

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith Nua Im! 3 uimhir 6 de Sathairn Feabhra 14 Saturday February 14th 1981 (Britain 20p) Price 15p

H-Block / Armagh

PICKET

Saturday 14th February
Dublin

Picket Fianna Fail Ard Fheis
all day starting 10 a.m.
at the RDS, Ballsbridge

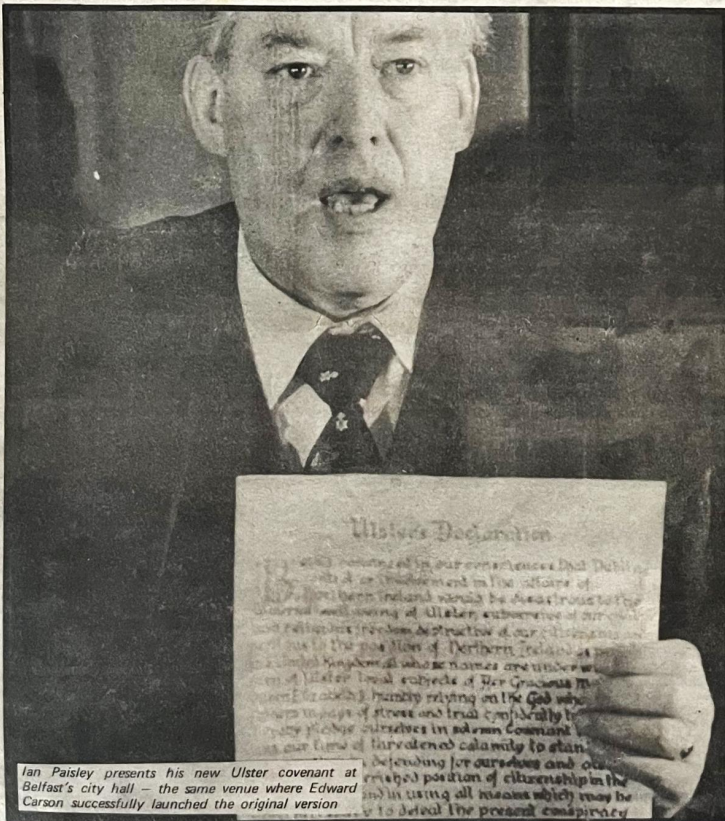
MARCH

Sunday 15th February
Belfast

leaves Dunville Park 2.30 p.m.
March to city centre

Organised by the National H-Block/Armagh Committee

DANGEROUS BUFFOON



Ian Paisley presents his new Ulster covenant at Belfast's city hall - the same venue where Edward Carson successfully launched the original version

WHILST loyalist leader Ian Paisley can most certainly be considered to be a loud-mouthed buffoon, he is also most definitely an extremely dangerous one, especially as far as the continued safety and well-being of the nationalist people in the six counties is concerned.

Anyone who thinks that Paisley's nocturnal gathering of five hundred fire-arm certificate-waving loyalists on an Antrim mountainside last week was funny, could well be laughing on the other side of their face by the time this monster has finished.

Paisley's deliberate incitement of Protestant sectarian hatred in pursuit of his personal political ambition can only lead to a further reinforcement of loyalist paramilitarism with further bloody violence being perpetrated against members of the Northern nationalist community by loyalist hoodlums and assassins.

Paisley's midnight mountaineering and his launching of a new Ulster covenant before the full glare of the media in Belfast city hall, whilst they may appear superficially ridiculous, are, in fact, significant signs of the times - and, more grimly, of the future.

Those who have attempted to scornfully dismiss Paisley's performance as a stunt, from the British government right down to Gerry Fitt, who says that Paisley has been watching too much television, are attempting to lull the oppressed and outnumbered nationalist people in the North, who will be the real victims, possibly during, but most certainly after, Paisley's crusade aimed at blowing 'the Haughey/Thatcher initiative to smithereens'.

Nevertheless whilst Paisley's mimicry of the path trodden by Unionist father-figure Edward Carson nearly seventy years ago must not be dismissed as a pre-election stunt in the run-up to the May local council elections, his manoeuvres certainly are having a potentially devastating effect upon the morale and unity of the Official Unionist Party, an effect which can only benefit his own Democratic Unionist Party at the polls, and boost him further on the path to power which he has relentlessly, and successfully, pursued over the last two decades.

Solicitor fined

LIMERICK solicitor Gordon Hayes, a member of the National H-Block / Armagh committee has been fined £50 for taking up an H-Block collection in Bruff, County Limerick, without a permit.

A Garda told Bruff District Court that he had seen Gordon Hayes with a collection box in a pub and at the church gates in Bruff last November. Hayes told the court that he made no apologies for having made the collection for what he described as 'one of the finest humanitarian causes.'

Fitt for nothing



H-BLOCK/ARMAGH campaigners picketed a meeting organised by the Free State Labour Party in Liberty Hall, Dublin, on Saturday 7th February, at which ex-SDLP leader Gerry Fitt was a guest speaker.

Fitt, who spoke of his contribution to socialism in the six counties without mentioning British repression or loyalist terror, was constantly heckled by protestors among the sixty attending the meeting.

Poleglass pub

AS PART of their ongoing sectarian campaign of obstruction, nit-picking at every possible point, Lisburn's loyalist council has objected to a plan to have a pub provided in the new nationalist Poleglass housing estate in West Belfast. The six-county Housing Executive has applied for planning permission in respect of the pub and three shops, but the council has asked that separate applications be made so that the pub can be considered on its own merits.

Strabane vendetta

BY SEAN DELANEY

A STRABANE MAN, Patrick Gilloway, aged 37, from the nationalist Head of the Town district, has become the victim of an intense campaign of harassment and intimidation, which has been going on since 1974, but has escalated dramatically in the last fortnight, and is apparently intended to railroad him into jail, drive him from his home, or make him a target for loyalist assassins.

The latest incident in this vendetta took place last Friday, February 6th, when Patrick Gilloway was stopped in his car at the Brit border checkpoint at the Camel's Hump in Strabane, as he returned with two friends, Danny McCauley and Paddy Kelly, from neighbouring Lifford in County Donegal.

GILLOWAY

Although the Camel's Hump checkpoint has comprehensive car searching facilities, Patrick Gilloway was forced to drive his car to Fort George, the Brit base in Derry, fourteen miles away, for searching. And his two friends were man-handled into a Brit landrover, Danny McCauley being struck on the back and on the side of the face with a rifle butt.

Then, instead of going directly to the Derry base, the Brits took the three men past the entrance of Fort George and into isolated countryside around the border, threatening them: 'This is where you're going to end up.'

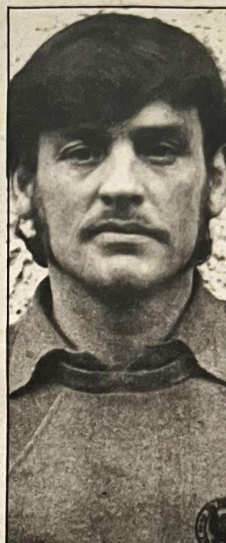
In Fort George after this forty-minute 'detour', the car was

searched and the trio released, three hours after they were first stopped in Strabane; but only after Danny McCauley, who is diabetic and who had unsuccessfully asked for a doctor, had been forced to go without an urgent insulin injection.

For Patrick Gilloway, this was the third time in ten days that he had been taken in his car to Fort George, to have it searched, even though identical facilities exist close-by in Strabane. Now, every single time he goes out in his car, he is stopped and questioned by Brits or RUC, his car searched, and taken to Fort George or simply held for up to an hour.

On January 19th this year, he was taken to Castlereagh after a dawn raid on his home, and held for five days. There, RUC interrogators tried to force him to sign a statement admitting involvement in bombings in 1975, threatening that, if he didn't, they had enough circumstantial evidence to connect him with a recent shooting attack on RUC men. They also threatened to set him up for UDA assassins.

This persecution, by RUC men



Patrick Gilloway (left) and Danny McCauley, both no strangers to British army and RUC harassment, were again victims of their intimidation last Friday

anxious to 'clear their books', has continued intermittently since 1974, when Patrick Gilloway was held on remand in Crumlin Road jail briefly, before being granted bail and the charges being subsequently dropped.

McCAULEY

Danny McCauley, one of Patrick's passengers last Friday, is no stranger either to Brit/RUC harassment. A Sinn Féin activist in the local Molloy/Devlin cumann, he was held, with other cumann members, for two months on remand in Crumlin Road last year, before being granted bail and the charges then being dropped. He,

too, is continually followed and watched by RUC patrols, as well as being stopped and held.

After one incident last September, when he was held without being arrested at the Camel's Hump checkpoint and again prevented from taking a prescribed insulin injection for his diabetic condition, he made a formal complaint of unlawful detention and medical neglect. The RUC's casual attitude to such complaints was amply illustrated when he was stopped in the street last week by the RUC, while out shopping, and mockingly 'informed' that the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided to take no action on the complaint.

Curious case of hit-and-run

BY PAT MCKEARNEY

A NIGHT which began with a few drinks in a local bar for four young men from West Belfast, ended for one of them in the intensive care unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital, and, for the other three, in Castlereagh interrogation centre, an unusual course of events when it is learned that they were the witnesses of a hit-and-run incident!

The four men were crossing the Grosvenor Road when a car travelling at great speed hit one of them, Mr. Maher, and carried him for fifteen or twenty yards on the bonnet, until he finally fell on to the road where he lay unconscious. The car travelled on without stopping.

