

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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ONLY ONE MESSAGE

THERE is only one message Thatcher and her Brits understand and that is the automatic type that comes out of the barrel of a gun.

Century after century spineless Irish leaders have trodden the well-beaten track to London on a hopeless task. From O'Connell to Redmond and from Redmond to Haughey they have either entered the Westminster parliament or knocked on the British Prime Minister's door to apologetically urge the Brits, or beg of the Brits, or appeal to the Brits, to give back to Ireland what the Brits by plunder took. And all of their pleadings came to nothing.

Only when Irish people turned to arms was the hope of real

success raised. And only at that stage did the British look for compromise. The lessons of compromise, however, are in history for all to see.

The fruits of the armed struggle in the Tan War were only poisoned by a wavering section of leadership which capitulated to the British and gave loyalism a wide berth from which it drew sectarian strength for over fifty years. And that 1921 weakness has been inherited by and is inherent in all Free State premiers (deValera, Lemass and Lynch) who have approached the problem of the North.

Thatcher is a stiff-lipped, true-blue, contemptuous Brit, and Haughey by talking to her over a bit of steak and a few hours of her time has allowed the Brits to set the pace and assume dominance.

When Haughey was leaving Ireland, and had his foot on the plane to London, Thatcher made a mockery of the purpose of his



visit by stating, "The future of the constitutional affairs of Northern Ireland is a matter for the people of Northern Ireland, this government, and this parliament, and no-one else."

This is the bunkum which is guaranteed to intimidate Free Staters but which holds no sway with Republicans nor with the

nationalist working-class people in the North. Under the argument of the democratic wishes of the loyalists we have had a sectarian state, massive social and economic deprivation and decades of misery. Under the same argument we have had over ten years of Brit military rule, soldiers killing people, raiding and wrecking homes, putting

a whole community through hell.

It is doubtful if Haughey can get off his knees before the great British wallahs. But if the force that is used to suppress Republicans and if the resources expended by the Free State in our attempted suppression were turned against the British occupation for one month there would be great changes.

Alas, it is inconceivable that the Free Staters could react in such an independent and nationalist fashion.

As usual, it is up to Republicans against the combined odds of the British forces, their loyalist allies and the Free State regime, to carry the struggle against British imperialism and to achieve Irish freedom.

Cork

TWO performances of the H-block play, staged by Sinn Fein's POW department, have been seen by large audiences in County Cork in the last fortnight. On Friday 16th May almost five hundred people saw the play in Cobh during a dinner dance in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach organised by the local Sinn Fein cumann. On the previous Saturday the play was shown to an audience of over eight hundred who packed the Connolly Hall in Cork City, this time it was organised by the Cork H-Block Action Committee. The organisers of both events afterwards expressed themselves greatly encouraged by the large attendances and the growing concern on the H-block issue.

Durham

A PICKET of Durham jail, organised by the North of England Irish Prisoners Committee, took place on Saturday 10th May. It was preceded by a demonstration through the town where H-block leaflets were distributed, and there was a short meeting held in the Market Square to highlight the condition of Republican prisoners in British jails. Some of the picketers came from as far away as Scotland, and the picket was supported by Sinn Fein, Women Against Imperialism, and British left-wing groups.

Five women Irish political prisoners are held in a special top-security wing within Durham jail. They are Donegal sisters Ann and Eileen Gillespie; Belfast woman Annie Maguire; actresses, English girls, Judith Ward and Carole Richardson. Last reports also indicated that Hugh Doherty, one of the Balcombe men, is held in solitary in the jail.

Galway

AFTER-MASS meetings on H-block were held in Galway city and Athenry on Sunday 4th May, organised by the Galway H-Block Action Group. The meetings, which were well received by their audiences, were addressed, in Galway, by Brendan Madden and in Athenry, by Caoimhain MacCathmhaoil.

Also in Galway, a showing of the film 'The Patriot Game', in the ITGWU Hall in Dominick Street, was attended by almost one hundred people. The film show was organised by Galway Sinn Fein.

Long Kesh

MEMBERS of the Relatives Action Committees, from different parts of the six-counties, took part in a protest in the fields surrounding the walls of Long Kesh camp last Saturday afternoon. They chanted slogans in support of the H-block and, in the ITGWU Hall, in Dominick Street, was attended by almost one hundred people. The film show was organised by Galway Sinn Fein.

Lurgan

THIRTEEN members of Lurgan Relatives Action Committee appeared in court on Thursday 8th May in connection with H-block street protests. All appeared wearing badges proclaiming 'Victory to the blanket men'. The court was heavily guarded by the RUC and UDR, and inside the court were thirty RUC men and women. The magistrate remanded all thirteen to appear at a special sitting of Lurgan court on Tuesday 3rd June. As they were leaving the court the RAC members shouted anti-H-block slogans, and one of them addressed the magistrate demanding an end to torture in the H-blocks.

Trade unionists

A MEETING of trade unionists to organise on the H-Block issue was held in Dublin on Tuesday 20th May. The meeting was chaired by Jim Monaghan of the Federated Workers Union of Ireland (FWUI), and after a full discussion agreed to form a 'Trade Union Group Against H-Block and Armagh' which would operate under the broad umbrella of the National H-Block Committee in support of the five demands of the prisoners. A committee was elected to co-ordinate the activities of the group and its members are: Jim Monaghan (FWUI), D. Whelan (Local Government and Public Service Union), and E.O'Reardon (Teachers Union of Ireland).

Status under threat

THREE republican women prisoners in Armagh jail — Pauline Deery, Chris Sheerin, and Dolours Price — have 'special category status' because they were sentenced for political offences committed before March 1st 1976.

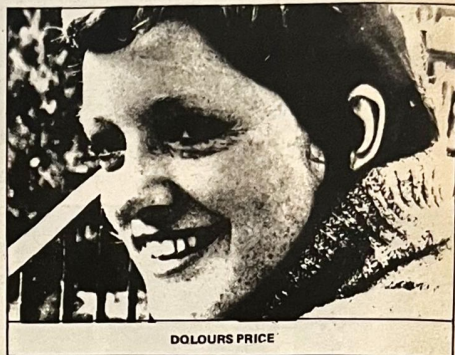
But, following the recent release of Dolours' sister Marion, the prison regime have stepped up their efforts to whittle away the political status of these women who are held in 'C' wing.

They are getting a hard time, with governor Scott and assistant governor McMullan apparently attempting to drive them into 'A' wing among the protestors, or into 'B' wing among those few prisoners conform-

ing to criminal status. The three have no weekly film show now as Scott claims that it is not economical to show a film for them alone and therefore they should attend a showing along with the 'conformers'. This they have naturally refused to do.

Scott is now talking about educational classes for three not being economical and it looks as though his next step could be to deny them classes. Scott appears determined to deny them any rights in excess of what the 'conformers' are granted.

McMullan, Scott's assistant, frequently suggests to the women that they should do prison work and he also frequently points out to them that there are only three of them — indicating that there is not much that three can do



DOLOURS PRICE

about their deteriorating situation.

The Republican O/C of the protesting prisoners in 'A' wing has reminded McMullan that whatever the prison regime does to one prisoner affects

them all, so he, Scott, and the Northern Ireland Office, should not think of those in 'C' wing as being isolated. Any steps taken against them could bring severe repercussions from all the prisoners.

MEEHAN PROTEST

ARDOYNE Republican Martin Meehan is reported to have gone on hunger-strike in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh at the beginning of this week to protest his innocence of a kidnapping charge for which he was jailed for twelve years in March.

Thirty-four-year-old Martin Meehan is a prominent Belfast Republican and has served several terms of imprisonment. He is a former internee, and in fact, was the last man to be released from Long Kesh, in December 1975, following the ending of internment. Meehan was prosecuted in March of this year, solely on the word of Stephen McWilliams, a self-admitted British army tout, who claimed Meehan was part of an IRA unit which had kidnapped him in July last year.

Although there was not a shred of concrete evidence against Meehan he was jailed, and as a reward for his perjury the British government have given McWilliams a start to a new life elsewhere.

Released

TWO MEMBERS of Sinn Fein in Britain have finally been granted bail after six weeks in jail, despite last minute attempts by Luton magistrates to stop them being released.

Home Counties Sinn Fein organiser, Jim Reilly, and Gerry MacLochlainn of Cardiff Sinn Fein — both charged with 'conspiracy to cause explosions' — were held for six weeks in the punishment block in Leicester prison. For weeks they were refused bail on the grounds that police enquiries were continuing.

Then on Thursday 8th May a judge ruled that both should be granted bail on the basis of two sureties of £5,000. But, the following day, Luton

magistrates said openly in court that they were 'very reluctant to grant bail' and would do so only because a judge had ordered it.

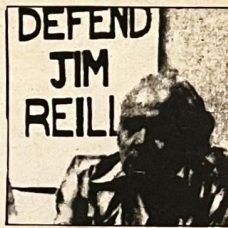
The magistrates opposed bail for Jim Reilly on the grounds that he was 'not established in the community'. But Jim Reilly has lived in the Luton area for thirty-five years and has worked for much of that time in the Vauxhall car plant.

Even after the magistrates finally allowed him bail, his release was further delayed. The magistrates insisted that

a condition of his bail should be the surrender of his passport. But after three hours, in which friends frantically searched for it, the police admitted that they had already taken it when they ransacked his house following his arrest.

Gerry MacLochlainn's release was also held up when magistrates demanded to see two people who were providing his surety — both of whom live in South Wales — before granting him bail.

Jim Reilly and Gerry MacLochlainn are to re-appear at Luton magistrates court on Friday 20th June.



JIM REILLY

JAILED

IN Armagh jail's 'A' wing the thirty republican women prisoners on the 'no wash' protest have been joined by two supporters of the Women Against Imperialism group. Liz Lagrue and play-wright Margaretta D'Arcy have been jailed for non-payment of fines arising out of a jail picket last year. They could serve up to two months and four

months imprisonment, respectively. Ann-Marie Loughran, the first of the picketers to be jailed, has been released following an anonymous payment of her fine. All three women are members of a group of arrested jail picketers who have become known as the 'Armagh 11'.



MARGARETTA D'ARCY



LIZ LAGRUE

Derry men harassed

TWO former prisoners — John Curran and Hugh Brady — were arrested from their homes in Derry city in the early hours of Monday morning and taken to Castlereagh RUC barracks where they were held under three-day detention orders for interrogation. They were released without charge on Wednesday evening.

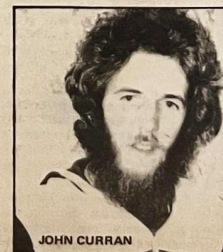
Derry Sinn Fein have condemned the arrests as typical acts

of Brit/RUC harassment. Last December, twenty-six-year-old blanket man John Curran was released from the H-blocks after he successfully appealed against a six-year prison sentence.

