

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Wear an Easter Lily



Sraith Nua Im! 3 uimhir 15 de Sathairn Aibreán 18

Saturday April 18th 1981

(Britain 25p) Price 20p



Bobby Sands' election agent, Owen Carron, besieged by reporters after the hunger-striker's truly historic electoral victory

Time is running out

A LONG KESH prison doctor has informed the family of IRA hunger-striker and Westminster MP, Bobby Sands, that his life span should now be measured in days, rather than weeks.

The nationwide euphoria, naturally felt at Sands' truly historic electoral victory in Fermanagh and South Tyrone, must be urgently transformed into decisively effective political pressure on the British government. The Brits must be forced to cease their intransigence and to grant political status to republican prisoners in the H-Blocks and Armagh jail, and thus save the life of Sands, and the lives of his three comrades on hunger-strike, Frankie Hughes, Patsy O'Hara, and Raymond McCreesh.

See 'Laying down their lives' — page 3.

**NATIONAL
HUNGER-STRIKE
MARCHES & RALLIES**

DUBLIN
Saturday 18th April

Assemble 2 p.m., St. Stephen's Green
March to GPO, O'Connell Street

BELFAST
Sunday 26th April

Assemble 2.30 p.m., Dunville Park
March to Busy Bee, Andersonstown

BOBBY SANDS' PHYSICAL CONDITION WEAKENS FURTHER

Seriously deteriorating

ON WEDNESDAY, April 15th, Bobby Sands, on his forty-sixth day on hunger-strike, was visited in the prison hospital in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, by his mother, and by his sister Marcella.

He was in a very weak condition and the family were told by the doctor looking after him that his life span should now be measured in days rather than weeks. He was physically sick five minutes before the visit was due to begin and complained of headaches and pains in his stomach, and in his eyes.

Bobby talked freely about the events since his success in the Westminster by-election, but complained that messages of congratulations from around the world, which included scores of good will telegrams, were unduly delayed for a number of days.

He described SDLP leader John Hume's suggestion that he should end the strike and petition the European Commission of Human Rights as 'ridiculous'. He further stated that the British government had ample time since the December 18th settlement to implement conditions which would have averted the second hunger-strike. This he had refused to do.

He appealed to the people of Ireland not to stand aside and watch while the British allowed Irishmen to die.

Bobby's weight has now fallen to eight stone — a loss of over two stone — and he is suffering from irregular pains behind his eyes and has had to stop reading and smoking. He finds great difficulty in swallowing water and in walking any distance. He is also feeling weaker and is experiencing pains in most parts of his body.

MOVED

The three other hunger-strikers, Frankie Hughes, Patsy O'Hara, and Raymond McCreesh have now all been moved to the prison hospital.

On Friday 10th April, following



● MRS. SANDS
Bobby's mother

directly after the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election, Frankie Hughes, after four weeks on hunger-strike, was moved to the prison hospital. Frankie now weighs only ten stone. He is very thin and his legs are feeling weak.

That the British waited almost a week longer than usual before moving him illustrates once more their callous disregard for the health of the prisoners and it shows once again that, contrary to British propaganda, every move

they make in connection with the H-Blocks is based on political considerations.

Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara were moved to the H-Block prison hospital from their cells, on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. They are both feeling increasingly weaker, in their fourth week without food, and, according to their comrades, both appear gaunt and drawn.

Raymond McCreesh, who now weighs under nine stone, is suffering from headaches and eyecores and has trouble walking.

Patsy O'Hara, who now weighs only 10 st. 5 lbs., has been suffering from searing pains in his stomach and side. He feels nauseated when drinking water and traces of blood have been detected in his urine.

FURNITURE

In another significant development in the H-Block prison struggle, the blanket men issued a statement on Tuesday, April 14th, announcing that they have demanded beds, chairs, and lockers, for every cell, from the prison regime.

There is no logical reason why the political prisoners should be denied this furniture and their aim in making this demand is to further focus attention on the main issue at stake: political status for political prisoners.

It deprives the British of a future propaganda move with which they could cause confusion by announcing the provision of furniture and it is a re-statement of the prisoners' persistent argument that the struggle is not about prison furniture or accommodation.

The only solution to the H-Block/Armagh crisis is the concession by the British of the five demands which constitute political status.

UNDER ATTACK

LATE on Thursday night, April 9th, two young H-Block workers were clearing up at their offices above the 'Rocking Chair' lounge in Waterloo Street, Derry, and were preparing to leave when four shots rang out, forcing the pair to dive for cover.