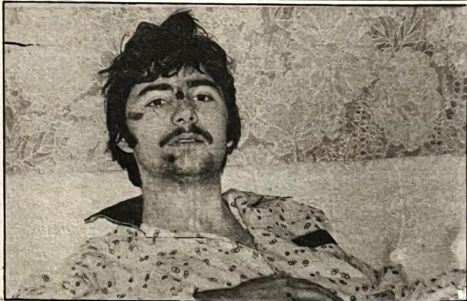
The next recollection Mr. Maher has is of being in hospital. However, his three friends, having ensured that their injured companion was taken to hospital, went to Springfield Road RUC barracks to report the incident in full. There they discovered that the car which had been involved in the incident was already in the barracks and the occupants seemed on very friendly terms with the RUC men.

After asking why the driver of the car was not being breathalized, one of

the witnesses was told to mind his own business. Shortly afterwards the three witnesses were arrested and taken to Castlereagh interrogation centre where they were held for twelve hours.

The injured man was visited by the RUC while still in hospital, and asked had he been involved in trying to hijack the car. He obviously denied this pointing out that he had been only yards from his home when the incident occurred. The RUC were not interested in the car but only in what the victim was doing. A strange line of enquiry for a hit-and-run accident.

Fortunately, there were several other witnesses on the scene, and one of these has already come forward and confirmed the story of the four young men. A woman was also at the scene of the



● MAHER — hit-and-run victim with RUC complications

accident and the family would like her to come forward.

It remains to be seen just what action the RUC will take on this incident, and why the victims of the accident

also became the victims of the RUC's interrogators. Mr. Maher is adamant that he has nothing whatsoever to hide, and he will pursue the case to the end.

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IRA appeal to the British people

LAST Friday, February 6th, the tenth anniversary of the death of the first British soldier killed during the current war, the IRA issued an appeal to the British people to pressurise their government to withdraw their troops from Ireland, so that today's death toll of more than three hundred soldiers will not be added to.

The full text of the IRA statement, issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin, and signed by P. O'Neil, is:

'Ten years ago today, on February 6th 1971, the British lost their first fatality in Ireland since the Ten War fifty years before, when Irish Republican Army Volunteers shot and killed Gunner Robert

Curtis of the Royal Artillery on the New Lodge Road in Belfast.

'Since then well over three hundred British soldiers have died in action in Ireland in a war in which the British government knows it cannot win. In 1971 and in every year since, British ministers have boasted about the imminent defeat of the IRA, and assured the British public that they were getting on top of the situation. But far from being defeated we are as effective in frustrating British policy in Ireland today as we were ten years ago.

'When we despatch active service units to England there is a storm of hypocritical protests, yet the occupation of part of our country by thousands of British soldiers, their daily repression of the nationalist people, and the torture of republican prisoners

of war, creates in England no ripples at all.

'We want peace, and the war in Ireland could be ended very quickly if the British government acknowledged the democratic right of the Irish nation to self-determination, and announced a British withdrawal from Ireland and an amnesty for all political prisoners.

'The North of Ireland is costing the British taxpayer over £1,000 million a year, and has seen Britain rated alongside other tyrannies for its deprivation of civil liberties and human rights.

'We appeal to the British people to put pressure on their government to withdraw from Ireland and no other young British soldiers need die in a war which the British government will lose in the end.'





Members of the National H-Block/Armagh Committee at a Dublin press conference on February 5th to announce the beginning of a second hunger-strike — from left to right: Vincent Doherty, Fr. Piaras O Duill, and Maura McCrory

H-Block men resist attempts to demoralise and degrade them

BY
PETER AARLIS

THE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT from the H-Blocks and Armagh jail on Thursday February 5th of new hunger-strikes commencing from March 1st coincided with a Westminster statement by direct-ruler Humphrey Atkins in which he reiterated the British government's inflexible position.

That public declaration of stubbornness was backed up by the action of prison warders at Long Kesh who assaulted, in some cases for the third time in as many weeks, over seventy of those blanket men who a fortnight ago smashed up cell furniture in a fit of frustration and exasperation.

Atkins had been due to make an announcement on the prisons on Wednesday February 4th but suddenly postponed his statement until Thursday, perhaps awaiting confirmation of strong media speculation that a hunger-strike announcement was imminent.

The hunger-strike was announced on Thursday, but no satisfactory explanation has been made for Atkins' twenty-four-hour postponement, since what he said on Thursday was presumably no different from what he had to say on Wednesday and thus would have had no bearing on the prisoners' decision.

REPUDIATED

In his Westminster statement Atkins has, in effect, again publicly repudiated his statement of Friday 19th December (which was delivered to the seven H-Block hunger-strikers and the Republican O/C of the H-Blocks, Bobby Sands, on Thursday 18th December, the day the hunger-strikes ended).

In his December 19th statement Atkins said that the blanket men would be given their own clothes before being supplied with prison-issue clothing (this clothing the men reject).

In his statement on January 9th Atkins reversed the order in which the men would get their clothes — that is, they must wear prison-issue clothing first before getting in their own clothes.

Attempting to get over this obstacle, twenty prisoners who took part in the recent pilot scheme (moving from dirty to clean, furnished cells, coming off the no wash/no slop-out protest) applied on January 23rd for their own clothes at 4.30 p.m., on a Friday afternoon when prisoners do not wear prison-issue clothing but wear their own clothes. Had the Brits been sincerely interested in settling the H-Block crisis then this was an obvious opportunity to do so.

But instead they refused the men their own clothes and demanded 'strict conformity'. It was frustration at this stumbling block

which culminated in the prisoners smashing up their cell furniture.

REINFORCED

In his most recent H-Block statement Atkins reiterated and elaborated upon the backtracking first publicly announced on January 9th so that when he compares Atkins' Friday 19th December statement with his statement of last Thursday, February 5th, one can see how much the Brits have hardened and reinforced their intransigence. For example, Atkins made no mention in his December 19th statement of breaking up the blanket men involved in the 'step by step' deescalation he talked about, but on February 5th he spoke about moving them 'to a wing containing other conforming prisoners'.

Atkins also lied when in his statement he said that the prison administration 'took the initiative to move groups of protesting prisoners into clean and furnished cells, without waiting for these prisoners to say that they intended to end their protest.'

As Atkins rightly knows, the prison administration attempted to set the pace by making a well-publicised wing-shift on January 5th but which came to grief (the men maintained their protests) because it was not co-ordinated with the prisoners, and realising this the prison governor entered into discussions with Bobby Sands, the blanket men's O/C, and then allowed Bobby to meet with the O/Cs of H-Blocks 4, 5 and 6 on Sunday 11th February in order to co-ordinate the movement of ninety-six prisoners in H-Blocks 3 and 5 into clean, mostly furnished cells on January 12th, 13th and 15th.

ASSAULTED

Since the smash-up of cell furniture on Tuesday evening, January 27th, these ninety-six prisoners (who were all moved to H6) have been at the butt of continual harassment, and last weekend suffered particularly bad assaults when many of them were being moved either back to their own blocks or into a new wing in H6.

Last Tuesday, February 8th, over

forty of these prisoners in H6 were assaulted when they moved back to H5. On arriving in H5 they were subjected to the degrading mirror search inspection of their back passages and in the process many were viciously kicked to the ground.

While on the ground they were further degraded by warders walking over their legs and ankles. One man, Pat Livingstone, received cuts and bruises to his legs and as usual the warders found nothing during this exercise in harassment.

Brendan McClenaghan was punched in the kidneys and kicked in the legs. His head was also battered off a concrete wall and he is now suffering from severe headaches.

For several hours following this shift to H5 the men were left in their cells without bedding or even blankets to cover themselves, even though the bedding was already outside each cell.

Last Saturday, February 7th, during a shift from 'C' wing to 'A' wing in H6, thirty-three men were beaten while being forced to bend for the mirror search. Belfast blanket man Seamus Finucane and Paddy Molloy sustained bruising to their legs. The prisoners have named some of the warders involved as Waterman and Lyons and said that a senior warder, Mullan, supervised the wing-shift.

After the wing-shift the men did not get their beds, pots or drinking water until Saturday evening.

SENTENCED

A blanket man in H3, Patrick Burnside, who was caught smuggling in a family letter on a visit on January 24th, was sentenced to two 'closed' visits (separated from visitors by a perspex screen). 'Closed' visits, as an alternative to the mirror search before and after ordinary visits, have been an offer to the men, but when Patrick Burnside was on his February visit he was subjected to two mirror searches despite the fact that he would not be able to make any contact with his visitors.

Prison warders, when taking blanket men out for visits, are demanding that they give their prison number. When the prisoners refuse they are sent back to their cells. Sometimes men are out in three times a day and their visitors are kept waiting for excessive lengths of time, before the visit is actually allowed to take place.

Attempts to minimise publicity about conditions in the H-Blocks have continued. Tom Miller, a blanket man who got parole to attend his father's funeral, had to sign board papers with the following stipulation: 'I will not draw any parades. I will not draw any attention to myself on the blanket protest.'

So what is taking place now is the concerted attempt by the authorities to frustrate, demoralise, degrade and defeat the blanket protest before the 'hunger-strike begins on March 1st.