Since then he has been extremely vocal in publicly condemning Britain's horrific H-blocks and was a prominent figure in helping organise the extremely successful National H-Block Committee march in Derry on April 20th. He has been arrested by the RUC three times

since his release from the H-blocks.

Twenty-five-year-old Hugh Brady is also a frequent sufferer of Brit/RUC harassment. He is a former internee and has twice been held on remand for long periods of time, over the past three years, before the charges against him were dropped. His brutal treatment at the hands of the RUC three years ago, whilst in Castlereagh, was taken up by Amnesty International and in April of last year an RUC man fired a shot into his home.



JOHN CURRAN

GAY PLOY BRITS' WAY OUT

THE demoralisation of British troops, and the extent to which they will now go to get out of the British army when faced with the war in the North, has been further exposed in yet another newspaper article.

On Wednesday 14th May, 'Irish Times' journalist Fionnuala O'Connor wrote an unusually perceptive piece, entitled "Army justice in action for a 'strange case'", in her normally vacuous 'Inside Belfast' column. In the article she describes the scene at the final day of a three-day court martial of two military policemen at Thiepval barracks, Lisburn.

COURT

She sets the scene: "Counsel for the defence understandably spoke for the duration of the case as though he were in England, because he stood in the midst of a little patch of pure Englishness, preserved and pickled, resplendent among the alien Irish, an oasis of cool devotion to orderliness in the tropical heat of the troubles..."

"Courts martial in Northern Ireland have fewer trappings than in peaceful postings, where the president and members of the court, the defending and prosecuting officers, all wear 'number two dress', involving swords and a lot of colour. All present, accused included, wear every medal they can muster — it is, by all accounts, quite a show."

"But in Northern Ireland a soldier is deemed to be a busy fighting animal, up to his neck in muck and bullets, and comes to court in his everyday barrack dress. Swords would slow things up."

"In Thiepval barracks, Lisburn, the court convenes in a room usually used as a cinema. An enormous Union Jack covers most of the saffron screen curtain and white linen table-cloths do wonders for ordinary desks and tables."

MILITARY

The two accused soldiers are military policemen and although both men are aged only twenty-two, they are experienced soldiers. Both are corporals and have been in the British army since they were sixteen and seventeen. The last duty of one was serving with 'weapons intelligence', and of the other was 'close protection duties', acting as bodyguard to the UDR's commanding officer. They are charged with 'gross indecency' with each other on three occasions, in Belfast, Glasgow and London.

Fionnuala O'Connor recounts: "On the first day of the case the prosecution discovered that their

defence to the indecency charges was that they had fabricated a homosexual relationship to get out of the army in a hurry; because they had become 'disillusioned' with service life in Northern Ireland and thought they would be deferred endlessly if they tried buying themselves out.

"They are Royal Military Policemen and say the regiment has a particular horror of scandal, with homosexual behaviour resulting in dismissals," rapid, informal dismissals. (They are obviously surprised

and alarmed to find themselves at a full-scale court martial!)

PROSECUTION

The prosecuting major, in his summing up, discounts this defence line. He points to statements of admission made by the two men to the Special Investigation Branch after the discovery of letters in the lodgings of one of them. The letters had been enough to suggest a relationship, said the major, and he read aloud excerpts.

Although, according to Fionnuala O'Connor "they were sentimental young-love letters without a shred of sexuality about them," their effect was sufficient: "The major read them in a laboured flat voice, his ears going pink... The president's face became even redder as declaration followed tender declaration."

DEFENCE

The defence counsel then reminded the court that the only hard evidence against the two men came from their own statements and these they had recanted under oath. And the prosecution had failed to produce a shred of corroboration from either of the hotels, in Glasgow and London, named in the statements.

Everybody but the court president and the two other military judges then left the courtroom. In the corridor there was not much room for segregation but the ranks still did mix.

"They're not," said a by-standing soldier out of the corner of his mouth. "I know them both and they're not." Another reckoned they'd get 'done' anyway. "Imagine risking branding yourself for life just to get out," said a Special Investigation Branch man.

SENTENCED

Fionnuala O'Connor recounts: "Over the lesser ranks' heads, the uniformly tall officers were more discreet, stressing the impossibility of tolerating this sort of thing in the service, death to discipline and so on, not to say it didn't exist — everyone knew there were homosexual officers, for example."

"What they seemed to be saying was that the real crime had been to admit it."

It took over an hour for the verdict to emerge. The two soldiers were found guilty. One addressed the court president: "I would like the court to take into consideration sir, my family problems which I have, sir — my mother and father cannot do without me, sir."

Both were sentenced to be reduced to the ranks, directed to be placed in detention for fifty-six days, and to be dismissed from the army.



The two accused soldiers, although both aged only twenty-two, are experienced soldiers and have been in the army since they were sixteen and seventeen.

Dublin H-Block Rally

THE NATIONAL H-Block Committee are holding a mass rally in Dublin on Saturday 7th June which they hope will provide a positive display of the wide spectrum of support they have gained for the five demands of the prisoners since the committee's formation seven months ago. Local H-Block action groups are organising motorcades to the rally which will carry the H-Block message through the country on the same day.

Among those invited to speak at a meeting outside the GPO, which will follow a march from St Stephen's Green at 2.30 p.m., are politicians, trade unionists, student leaders, lawyers and well-known figures from the cultural world.

The National H-Block Committee are encouraged by the extent of support they have won so far, in particular in spreading the campaign to the twenty-six counties, and are intent on building on it. They point

to the number of H-Block action groups which have been formed, the extent to which local councils have expressed support for the prisoners, the demands made for action by sporting and cultural bodies and the important growth of concern on the issue in the trade union movement.

As regards the latter, resolutions of support for the prisoners' demands have been passed by several trade councils around the country including Dublin, Cork, Derry, Limerick, Galway, Meath and Waterford, and several leading trade unionists are active on behalf of the National H-Block Committee.

The week after the Dublin rally the National H-Block Committee are organising a march in Belfast on Saturday 14th June, and the following day, Sunday 15th June, are holding their national conference at the Green Briar in Belfast, which will elect a new National H-Block Committee. A conference in Dublin is also planned which will be a follow-up to last December's Liberty Hall conference.

GUN BATTLE

NEARLY seven hundred shots were fired during a fierce gun battle between the IRA and the British army and RUC in South Armagh on the night of Tuesday 13th May. The well-planned and coolly-executed attack was launched just after midnight when a motorist had his car commandeered by two armed and masked IRA Volunteers at Ardconnell bridge. He was instructed to take a five-gallon drum, placed in his car by the Volunteers, to the Brit/RUC barracks at Middletown. The driver abandoned his car about seventy yards from the barracks, towards which he ran, shouting a bomb warning.

When British soldiers and RUC men left the safety of their barracks to check out the car, the IRA fired about four hundred shots, in a fierce gun battle which raged for half-an-hour. The IRA claimed no hits and all Volunteers returned safely to base. Some time after the gun battle ceased, British army bomb disposal men cautiously approached the commandeered car, only to discover that it contained a hoax bomb.

Tyrone bombs

AN IRA active service unit planted two bombs at a factory in Coalisland, County Tyrone, during the late evening of Wednesday 14th May. Just before midnight the bombs exploded at the factory — which makes reproduction furniture — and some damage was caused by the blaze which followed.

An IRA active service unit also planted two bombs at Dunganon golf club, County Tyrone, in the early hours of Thursday 15th May, but, unfortunately, the bombs were defused.

Barracks bombed

IN A daring attack, armed IRA Volunteers planted a bomb at an occupied look-out post at Larne RUC barracks just before quarter-to-eleven on Sunday night, May 18th. Shortly afterwards the bomb exploded, causing some damage to the barracks, and doubtless also to the morale of the barracks' shaken occupants. The IRA active service unit returned safely to base having demonstrated the IRA's ability to continue to expand its territorial sphere of operations — this time to the coast of County Antrim.

Link clarification

THE IRA issued a statement of clarification through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin, on Thursday 15th May. The full text of the statement, signed by P.O'Neill, is:

"We wish to clarify a statement issued on Wednesday 7th May by one of our South Armagh units in relation to the severing of the North/South rail link.

"A warning of the risk people place themselves in, when travelling under certain circumstances (for example close to British army vehicles — which are open to attack), is often included in IRA statements. A similar caution, but one which was badly phrased, was issued in last week's claim of responsibility for the two railway line explosions.

"We state again that the lives of neither workers nor passengers are under threat from us."

Conning contractor

THE IRA shot and wounded a man in both legs in a punishment shooting in West Belfast on the evening of Thursday 15th May. The IRA's-Belfast Brigade stated that the man, who is a local builder in West Belfast, "had, for some considerable time, been conning and defrauding working-class people."

The pointed out that there are many people "attempting to rehabilitate their homes and make them fit to live in" and that he "had been involved in money from these people on the pretence of carrying out repairs and rehabilitation which he invariably failed to do."

"Belfast Brigade is well aware that there are many honest contractors involved in this sort of work, and given the depressing housing situation they are doing a worthwhile service. They warned that there are those, however, who see 'easy pickings' and the IRA will therefore continue to monitor the situation closely and 'if necessary, more direct action will be taken.'"

Operation jeopardised

THE IRA's Belfast Brigade carried out a punishment shooting on a man in Iris Drive in the west of the city on the evening of Monday 19th May. He was wounded in the leg. The IRA stated that the man was shot "for putting in jeopardy an IRA operation and for putting at risk the lives of IRA Volunteers."

Brit arsonist

A BRITISH soldier, who started a fire which caused £170,000 worth of damage to a village church in England was jailed for three years at Shrewsbury crown court on Wednesday 14th May. Nineteen-year-old David Upton of Chirk Bank, Oswestry, Shropshire, who is a member of the Queens Dragoon Guards, pleaded guilty to burning down the church at Gobowen, Shropshire, in December. He had been bored on Christmas leave and started the fire after drinking a bottle of whiskey. The defence counsel urged leniency to allow Upton to continue his 'promising army career.' It is not known how many churches and social clubs Upton has burnt down in his 'promising career' in the North of Ireland.

Graves desecrated

THREE republican gravestones in Milltown cemetery, Belfast, were desecrated on Tuesday afternoon when they were defaced with pro-Brit slogans and had parts of their marble surrounds broken. The damaged plots are the recently opened republican plot, Maire Drumm's headstone, and the Belfast and Antrim memorial which honours the memory of those Belfast and Antrim Volunteers who have fallen in this and previous struggles dating back to 1798. Twenty-eight headstones were torn up and strewn around one of the plots, a photograph of Maire Drumm was ripped out of its headstone, and the letters 'SAS' scrawled on it. A bronze plaque on the memorial honouring the Belfast Volunteers was broken.

