve them into submission.

"Among the most powerful British propaganda arguments for the maintenance of the hideous conditions in Long Kesh is the suggestion that any person who objects to any human being being subjected to such conditions must be an open or secret supporter of the Provisional IRA."

Cockburn concluded that this 'propaganda argument' is rubbish and says action is necessary.

He ruled out "some kind of rescue operation to save the victims of Long Kesh such as was at one moment suggested for the hostages at Teheran."

"But what we certainly can do is to insist that our TDs of whatever party, should try to keep the question of the horrors of Long Kesh primary in the front of their minds.

"It should not be acceptable that any member of the Irish government should meet any member of the British government without insisting on some action being taken in relation to Long Kesh."

Cockburn concludes "We must, none of us, however opposed we may be to the policies and methods of the Provisional IRA, allow ourselves to be intimidated by the fear of false accusations to desist from continuous demands for an end to the Long Kesh situation."



# Ceachtanna staire

Alt e seo le fear sna campáil sa Cheis Fhada. Bheadh fáilte roimh tuairimí ar leitheoirí maidir leis na pointí thíos.

**CLUINIM GO** minic go gcuirimid barraíocht béime ar an stair sa tír seo. Deirtear go bhfuilimid ag troid de thairbhe a dhéanamh ar imeachtaí na mblianta a chuaigh thart.

Ní thagaim leis an dearcadh seo faoi Stair na hÉireann ar chor ar bith. Creidim gurb íomhaí ceacht atá le foghlaim againn as, a bhaincann leis an lá atá i gceist againn.

Múscailodh suim ionam sa chomhdháil atá tionóla faoi láthair i Londain chun ceist Zimbabwé a phlé. Sílim go bhfuil a lán cosúlaigh idir an chomhdháil seo agus an ceann a bhí idir ar gcéanna i Nua-Éirinn sa Sasanaigh i 1921.

Creidim go bhfuil mórán le foghlaim as ár meancóga ag an am sin agus as an tsí atá an "Stua Tígráich" ag plé leis an gcomhdháil seo.

## COSULACHTAÍ

An chéad chosúlacht a fhaigimid ná go dtáinig na Sasanaigh go dtí an dhá Chomhdháil le teann riachtais. B'éigean dóibh rud inteach a dhéanamh faoi dtaobh den fheachtas míleata a bhí ar siúl ag Oiglaigh na hÉireann ó 1919 go 1921.

Le linn an cogaidh sin, bhain na Sasanaigh feidhm as achán cleas agus as achán glás troda a raibh acu. Ach bhí smacht caillte acu ar chuid mhaith den tír. Bhí na hOiglaigh ag cuir isteach go mór ar sheol eacnamaíochta na tíre.

Ba léir do na Sasanaigh go gcaithfidís stad a chur leis an gcogadh toisc go raibh sé ag dul ina n-ahaidh. Theastaigh uathu an sócrú ab fhearr dóibh féin d'fháil sula mbeadh an cluiche go hiomlán caillte acu.

## ZIMBABWE

I Zimbabwé seanchollineacht de chuid Sasana, tá an scéal ceannann céanna ann. Tá arm an tSlua Tígráich ag brú go mór ar an Stát ag iarraidh a saoirse, a gcearta agus smacht a dtíre a bhaint amach.

Bhí an Rialtas Soip faoi cheannas Smith in ainm a bheith faoi smacht-bhannaí ag Sasana agus a lán tíortha eile ó dearbhaíodh an Fógra Aontaobhacht Neamhspleáchais i 1965. Ach is mar is eol do chách tá comhluchtáir Shasana ag dráil leo faoi ainmneacha eile i Zimbabwé.

Anois tá an cogadh ar siúl ag an Slua Tígráich in aghaidh an Rialtais agus tionchar Shasana. Is fiú cuimhneamh gur chaith ceannairí an tSlua Tígráich níos mó ná deich mbliana i bpríosún Shasana ina dtír féin.