NOT A PRECEDENT

A LEADING ACTIVIST of the Belfast-based Association for Legal Justice, Clara Reilly of Turf Lodge, was awarded £1,000 damages in a Belfast High Court last Thursday, February 5th, for 'wrongful arrest' on February 20th, one year ago, when she was held by British soldiers for four hours at Springfield Road barracks without being questioned about any particular 'offence'. Despite press speculation that the British Ministry of Defence could be open to a series of court actions following this ruling that 'screening' for intelligence gathering is 'illegal', this is an unlikely development. For this award of damages is not a precedent, and it is very unusual for the Brits to admit to 'wrongful arrest' given that an arresting soldier only has to claim 'suspicion of an offence'. Section 14 of the wide-ranging Emergency Provisions Act states: 'A member of Her Majesty's forces on duty may arrest without warrant, and detain for not more than four hours, a person whom he suspects of committing, having committed or being about to commit any offence.'

News reports incorrectly claimed that Clara Reilly was the first person to successfully sue for damages for wrongful arrest under Section 14. In fact, a previous 'screening' victim, Michael McLoughlin, of Hackballscross, County Louth, successfully sued the Brits for 'wrongful arrest' in May 1978 and was awarded more than £1,000 damages (also for assault) in October 1979, as was reported in *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, November 3rd 1979, under the heading 'Brits have no power to hold for screening — Judge.'

Atkins' indecision

NORTHERN DIRECT-RULER Humphrey Atkins has decided, as expected, not to ban the loyalist terror gang, the UDA, despite the fact that the previous 'screening' victim, Michael McLoughlin, of Hackballscross, County Louth, successfully sued the Brits for 'wrongful arrest' in May 1978 and was awarded more than £1,000 damages (also for assault) in October 1979, as was reported in *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, November 3rd 1979, under the heading 'Brits have no power to hold for screening — Judge.'

Keel cuts

TELEVISION VIEWERS in the twenty-six counties who want to see, uncensored, the final two episodes — 12 and 13 — of Robert Kee's documentary 'Ireland, a television history' will have to wait to watch them on BBC 2, which views on the east coast can receive directly. Under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, RTE is cutting out interviews in the joint BBC/RTE production with veteran republican Joe Cahill, *An Phoblacht/Republican News* editor Danny Morrison, and two UDA men. Robert Kee says that the proposed RTE cuts will 'destroy' the final episode. Ironically many thousands of Southern viewers will see the uncensored programmes on piped television, courtesy of RTE relays, a subsidiary of RTE which specialises in cable relay television.

When challenged in Leinster House, Fianna Fáil Minister of State for Post and Telegraphs, Mark Killilea, backed this latest outrageous and ludicrous act of censorship on RTE, which only goes to show just how insecure the Free State traitors feel.

Reagan reversal

US PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan may lift the ban on the sale of guns and ammunition to the RUC when British premier Thatcher visits Washington at the end of the month. The ban was introduced by the Carter administration in the form of a State Department review after a row in the American congress when RUC abuses of human rights were highlighted. But a different view than that of Jimmy Carter is likely to be taken by the more openly reactionary Reagan who is even less dependent upon any pro-irish lobby.

A trio of British politicians, one from each party, all connected with the North, lobbied congressional leaders last week. Former direct-ruler Roy Mason's side-kick Don Concannon (Labour), the outspoken Michael Mates (Tory), and Stephen Ross (Liberal), have been 'meeting editorialists and opinion formers', which can be translated into 'playing US journalists with drink', according to journalist Peter Fearon writing in *The Irish Press*.

RUC crashes

A TOP RUC MAN, Chief Superintendent Bill Mooney, head of the so-called 'crime squad', is lying seriously ill in hospital following a car crash on Friday evening, February 6th. The accident occurred when the RUC man was driving to Aldergrove airport to catch a flight to England. He hit a lorry. The next day, Saturday, an RUC car containing a sergeant and a constable, both of whom suffered minor injuries, collided a motor-cyclist on the Portrush to Portstewart road at Quarry Hill on the County Derry coast.

Abnormal signal

A SIGN of the abnormal state of 'Northern Ireland' is the remarkably high percentage of people, including supposedly 'law abiding' loyalists, who do not pay the television licence fees due to the British government. An estimated two out of five Northern viewers, totalling 180,000 do not have a licence — £12 black and white, and £34 colour, per annum — which costs the Brits more than £3 million a year in lost revenue. The non-payment rate is more than eight times higher in the North than in Britain. The British Post Office, the licence fee collectors, admit: 'It is true to say that civil strife has hampered the recovery of unpaid licence fees in Northern Ireland.' Detector vans do not operate in the six counties and the Post Office further admit that it is difficult 'to get people to go out and do the job' of collecting the unpaid fees.

Hume's backing

NOT SURPRISINGLY, SDLP leader John Hume publicly backed Free State premier Charlie Haughey's interpretation of the 'constitutional' significance of the Dublin December summit, after a high-level meeting in Dublin between the SDLP and Free State government last Friday, February 6th. John Hume made it clear that he, like Charlie Haughey, and unlike British premier Margaret Thatcher in her public stance, regards the current joint British/Free State studies as being concerned with much wider issues than mere trading or tourist arrangements between the two states, and that the summit communicates phrase of 'totality of relationships' means exactly what it says. The high-powered SDLP delegation of John Hume, Seamus Mallon, Dr. Joe Hendron, Austin Currie, Michael Canavan, Hugh Logue and Frank Feely had met Haughey and his Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lemmon, and Minister for Education, Wilson, as one of a regular series of meetings between the SDLP and Fianna Fáil government to discuss undermining republican resistance in the North.

On the RTE television programme 'Today Tonight' on Monday evening, John Hume repeated what he had told newspaper correspondents last Friday evening, that three sets of relationships are involved, between the British and Free State governments, between the six and twenty-six counties of Ireland, and between Ireland and Britain. John Hume thus reinforced the view that a possible federal or confederal arrangement will be within the scope of the new inter-governmental study groups. He thereby enabled Tuesday's 'Irish Press' to headline 'An Anglo-Irish confederation', adding to Haughey's credibility within his own ranks on the eve of this weekend's Fianna Fáil and this.

An act of collaboration

AS part of Charles Haughey's determined collaboration with Britain, the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act has been used by the Fianna Fail government in the twenty-six counties for the second time since its inception in 1976 by the coalition government.

On Thursday last week, Seamus Sorahan, a twenty-six-year-old man from Monaghan, was charged in the Dublin Special Criminal Court with the shooting dead, in County Armagh on September 4th, of a man who was executed by the IRA as an informer.

Last October, the first three men charged under the Act were acquitted by the Special Criminal Court following the dismissal of the RUC's forensic evidence as purely circumstantial by the judge.

The Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act survives as the only remnant of the abortive Sunningdale Agreement of 1973. Its purpose is to by-pass extradition difficulties by allowing persons to be charged in the twenty-six counties for actions in the six counties.

Anti-apartheid torchlight protest



SEVERAL thousand anti-apartheid demonstrators marched through Dublin in a torchlight procession on Friday 6th February to deliver a letter to the Irish Rugby Football Union headquarters in Lansdowne Road asking the IRFU to reconsider its proposed tour to South Africa in May.

Led by the ITGWU band the march included several trade union contingents, political parties, religious leaders, student groups and youth groups. The march was arranged to coincide with the Ireland versus France rugby match the following day.

Finglas picket: toxic dump



ANGRY Finglas residents picketed the Dublin County Council offices in O'Connell Street last Monday to protest against the council's decision to use the Dunsink dump in their north city suburb as an official toxic waste dump.

The picketers are concerned about the health risks involved since the dump is close to a large residential area and even nearer to two hospitals, an itinerant settlement in Dunsink lane and the Tolka river. They are particularly annoyed at the political smugness of the move — the Finglas residents, living in the Dublin corporation area, have no representation on the council which made the decision.

The organisers of the picket, the Finglas against Toxic Waste committee, estimate that six thousand tons of toxic waste will be dumped on the site each year posing a very real and dangerous problem. They are demanding that the county council fully explores other options available for the safe disposal of toxic waste.

Crisis at McCartin's

BY KATHLEEN DWYER

IN THE twelve months since February 1980 when the McCartin group in Leitrim was put into receivership, three hundred and forty workers and their families have lived with a gnawing fear that their sole means of livelihood, work at McCartin's, might end.

Last Friday, February 6th, seventy workers got redundancy notices, stating that they are out of a job in two weeks. Another thirty are to be sacked this week. What has been long feared is happening: McCartin's is closing.

Eggs were thrown at the receiver when he came to serve the notices, the local papers are full of 'workers' optimism', and 'workers' spokesman' Danny Mulligan speaks confidently about the recent moves: "It's inevitable, just normal receivership." But the workers themselves appear bemused as to what they can do and the militancy so apparent last year — when men with shotguns were out in the fields keeping off the receiver — has certainly not been developed in the meantime.

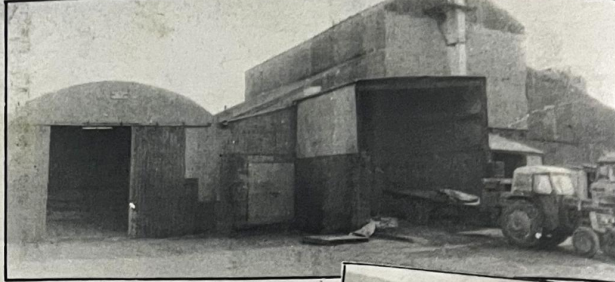
RECEIVERSHIP

The McCartin group consists of five companies, four of which are more or less viable concerns. The receivership comes about because the McCartin brothers took on a ridiculously large loan from the Agricultural Credit Corporation — £1.1 million at 21%, in conjunction with a bankrupt company Clover Meats, to finance a grandiose piggery.

In order to secure the loan, when Clover Meats backed out, the McCartin brothers pledged all the other companies' assets along with the livelihoods of the other three hundred workers.