Several times over recent years these memorials have been damaged and the culprits, although never caught, were thought to be frustrated British soldiers. There is no reason to think any differently on this occasion.

Seller jailed

NOEL MCCARTHY of Cork is once again in Limerick Gaol for selling copies of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* on the city's streets without a permit. At least once each year for the last ten years, and several times a year, McCarthy has served a similar sentence for selling *An Phoblacht* and *Republican News*. Cork city is well known for the particularly vicious harassment of republicans by the gardai — uniformed and Special Branch — but the unusual record set by McCarthy centres on his refusal to apply to the gardai for the street-traders licence which is normally administered by the local corporation. According to reports, McCarthy is determined to continue his principled stand.

Foreign land purchasers

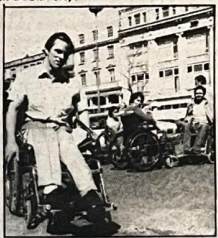
SINN FEIN in Ballyshannon and Bundoran has issued a statement expressing grave concern at the purchase and exploitation of land in the locality by non-nationals. This recent phenomenon has been brought about by the application of EEC rules which abolish previous restrictions on such purchases. Several areas of the twenty-six counties, particularly beauty spots, have experienced massively inflated prices of land and property because of this.

The Sinn Féin statement refers to recent purchases in Cashelard and Ballyshannon and particularly a chalet development which follows the Lough Melvin purchase. It pledges support for local people and angling organisations who are fighting to preserve the Lough Melvin environs.

The statement goes on to condemn the large profits being made by the few who are in a position to sell, whilst the majority are penalised, and refers to the Sinn Féin policy that the wealth and land of Ireland belongs to the people and is theirs to be exploited.

Chasm!

EVEN a kerbstone is as impassable as a chasm for the disabled. This was demonstrated last Thursday and Friday in front of Dublin's GPO by the Disabled Persons' Action Group for the benefit of 'able-bodied' passers-by, who were invited to try out a wheelchair for themselves and negotiate Dublin's streets. The action group are demanding access facilities — such as ramps into shops — for the disabled in Dublin city.



Anti-nukes sentenced

SEVEN anti-nuclear demonstrators, who occupied the offices of the EEC Commission in Merrion Square, Dublin, on the eve of the EEC summit in the city last November, were given twelve-month prison sentences, suspended for two years, in a Dublin court last Monday. The sentences followed a deal offered by the prosecution in which charges of malicious damage were dropped in exchange for guilty pleas on a charge under the Forcible Entry and Occupation Act.

In a statement after their court appearance the defendants said they had accepted the deal because further adjournment of the case could have diverted the resources of the anti-nuclear movement in their defence. They said they did not accept that what they had done in November had been wrong, and went on to give further warnings of EEC involvement in uranium mining and the development of nuclear weapons.

The severe sentences handed out for what was always a peaceful demonstration (apart from the gardai action) are obviously designed to strongly discourage the seven (and any other anti-nuclear demonstrators) from anything but the most token and passive protests in their campaign.

OLYMPIC BOYCOTT

BY KEVIN BURKE

Neutrality claim exposed

THE DECISION by the Free State government to back Carter's election-campaign boycott of the Olympic games effectively exposes the empty pretensions to neutrality which Leinster House has assumed over the years.

The timing of the decision was significant, coming a few days before the Haughey/Thatcher meeting, when rumours were already in the air that Haughey was prepared to offer a Free State entrance to a military alliance (EEC or NATO), in return for progress towards an end to the more external trappings of British control.

EMPTINESS

The emptiness and hypocrisy of the whole Olympic affair cannot be over-stated. The Fianna Fail government itself, is not preventing any Irish athletes from going to Moscow, even public employees — such a move would be too unpopular at home — but merely paying lip-service to American sensibilities.

The American approach to the affair has no connection with concern for the people of Afghanistan, and is really an immense

stroke of luck for Carter in election year, when the meaningless boycott, along with the situation in Iran, has provided a successful distraction from the abject failure of his first presidential term and looks like securing him an unexpected second term.

At the same time, the embassies of the United States and her allies are still open in Moscow, the lucrative trade links, including the sale of millions of tons of US wheat to the USSR, are all safely intact. It appears absurd therefore, that individual sportsmen alone who have devoted years of personal effort to preparing for the Olympics, should be asked to make a spurious sacrifice which will only have a detrimental effect on their own lives, will have no effect on the lives of the people of Afghanistan, and will have a major beneficial effect on the life of Jimmy Carter.

QUESTION

The question of whether politics should intrude into sport is one that could well be discussed at length. It is debatable whether anyone can regard his actions, sporting or otherwise, in total isolation from what is happening to his fellow men.

There can be no doubt that sporting links with South Africa — such as the current Lions' tour — should be denounced, but this is because the South African government has introduced politics into sport in the shape of apartheid.



'While the US was pursuing its genocidal wars on Vietnam and Cambodia, international sporting events went on in America without question.'

The Olympic sportsmen — who are claiming on the whole that they want nothing to do with politics — are being asked to introduce politics into their sports themselves, which is a very different thing.

What is important here is that politics were not introduced by western powers at other sports events. The World Cup in Argentina went ahead, blithely ignoring the appalling record of torture by that country's government.

Other Latin American countries

under the heel of a variety of US — backed dictators are equally easily toured or entertained. When the US was pursuing its genocidal wars on Vietnam and Cambodia, international sporting events went on in America without question.

At home, when has a Free State government suggested a break of sporting links with Britain because of that state's armed 'intervention' in six counties of this country?

The whole thing is very hard to stomach.

Sligo workers' fears heightened

FEARS of closure at the Snia Synthetic Fibre plant in Sligo were heightened by developments during the week, which ended with the lay-off of ninety of the four hundred and fifty workforce, and production cut by half on Monday.

The first phase of cut-backs in the workforce at the synthetic fibre factory began on Thursday 15th May when twenty-one workers in three production departments were laid-off. Sixteen of them were offered non-productive work, such as cleaning and gardening, but were told that when this temporary work was

finished they would be joining the dole queue.

Management had already announced that seventy workers would be laid off but that full production would continue and they had set higher work targets than ever for the remaining work-force.

Workers at the factory, who suspect that management are manoeuvring for a confrontation as an excuse for a complete pull-out with the blame on the workers, are trading very warily, and had agreed to give these new targets a try, although believing them impossible to reach.

Following the removal of the twenty-one

workers from production, the remaining workers refused to do the excessive overtime being demanded by management over last weekend, believing that this would be a betrayal of their workmates who are facing the dole queue.

The total workforce was immediately put on protective notice and on Monday ninety workers were laid off and production halted. Management are now claiming that only the achievement of the new work targets by the remaining workers can avert a complete close-down. It looks likely that the worst fears of the workers are well grounded.

Deliberate neglect actionable

BY CATHAL MCCORMACK

DUBLIN CORPORATION was accused of breaking the law by its deliberate neglect of the inner city area at a meeting, organised by the Housing Action and Resources Campaign, last Tuesday night in Sean McDermott Street's Lourdes Hall.

A solicitor, Gregory O'Neill, told the meeting that it was frequently the case that local authorities, planning redevelopment, allow housing to deteriorate so that tenants are only too eager to accept alternative accommodation. This

The meeting, which was chaired by Mick Rafferty, was attended by over two hundred people and was called to decide on further action to prevent the inner-city community from being totally broken-up. Corporation plans, drawn up without consulting the local people two years ago, will flatten the area to make way for office blocks and car parks.

In those two years, five hundred and fifty families have been moved out of the area, leaving only one hundred and fifty families living in appalling conditions.

RE-DEVELOPMENT

Local councillor, Tony Gregory, told the meeting that the militant action, which last year led to the arrest and imprisonment of protestors, had some success in that original plans to build only thirty-six houses in the re-development scheme have been changed to two hundred and seventy-one houses.

The danger now is that families will be driven away from the area before these houses are built, and temporary accommodation should

be provided to keep the people together.

Several speakers outlined the misery of the conditions they are enduring and complained that rents on the condemned properties have been increased.

ANGER

'Anger was also directed at the corporation's PRO, Noel Carroll, who recently said that people from the area are grateful for being moved out to the suburbs where they are able to rub shoulders with the better off. Local priest, Tony MacCarthy, who answered this insult, urged the people to stay on and fight.

Architect Liz Maclean decried the fact that planners and bureaucrats are not accountable to the people affected, and warned that other areas of the city could meet a similar fate.

A decision was taken at the meeting to mount, at some future date, a token occupation of the Waterford Street car park, which is one of the sites where local people 'say' Dublin Corporation could build further houses.



Angry inner-city residents speaking out against local authorities' deliberate neglect of housing, in Dublin, on Tuesday.

LAST WEDNESDAY. Free State premier Charles Haughey, accompanied by his Minister for Foreign Affairs Brian Lenihan, met British premier Margaret Thatcher, her Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, and Northern direct-ruler Humphrey Atkins.

On the agenda was the EEC and international affairs but certainly the principal item for discussion was the situation in the North. Peter Arnalis looks at developments in the run-up to the talks and the disastrous weaknesses of the Fianna Fail approach.

LOYALIST FEATHERS were, unusually, hardly ruffled in the ominous build-up to the Thatcher/Haughey talks in London on Wednesday afternoon while, in comparison, the Free State saw a frenetic prelude of bitter arguments in Leinster House and daily media speculation. Furthermore, Haughey left for London unnerved by, and preoccupied with, two British newspaper reports.

The *Sunday Times* had printed what it claimed to be the substance of his proposals — details of which he had even refused to reveal to Leinster House.

Worse still, the *Sunday Telegraph* revealed that Haughey's former close friend, Vincent Browne, would be printing on Friday in the monthly magazine *Magill* "detailed and damaging allegations linking senior politicians with illegal arms supplies to the IRA in Ulster", which meant his name cropping up again in respect to the allegations.

LOBBYING

Up until Tuesday's Question Time in Westminster there had been little public loyalist disquiet over the considerable Free State activity and lobbying.

Garret Fitzgerald, leader of Fine Gael, was in London last week for the third time in seven weeks to discuss the future British initiative. Three weeks ago, the Free State Labour Party leader, Frank Cluskey, met Humphrey Atkins, senior Northern politicians and trade union representatives in Belfast, and John Hume had reported back to Haughey on his meeting with Thatcher on May 13th. Haughey himself met Thatcher at a time when the British government was still formulating its proposals and so presumably still open to influence.