Downstairs, a small crowd was leaving the lounge bar. Mickey Carlin, a twenty-eight-year-old barman was standing just outside. "When the shots rang out, a couple of guys standing nearby didn't realise what was happening. I shouted 'get down' and pushed them down behind a blue van for cover. We heard no-one running away, nor any car afterwards, so I thought it might have been Brits going berserk in the Masonic camp on the Walls nearby." The next morning, the two H-Block workers, Mickey McMenamin and Eugene Harrigan, discovered one bullet embedded in the wall of the H-Block office, near the light switch where Mickey had been standing seconds before. The other bullet ricocheted off the wall just above it and was found lying on the floor. For the past two weeks, the 'Rocking Chair' and H-Block office above it have been targets for stoning attacks from the Derry walls immediately above them. In two cases, the attackers have been chased into the city centre, and have fled into the nearby loyalist Fountain Street district.

Charlie's boast

'DOWNTOWN RADIO', last Sunday morning, caused something of a sensation amongst loyalist opinion by reporting, as the main news item in its morning bulletins, that Charles Haughey, in his address to the Fianna Fail and the previous evening, had boasted of a united Ireland within one year.

However, the flutters in loyalist breasts were wrongly awakened, not by Haughey losing all sense of reality in his election gallop, but by the usual slipshod reporting at 'Downtown'. The section of Haughey's speech, so publicly misconstrued, was not in fact in the copy of his speech supplied in advance to the press, but in an elaboration which he included as he spoke. Speaking of the London/Dublin discussions now underway, he told his listeners that in a year from now "everyone might begin to see in a clearer light the end of the road on which they had set out". Which really could mean anything. Perhaps it was an excusable journalistic blunder. After all, at that stage 'Downtown's' reporter had been listening to Haughey's marathon address for well over an hour. Without even a commercial break.

Brit beheaded

A BRITISH ARMY tank driver was beheaded in a freak accident, by a length of barbed wire, while on Salisbury Plain training manoeuvres in England a fortnight ago, Saturday 4th April.

Twenty-year-old Trooper Mark Jones was driving a Scimitar tank, with his head above the vehicle in the normal position at the start of a mock battle. When the tank suddenly reduced speed, swerved and then stopped, the tank commander, Corporal Kevin David, went to investigate and found Trooper James decapitated with barbed wire wrapped around his neck. Recording a verdict of misadventure at the inquest, coroner John Elgar said: "This must be regarded as one of the hazards of modern manoeuvres."

Brazen incursion

INCURSIONS by the British army across the border into the twenty-six counties have apparently taken on a more brazen and sinister nature. Following reports of the twenty British soldiers who occupied the Leitrim village of Killyclogher last month comes news of another dramatic incursion this time into the town of Lifford in County Donegal.

On Monday 6th April at 1.45 p.m. a British army leadrover carrying seven fully-armed soldiers, including an officer, crossed the bridge which unmistakably marks the border between Strabane in County Tyrone and Lifford in County Donegal. Once in Lifford town, the soldiers got out and took up firing positions.

Uniformed gardai approached them and asked them to withdraw but they refused to do. Twenty minutes later, after lengthy discussions between members of the Gardaí Special Task Force and the British soldiers, they eventually withdrew, still with their weapons, and were escorted to the border.

Snowball chucked

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNOWBALL of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who kept quiet for eight years 'for the good of the army and of the regiment' about the 'pitchfork murders', by two members of his platoon, of Fermanagh farmers Michael Naan and Andrew Murray, has been ordered to resign his commission by the British army board in London, and will leave the army in May.

Snowball, who was aged nineteen at the time of the killings in October 1972 and was the youngest serving British officer in the six counties, destined for a distinguished career, was given a twelve-month suspended sentence last January for his collusion with the assassins, Sergeants Hathaway and Byrne, and was immediately welcomed back to his post by his regiment. It was thought, however, that the army board inquiry would result in his eventual court-martial, in an effort to restore the Argyll and Sutherland's badly tarnished image. That only minimal lenient action has been taken against Snowball can probably be attributed to the persuasive efforts of his father, Brigadier Edward Snowball, a former commander in both the British army and NATO, who was himself probably 'in the know' about the killings and who may, in fact, have counselled his son's silence, 'for the good of the army and of the regiment.'