In consequence, four companies in the group went into receivership last February: Newtowngore Clothing, which employs sixty people and makes pyjamas under contract to large stores, with sales over over £1 million; T. and G. Engineering, which is the largest agricultural engineering works in the northern part of the twenty-six counties; Feedrite Mills, which processes grain into feed mainly for local farmers, with sales of over £2½ million; and finally T. and J. farms, the massive piggery at Ballyhead, which has the capacity for forty-five thousand pigs each year, representing 3% of the total twenty-six county slaughter.

The McCartins themselves own a two hundred



Above: Feedrite Mills, one of the four McCartin businesses; right: Newtowngore clothing workers — with no work to do

acre farm at Killeshandra, a herd of over one hundred Friesian cows, a smaller piggery, private houses and the land on which two of the factories are built. This property too is pledged against the ACC loan according to Tommy McCartin.

The loan itself appears to have been transacted in a most irregular way with various verbal undertakings supposed to have been given to the McCartins by a Michael Collins who was not only chief executive of Clover Meats but the chairman of the ACC.

The Fianna Fail government announced last week that they would not be bailing out the McCartins and this precipitated the redundancy notices. The McCartins are both prominent Fine Gael politicians (Joe is a Euro-MP) and are accusing Fianna Fail of making political decisions. Certainly the workers feel that they are not being helped by the party clash.

SCHEME

Meanwhile the McCartins have another scheme, which they are testing with the Newtowngore clothing factory. Here the workers have formed a new separate company intending to continue production out of the hands of the receiver. The machinery they are using is leased.

However, with no finance for materials, work is at a standstill and this week's wage

is in doubt for the sixty workers there.

The idea is that this scheme will be extended to the other groups, the workers picking up their redundancy payments and then being assembled by the McCartins into groups of new shareholders to buy the old companies from the receiver, with hoped-for help from the Free State Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

The idea seems extremely risky. The receiver can only release assets to the highest bidder, whilst the IDA, whether directed by Fianna Fail or not, is unlikely to want to get involved with the brothers so soon again. The workers could find themselves out of their jobs and out of the factories with no bargaining position.

The McCartin workers look set to be caught between government unconcern and complex wheeling and dealing. Only the immediate decision to take things very much into their own hands looks like giving them any solid ground to fight on.

SLIGO JOBS IN DANGER

BY KATHLEEN DWYER

SLIGO WORKERS are expressing grave fears about continued employment in the town with more than five hundred jobs in danger at two factories: Snia and Hanson's.

Four hundred workers at the Snia textile factory are currently laid off and awaiting a decision on their future from the board of the parent company in Milan.

should be reinstated! Snia are refusing to move so far, and are apparently attempting to obtain a further £5 million from the free State Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

HANSON'S

At another factory in the town, which manufactures bathroom

scales, Hanson's at Cleveragh, one hundred and forty six workers ended a six day sit-in on Monday this week, when management withdrew a document which had been arbitrarily introduced concerning punctuality and absenteeism. Points were to be given when late or absent: six points in six months meant dismissal.

On Monday last week, some women workers were given notice and in response a go-slow began on Wednesday morning. After fifteen minutes management switched off

the power and announced that the factory was closing. The workers immediately occupied the canteen and remained there until management withdrew and agreed to talks with the union.

APPALLING

Workers at the factory, which produces eight thousand scales each day, complain of appalling working conditions which include no stopping, talking or smoking, and permission must be asked to go to the toilet. Protection against oil splashes on the skin have also been refused.

However workers fear that closure of the factory is imminent in favour of another factory the group has recently opened in the town, which employs only forty workers and makes the same scales. This factory is still in receipt of substantial IDA grants, and workers are paid at a lower rate and their wages subsidised by £20 per week by the state employment scheme.

The owner of the group claimed in December that a profit from the Cleveragh factory estimated at £180,000 had in fact turned out to be a loss of £300,000 owing to an error by his accountants.

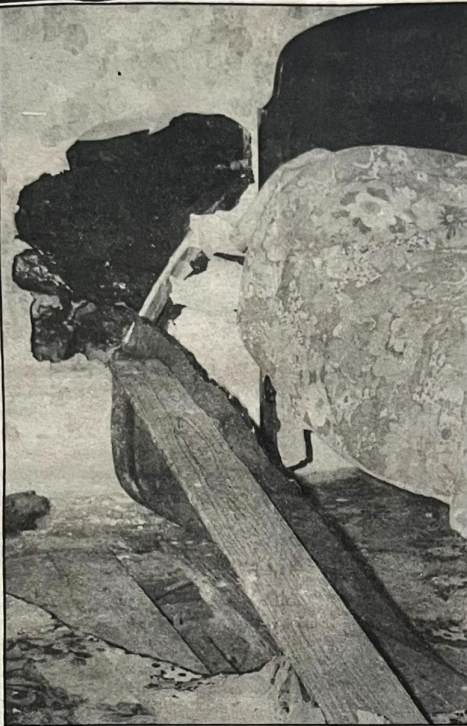
At a third Hanson factory in Sligo, which makes clocks, the forty workers have been on a three day week for more than six months. These workers stopped work last week in response to pickets placed by the Cleveragh workers.

The management climb down on Monday has given the workers a respite but their fears of unemployment, like those of the Snia workers are unallayed.



Above: women workers at Hanson's, who occupied the factory canteen; right: a picket on Hanson's clock factory in solidarity with Hanson's scales factory workers





Damage caused last Tuesday to Clonard homes by British army vandals, who took a delight in their wanton acts of destruction



CLONARD VANDALISM

BY PAT McKEARNEY

AFTER ten years of British army and RUC raids on their homes, the people of the beleaguered Clonard area of nationalist West Belfast are well used to intimidation and harassment by the state forces. However this harassment took a particularly vicious and vindictive turn on Tuesday of this week as several families experienced the most destructive searches they have ever experienced.

The home of a young man from the area who is presently on remand in Crumlin Road jail was the first to be raided. A joint force of Brits and RUC men arrived at 6.15 a.m. and proceeded to wreck the front hall, the parlour and the toilet. The searching party took great delight in the destruction and

appeared to be really enjoying themselves. The owner of the house, a fifty-eight-year-old man, and his son, were then arrested under three-day detention orders and were taken to Castlereagh. The householder's wife was left alone and in a very distressed state.

The story continued, however, when several neighbours called in to help in the cleaning of the wrecked house. One of these neighbours was Mrs. Rosbotham from the Kashmir Road. When she returned from helping her neighbour at 3.30 p.m., she found her own home surrounded by Brits and a major search in progress.

Mrs. Rosbotham's daughter, Sally, had been alone in the home when the Brits arrived. They stated that they were about to cause considerable damage to the house. This they

proceeded to do with a fervour. Every room in the house was damaged, with panelling ripped off. The stairs, kitchen, toilet, floors, windows, and one of the ceilings were also damaged.

Mrs Rosbotham states: "This is the worst raid we have endured in ten years of constant searches. We couldn't even go to bed, the way they left the rooms, and the toilet cannot be used."

The family was locked in the front room during the search and were refused access to the toilet, neither were they allowed anything to eat or drink despite the presence of a young baby and an eleven-year-old boy. The ordeal finally ended for the family at 6.30 p.m. when the Brits left. The Brits admitted all the damage and seemed quite proud of their operation.

duirt siad

"I am a little surprised it has taken quite so long to come to your verdict."

The coroner, Paul Knapman, at the London inquest into the cold-blooded slaying of five hostage-takers in the Iranian embassy, expressing his annoyance at the time — forty-five minutes — taken by the jury to justify the SAS killings. Apparently he was concerned at any implied challenge to the British army's right to shoot-to-kill without question or retribution.

"The mood of public euphoria that followed the SAS raid on the Iranian embassy has been replaced by horror at what took place. This was not an heroic TV spectacular, as it seemed at the time, but a dreadful carnage in which five desperate young men were beaten and shot to death by British soldiers in a London house."

A word of caution from 'The Observer' Sunday newspaper, which does not mind similar happenings in a Belfast house — or a Derry street — but is uneasy at such killings so close to home.

"After the SAS men had stormed the buildings, one of the terrorists was shot thirty-nine times. This was after SAS men had felled him with the butt of a machine gun and further pounded him while he lay on the ground. Others were shot between eleven and twenty-three times. Some, at least, of them had been disarmed when the shooting happened... One deduces from the foregoing that the SAS can be very handy with their automatic weapons."

"Sunday News' columnist Stephen Preston using last week's inquest to call for a step-up in SAS killings in the six counties.

"If it had been the express intention of the producers to denigrate the Army, calumniate the police, stir up hatred against Protestants, and generally muckrake, they could not have done a better job."

"Sunday News' columnist Stephen Preston, again, giving vent to loyalist frustration at ITV's recent series, 'The Troubles'.

"As a Northerner I will not condemn the Provos; I think the British ought to get out. You can't go around saying you support killing, but there is killing going on and I've taken my side and my side is against the armed representatives of Britain. It's very easy to say: 'Look, there's no blood on my hands. I never pulled the trigger.' But I recognise the fact that by all my actions I have pulled triggers, but then, I think that applies to everybody in Ireland. By not speaking they are allowing it to happen. We are all responsible."

Journalist Nell McCafferty, interviewed in 'The Irish Press', launching her new booklet 'The Armagh Women'.

"The prisoners in the H-Blocks got their five demands. Unfortunately now, according to newspaper reports, one would see that the British government are not ready to put them into practice. They seem to be renegeing on the commitments that they made on the prisoners' demands."