Against this background the lack of loyalist outbursts seemed to indicate that they were sitting secure on British pledges and confirmation of this came from Thatcher herself on Tuesday. In reply to a question from unionist MP James Molyneux she said: "The future of the constitutional affairs of Northern Ireland is a matter for the people of Northern Ireland, this government and this parliament and no-one else." That effectively ruled out the Free State government having any say in the North's political future and the timing of her statement was clearly a rebuff to Haughey who had billed the talks as of 'fundamental and crucial importance'.

GUARANTEE

On May 13th, SDLP leader John Hume met Thatcher in London, at her request, to discuss the proposals for 'devolved government', expected to be announced in early June and at present being formulated by a special cabinet committee on the North. (This committee, which reportedly meets every week, is headed by the British Home

Secretary William Whitelaw, and includes Defence Secretary Francis Pym, the Lord Chancellor Lord Hailsham, and Sir Ian Gilmour, deputy to Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington.)

Thatcher told Hume that the future of the North is a matter for the British government and rejected any suggestion that they should withdraw the constitutional guarantee to the loyalists.

It is the British pledge to maintain the union with the artificially created Northern state as long as 'a majority' wishes which is the major stumbling block to progress as Haughey sees it. But to republicans it is also the British government's denial of the right of the Irish people to self-determination and their attempts to crush nationalist resistance which is the major problem.

HAUGHEY

In February, Haughey said that "while an internal settlement bringing civil rights and equality in the North would be welcomed, the reality had to be faced that Northern Ireland, as a political entity has failed and that a new beginning is needed." His refusal to elaborate any further in Leinster House, the total absence of a Fianna Fail policy document on the North, and his recent secret meeting with members of the loyalist UDA, have come under fierce and sustained attack within the past week.

On May 14th, Fitzgerald and Cluskey demanded from Haughey details of his policy on the North. They said they could not support him if he did not know what he was putting forward. Cluskey demanded that he report back to Leinster House after his meeting, but Haughey would give no such firm undertaking.

Fine Gael wants from the British, not an end to the guarantee of the union (for while in office they moved dangerously close towards dropping the constitutional claim over the North), but a woolly statement from London that it has no interests of its own in the North and that it would support Irish political unity 'secured by consent', which, like Haughey's demands, would make absolutely no substantive change in the loyalist veto over reunification.

SDLP

According to last Saturday's *Irish Times* one of the schemes being considered by the British government as an option, is for a loyalist-type cabinet probably headed by Ian Paisley. This proposal and the sop to the SDLP — power-sharing representation on a 'powerful' finance committee — was rejected by Hume.

He realises that a dilution of SDLP demands (executive power-sharing and an 'Irish dimension') would split the SDLP and cost it dearly in nationalist disillusionment

Haughey's bankruptcy

BY PETER ARNALIS

whose support could then drift to Neil Blaney's new cross-border nationalist party, (the formation of which was announced following a meeting of Blaneyites in Sligo last Sunday).

The British government proposals, to be first outlined next month, before being finally adopted in the form of legislation in the autumn, are apparently for an election to some sort of an assembly next year, and the establishment of an administration which would, according to them, be the rightful body to which Free State overtures should be made.

COLLAPSE

Haughey's perspective is that because of the duration of 'the crisis' and its destabilising effect throughout Ireland the habitual British proposal of an internal settlement acceptable to loyalists and nationalists is — on its own — superfluous and must be accompanied by an arrangement slowly linking the North and the Free State. But his proposals collapse under three major obstacles (which force of argument will not shift) and show the folly of his approach.

Firstly, the loyalists will not agree to any form of power-sharing even with the collaborationist SDLP, and the British government have no inclination to force them.

Secondly, the British government and the loyalists are opposed anyway to the so-called 'Irish dimension'.

And, thirdly, the British government has dismissed Haughey's claims of having a say

in the future of the North though Thatcher has condescendingly conceded that he has an interest in political developments.

INTRANSIGENCE

Faced with such intransigence what will Haughey do? Will he bargain with the threat of reduced border collaboration if he does not get a say, or will he merely intensify his international diplomatic offensive?

Even the latter cannot be guaranteed for when faced with British intransigence spineless Irish leaders have traditionally capitulated, and Haughey's answer to the problem of loyalism has been disastrously studded with accommodation.

In April he met members of the UDA and the New Ulster Political Research Group (NUPRG) who advocate an independent six-counties. Last week the *Irish Times* printed details of a Fianna Fail study group report which described the NUPRG as offering a "real hope for a future settlement". And though it says Fianna Fail advocate a united Ireland and the NUPRG an independent six-counties, the report states that, "Federalism is increasingly spoken about and Federalism could well be the meeting point between the two points of view".

The federalism envisaged, however, is a six and twenty-six county arrangement, two states governed by separate parliaments under a common constitution and judiciary. The *Sunday Times* also stated that among the proposals in Haughey's mind was one for a new Irish constitution guaranteeing regional autonomy for the North.

So we can see that Haughey's plans do not entail breaking down the back-bone of British imperialism in Ireland — loyalism — which if given autonomy would immediately revert to discrimination against the nationalist population.

Thatcher at present is not disposed towards an all-Ireland neo-colonial settlement and in relation to Ireland remains a traditional imperialist. A good rupture and a deterioration in relations between Dublin and London after Wednesday's meeting would allow time for a more radical appreciation by broad sections of Irish people of what is really going on, but should on no account fool anyone of the merits of Haughey's disastrous approach had he got his way.

New twist to collaboration

A NEW TWIST to the cross-border collaboration between the British occupation forces and their Free State counterparts was highlighted last Tuesday when the Irish Republican Army issued a statement shortly after they had released a man who freely admitted acting as a paid spy for the RUC.

The IRA in the state-pular, Cassidy and Feeney.

"They recruited P. McGovern also from Swanlinbar during the month of April when they drove him in an unmarked car to the RUC barracks in Enniskillen. There the Garda and the RUC induced Mr. McGovern with the offer of money to spy on republicans. He agreed. Since then until one of our

units recently picked him up, he passed on, at regular intervals, information and in return was paid by the RUC through one of the four Garda.

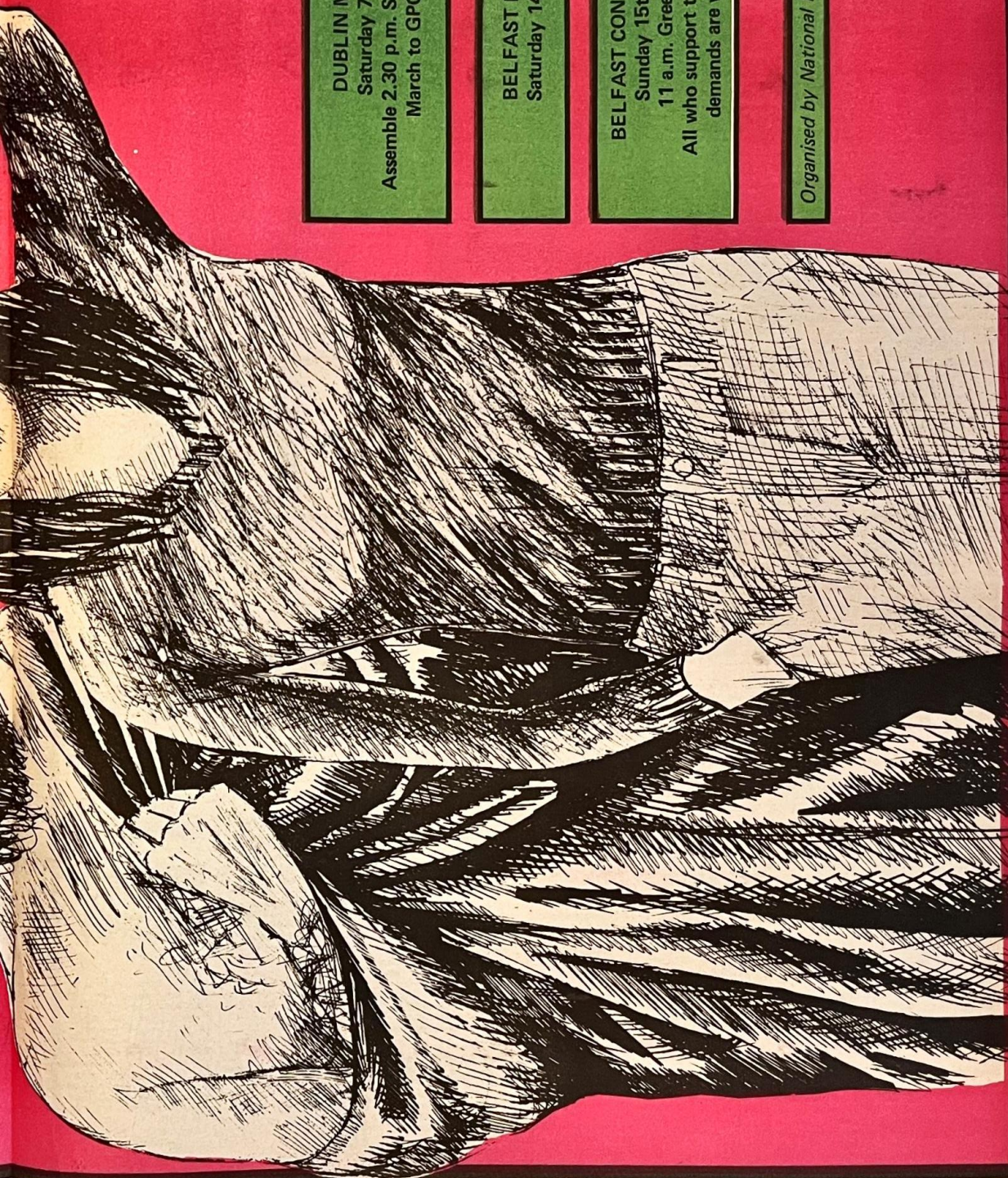
"He freely admitted to us that he was a paid informer and met the RUC on occasion. This man was released by us and escaped the ultimate punishment for such activities because he has a mental deficiency. This incident is further proof of the extent to which both partitionist state forces collaborate in their efforts to defeat the republican struggle."



The loyalist UDA openly on the march with the guarantee of uniformed British gunmen and armoured cars behind them, pledged by the British government to maintain partition and the sectarian six-county statelet.

Support the H.Bloock men and Armagh women





DUBLIN MARCH

Saturday 7th June
Assemble 2.30 p.m. St. Stephen's Green
March to GPO for rally

BELFAST MARCH

Saturday 14th June

BELFAST CONFERENCE

Sunday 15th June
11 a.m. Green Briar
All who support the prisoners'
demands are welcome

Organised by National H-Block Committee

MÁLA POIST

All letters should be addressed to the Editor — An Phoblacht/Republican News, 170a Falls Road, Belfast or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

ARMAGH PROTEST

Dear Editor,
Two members of Women Against Imperialism, Margaretta D'Arcy and Liz Lagura, are now serving sentences in Armagh prison as a result of their refusal to pay fines resulting from their arrest along with nine other women at a peaceful picket of Armagh on International Women's Day 1979.