Ironie parallel

FOLLOWING last weekend's intense rioting in the south London area of Brixton, where bricks, stones and petrol bombs were used against police by hundreds of, predominantly, black, youth, and almost two hundred arrests were made, Brit Home Secretary William Whitelaw has appointed Lord Justice Scarman to conduct a public enquiry into the riots. An uneasy and temporary peace has settled over Brixton which is an area of high unemployment, appalling housing conditions and a total lack of amenities, in which the one-third black population massive and permanent concentration of police and Special Patrol Group officers.

The riots, during which police were poured into the area with batons and a barrage of petrol bombs, have produced a fearful reaction from British government and media, especially in the wake of similar rioting in Bristol last year. The parallels, both in terms of social discrimination and of police brutality, of rioting resistance, between Brixton's blacks and Northern Catholics in August 1969, are all too clear. What is ironic is that the British government should draw a second parallel by establishing an enquiry under Lord Scarman, the same judge who produced the report on the August 1969 riots in the six counties!

Emotional debate

THE Alliance Party's eleventh annual conference, held in Belfast's Europa hotel last weekend, was dominated by discussion of Bobby Sands' election victory, with delegates' speeches returning to the subject time and time again.

When news of the result came through, an 'emotional debate' culminated in an emergency resolution, endorsed by all but six of the two hundred delegates, condemning 'the election of a terrorist as an MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone'.

During the debate, Oliver Napier, the swivelling nondescript who leads the party which is only marginally less irrelevant in the North than the

Sticky Republican Clubs, described Bobby Sands as 'a man who has no respect for democracy and spits on it'. He, too, then went on to support the motion condemning 30,492 voters and the victorious candidate who got their votes, in a constituency where during the May 1979 election the Alliance candidate, Peter Acheson, polled a miserable 1,070 votes.

Despite Alliance claims that it is the North's only 'non sectarian' party, its meagre membership is drawn largely from the Protestant middle class with only a handful of Catholic middle class members, and its policies — including full support for the Brits and RUC — are staunchly unionist.



● OLIVER NAPIER
a swivelling nondescript

Creeping back

LOYALIST leader Ian Paisley crept back into the news last weekend.

Back from a recent preaching tour in America, to where he had swiftly removed himself following the double downturn in his personal fortunes, of the Stormont 'Carson trail' rally flop and his being comprehensively outmanoeuvred by the Official Unionists in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone nominations, Paisley — his ego now restored by Harry West's humiliation at the by-election poll — took to the streets in Glasgow last Saturday, in the first of his proposed British 'Carson trail' rallies.

Paisley — who last Thursday, in Westminster, was described as a 'dog-

collared hooligan' by Scottish left-wing Labour MP Dennis Canavan — called H-Block hunger-striker Bobby Sands' election 'a vote for barbarity', and, arrogantly assuming his mantle of divine judgement, went on to call it 'an outrage against God and Man.'

These familiar rantings will be viewed as ironic, particularly by Official Unionists, given the large number of 'Paisley' spoiled votes registered in Fermanagh and South Tyrone. It is believed widely that Paisley deliberately encouraged his none too numerous supporters in the area to spoil their votes as part of his overall strategy of undermining the Official Unionists, thus actively (though minimally) assisting Bobby Sands' election.



● IAN PAISLEY
a dog-collared hooligan



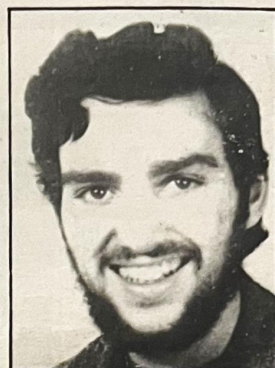
● Bobby Sands



● Frankie Hughes



● Ray McCreesh



● Patsy O'Hara

Laying down their lives

TODAY, H-Block hunger-striker Bobby Sands, IRA Volunteer, and Westminster MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, is slowly dying inside Long Kesh prison camp. Time is running out for Sands, whose markedly deteriorating physical condition is now increasingly giving grave cause for concern.

On Wednesday, a prison doctor informed his family that his life span should now be measured in days, rather than weeks.

Just as in 1916 there were men and women in Ireland prepared to lay down their lives in repudiation of British rule and in assertion of Irish sovereignty, so too this Easter weekend four young Irishmen, including Sands, lie in the prison hospital in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh on hunger-strike, preparing to lay down their lives in the service of that same cause.