Fianna Fail 'hawk' Síle de Valera interviewed by the 'Sunday Tribune'.

ARMAGH RELEASE

MARIE Doherty, aged 24, from the Bog-side in Derry (pictured here on her release from Armagh jail, last Friday) served every day of a four-year sentence, including a lengthy period on remand, because of her refusal to be criminalised and her participation in the 'no work' and then the 'no wash' protest.

Marie reports that the behaviour of the prison warders towards the women prisoners, and the vindictive attitude of prison governor Scott has worsened in recent weeks, with the warders actively trying to provoke trouble, especially through intimate and degrading body searches to and from visits. The food is also inedible, cold and 'thick with grease', with the prisoners still only being allowed out two at a time to collect their food so that the process takes over an hour. Nevertheless, Marie says, morale inside the jail is 'great'.



Vicious sentence

THERE was a stunned silence in a Belfast court when an Andersonstown republican was given a vicious life sentence in a non-jury Diplock court last Tuesday, February 10th, on a charge of possession of explosives.

The treatment meted out to twenty-seven-year-old Eamon Scott was in sharp contrast to that given to British soldiers recently convicted in connection with the murder of two Catholics in County Fermanagh, when Captain Andrew Snowball and former lance-corporal Iain Chestnut were sentenced to one year's imprisonment suspended for a year and four years' imprisonment, respectively.

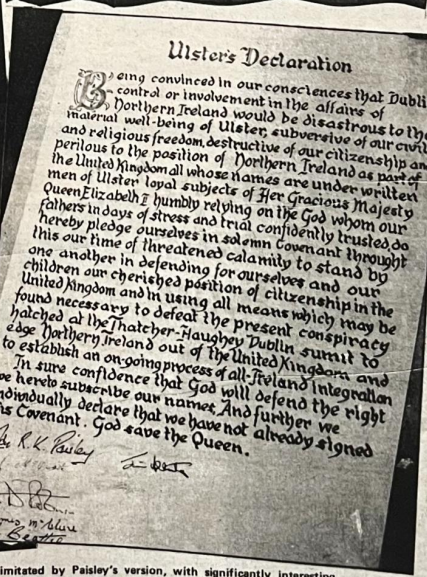
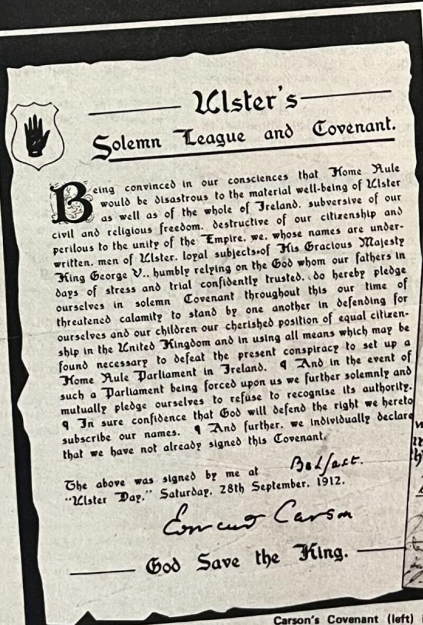
Eamon Scott had been charged with possession of a 600 lb. bomb and a firearm in Lisburn last year. As RUC witnesses were called, Judge Brown queried the purpose

of them as it was obvious that Eamon, who had refused to recognise the court, was not interested in what was going on. Eamon replied, "You may imprison my body but you will never imprison my spirit. It is the spirit of the Irish people on the march to freedom."

At this point Judge Brown interjected, "No one has mentioned imprisonment". But in the next breath he trotted out sentences of twelve years for possession of a firearm, six years for possession of ammunition and then casually announced a life sentence for possession of explosives.



Carson, below, signs the Ulster Covenant, 1912, with other people's blood to follow, whilst above, Paisley, the mimic, signs his own covenant, 1981, at the same venue, Belfast city hall, similarly on a Union Jack draped table, again with the blood of other people - six-county Catholics - to follow if he and loyalist paramilitants have their way



Carson's Covenant (left) imitated by Paisley's version, with significantly interesting changes which will eventually allow Paisley to tread the road of six-county independence, claiming that a British sell-out has forced him on this path

Paisley of str

THE Dublin summit meeting on December of working parties to examine not just the twenty-six counties, the six counties collaboration.

Free State premier, Charles Haughey, and British premier Margaret Thatcher 'institutional structures' being discussed civil servants, gave Paisley the ammunition constitution and British heritage is in imm

However, back in December in Westminster and again on Monday and Tuesday of this week, Thatcher and Northern direct-ruler Humphrey Atkins assured the loyalists that the Union is not in danger and that the constitutional position of the six counties is discussion, while has been private to his Fianna that the phrase relationships 'everything is up discussion (implying unification).

Moun man

BY SEAMUS B

IT WAS on an Antrim mountainside, last Thursday night, February 5th, that an historic and sinister show of strength

In the semi-darkness, in front of Paisley and the press men, five hundred loyalists were drawn up in military formation with a Union Jack blowing in the breeze.

At the blast of a whistle they jumped to attention and each displayed what Ian Paisley described as 'a legally held firearms certificate'. 'This is a token of the many thousands who are at the ready to defend our heritage', Paisley warned the press men.

CERTIFICATES

Asked the significance of the waving of firearms certificates, he said: "It means that these men hold guns legally and they are prepared to defend their province and their rights in the same way as Lord Carson and the men of the UVF were prepared."

Nowhere in sight, on the Antrim mountainside, were the British army, or the RUC, maintaining law and order. (However, one might well ask how many members of the RUC and UDR, or even of regular units of the army, were right there in the ranks of Paisley's assembly? Certainly Paisley was in no hurry to dispel that most likely suggestion.)

He later insisted the sinister assembly was 'legal', and there were no uniforms in front of the assembly at least whilst they were there. However the three And, to add to the of the display, the press men had been mountainside in a blacked-out windows, by two men wearing helmets.

DISMISS

Predictably a m of publicity blew Antrim mountainside. But, unwilling to the British establishment it all as an election The British gov 'Northern Ireland O to make an official indication - in terms - of official and one senior B minister anonymous "anything we would only dignify what a gimmick." And Saturday's accurately reported feeling was one for what was seen as a daring stunt, aimed

Paisley's position

length

On 8th of last year set up a number of social and economic links between the Republic and Britain, but increased border

described the meeting as 'historic' and Paisley's reluctance to elaborate on the meeting led by top level London and Dublin officials to declare that 'Ulster's position is in peril'.

Republicans know only too well that there is no Haughey/Thatcher plot or conspiracy to 'break the link', because there is only one way of breaking the link and that is through armed struggle. But there is sufficient doubt in the minds of loyalists for Paisley to mobilise them against the joint studies, to force

them to be abandoned and, in the process, to force a lump out of the rival Official Unionist Party (which is suffering major differences and doubts about its approach to Paisley's campaign).

BY PETER ARNLIS

SAVIOUR

If Paisley succeeds then he will be the 'saviour' of the loyalist people (just as they viewed Lord Edward Carson), but if the joint studies continue, and with loyalist hysteria growing, then he will be the undisputed leader who pointed out to them 'the most nefarious conspiracy that has ever been hatched against a free people', while other unionists did nothing.

Even if the studies continue, the loyalist outcry will so over-

whelmingly influence the outcome as to have rendered the studies meaningless.

Either way, Paisley will be in a much stronger position to dictate loyalist reaction, and his campaign will generate anti-Catholic hysteria and recruitment to loyalist paramilitary organisations if not to his own private army, the first five hundred of whom last week undoubtedly included serving members of the UDR and RUC.

He has correctly predicted that the UDR and RUC would turn against the British government if the Union was jeopardised and this has raised the spectre of Paisley going for an independent North, an idea which he has increasingly espoused.

COVENANT

Last Monday, at a press conference in Belfast's city hall, the venue for the launching of Carson's original 1912 covenant, Paisley launched his own covenant and announced the eleven mass rallies throughout the North where it will be signed, culminating in a major demonstration

at the Carson monument at Stormont next month.

Paisley's words were laced with threats: 'we will stop at nothing'; 'our friends may feel certain that we will shrink from no organised action which may at any time be necessary'; and 'they may tell us, if they like, that this is treason.'

But it is the nationalist people who will suffer, because behind Paisley there is naked sectarian force and the motivation to defend the Protestant ascendancy. Speaking at the Martyrs' Memorial Hall in Belfast last Sunday he equated republicans with Romanists and had this to say to his spellbound congregation: 'Have you never noticed how the most atrocious of republican violence was always committed after morning mass? That's because Roman Catholics have an advantage when it comes to terrorism - they can murder and then go to their priests and get a pardon.'

THREATENING

Paisley has a compulsive pull on the loyalist people and his campaign is also threatening to split the Official Unionist Party. The party issued a statement describing Paisley's covenant as a 'vote-catching gimmick' but there has been much dissent with this thinking of party leader James Molyneux, from three prominent members, John Taylor, William Craig, and the raving Reverend Robert Bradford.

Paisleyite councillors will be

bringing the covenant into council chambers which will embarrass and expose Official Unionists, many of whom at a city council meeting on Monday evening in Belfast's city hall had not got the courage to oppose Paisleyites who were preventing discussion on that day's irregular use of the building when Paisley launched his covenant.

So, the monster is once again on the prowl and taking to the streets of the North asserting that the nationalist people must remain permanently nationally dispossessed and that loyalist privilege and the loyalist state must not be tampered with. The Brits have never had the will to face up to the loyalists, yet it is their finance and weaponry, which props the loyalists up and perpetuates bloodshed in Ireland.