Both women refused to pay for the 'privilege' of speaking the truth. They are refusing to accept criminal status, as they believe that the picket on the jail was a political act, implemented to highlight the appalling conditions of the women prisoners demanding political status.

As a result, both women are now in 'A' Wing, where they have joined the women there who have been forced onto the 'no wash' protest by the prison administration since February of this year.

To highlight the conditions of all the women on protest in 'A' Wing, Armagh prison, and to support their demand for a return to political status, the Armagh Protest Committee are organising another picket of the prison this Saturday, 24th May. Buses from Belfast will leave at 1.00 p.m. from Dunville Park, and buses will also be leaving from Derry and Dublin.

PRO,
Armagh Protest Committee,
Belfast.

Luton picket

A chara,
Please allow us space in your columns to acknowledge with thanks all those who supported the picket outside Luton police station during the incarceration of our chairman Jim Reilly, before, during, and after Easter.

We particularly wish to thank our comrades in the RCG for their outstanding display of solidarity towards Jim Reilly and Gerry MacLochlainn. Despite the thirty-five mile distance, comrades from London turned up every night on time and refused to be intimidated by Luton police arresting five of their members on the picket lines.

We also wish to thank the RCT in London, the SWP in Hertford and Bedford, members of the Hemel Hempstead Labour Party and members of Sinn Féin in London and the Home Counties, for supporting the pickets in Luton and Bedford between April 4th and April 10th, when police misuse of power was challenged as never before in this area.

Marie O'Neill,
An Rúnal,
Luton Sinn Féin,
England.

Congratulations

A chara,
We must congratulate the Jimmy Steele, Sinn Féin cumann,

in Birmingham for the action they took in exposing the double standards of some of the so-called Irish in England. We refer to their letter in *An Phoblacht/Republican News* (January 26th) publicising the name of the pub and licenses that attempted to harass and threaten republican paper sellers. We believe that the rest of us in the Republican Movement both in Ireland and throughout the world should take a leaf from their book when confronted with similar situations.

We pledge our support to our gallant comrades 'on the blanket' and to all the men and women in the hell-holes and interrogation centres in Ireland and England.

We also pledge our full support to the leadership of the Republican Movement.

Victory to the revolution.
P.R.O.
Drumm/Williams
Sinn Féin cumann,
Brisbane,
Australia.

Federalism

A chara,
Having accepted the policy document *'Eire Nua: the social, economic and political dimension'* at An Ard Fheis, we should, I think, take a look at what we mean by Socialism. Socialism, for me, at any rate, is the belief that people should be able to control their own lives and determine their own futures through owning and controlling directly the means of production, distribution and exchange.

If we accept this definition, then it follows that a type of socialism which does not depend on 'people's power', is fraudulent and illegitimate. How is 'people's power' to be expressed? It is expressed through free and fair multi-party elections at every level of society: national, provincial, regional, local and community. It is expressed also, in people controlling their means of livelihood, and having a say in the running of their community and their country.

Thus, there is no such thing as socialism, without democratic elections.

The socialist objective is that people should be free and equal. True socialism combines freedom and equality, so that no-one is exploited, and no-one is oppressed. *Eire Nua* correctly recognises a difference between the civil right of free enterprise, and capitalist exploitation.

Under the present system of unbridled capitalism, free enterprise has become another word for capitalism. It seems to imply cut-throat competition, redundancies, housing shortages, higher food prices, and increasing poverty. It need not be so. If you restrict free enterprise to small, non-exploiting, family-type businesses, then you reach a happy, and an efficient, compromise between freedom and equality.

Federalism is one of the means through which people's power will be maintained. It is valuable, and, believe me, indispensable, because it is another way of devolving power from the national state level, to the level of the man in the street. It will redress east-west

A chara,

A lot of publicity has been given to the letter Michael Allison of the NIO has written to the relatives of the protesting prisoners in Armagh and the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

Despite the fact that Michael Allison seems to be taking a long time getting round to me I will be interested in the contents of the letter. I wonder if it will include an explanation of the beating my son received on December 30th last, which resulted in severe facial injuries to him, suspension of the prison officer involved, statements to the RUC and a case being accepted by a barrister.

At no time did Michael Allison, or anyone from the prison administration, inform me of the attack, or inform me of my son's condition. So it is rather late in the day, now, for them to be pretending any concern for the worry, and torment, we, the relatives, suffer over the way they treat our sons, or force them to live.

My son can gain no propaganda success by misleading me over his conditions. Indeed it has never been from his lips that I have heard about any beating he received. It has only been under pressure he has confirmed what I have been told, or can see on his body, so I will hardly accept as truth Allison's whitewash.

As his mother, I need no Englishman to tell me my son lies naked, amidst excrement, urine and maggots on a damp dirty four-foot foam mattress, from choice. I know my son. I know what is being done to him. I know he is often hungry and cold and is lost weight. I know how he lived, and also how he kept himself, before he fell into their hands. I

imbalance which are so obvious in areas like administration, health, education, roads and communications. Further, it will act as an avenue through which the one million people, presently constituted as loyalists, can be reconciled to a united Ireland.

It is high time that Republicans faced up to the question of unionists in an all-Ireland Republic. They form a quarter of our entire population. They cannot, and must not, be ignored. They are bound to actively oppose re-unification.

The 'Free State has convinced them that Home Rule is indeed Rome Rule. More words will not be enough to persuade them that Eire Nua really will be a new Ireland, a new society based not on discrimination, repression and exploitation, but on participation, co-operation, and equality.

Far from talking about getting rid of federalism, we should be thinking about some kind of provisional confederal arrangement whereby a nine-county Ulster, within a four province Ireland, would have a loose association with Britain for a period of years.

Sinn Féin is a Democratic Socialist party, committed to national and social liberation. Being a nationalist party and movement, we cherish our nationality, and struggle for our national freedom, as we value the nationality of other peoples, and look forward to their liberation. Being such, it is very strange to see Republicans defending the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The USSR is a slave-state, an imperialist power whose unprincipled crushing of the socialist struggle of the Eritrean people in the Horn of Africa bodes ill for all national revolutionary movements. This does not imply support for the USA. A rejection of state capitalism does not imply support for private capitalism. As a movement, we must take an independent stand in foreign policy, and distance

have seen the marks of their beatings on him.

All I can think is that this 'letter' is an exercise obliquely directed at those people who are becoming increasingly concerned for humanitarian reasons that such conditions exist in the jails and prison camps here. Because these caring people are beginning to make their voices heard through their unions, organisations and student bodies, the NIO is worried and seeks to assure them that the NIO is concerned over prisoners' welfare and is maintaining accepted prison standards.

Allison's letter is certainly not for the relatives, albeit addressed to us, as he must be aware that we of all people bar the prisoners, know best the truth, and his lie. I appeal to those concerned for the society they live in, and bear responsibility for, to see the NIO's letter for what it is, a propaganda exercise.

Nine out of ten of the protest-

ing prisoners are in jail on no other evidence than signed statements, and, apart from those who refuse to have the actions they engaged in classed as criminal, there are very many who refuse to be classed as criminal because they are innocent under any standards.

How many of us could claim with certainty that we would not, while undergoing violent or intimidating interrogations, sign away our liberty? And we should weigh up would nine out of ten sign their lives away if no aggressor had been directed towards them?

My family are lucky: we can see an end to my son's torment. For many of the men and women protesting in the camps and jails there is no end in view. Their only hope is our concern: so don't let anyone be deceived by this spurious and belated show of concern from the NIO.

Moya Berkery,
Twinnbrook, Belfast.



mbfom an margadh déanta.
Mura leantar mar sin beidh d'áil an fhile agáibh 'an fuinneamh ar fan' gan foaleamh ar fáil. 'An t'áil na fuil laidir nó foilrí do bheith glíe'.

Le méas,
T. Breathnach,
San Francisco.

London commemoration

Dear Editor,
I think it is necessary to correct an impression given in your coverage (*An Phoblacht/Republican News*, April 19th) of Sinn Féin's Easter Commemoration of 1980 in London. This suggested that only the Nottingham Branch of the Troops Out Movement (TOM) was present.

In fact, branch banners were present from Manchester, Nottingham, West London and East London. Also, there were TOM members present from most London and South-East England branches, and a significant aspect of the demonstration was a length-wise banner, demanding 'Smash the H-Blocks' and calling for 'Political Status for the women in Armagh Jail', which was provided by the TOM. Prior to the demonstration TOM played a full part in planning meetings and in advertising the demonstration, as well as distributing many Sinn Féin leaflets.

Alan Woods,
TOM Steering Committee,
Box UT, 2a St. Pauls Rd.,
London.

Victory to the People's Army fighting for a People's Republic.
Eamon O Muireadais

Lean oraibh

A chara,
In é litir as Cás a haon déag sa Cheis Fada (Eanáir 5) dúirt Seánal' nach gnáth leandú leis an gath le lth comhchainte. Sin é ba nós i gcóras choigeadh go dtí Kórea-acht ó ghoin i leith leantar den chath, nó den stáic go

from Ireland is pleased to announce that it will be organising a forum on Northern Ireland, entitled 'Voices for Withdrawal', to take place at the Conway Hall in London on Saturday 14th June starting at 10 a.m.

The Committee for Withdrawal from Ireland were previously the organising committee for last year's August 12th demonstration marking the tenth anniversary of British troops returning to the streets of Northern Ireland — the largest demonstration on this theme ever held in Britain.

The committee is supported by a wide range of organisations including the Young Liberals, several Constituency Labour Parties and Trades Councils, the Connolly Association, the Campaign for Democracy in Ulster, the Troops Out Movement, the Young Communist League, the New Communist Party and other bodies.

The continuing political stalemate in Northern Ireland is the subject of growing concern in Britain. In the centre of all such discussions of both Labour and Liberal Parties has resulted in both organisations beginning a new discussion of their policies in relation to Northern Ireland. We believe that the option of withdrawal must be placed in the centre of all such discussions on the future of Northern Ireland, and to this end we are organising the forum.

The platform at the forum will include prominent political figures and experts with a thorough knowledge of the situation in Northern Ireland and its history.