The battleground for this, the last necessary rising against the injustice of British rule in Ireland, has, because of partition, been in the occupied six counties. But the real battleground for the political status campaign has been within the confines of jail, fought by imprisoned republicans.

They, like the signatories who put their names to the 1916 proclamation, have fallen into the clutches of a brutal enemy, and even under these harsh conditions make no apology for having upheld in arms, and now through the force of personal courage, their Irish republicanism.

To the fore in this battle is Bobby Sands, whose principled stand was overwhelmingly endorsed by the nationalist people in the historic by-election victory in Fermanagh and South Tyrone last week. By this Easter Sunday, Bobby Sands will be on his fiftieth day of hunger-strike, Frankie Hughes will be on his thirty-sixth day, and Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara will be on their twenty-ninth day.

TRANSFORMED

But Bobby Sands' life and the lives of his three comrades can still be saved, and the H-Block/Armagh prisoners' just demands can be won. The euphoria naturally felt, nationwide, at Sands' truly historic electoral victory, must be urgently transformed into decisively effective political pressure. The rising anger and tremendous solidarity of the nationalist people —

as unquestionably demonstrated by the election victory — must increasingly be impressively demonstrated on the streets, and forcefully transmitted to London via what levers of power are available in Dublin and Belfast, especially through pressurising the Fianna Fail and SDLP leaderships, who pose themselves as the representatives of the nationalist people.

The formula for a prisoners' victory remains precisely the same as ever, despite the continued intransigence and arrogant contempt for Irish opinion demonstrated this week by British premier Margaret Thatcher and Northern direct-ruler Humphrey Atkins.

FORCED

The British must be forced to realise that the cost to them — measured in terms of growing political instability in Ireland and an increasingly tarnished international image — of denying the prisoners their rightful political status, will inevitably exceed the cost of dropping their criminalisation policy. A doomed policy, discredited internationally by the nationalist electorate of Fermanagh and South Tyrone symbolically rejecting it at the polls on behalf of the nationalist people as a whole.

And no wonder. For the British government's five-year-old attempt — after eight centuries of attempts — to criminalise the cause of Irish independence and those who seriously attempt to achieve it, is an attack not just on republicans but chips something off all those with a national consciousness, no matter to which particular political or cultural organisation they may belong. This attack is all-embracing and intolerable, because it fundamentally presupposes a right on Britain's behalf to interfere in Irish affairs and set political values, and to accept that is to be immediately compromised.

Also, the methods Britain has employed to enforce this criminalisation policy have been cruel and inhuman and need no further recitation.

This Saturday a national march and rally is being held in Dublin. A week on Sunday a similar demonstration is planned for Belfast. Be there!

These protests will provide the last opportunity to peacefully demonstrate on the streets that the Irish people are not prepared to allow Bobby Sands to be a sacrificial lamb on the altar of British inhumanity and short-sighted political expediency.

EXPEDIENCY HALTS EXPULSION MOVES

Brits back down

BY PETER ARNLIS

FROM the very start of the Fermanagh and South Tyrone Westminster election campaign, the Official Unionists, who sponsored Harry West, the bad loser, declared that they would attempt to unseat Bobby Sands in an electoral court, should he win, and have the seat awarded to West.

The Official Unionists must have felt very smug.

On the nationalist side they had to their advantage the SDLP leadership carrying out a semi-public boycott and spoilt vote campaign; on the streets they had the RUC, UDR, and the British army harassing Sands' campaign workers; at Stormont Castle they had direct-ruler Humphrey Atkins denying Bobby Sands access to the media; and, if West lost after all that, they believed they could resort to the law to secure the seat for West or have the British parliament unseat Bobby Sands for a fresh by-election.

But, through fear of even further political repercussions and severe international scrutiny, the British government backed out of attempts to unseat Bobby Sands which would have effectively disenfranchised the nationalist electorate of his constituency. So, today, Bobby Sands lies in the H-Block prison hospital on hunger-strike with the title of Westminster MP, and with his life and that title hanging over the diminishing credibility of the British government and formally nailing the British lie of criminalisation.

MOVES

Within two hours of Bobby Sands being announced victor, the leader of the British House of Commons, Tory cabinet minister Francis Pym (who was Northern direct-ruler for a few months in 1973 and 1974), called a meeting for representatives from all parties on Monday. And he went into session over the weekend with various authorities in British constitutional law to examine ways of unseating the Irish republican MP.