Republicans have to break the back of the will of the British to stay in Ireland. And then we may have to turn our attention to the loyalists.

But certainly, the British must first depart from Irish soil before there is even any hope or chance of the loyalists changing their sectarian ways and accepting that being born and reared in Ireland makes one Irish, and no better nor worse than the next Irish person.

entainside

deuvres

near Ballymena, at about midnight loyalist leader Ian Paisley laid on for a selected half-dozen press men.

local government elections in the North." For the SDLP, Austin Currie short-sightedly said that the display had more to do with the struggle between the Official Unionists and Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, coming up to the local council elections, whilst the Alliance Party also described the event as an 'electioneering stunt'.

OFFICIAL

Whilst it is foolish to dismiss Paisley's campaign as a mere electioneering stunt, it did immediately begin to pay him political dividends. Three prominent Official Unionists - Euro-MP John Taylor, former Vanguard leader William Craig, and the raving Reverend Robert Bradford - came out in support of his anti-Dublin campaign over the weekend.

On Saturday, John Taylor said: 'I have always subscribed to the view that the Northern Ireland people have a right to defend themselves in circumstances where the government of the day has failed to exercise its responsibilities. That was exactly the situation in 1912.' William Craig, interviewed on RTE's 'This Week' programme on Sunday, said that Paisley's Antrim demonstration had 'done

us all a service' and he announced the setting up of an 'Anti-Republic of Ireland campaign' to break all links between North and South.

Bradford, who has proposed a joint Unionist front to fight re-unification, attended a service at Paisley's Martyrs' Memorial Church on Sunday and was

welcomed by him in glowing terms.

COVENANT

On Monday, amidst further huge publicity, Paisley launched his 'covenant' to be circulated for signatures, aimed at committing the signatories to 'using all means which may be found necessary' to defeat what he claims is a British government conspiracy through the Thatcher/Haughey December Dublin summit to bring about Irish re-unification.

The covenant is an imitation of the 'solemn covenant' to resist Home Rule launched by Unionist father figure, Edward Carson, in 1912, which was signed by nearly half-a-million people.

At Monday's press conference in Belfast city hall, Paisley solemnly placed the first signature on his covenant and announced that he is now 'on the Carson trail'. He announced that a separate covenant would be circulated for signature by women, on the grounds that the Carson

covenant had been signed only by men!

Paisley also announced plans - again in imitation of Carson - to stage eleven mass rallies against the 'Dublin sell-out'. The first was planned for Omagh this Friday evening, and rallies across the six-counties are intended to culminate on March 26th with a massive demonstration at Carson's monument at Stormont.

Paisley's Carson-type crusade drew a muted response from the under-pressure Official Unionist headquarters. A spokesman described the campaign as 'disrespectful to Carson's memory' and complained of the added burden the rallies will place on the British army and RUC.

At his Belfast city hall press conference Paisley announced that the 'campaign of education of the Ulster people' to the dangers of the Dublin summit had been approved by six hundred delegates to the special DUP conference held behind closed doors in Ballymena on Saturday, at which he had received a

rapturous reception.

Warning to his theme, Paisley said that the terms of the communiqué issued after the summit - particularly the agreement to 'examine' the totality of relationships within these islands - indicated that the constitutional integrity of the North as part of the 'United Kingdom' was open to negotiation.

'Only if and when the loyalists band themselves together as in 1912 and 1974 and stubbornly block the road to Dublin, will the current conspiracy be defeated,' said Paisley - '1974' being a reference to the loyalist UWC stoppage which brought down the power-sharing Sunningdale assembly.

'I and my party,' he said, 'are prepared to give leadership in this matter and, more than that, we are prepared to go all the way with the people of Ulster until we demonstrate that, as far as Dublin control or involvement is concerned, we won't have it. I will ask no man to do anything I am not prepared to do myself.'

TEMPER

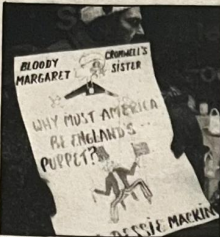
Also on Monday, it was confirmed that Paisley's two RUC bodyguards had been replaced after his Antrim mountainside demonstration. It can be assumed that the bodyguards were replaced because they failed to report the assembly, although they had accompanied Paisley to it - their inaction being a serious indication of support for him within the RUC.

A taste of current loyalist disquiet and rising temper, which Paisley is astutely tapping, came in the editorial of Tuesday's 'News Letter': 'What is sadly misjudged at present - and especially by self-appointed political gurus, some of whom have been out of the province, or out of touch with the province, for years - is the temper of the ordinary people of Northern Ireland... They are in an angry mood; their patience is under stress; their credulousness is wearing thin. On that score at least there is no room for doubt. It is the strongest card in Mr. Paisley's hand.'



Loyalists on the march in the early seventies: Paisley is today astutely tapping current loyalist disquiet and rising temper

Bail denial



New York picket

BELFAST republican Dessie Mackin, who has been held in a New York prison since October 1st last year, after 'illegally' entering the USA to co-ordinate the H-Block publicity tour of former blanket men Kieran Nugent, Fra McCann and Liam Carlin, was again denied bail after appearing before a court last Friday 6th February.

Mackin, who is facing extradition proceedings from the United States to the six counties after jumping bail (on a charge for which his co-accused, Bobby Gamble, has been acquitted), argued — through his defence counsel — that the extradition case is extremely weak and that the American government's papers acknowledge that Mackin is wanted in the North for 'political offences'.

Nevertheless, Federal judge Kevin Duffy, after postponing the hearing over the weekend to read Mackin's brief, reappeared on Monday to deny bail. The next hearing of the extradition proceedings is tentatively scheduled for next Wednesday, February 18th.

FitzGerald heckled

FINE GAEIL leader Garret FitzGerald was strongly heckled during a party meeting in Scariff, County Clare, on Friday 5th February, which had been infiltrated by twelve members of the local H-Block / Armagh action group.

The protestors denounced FitzGerald for having urged the British government to allow the H-Block and Armagh hunger-strikers to die. They were eventually removed from the meeting by Special Branch men and uniformed Gardaí.

Limerick harassment

SINCE its formation at the end of last year, the Limerick Youth against H-Block / Armagh action group has been subjected to considerable gardai attention.

During January members of the action group have been stopped and questioned by gardai whilst putting up posters. On one occasion six members who were putting up posters were arrested and detained for a time at Henry Street garda barracks. On Saturday 31st January five young people distributing H-Block literature from a stall in the city centre had their names taken by Special Branchmen.

Despite this harassment the youth action group has expressed its determination to continue its activities in helping to rebuild a mass campaign in support of the prisoners.

Gaels protest



REPRESENTATIVES of various Belfast GAA clubs, wearing club jerseys, took part in a half-time demonstration organised by Gaels against H-Block/Armagh during a GAA match between County Antrim and County Derry at Corrigan Park in West Belfast last Sunday.

The several-hundred-strong crowd warmly cheered those representatives who carried an H-Block banner on to the pitch, and in a subsequent statement Gaels against H-Block/Armagh pointed out that the county executive board of Antrim GAA had pledged publicly their support for the blanket men's five demands, during the last hunger-strike.

Unbalanced but challenging

REVIEW BY ASHY McDERMOTT

THE Dublin-based journalist and feminist Nell McCafferty has resolutely demanded, in recent times, the full support of the women's movement for the protest of the republican women prisoners in Armagh jail.

Her newly published ninety-page booklet, *The Armagh Women*, continues her argument, but in aiming almost exclusively at feminist opinion leaves a totally unbalanced portrait of the women prisoners themselves and how they came to be where they are.

Nevertheless, the history of the jail this decade, the establishment of political status in 1972, its abolition in 1976, and the events which led to the present horrific conditions there, are simply and vividly described in able journalist fashion.

The horrors of the protesting women's present situation — both physical and mental — are related in graphic detail and the booklet does not wince from the usually 'delicate' areas, such as menstruation, which cause particular extra sufferings and dangers for the women.

COMMITMENT

It is when Nell McCafferty comes to look at the women prisoners themselves that the booklet becomes inadequate. Six very short pen portraits of women prisoners give very little help to those asking why are they there?

She fails to detail or consider their commitment and role in the struggle for national liberation. The fact that these are republican women involved in republican military activity appears to be indigestible for Nell McCafferty, who continually overlooks it. Their extension of that struggle into the prison is not coherently analysed.

The choice of ex-prisoner to describe conditions in the jail is indicative of the unbalance. Although there are other, republican, ex-prisoners available, it is one of the picketers outside the jail, sentenced to three months, who tells the story. Not involved in republican military activity, not having undergone the conveyor belt of brutal interrogation and Diplock Court, and only in for a short period, she remains an onlooker not fully understanding the motivation of her fellow prisoners.

PORTRAITS

Nell McCafferty then includes in her booklet three more detailed portraits of individual women, who presumably are meant to relate, in some way, the women inside to those outside the jail. All three have experienced some years of problems central to the campaign of the women's movement: marital breakdown, beatings, problems of child care, of jobs and so on,



NELL McCAFFERTY — feminist and journalist

and from their experience have awakened to a political realisation of both their oppression as women as well as from British imperialism. However the sharpness of their experience can not be said to be truly typical and, especially has little in common with the personal experience or political formation of the young Armagh women prisoners.

Of the three women, two are in fact closely related, although Nell McCafferty does not say so, whilst the third, the only republican ex-prisoner interviewed, at forty-two years of age is twice the age of the average Armagh women prisoners, the vast majority of whom are single, were motivated by republican idealism from an early age and were captured and imprisoned as republican Volunteers, whilst still teenagers.