Speakers to date include: Desmond Greaves (historian, editor of *The Irish Democrat*), Anthony Coughlan (senior lecturer in Social Administration and Policy, Trinity College Dublin, Chairperson of the Irish Sovereignty Movement), Bernadette Devlin-McAliskey, Michael Biggs (former British Army captain), Ernie Roberts MP, Peter Hain, Phil Flynn (Dep. Gen. Sec. Local Government and Public Services Union, Dublin), John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy (playwrights), Alastair Logan (solicitor), Mick Martin (Chairperson of Hammettsmith and Kensington Trades Council), Jack Bennett (Irish Sovereignty Movement), Ruth Addison (former chairperson of the National League of Young Liberals, and Clive Soley MP.

Committee for Withdrawal from Ireland,
C/O Youth Office,
Waterloo Liberal Club,
1 Whitehall Place,
London.

VICTORY TO THE IRA



German solidarity

Dear comrades,
There are not only shots and other hard-core surprises for the British actually in the North of Germany. These poor soldiers have also to face a lot of posters like this around their barracks, clubs and houses: 'Victory to the IRA' printed and distributed by the West German Ireland Solidarity Committee. They must feel like Belfast in Germany, more and more. Poor Brits. No chance whatsoever!
West German Ireland Solidarity Committee,
Oberursel.

London forum

Dear Editor,
The Committee for Withdrawal

Dishonesty and hypocrisy

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

THE DEGENERATE Sticky Workers Party has this month replaced the 'United Irishman' whose name is embarrassingly republican, with their new monthly magazine, 'Workers Life.'

The new magazine is obviously geared — as indeed is the main thrust of the Sticks' current policies and electoral hopes — towards the Free State — which, revealingly, it calls 'the Republic'. The front cover claims that it is 'the magazine for workers', yet the contents, and even the title itself, suggest that it is aimed at a middle-class readership who are interested in workers as a sort of hobby.

Glancing through the magazine its advertisements strikingly reinforce this impression. There are few workers who could afford a £300 water skiing holiday in the Mediterranean — yet an advertisement for such a holiday is carried.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The back cover displays a full-page Aer Lingus advert proclaiming 'Fly direct to the business world: "We fly to schedules carefully worked out to meet the businessman's needs. To help you make the most of your time."

Page two has another full-page advert aimed at businessmen — this time for power screen equipment for industry! In fact the whole magazine is generously littered with advertisements from suppliers of industrial equipment, engineering contractors and wholesale food suppliers — none of which could possibly be of much interest to the working-class reader.

Another peculiarity of the magazine is that much-exaggerated references to the paltry achievements of 'Sinn Féin the Workers Party' keep popping up all over the place, as if the magazine was not the organ of that party — and this is after editorially criticising other publications for having "a point of view, often carefully concealed and equally often smuggled in."

OVERALL

Overall the magazine, despite being well-produced and having more than thirty pages, is very weak on good reading; and it reinforces the view that SFWP is a party which is settling down, in the South, to being a party with progressive social and economic policies — all firmly within the framework of the Free State.

The party's reformist line of

opposing Haughey's economic policies, and one opposing CIE plans to hand over rail coach and bus building to private industry, are innocuous enough. However an article about the Alcan alumina processing plant on the Shannon estuary — obviously written before the present dispute — appears to be a neat public relations job for Alcan.

LEGISLATION

Another article, entitled 'Rights in employment can only be maintained by trade union action', starts off on a sound footing by describing the reluctance of employers to accept legislation safeguarding workers' rights. But the article then praised the EEC, stating that "some of the legislation introduced by Irish Governments was forced on them by EEC Directives," without pointing out that this does not make the EEC a progressive force. The EEC's actions are, in

fact, merely designed to make Western European capitalism more streamlined, and thus more efficient in exploiting the labour of the European working class.

The article also states that "All legislation providing for workers' rights must be introduced by the Government of the day, and in particular by the Minister for Labour, and must be passed by Dail Eireann. This fact alone should point to the need for a strong Workers' Party in Dail Eireann." That is, for the Sticks to take seats in Leinster House.

O'HAGAN

An amalgam of dishonesty and hypocrisy is certainly the name of the game as far as the Sticks are concerned — and none more so than 'Workers Life' editor Des O'Hagan, who has written a piece of pure drivel in the magazine, supposedly on political developments in the six-counties.

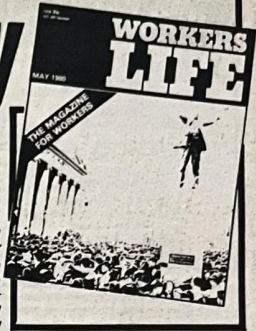
In an article entitled 'Taigs out, Prods out' O'Hagan openly and unashamedly reinforces Brit propaganda that "gangwar and tribalism are the two main features of Northern Ireland society" and dishonestly claims that the sectarian wall-slogan 'Prods out' is common in nationalist areas. The article shows that the unfortunate O'Hagan frequently sees things which do not exist.

In a bizarre rationalisation of the Sticks' abysmal failure in the Euro-polls a year ago, he says "The party polarisation which existed previously due solely to sectarian forces has been replaced by loyalty to heroic individuals," who he then goes on to name as Paisley, Hume and Powell.

O'Hagan then observes: "There is the cluster of Unionist parties which tend to be grouped in a 'them' category by myopic commentators who simply identify Protestants." Obviously in desperate need of spectacles himself O'Hagan, ironically, then does exactly what he accuses others of. He confuses Armagh MP Harold McCusker with Official Unionist leader Jim Molyneux, who he confuses with North Down maverick Jim Kilfedder, actually managing to compress the latter two into 'North Down maverick Jim Molyneux'.

ALLIANCE

O'Hagan is full of praise for the



unionist party of the professional Protestant (and, in a few cases, Catholic) middle-class; he absurdly claims that "the Alliance Party have demonstrated programmatically that they are clearly to the left of the centre." He praises "such personalities as leader Oliver Napier, general secretary John Cusnahan, and former Belfast Lord Mayor David Cook."

Perhaps even O'Hagan dimly recognises that the pro-Brit middle-of-the-road Alliance Party is somewhat similar to the Sticks in the South.

Just how far the Sticks have degenerated into a pro-Brit pro-loyalist monstrosity within Northern nationalist areas is amply demonstrated by O'Hagan's welcome for a right-wing pro-loyalist shift by the Alliance Party: "Serious changes have taken place, including a significant shift away from 'power sharing' towards 'partnership' by Alliance. Democratic politics is lurking in the wings." But, as O'Hagan well knows, in the six-counties context, given the in-built unionist majority 'democratic politics' is a loyalist catch-phrase for loyalist rule.

O'Hagan strongly deplores "the absence of public life, other than at local government level," which "has had disastrous consequences for Northern Ireland."

He calls for the return of 'a major political institution', that is Stormont, at which the Sticks obviously intend to be the new loyal opposition, replacing what they call the 'hibernian nationalism' of the SDLP — a party which O'Hagan already views as defunct.

Despite the Sticks' electoral ambitions, North and South, and despite their high hopes for their new 'workers' magazine, there have been too many collaborationist parties before for 'Workers Life' to make, as its editorial hopes it will, "a unique contribution to Irish political life."

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Full-page advertisements from the Sticks' new monthly magazine, 'Workers Life' — 'Glancing through the advertisements strikingly reinforces the initial impression that the magazine is aimed at a middle-class readership who are interested in workers as a sort of hobby.'

Divis residents defy councillors

BY SEAN DELANEY

RECENT ATTEMPTS by Belfast City Council to suspend the management committee of one of West Belfast's community centres, and perhaps ultimately to close down the community centre itself, has raised the question of how much such centres are controlled by the people they are meant to serve, or how much they are simply controlled by local government.

Closure moves against the Divis Flats Community Centre in West Belfast began two weeks ago. The Community Services Committee of Belfast City Council voted to recommend to the next full council meeting on June 2nd that the community centre's existing management committee be suspended and that the centre then be directly administered by the Community Services Committee until a new management committee could be selected by the council themselves.

Yet the present twenty-strong management committee was democratically elected at the AGM of the

community centre last November, consisting of one representative of each of the ten groups using the centre and ten people elected by popular vote from the floor of the meeting.

STANCE

The council has long been opposed to the militant stance the management committee has taken on a number of issues, recently, for example, voting support for political status and co-opting former blanket man Fra McCann on to the committee.

But in particular the manage-

ment committee has been vocal in condemning the appalling slum conditions of the Divis complex and in expressing support for the Divis Demolition Committee which has in the past, with support from Divis residents, rejected Housing Executive plans for the partial demolition and cosmetic rehabilitation of the complex; both the management committee and the demolition committee are demanding that the complex be totally demolished and the existing residents rehoused in the area.

The attempted suspension of the present management committee — along with the implied threat of the withdrawal of the £30,000 annual maintenance grant if this is not complied with — is seen by residents as part of an overall attempt to defuse militancy within Divis and replace existing committees with selected 'liaison' bodies more amenable to council plans for the area.

ARGUED

Ironically, three members of the suspended management committee are themselves members of the Community Services Committee who argued most vigorously in support of the suspension! Two of

Alliance councillor, Will Glendinning, being heckled by H-Block protesters on his way to a recent meeting of the management committee he has now helped to 'suspend'.



them, Sticky councillor Jim Sullivan and SDLP councillor Owen Allen, have never yet attended a meeting of the management committee; and Alliance councillor Will Glendinning was recently put out of the community centre by Divis residents angry at his refusal to state his position on political status.

Members of the management committee, which is refusing to stand down, believe that the commi-

unity centre must be run by democratic local involvement and not by political dictates from the Belfast City Hall. They are organising a petition throughout Divis which they are confident will reaffirm residents' militant support for the existing management committee. And they pledge that under no circumstances will the community centre — the only social amenity in the entire slum complex of six thousand people — close down.

WHAT'S ON

FOLK NIGHT
Friday 23rd May
The Rafter's Lounge
SWATRAQH
Organised by
Seamus McCusker Sinn Fein cumann

PRISON PICKET
2.30 p.m. Saturday 24th May
ARMAGH PRISON
BUS FROM DUBLIN:
Leaves 11 a.m. National Ballroom,
Parnell Square
BUS FROM BELFAST:
Leaves 1 p.m. Dunville Park

EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS COURSE
For new and existing instructors
1 p.m. — 6 p.m. Saturday 24th May
11 a.m. — 3 p.m. Sunday 25th May
44, Parnell Square
DUBLIN
This course is compulsory for comhairle ceantair education officers who are not qualified instructors. It will also be suitable as a refresher for qualified instructors and time will be given to an assessment of the existing programme. Names and details of accommodation requirements to Head Office as soon as possible.