Official Unionists were on poor ground if they thought they had a suitable case for an electoral court (a petition for which may be lodged up to twenty-eight days after the result).

In 1955, two imprisoned republicans elected to Westminster — Thomas Mitchell in Fermanagh and South Tyrone, and Philip Clarke in Mid-Ulster — were unseated as 'convicted felons' under the Forfeiture Act of 1870. However, a change in the Criminal Law Act of 1967 abolished the concept of 'felon', and only a prisoner convicted of treason can now be legally unseated as an MP.

Nevertheless the British parliament can — if it so chooses — expel any member, by a majority vote, although it is usual practice to seek all-party agreement before so doing.

Francis Pym consulted British premier Margaret Thatcher, direct-ruler Humphrey Atkins, and Attorney-General Sir Michael Havers.

If they were to successfully unseat Bobby Sands they needed to move a parliamentary vote before this Thursday, when Westminster went into its ten day Easter recess. For, by the next session, Bobby Sands would be fifty-seven days on hunger-strike and very close to death. Saturday's issue of the influential London 'Times', against what soon emerged to be substantial opposition, also advocated unseating Bobby Sands, on the grounds that he should not be allowed to die whilst an MP!

APPEAL

Resistance to these moves to have the republican MP unseated soon gathered momentum. There was opposition from British Labour MPs, from the SDLP (trying to regain some lost ground), from Free State premier Charlie Haughey, and from a number of American congressmen. In a statement from his hospital bed Bobby Sands said: "No matter what moves are made, Ireland and the rest of the world will continue to recognise the democratic decision of the people even if the British parliament cannot abide by the very tenets which it professes to uphold."

"A decision to unseat me will have grave



● HUNGER-STRIKER MP BOBBY SANDS — IN

implications for the British people and their democratic process and is a further whittling away of civil liberties spilling over from the war in Ireland."

Bobby then appealed to people of influence in Britain, and to those British politicians 'with a conscience', to recognise that "it is not republican hunger-striker Bobby Sands, MP, that is the problem, but it is Britain's failed policy of attempting to brand Irish political prisoners as criminals which has your government scurrying for legal procedures to unseat a dying man and which, if you allow it, will shame you in the eyes of the world."

HYPOCRISY

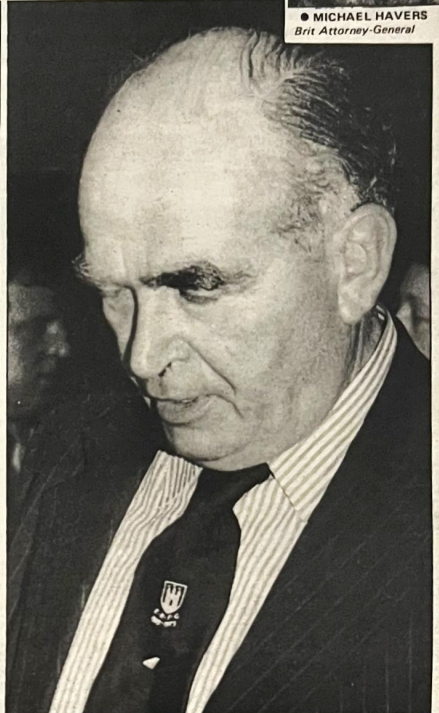
On behalf of Sinn Féin, publicity director (and AP/RN editor) Danny Morrison said that the latest British manoeuvres "show up their hypocrisy and the contempt they have for the so-called democratic process in Ireland when it goes against them."

"In 1918 when the vast majority of the Irish people voted for self-determination and when their elected representatives set up Dail Eireann, it was suppressed by British soldiers."

"On Thursday the people of Fermanagh and South Tyrone used the ballot box and by a democratic majority elected Bobby Sands as their MP. This sticks in the throat of the British government and, in particular, rattles Margaret Thatcher, who only polled 20,918 personal votes in her constituency, because the election of Bobby Sands by 30,492 voters shows that the Irish people reject Britain's criminalisation policy and have not been deceived by it."

OPPOSITION

British Labour MPs, Ernie Roberts, Clive Soley, and Denis Skinner, two Plaid Cymru MPs, and Lords Gifford and Milford, plus former young Liberal leader Peter Hain, were among those first in Britain to voice opposition to the expulsion proposal. Labour party spokesperson, Don Concannon, who made an inept and irregular intervention against Sands from the sanctuary of parlia-



● BAD LOSER HARRY WEST — OUT

ment on polling day, was also under pressure not to support the proposed expulsion which would (in the words of a joint statement issued by MPs, Roberts and Soley and by the two peers): "earn international condemnation and undermine the authority of parliament."