Joshua Nkomo agus Robert Mugabe ceannairí an Slua Tígráich

Chonacthas do na Sasanaigh go mbeadh orthu rud éigin a dhéanamh chun a gcuid airdí fuilimh i Zimbabwé a chosaint. Dá bhí sin bhí siad rithoiltéanach an Chomhdháil a thionól i "Lancaster House".

De bhí a laige is atá a láimh, ní mór do na Sasanaigh a láimh féin a neartú agus lámh a namhaid a lagú. Sin an fáth go mbíonn siad ag lorg sos cogaidh de shíor.

## ARM AN PHOBAIL

Nuair atá cogadh rathúil ar siúl bíonn muintir na tíre sin le cheile. Bíonn achán duine ag lorg na gcuspóirí céanna agus iad toilteanach fuilimh cibé rud a chaitheann an namhaid ina n-éadan.

Taispeánann an cogadh a neart-mhaire is atá arm an phobail nuair nach dtig leis an Rialtas iad a smachtu. Comhartha nirt is ea é nuair a labhraíonn an Rialtas leo. Ach tagann athrú ar chúrsaí nuair a bhíonn sos cogaidh ann.

Bhíomar amaideach go leor, ár muintir a chur sna Sasanaigh i 1921 agus thugamar sos cogaidh dóibh sular thosaigh an Chomhdháil Stochána i Londain. Fad is a bhí an Toscaireacht ag caint i Londain, bhí

muintir na hÉireann ag éirí cleachtaithe leis an sfocháin.

Chreid formhór an phobail go raibh an cogadh thart cheana féin. Bhí na trodaí iad féin ag fanacht sa bhaile agus le himeacht aimsire bhí an toil chun troda ag imeacht díobh. I rith an ama bhí na Sasanaigh ag bailiú faisnéise. Bheadh sé níos deacra in aghaidh an lae an cogadh a ath-thosnú.

D'fhoghlaim an Slua Tígráich ó imeachtaí cosúil le seo agus nuair a chuaigh siad go dtí an Chomhdháil i Londain choinnigh siad an cogadh ar siúl. Mar thoradh ar sin bhí na ceannairí ag labhairt ó suíomh láidir.

## AN—GHLIC

Anois ba mhaith liom na cosúlachtaí idir beartaíocht Shasana sa dhá Chomhdháil a phlé. Caihfidh mé a admháil go bhfuil na Sasanaigh an-ghlic agus an-chiechtaithe leis na cúrsaí leo. Ar ndóigh tá seantáthi acu ar aistharr-aingt a gcuid trúpáil as tíortha éagsula.

Tugann siad iarracht scoilt is easaontas a chur idir a naimhde. I 1921 chuir siad brú ar dhaoine éagsula de chuid toiscaireacht na hÉireann. Mheall siad cuid den toiscaireacht le bagairt cogaidh, cogadh nach bhfaethas a leithéid in Éirinn riamh. Mheall siad cuid eile le geallúintí cosúil le Coimisiún na Teorann.

Chuir siad an-spéis sa Choilínach



Trodaire og de chuid an Slua Tígráich



Michael O'Coilean ar an toiscaireacht go Sasana.

cionn is go raibh an-tionchar aige ar chuid de na daoine eile ar an toiscaireacht agus ar an dtír i gcoinne. I ndeireadh na dála dhein siad an toiscaireacht a scoilt agus fuair siad a bhí uathu, sé sin Críochdheighilt na hÉireann.

Is eol dúinn ar fad an toradh a bhí agus atá ag an 'socrú' sin. Cailleadh ach gohairithe, na cuspóirí a bhí ag fir 1916.

"Dearbhaimid gur ceart coannasach do-chloíte, ceart mhuinín na hÉireann chun seilbh na hÉireann agus chun Dáil na hÉireann a stiuradh gan chosc, gan cheataí."

## SCOILT

Sa Chomhdháil i Lancaster House bhí na Sasanaigh ag obair leis na cleasa céanna. Dhein siad iarracht feidhm a bhaint as bagairt agus as mealladh chun an Slua Tígráich a scoilt. Ach tá Nkomo agus Mugabe ag seasamh gualann le gualann.