THOMAS DAVIS COMMEMORATION
3 p.m. Sunday 25th May
Mount Jerome Cemetery
Harold's Cross
DUBLIN
Assembly at Main Gate
Oration by Eamonn MacThomais

MCNEELA/GAUGHAN/STAGG COMMEMORATION
Sunday 25th May
BALLINA
Organised by
Mayo Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair
BUS FROM SLIGO:
Leaves Market Yard at 2.30 p.m.
BUS FROM DUBLIN:
Contact Lita Campbell, 44 Parnell Sq for details

WELCOME HOME
(Albert and Tony)
8 p.m. Wednesday 28th May
Hollybrook Hotel
Howth Road
DUBLIN
Music by the Cherry 3
Adm: £1. Proceeds to
An Cumann Cabhrach.

PUBLIC MEETING
Smash the H-Block!
Smash police censorship!
7.30 p.m. Thursday 5th June
McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall St.
GLASGOW
Organised by 'Hands Off Ireland'

PRISON PICKET
Saturday 7th June
WAKEFIELD GAOL
Organised by
North of England Irish Prisoners Committee

H-BLOCK MARCH
2.30 p.m. Saturday 7th June
DUBLIN
Assembly St. Stephen's Green
March to GPO for meeting
Organised by
National H-Block Committee

H-BLOCK MARCH
2.30 p.m. Saturday 14th June
DUBLIN
Assemble Gate Cinema
March from Ballyfermot to Thomas St.

H-BLOCK MARCH
Saturday 14th June
BELFAST
Organised by
National H-Block Committee

'VOICES FOR WITHDRAWAL' FORUM
10 a.m. Saturday 14th June
Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq.
LONDON
Organised by
Committee for Withdrawal from Ireland

H-BLOCK CONFERENCE
Sunday 15th June
Green Briar
BELFAST
Organised by
National H-Block Committee

YOUTH CONFERENCE
10.30 a.m. Saturday 21st June
Liberty Hall
DUBLIN
Organised by
Sinn Fein's Youth Department

THE protest movement against the war in Vietnam was a major event in recent American history. It is also a valuable experience for those committed to building a troops out movement in Britain. Several articles in An Phoblacht/Republican News — namely one by Helen Stevens in the August 18th issue, last year, contributions by the British left-wing groups, RCG and RCT, in the October 13th issue, last year, and a contribution by Sue O'Halloran in the February 9th issue, this year — make it worthwhile taking a look at the political basis of the anti-war movement in America.

THE leaders of the national liberation struggle in Vietnam always recognised the importance of a broad-based movement against the war being developed in the imperialist heartland itself. They did not think it pointless or impossible to build a troops out movement, in spite of widespread support in America for the war — including amongst the trade unions.

The Vietnamese leaders always appealed for unity in action amongst the various anti-war organisations in America.

Xuan Thuy, ambassador to the Paris peace talks, put it like this: "Facing the serious situation as it presents itself now, I call upon the progressive American people and all anti-war organisations in the United States to unite closely, to associate all forces and strata of the population irrespective of their skin colour, religion and political trend, thus making a united and strong movement so as to curb in time new military adventures by the US administration, to demand an end to their war of aggression in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, to demand the withdrawal of all American troops from Indochina and let the Indochina people settle their own internal affairs."

The principle is that an anti-war movement in an imperialist country must unite the broadest possible forces behind the basic demands of 'troops out' and 'self-determination'.

ACTION

The stress of the American anti-war movement was always on action, rather than, for example, on

LESSONS FROM THE AMERICAN ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

BY CIARAN DOWD



Armed National Guardsmen confront young anti-war demonstrators in America. — 'Gradually, the building of a mass movement against the war, mainly supported by students and black people, turned the tide in the trade unions, and many came out against the war.'

working in Congress. So, there were huge demonstrations against the war over a number of years, such as the 800,000 who marched in Washington in 1971. There were protests, teach-ins and mass mobilisations up and down the country throughout the war, especially after the draft was introduced.

This movement had two main principles. First it had a non-exclusionary line, in other words anyone who supported the basic demands was free to participate.

Secondly, it was a single-issue campaign, which did not include in its programme points on broader political issues.

If these principles are applied in Britain what is the result?

If the Young Liberals or Cyril Smith or a number of Labour MPs say 'troops out of Ireland', but take reactionary positions on other issues, then clearly this conflict is their problem and not that of activists in the troops out movement, so long as their actions help in some way to build a troops out movement.

DANGER

It is always the danger in build-

ing an anti-war movement in a hostile situation of making it politically factional. Republicans would obviously like to see hundreds of thousands marching through London calling for the withdrawal of British troops on a principled, anti-imperialist basis. But, it may well be more likely that a 'Bring the Boys home' movement will develop based on British self-interest and chauvinist sentiment. This would seem to be what the *Daily Mirror* has been advocating. In a purely objective sense this could unwittingly result in action against British interests.

So, while a progressive anti-imperialist movement would be the more welcome, Republicans cannot ignore the prospect of a movement saying 'troops out' for its own chauvinist reasons ('let the Irish sort themselves out'). Protest action is what is wanted, no matter what the basis. However, within this movement the radicals should, of course, try to educate people around the issues raised in the war.

TRADE UNIONS

As was stated earlier, the trade unions in America were mainly

favourable to the war in Vietnam. This was basically on a pro-imperialist basis, and purely for self-interest because the war meant more jobs. Building workers in New York, the 'hard hats', even violently attacked anti-war demonstrations in the streets.

Gradually, the building of a mass movement against the war, mainly supported by students and black people, turned the tide in the trade unions, and many came out against the war.

In Britain, it would seem the situation is more favourable for building a 'troops out' movement within the organised labour movement. Support for the Chile Solidarity Campaign (set up after the bloody military coup in 1973) was, for example, quite widespread amongst trade councils and unions.

On Ireland, most trade unionists seem to be not so much hostile as ignorant of the situation here.

It is for those active in the troops out movement to decide themselves how best to pursue their activity. But the prospects look good, if a principled yet flexible approach is adopted, based on the 'non-exclusionary' and 'single-issue' principles.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

CAMPBELL, Kevin. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Kevin, we hope the roses are doing well. God bless from Eileen, Hugh and kids.
CORBETT, Gabriel. (H-Block). Birthday greetings Gabriel from your friends and comrades in Twinklbrook Sinn Fein, "Mary Queen of the Gael wrap your mantle around him."
CORBETT, Gabriel. (H-Block). Greetings on your 22nd birthday Gabriel. May your next one be spent with status. From the Berkery family and Liam (H-Block).
LAVERY, Seamus. (H-Block). Happy birthday Seamus. Hoping that it will be your last one spent in captivity. Keep your chin up. From Margaret.
LAVERY, Seamus. (H-Block). Happy birthday Seamus. (A single day passes without a thought of you. God bless. From granny Murray).
LAVERY, Seamus. (H-Block). Best wishes on your birthday Seamus. All our thoughts are with you today and everyday. With love from Charley, Kathleen and Olga.
LAVERY, Seamus. (H-Block). Birthday greetings on your 22nd birthday.

Thinking of you always and remembering you in our prayers. God bless. From Sarah, Joan, Pauline and Claire.
LAVERY, Seamus. (H-Block). All the best dear son on your 22nd birthday. If I had a wish that wish would be for the keys of the Kesh to set you all free. God bless you always. From daddy, mammy brothers and sisters.
LAVERY, Seamus. (H-Block). Happy 22nd birthday Seamus. Hope your next one is spent in freedom. From Davy, Margaret and family.
LAVERY, Seamus. (H-Block). Happy birthday Seamus. No-one could be prouder than we are of you today and this is to tell you we are behind you all the way. From Eamon and Geraldine.
LYNCH, Kevin. (H-Block). Happy 24th birthday Kevin on May 25th and very best wishes. The courage and determination of you and your comrades are the foundations for our new nation. With love from father, mother, brothers and sisters.
MAHER, Bernard. (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings, Bernard, from Do Do, Big Al and Tommy.
MAHER, Bernard. (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings, Bernard, from mam, Anne, Joe and children and from the Mooneyes.
MAHER, Bernard. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Ben, from Mick.

McKENNA, Sean. (H-Block). Birthday greetings Sean from Helena and Mary.
McPEAKE, Pat. (H-Block). Congratulations on your birthday Pat. We are a little late, but always thinking of you. From the Fergal O'Hanlon, Sinn Fein cumann, Lavey, South Derry.
QUINN, Ann-Marie. (Armagh). Happy birthday babe, may your next be spent in freedom. Its right to fight for what you want, for all that you believe, its right to live the life you lead. As long as you have done your best then no one can do more, for freedom, love and happiness are well worth fighting for. God bless, Johnny McLaughlin, Scotland.

ultimately triumph." All the best, from Dymna, Eddie and Sean O'G.
McKENNA, Sean. (H-Block). Congratulations to my son, Sean, on completing three years on the blanket. "You are not alone in H-Block, no matter what they say, for outside your friends and loved ones are behind you all the way." From Bld, Jackie and all the family.

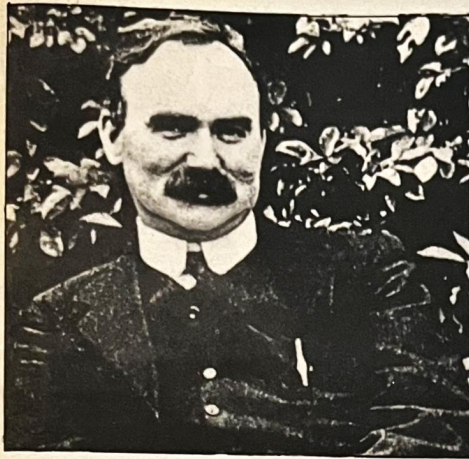
O'NEILL, Kevin. (H-Block). Now in his third year on the blanket. "It is not they who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most who will ultimately triumph." From the Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Fein cumann, Lavey, South Derry.

STEVENSON, Laurence. (Marshall, Sam). **ROLAND, Jim.** (McAUGHEY, Sean). (H-Block). Congratulations to my comrades Laurence, Sam, Jim and Sean on completing three years on the blanket. Solidarity greetings also to all the Lurgan men on protest in the H-Block Hall-Hole. From Kieran Murray Case 11, Long Kesh.

STEVENSON, Laurence. (Marshall, Sam). **ROLAND, Jim.** (McAUGHEY, Sean). (H-Block). Solidarity greetings to Laurence, Sam, Jim and Sean on completing three years on the blanket on 13th May. From the Murray family, Lurgan.

Solidarity Greetings

McKENNA, Sean. (H-Block). Congratulations to my brother Sean on completing three years on the blanket. "It is not they who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most who will



Comoradh Chonghaile

Dhein na Ceard Chumainn comoradh le déanaí ar Sheamas Ó Chonghaile. I ndiaidh Aifrin mháirseail siad go dtí Arbour Hill, áit a thug John Carroll dráid Bhí Michael Mullen agus ceannairí eile i láthair.