OPPRESSION

This is not to detract from the situation of women outside Armagh, whose oppression is successfully conveyed by the booklet. And it is a valid point that these women too are refusing to co-operate, refusing to be humiliated, and are breaking down their own 'larger open prison' walls.

The frustration and loneliness, as wives squatting from house to house, being the only parent of a young family because a husband is in prison or on the run, existence on social welfare benefits, the continuous harassment by the Brits, coupled with the traditional male chauvinist attitudes to women, are well portrayed in the booklet.

The fight back against this double oppression by the women in the nationalist ghettos is also there. Their open defiance of the armed men in khaki on the streets, has indeed been

brought home in many cases with good effect.

SUSPICION

Nell McCafferty correctly concludes: "It remains a fact, however, that large segments of the women's movement, both in Ireland, North and South, and in Britain, view with suspicion and at times hostility the involvement of feminists in the struggle for national liberation. It has so far proved easier to feminise republicans, who have much to gain from the inclusion of women in the struggle, than to republicanise feminists, who have much to lose if women's interests are totally subordinated to a resolution of the war."

But these genuine fears can be proven unfounded in practice. Not least because without national liberation women's liberation will be impossible anyway. Women who are sincere about feminism will not allow women's interests to be totally subordinated, and they will realise that women's active involvement in the national struggle has brought them a new confidence and independence.

The resolution of the war is by no means the end of the fight for women's liberation, but women involved in the war will be better able to take their rightful place in the construction of a socialist system, that with unity and determination will be impossible to dislodge.

The new booklet is very readable and, although unsatisfactory in its treatment of 'The Armagh Women' themselves, contains much that is thought-provoking. There is today, as Nell McCafferty concludes, "a challenge to the Irish women's movement of developing a theory and practice of feminism and war." Her booklet is a step in that direction.

Twin signs for Twinbrook

STREET signs in the west Belfast nationalist estate of Twinbrook are now bilingual, following the completion of the project begun several months ago by the local branch of Cumann Gaelach and the Fennell/McDonnell Sinn Féin cumann in Twinbrook.

The event was marked by a ceremony and a parade through Twinbrook last Sunday afternoon, February 8th, taken part in by three hundred people including representatives of West Belfast Gaelic groups.

The guest speaker at the ceremony, Belfastman Albert Fry, president of Conradh na Gaeilge, congratulated local people on their awareness of the Irish language and cultural heritage and went on to criticise county councils in the twenty-six counties — specifically Cork, Donegal and Waterford — who are using English-only sign posts.

H-BLOCK

Included in the crowd were relatives of the nine blanket men from the Twinbrook (Cill Uaighne) area, who earlier in the afternoon had taken part in an H-Block march around the estate, organised by the local Sinn Féin cumann, and addressed by former blanket man Martin Lawlor and local hunger-



Albert Fry (left), president of Conradh na Gaeilge, backed by gaelic H-Block placards, in Twinbrook last Sunday

strike action committee chairman Liam Cassidy.

Afterwards the H-Block supporters marched round to support the street sign ceremony and a high-point in the proceedings came when a road sign was unveiled bearing the name 'Bothar an Ghaeisigh' — a street name adopted in honour of the blanket men.

PARADE

The parade moved to the top of the estate where a large sign has been erected, reading 'Fáilte go

Chill Uaighne' ('Welcome to Twinbrook'), and, accompanied by the Joe McKelvey and Píobrí Uladh bands, moved on to the spot where local man, IRA Volunteer Gerard Fennell, was gunned down by British troops on November 8th 1974. The ceremony concluded with the national anthem.

In a later statement, Cumann Gaelach Chill Uaighne said that Twinbrook's ceremony marked the beginning of a programme to gaelicise street signs throughout the

six counties, emphasising the clear bond between the war of national liberation and the cultural struggle; or as Pearse enunciated: 'Not only free, but Gaelic as well; Not only Gaelic, but free as well'.

Displaying all the signs of their habitual bigoted alertness the loyalist-dominated Lisburn council (within whose boundaries Twinbrook lies) has already signalled its intention to take legal action in a bid to have the Irish street signs removed.

abroad
view



United States intentions

THE Reagan administration in the United States has announced that it is considering the despatch of troops to El Salvador in support of the junta which is currently attempting to crush the national liberation forces. The survival of the junta, and its policy of armed terror directed indiscriminately at villages and peasant communities, depends on the forty million dollars worth of annual military aid which the United States has promised to double this year.

The White House has also admitted that it is considering the possibility of establishing an American military presence in the Middle East — widely interpreted to mean that Reagan is considering sending troops to Israel.

Also this week, has come the announcement that the neutron bomb — which kills the maximum number of people with the minimum damage to property — is likely to be resurrected and deployed by the United States in Europe. The bomb had been shelved by the Carter administration because of West German opposition.



A picket outside the American embassy in Dublin, held last month

South African atrocities

SOUTH AFRICA'S army, which is fighting the national liberation forces of SWAPO in Namibia and the people's governments of Angola and Mozambique, includes strong contingents of mercenaries from the United States, France, Belgium and Israel. These countries are also providing arms to the South African army.

The Crimes of Apartheid commission which disclosed these facts at a meeting in Luanda in Angola last week, also reported that South African incursions into Angola, far from being aimed at SWAPO bases, were in fact directed against Angolan economic activity.

The South African army, the commission revealed, are perpetrating murders, kidnappings and tortures which include cutting off their victims' ears and other mutilations.

Basque protests

GUERNICA, the town in the heart of the Basque country which was destroyed by bombing by Franco's German Nazi allies in the civil war, was the scene of stormy protests when Franco's heir, King Juan Carlos of Spain, attempted to address the local assembly. Thirty Basque separatist members refused to let him speak, singing independence songs until they were dragged, kicked and beaten from the hall — by police and collaborating politicians.

Afterwards in San Sebastian, police fired smoke bombs and rubber bullets at hundreds of Basque youths who blocked streets with commandeered buses in protest at the King's visit to the town, and shouted slogans in support of the ETA guerrilla movement.

Later the same evening the ETA broke into the television news blocking the sound of the King's speech and superimposing their own six-minute message to the people.

An illusion of freedom

TV REVIEW BY UNA O'NEILL

ROBERT KEE'S television history is grinding away on RTE and BBC with its eleventh episode last Tuesday, February 10th, on the evolution of the twenty-six counties from the Civil War to 1951.

Entitled (ironically?) 'Freedom', it made great use of news-reels and interviews, as the medium demands it. But the interviews were so short as to be near-quotes, often as meaningless as they were entertaining, providing an impressionist view of history.

However, it is difficult not to escape the feeling that Kee is a patronising academic who has not grasped the logic behind the partition of Ireland.

But one important point did come across: that all political groups and power blocs within the twenty-six counties were determined to some extent by partition, whether they accepted it, like Clann na Gael, or opposed it in words, like Fianna Fail, or indeed, in practice, like the IRA.

PARTITION

Partition as a constitutional issue, was and still is, a great vote-catcher and an excuse for a lack of social reforms. Kee also correctly stressed the power of the Catholic Church and its crass conservatism as in the 'Mother and Child Act' episode.

Of course, Kee had never explained in previous programmes how the Church was handed its power base on a silver plate by the British, along with Maynooth College some one hundred years previously.

This is, throughout, an essential feature of the series: a consistent failure to articulate events.

Republican activity was promptly dismissed as mere blowing up of statues and reading of

proclamations. Hardly a fair account of a time of confusion and of weakness, but also of intense debate and self-analysis.

WRONGLY

Britain was wrongly portrayed as the offended but generous party, which offered Irish unity in return for the abandonment of neutrality in 1939. In 1926, however, Kevin O'Higgins had attempted to trade some concessions on national independence in return for Irish unity. It did not suit the British then.

The British suited themselves all along having quickly realised the economic and political gains that could be obtained from a partitioned Ireland as the 1949 Ireland Act showed later.

'Would this republic be the sort of state with which Northern Protestants would want to unite?' Kee concludes.

But the posing of this question as the main question, rather than 'when is Britain going to stop using partition as a method of divide and rule?' becomes, in the last analysis, just another apology for the continued existence of the six counties as a British colony and the twenty-six counties as a neo-colony.



Above: removing the symbols, but not the reality, of colonialism — Queen Victoria's statue is removed, in Dublin in 1946; right: de Valera, Sean Lemass, and (in the background) Irish High Commissioner in London, Mr. Dulanty, leave Downing Street after concluding a 'settlement' which returned jurisdiction of 'treaty ports' to the Free State, in 1938



Toomebridge commemoration

MORE than a thousand people attended the ninth annual commemoration ceremony, last Sunday at Cargin, Toomebridge, County Antrim, for IRA Volunteers Charles Mc Cann and Phelim Grant.

The rally was chaired by South Derry republican Kevin Agnew, and the speakers were Seamus Kerr (Tyronne) and Johnny Johnston (Derry) who, paying tribute to all who had given their lives during the present war, both urged the nationalist people on to greater efforts with the next impending hunger-strike.

They also stressed that whatever forces are ranged against the nationalist people, be they British or loyalist, armed with 'legal' or 'illegal' weapons, the nationalist people will never bow to intimidation or repression.

Mid-way through the proceedings, during the wreath-laying ceremony, uniformed IRA Volunteers appeared from within the crowd and mounted the platform.