Bhí na Sasanaigh ag bagairt orthu nach bhféadfadh Zambia agus na tíortha eile fóirhaint a thabhairt dóibh. Ach níor ghéill an Slua Tígráich don bhagairt agus choimeád siad an cogadh ar siúl go dtí go raibh a dtéarmaí comhlíonta.

Chítear dom anois gurb é Muzorewa Rogha na Sasanach de bhí nach bhfuil arm láidir dá chuid féin aige agus nach ndéanfaidís sé moran malairte ó Rialtas Smith. Sa tsí sin bheadh tuilleadh fear gorm sa Rialtas ach sin a bheadh ann de.

Ta súil agam go mbeidh Rath ar mhuinín Zimbabwé agus go gcaithfidís siad an sean-namhaid as an dtír. Ní dhéanaimid dearmadach oiread ar áir stair mar tá cleasa 1921 in úsáid ag Sasana go fóill i 1980.

Scéalaí  
Cás a haon déag  
Ceis Fhada.

## The Funeral of Joseph McCool

JOSEPH MCCOOL, an eisemid member of Derry Sinn Féin, died on December 11th after a lengthy illness. Joe was a lifelong Republican and a founder member of the James (Junior) McDaid Cumann, Shantallow.

At the funeral, Neil McLaughlin, a fellow member of the Junior McDaid Cumann, gave the oration. He outlined some of Joe's notable accomplishments. Joe had been in the Fianna during the Tan war, and his commitment to the Republic never flagged. In 1974, though an old age pensioner, Joe McCool and another Republican, Tommy McDermott, devised a unique protest against internment: they did a sponsored bicycle run to Dublin, cycling the entire way themselves, finishing at the An Phoblacht office in Parnell Square.

Neil recalled Joe's devotion to the cause of the prisoners. He always attended the Prisoners Dependents Fund committee meetings until illness prevented him. But more importantly, he was almost a legend for his faithful door-to-door weekly collection going several miles on foot.

His daughter served a lengthy term of imprisonment in Armagh Gaol and his son-in-law was imprisoned on three occasions, and is currently serving a long sentence 'on the blanket' in the H-Block, but Joe did not do his work for the PDF only when his own family were inside; only dire physical illness in the end prevented him from continuing his work long after others knew he was too ill to go out into the winter's nights for his collection.

After the oration, a decade of the Rosary was recited. The Republican Movement has extended its sympathy to his wife and family.

## North Meath Bazaar

THE annual bazaar in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach organised by North Meath Sinn Féin cumann and held at Lightwell, Co. Meath, was a tremendous success in that it realised a profit of £525. On behalf of the organizers, Tom Marry thanked those attending, and those who had donated items, for their support for Republican prisoners and their dependants.

## Glasgow Film

A SHOWING of the film *The Patriot Game*, in Glasgow, raised £80 for the H-Block appeal fund. Speakers from the Patrick Duffy Sinn Féin cumann and from 'Hands Off Ireland', addressed the 75-strong audience and a letter of solidarity with Republican POWs and armed struggle sent by a group of Iranian students who support the Fedayeen guerrillas, was read out.

## Manchester Run

A SPONSORED RUN in Manchester, organised by 'Hands Off Ireland', raised £130 for the H-Block appeal fund. On Sunday 16th December the five runners, dressed in 'Smash H-Block'/'Hands Off Ireland' T-shirts ran ten miles through the city's streets creating quite a stir.

## DERRY POST SUCCESS

In its fifth year of operation, Derry Sinn Féin's Christmas post was a huge success. Over ten thousand Christmas cards and letters were brought to the four Sinn Féin Advice Centres in the city, or left at Siopa an Phobail for forwarding to the Centres, and all were delivered before Christmas. The ten days of the post's operation were hectic ones for the Derry Sinn Féin members, but the good value (5p an item) from this service — indicated by the volume of mail — was apparent to all. Sinn Féin offered a genuine alternative to the Crown service and people were eager to use it. Deliveries were made over a wide area: all over Derry city, the Waterside, and outlying areas up to the border and in North Derry.

Help the Prisoners Support An Cumann Cabhrach