Thug an t-Athair Piaras Ó Dúill aitheasc uaidh an aifreann.

Dúirt sé gurab é an grá a spreag Ó Chonghaile agus gur chaith sé a shaol ag troid in aghaidh an Bhochtanaís agus in aghaidh an laige spride a bhí neadaithe i gcoirthe na ndaoine toisc go raibh an dóchas beagnach cailte acu.

Lean sé:

Má dhéanann muid staidear ar obair agus ar shaothar Uí

Chonghaile, feicfidh muid conas mar a thainig sé chun a íobairte fhéin de bharr a ghrá do mhuintir na hÉireann. Feicfidh muid a chreideamh láidir ins an obair mhór a chuir sé isteach, lá i ndiaidh lae, ag eagrú cruinnithe, ag bunú gluaiseachtaí, agus ag síor-síorbh agus ag síor-spreagadh agus ag síor-ghríosadh na ndaoine chun dóchais.

Sea, ba chóir dúinn staidear agus taighde a dhéanamh ar obair agus ar shaothar Uí Chonghaile. Ach nuair atá sin déanta againn ní leor an scéal mórchúiseach a insint as an nua, agus is gá dúinn a thaispeáint gur féidir linn aghaidh a thabhairt ar cheisteanna an lae inniu... na ceisteanna céanna a bhí ag cur as do Sheamus Ó Chonghaile ... ceisteanna, cuir i gcás, faoi dínit agus cearta an duine.

Má chreideann muid go bhfuil dínit ag an duine mar a chreid Uí Chonghaile, agus go bhfuil ómós ag dul don dínit sin, is cuma cén grád atá aige, cén dearcadh atá aige. Má chreideann muid iontu sin ní féidir fanacht ciúin faoin uafáis agus greadadh agus drochstaid na mBlocanna H i dtuaisceart na tíre i láthair na huair. Ach má thanann muid ciúin faoi tá muid ag déanamh leatrom ar dhínit an duine.

"Éire gan a muintir ní n'liom í. An t-é atá ag impeacht as a chraiceann le grá ar Éirinn agus le diograis ar a son agus ar féidir leis síd na saigeanna i bfiannise iomláin na h-Éagora, atá g's h-imirt ar mhuintir na h-Éireann idir chruaitín, náire agus truaillithe, agus nach mbeadh an t-é sin i mbroid le deireadh a chur leis an éagair, ní ann dar linn, ach rogaire agus bréagadóir ina chroí istigh." — A dúirt Ó Chonghaile. Sin caint atá chomh foirstineach céadna d'Éirinn ar linne."

Mac Thomais lecture

THE SINN FEIN ROOMS at Blessington Street in Dublin were crowded on Wednesday 14th May for a lecture on the '1969 Split' by Eamonn MacThomais, arranged by Dublin Sinn Féin's education department. The attentive audience were not disappointed by an outstanding lecture which contained much material which must have been new to the majority of listeners, and could not fail to give a better understanding of that traumatic period.

MacThomais began his analysis with the revival of the Republican Movement after the forties, dealing in detail with the arms raids of the early fifties and the '56 campaign to its end in 1962. Drawing on his own deep involvement and personal experiences of those days, he traced the various tensions and disputes (as well as the successes) which had arisen during this period, both outside and inside the prisons — particularly the Curragh — and which were to have repercussions later.

In dealing with the sixties, and the concentration then on social agitation, MacThomais pointed out that there had not been a wrong direction taken in this, but rather that disastrously the national question had not been combined with it. This mistake had led almost inevitably to the ending of parliamentary abstentionism and, along with the excessive authoritarianism of the leadership — typified by the purges of dissenting members — meant that the events of 1969 in the North found the leadership of the movement totally unprepared politically and militarily and unable to make a proper analysis of what was happening.

MacThomais went on to describe the events surrounding the final parting of the ways at the IRA convention in 1969, and the establishment of the Provisional Army Council and the Caretaker Executive Sinn Féin.

Norwegian Solidarity

THE Tricolour and Starry Plough were carried in Oslo's six-thousand-strong May Day parade by members of *Irlands Fronten* who marched behind a banner reading 'All British Troops Out of Ireland. Free All Political Prisoners.'



French Solidarity



ON the May Day parade in Paris, members of *Irlande Libre* and *Comité Irlandais* carried placards about the H-Blocks and Armagh jail, and gave out eight thousand leaflets explaining the conditions in which the prisoners are held.

TROOPS OUT

Paper of the Troops Out Movement

May issue now available, including:

British army killings;
technological repression in the North of Ireland;
the British Labour Movement and Ireland;
plus news, reviews and more.

From: Troops Out (Literature Committee), Box 10, 2a St. Paul's Road, London N1. Price 10p + 10p p&p, or £2 for year's subscription.



Francis Rice Commemoration

THE seventh annual commemoration for Fian Francis Rice was held in Bryansford, County Down, last Sunday. Francis Rice was stabbed to death in May 1973, as he walked through a forest at Burrenban, when he was aged only fifteen years. It is widely believed by local people that his brutal murder was the work of the UDR.

Sunday's commemoration was jointly organised by the three Sinn Féin cumainn from Castlevellian, Killoo and Glasdrummond — they hold joint annual commemorations for each of the eight Volunteers killed from that area. At Sunday's commemoration, Jim Quail recited a decade of the rosary, after which wreaths were laid by members of the family and by each of the cumainn. The oration was given by Billy Donnelly, chairperson of Sinn Féin's Ulster executive.

Sympathy

NORNEY. Belfast Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin are saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. Teresa Norney, mother of our comrade Paul, in jail in England. A Mhuire na nGael den idir guf ar a n-annam. To Paul, his brothers and sisters we extend our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

DUNDALK P.D.F.

16th Draw results

£100: 117; £50: 201; £20: 579; £10: 476, 111, 41, and 40; £5: 396 and 301.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The H-Block Fund acknowledges receipt of £100 from republican prisoners in Portlaoise, received via Mary O'Keefe, Portlaoise.

Wolfe Tone Commemoration

BODENSTOWN

Sunday 22nd June

Oration: Martha McClelland (Derry)

Chair: Tom Hartley (Belfast)

Chief Marshal:

Gearoid Mac Carthaigh (Cork)
Assemble Salinas, 2.15 p.m.



SPECIAL CATEGORY 'A'

REVIEW BY SEAN MACSTIOPHAIN

'SPECIAL CATEGORY 'A'' is a new well-produced one hundred page pamphlet published by Sinn Féin's POW Department. This pamphlet, the story of Irish political prisoners in England, based on the prison life and experiences of John Higgins between 1976 and 1979, brings home the grim reality of life for Republicans in the hell-holes of the English penal system. It takes us through the entire process of a long remand in Brixton, the show trial, the repressive induction period designed to break prisoners, the deliberate denial of medical treatment and the long and indefinite periods of solidarity confinement.

It takes us through all the hardships, sacrifices and victimisation that are the daily lot of Irish political prisoners in England. It also takes us through the hardships and humiliations endured by the prisoners' visitors, their wives, children and parents.

In the past, Irish political prisoners in England were often 'the forgotten ones', what with being so far away and with most of the publicity going to the prisoners in Ireland. That is now no longer the case. Following the publication of this pamphlet the plight of our comrades imprisoned in England should be far better known than ever before.

This pamphlet must be read by every Republican; it should be discussed by every Sinn Féin cumann; and every member of the Republican Movement should consider it a privilege to sell it at work, outside churches, and everywhere we can.

This pamphlet tells not only a story of hardship, sacrifice, victimisation and frame-up, it also tells of how, with great courage and determination, the prisoners continue the struggle against imperialism. Of how the prisoners refuse to compromise with the penal system that so far

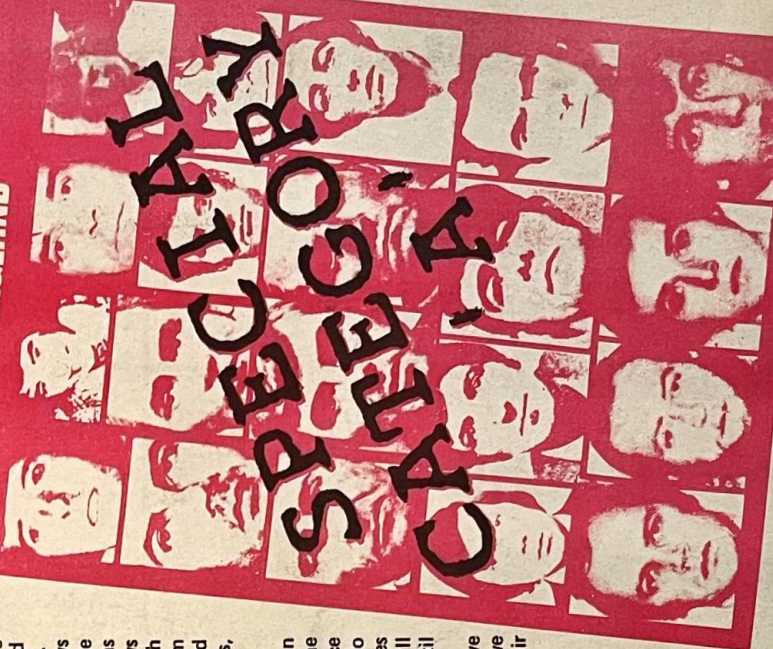
has killed five of their comrades: brave Gaughan and Stagg; Jenkinson, the revolutionary trade unionist; Sean O Connail, who died one day after being 'released' to a hospital; and poor innocent Giuseppe Conlon.

'Special Category 'A'' shows just how the prisoners are the most oppressed of all the victims of imperialism, but it also shows time and again, that although isolated, hundreds of miles from Ireland, just how these men and women, the felons of the 1980s, strike back at that system.

Let us not fail them, for in every message from them, the theme is the same: we will face the future here with courage, do what you can for our families and for us, but above all continue the struggle until victory!

This pamphlet is, as I have said, a must for us all, and we must all sell it. Maith sibh a chuir an leabhran seo amach!

IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS
IN ENGLAND



Prices for single copies:

Ireland: £1.25 plus 25p post.

Britain: £1.25 plus 25p post.

Europe: £1.25 plus 25p post (surface) or 65p post (air).

USA: \$ 2.50 plus \$ 0.50 post (surface) or \$ 2.50 post (air).

Elsewhere: £1.25 plus 25p post (surface) or £1.25 post (air).

Special discount rates for bulk orders of ten or more copies are available on request.

Individual and bulk orders are available by post from Sinn Féin POW Department, 85b Falls Road, Belfast.

Copies are on sale at the Book Bureau, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin, and the Art Shop, 85 Falls Road, Belfast.

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