Last Sunday's commemoration march

Reading a statement from the IRA's South Derry Brigade, one of the Volunteers said that the struggle for which McCann and Grant gave their lives was in the direct tradition of Tone and the

men of '98, of Pearse and Connolly and the heroes of 1916, and was today typified by the unconquered spirit of the H-Block and Armagh protestors, now facing a second hunger-strike.

Meanwhile, he said, outside the prisons, despite the harassment of the nationalist population and the assassination campaign waged against sections of the nationalist leadership, the struggle goes on.

Death of Garret Cotter

ONE of the most active and most respected republicans in Kerry, Garret Cotter, died suddenly on Saturday 31st January at the age of seventy-four.

A member of Na Fianna Éireann during the Tan War, Garret Cotter, was quartermaster of the IRA's Kerry Brigade over a period of thirty years. He took part in the bombing campaign in England in 1939, was interned in the Curragh for four years during the forties, and was imprisoned in Mountjoy and Kilmainham on several occasions since then.

His home was used as an IRA base from the Tan War onwards and during the thirties as an arms dump for a cargo of Thompson machine-guns, which the Kerry GAA football team had succeeded in smuggling back with them from a United States tour in 1932.

Garret Cotter was always closely associated with the GAA, particularly through the famous Austin Stack club. He was also an active member of the Tralee Mountaineering Club and he was, in fact, on the way back from a mountain walk when he died.

During the removal of the body

to the church on Monday night, IRA Volunteers fired a volley of shots over his coffin. The funeral was held in St Brendan's church, Tralee, on Tuesday, when a combined choir of pupils from two Tralee schools sang the O'Riada Mass, which was celebrated by four local priests.

On the way to the graveyard the coffin was flanked by former comrades of Garret Cotter and present members of the Republican Movement in Kerry. A large crowd followed the cortege. At the graveside the oration was given by George Rice of Kerry Sinn Féin.



The late Garret Cotter

OH, WELL - SO I GOT THE WRONG PERSON -

- IT'S THE FIRST TIME I ASKED THE RIGHT QUESTIONS!

completing three years on the blanket. They may take away your privileges but not your spirit. God bless. From Siobhan Stevie and Damien.

McCRACKEN, Kevin. (H3-Block) Solidarity greetings to our dear nephew

McCRACKEN, Kevin. (H3-Block). All my love and prayers to my grandson Kevin and congratulations on completing three years on the blanket. Your courage is an inspiration to us all. Thinking of you always. God bless you. From granny. xxxxx.

completing three years on the blanket. They may take away your privileges but not your spirit. God bless. From Siobhan Stevie and Damien.

McCRACKEN, Kevin. (H3-Block) Solidarity greetings to our dear nephew



The British coal boat, 'Nellie M', sunk and partially submerged off the Donegal coast

Brit fortunes continue to sink

THE IRA, in line with previous promises to extend the scope of its military operations, last Friday February 6th sank a one thousand ton British ship in Lough Foyle, between the shores of counties Derry and Donegal.

This imaginatively planned and professionally executed commercial bombing operation caused further embarrassment to both the British and Free State authorities, when initially it could not be ascertained in whose territorial waters the ship had actually sunk.

The IRA's target was the 'Nellie M', a British owned coal boat which last Friday night was lying moored only three or four hundred yards off the Donegal coast at Moville when it was taken over.

A dozen armed and masked IRA Volunteers arrived at the pilot house at the fishing village of Moville and commandeered the pilot boat at the Carrickreagh pier. The local pilot was instructed to take seven Volunteers with several bombs out to the coal boat, while the other five kept guard at the pilot house.

ABOARD

Aboard the 'Nellie M' the captain and chief engineer were watching the war film 'Kelly's Heroes', on television, when suddenly, the Volunteers, who had quietly boarded the boat, burst into the cabin and said: 'This is the real thing; we are the IRA'. To avoid any unnecessary panic, the chief

engineer agreed to accompany the Volunteers to the crew's quarters where he calmly explained the situation to the rest of the crew.

The Volunteers, who were armed with Armalite rifles, and who were anxious to avoid any unnecessary trouble or civilian casualties, reassured the ship's captain and his nine-man crew that they would not come to any harm as long as they behaved sensibly. Several Volunteers at one stage chatted about football with the crew, whilst the others planted bombs at selected points in the engine room. (The ship's captain later commented on the professionalism of the Volunteers' conduct and said that it looked like 'they had rehearsed every move'.)

The Volunteers informed the crew that other British ships in Irish water would in future also be in danger, although the IRA wished the crews no harm.

EXPLOSION

The Volunteers, having planted their bombs, allowed the ship's captain and crew to don life-jackets before ushering them on board the ship's lifeboat. The Volunteers then re-embarked on the commandeered pilot boat, which towed the lifeboat towards the shore and safety before setting it free.

The seven Volunteers having safely made land themselves, the whole unit made good their escape. Meanwhile the crew of the doomed 'Nellie M' had just reached shore when the first explosion occurred causing a fierce fire on board the boat, which lasted for more than an hour and which could be seen for miles around.

In the early hours of Saturday morning a second blast occurred and by day-break the rear portion of the ship was completely under water.

The ship was valued at £3 million and the 1,260 tons of coal aboard is worth another £½ million. The vessel is the flag ship and the most valuable of the Liverpool-based shipping company Coe Metcalfe. It had been due to sail to Coleraine as soon as tides and winds allowed, and had been anchored off Moville since ten o'clock on Friday morning and at other places in the area since Wednesday.

On Saturday amidst cries of outrage from British, Free State and loyalist politicians condemning the daring IRA attack, one practical suggestion came from the leader of the Orange Order in Belfast, Thomas Passmore, who called for the placing of armed guards on all ships sailing between Britain and the North of Ireland. A suggestion which if implemented will once more reinforce the abnormality and war-footing of the six-county statelet.

JURISDICTION

Over the weekend the stricken ship was left strictly alone whilst British and Free State authorities carefully pondered the problem of within whose jurisdiction it lay.

The wreck is only one hundred yards from Moville and at first glance appeared well within Free State jurisdiction. But some charts showed that the border runs within feet of the County Donegal shore, so the responsibility for the wreck, for the dangerous task of raising it, and for several

million pounds worth of compensation payable might have lain with London rather than Dublin. However, a Fianna Fail government admission that the ship was not in its territorial waters would have embarrassingly reversed the Free State's claim down the years since partition, and in its constitution, that it has sovereign rights over all the water around Ireland.

For its part the British government came under loyalist pressure to claim the wreck, although the 'Northern Ireland Office' refused to make any comment on the matter.

DISPUTE

On Monday, Unionist MP for Derry, Willie Ross, unsuccessfully called for an emergency debate in Westminster on the action by what he called 'an IRA pirate gang', and — intervening in the territorial water dispute — he stated: 'I believe it would be very dangerous for this nation to allow her claim to the waters of Lough Foyle to go by default in view of the problems that could be created for national defence and the commercial activities of my constituents.'

However, on Tuesday, with the 'Nellie M' still providing an unusual tourist attraction off the County Donegal coast, Free State Minister for Justice Gerry Collins stated in Leinster House that the boat is lying within the jurisdiction of the Free State. But when asked whether there is an agreed line in Lough Foyle representing the border, he ducked the question by claiming that 'questions about lines of jurisdiction should be taken up with the appropriate Minister'.

UDR man shot dead

A part-time member of the UDR, a lance-corporal, was shot dead by the IRA on Tuesday afternoon, February 10th, in Derry city.

Shortly after 4 p.m. two IRA Volunteers entered Robert Key's timber yard in Strand Road and shot the soldier five times, killing him. He had been a member of the 5th Battalion of the UDR for six years and was the second UDR man to be shot dead this year. The Volunteers made good their escape in a commandeered car.

Given the location (and day) of this attack, it is surprising that paramilitary groups have not caricatured the BBC and then 'History' television series, especially given that after the shooting dead of an RUC Reservist the Official Unionist Party blamed 'irresponsible' television programmes.

RESERVISTS UNDER FIRE

AN RUC RESERVIST was shot dead and another seriously wounded in Belfast on Friday morning, February 6th, when IRA Volunteers opened fire on them. The two RUC men were the target for what the RUC themselves later admitted was 'obviously a well-planned ambush'.

At about 8.15 a.m. they parked their private car in the forecourt of a shop in Balmoral Avenue in the south of the city, and walked into the shop wearing civilian jackets over their uniforms, leaving two sub-machine guns in the car. As they returned to the car an IRA Volunteer opened fire on them, firing a burst of half-a-dozen rapid fire shots, hitting both RUC men.

The 'M6' news made good their escape in the morning rush hour traffic in a car which they had commandeered earlier.

The dead RUC man had joined the Reserve in December 1977 and became a full-time member in January 1979. He was attached to Lishnu Road RUC barracks. The wounded RUC man was also a full-time Reservist.

The Official Unionist Party, in an obvious reference to Thames TV's 'The Troubles' and Kee's 'History', ridiculously blamed the attack on 'irresponsible' television programmes, unaware perhaps that the



The shop in Balmoral Avenue where one RUC Reservist was shot dead, and one wounded

IRA does not need any further justification for shooting RUC men.

Three days later, last Sunday evening, also in Belfast, in the east of the city, another RUC Reservist was shot dead, by the INLA. He was the fourth Reservist to be killed this year.

Reacting to the shooting, the raving

Reverend Robert Bradford demanded that the RUC set 'rat traps' of undercover men at strategic points in Belfast to catch republican active service units returning to nationalist areas after such operations. This deliberate use of the 'rat trap' terminology is in line with the usual loyalist sectarian references to Catholics as 'vermin'.