West Belfast MP, Gerry Fitt, when challenged by Sinn Féin to make his position known, refused to say how he would vote if it came to a motion.

The SDLP had stated, only two weeks ago, following the recriminatory aftermath of miscalculating Noel Maguire's withdrawal as a candidate, that it would in future contest all elections. But SDLP leader John Hume now warned that if Bobby Sands was unseated then, in protest, his party would not go forward in the new by-election. Thus leaving the Brits with the sure prospect of

another hunger-striker taking the seat, and thereby presenting them with the same problem and intensifying international interest in the political status campaign.

Free State premier Charles Haughey, in a radio interview on RTE's 'This Week' programme on Sunday, said that Bobby Sands, like it or not, was elected democratically and this had to be accepted. Even one loyalist MP, James Kilfedder, expressed reservations about having Sands unseated.

Some Tory MPs also had reservations about interfering with the decision of the electorate and the new Westminster grouping of fourteen Social Democrats, who have the distinction of not having even received a mandate from voters on their political changeover, would be loath to expel Bobby Sands.

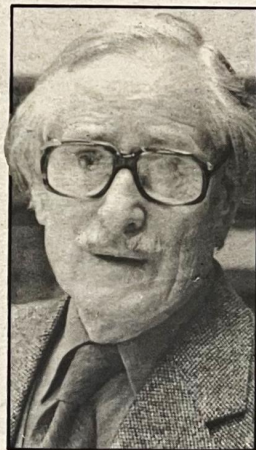
Last Monday nine members of the New York assembly expressed 'shock and outrage' at the attempts to unseat the hunger-striker.

DECLINED

Faced with this growing, and considerable, opposition, Francis Pym declined to introduce a government motion, and, as it emerged, Official Unionist leader James Molyneux (who moved the writ for the by-election which saw his trusty nominee humiliated) had not the inclination to move a private motion. However, his colleague Harold McCusker tabled a motion calling for MPs to express contempt at Bobby Sands' election.

On Monday night, after having spent the whole day consulting the various shades of political opinion, Pym announced: "These consultations have shown that it is the present general view of the House of Commons that no action should be taken."

At Tuesday morning's Tory cabinet meeting, in London, the British Attorney General Sir Michael Havers was called to give legal advice on, it is believed, proposals to change the Representation of the People Act so that convicted prisoners can never again stand for election. It is believed that an Amendment Bill could be introduced after the Easter recess, and passed well before any MP has the opportunity to move a writ for the next Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election.



● Ernie Roberts MP opposed expulsion of Sands



● MICHAEL HAVERS
Brit Attorney-General

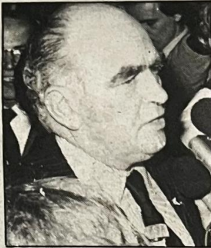
Poll victory

BY PETER ARNLIS

TO ELECTION workers for H-Block hunger-striker Bobby Sands, the high poll of 86.8%, recorded on polling day Thursday 9th April in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone Westminster by-election, was the first favourable sign indicating at least that the boycott advocated by some executive members of the SDLP had been ignored by the nationalist people.

The next encouraging sign came during the count in Enniskillen on Friday when it could be seen that SDLP strongholds such as Irvinestown in County Fermanagh and Donaghmore in County Tyrone were returning a very low percentage of spoiled votes, again ignoring the advice of the SDLP leadership who, just as much as UDR and RUC checkpoints, had attempted to sabotage an election victory for Bobby Sands.

Bobby, always a few hundred votes ahead during the count, looked as if he had made it.



● HARRY WEST demoralised

the word 'terrorist' down all the various onlookers' throats.

AMAZING

The result was amazing given the many factors against a victory. The high poll and low number of spoiled votes (over half of which were visibly Paisley-inspired, anti-West ballot papers) were a clear rejection by the nationalist people of the advice given by the treacherous leadership of the SDLP.

Though Bobby Sands' campaign was run by a broad-based committee, though he ran on an 'anti-H-Block/Armagh political prisoner' ticket, the SDLP leadership, national newspaper editorials, sections of the Catholic church, the Official Unionist Party and the British parliament, declared that to vote for Bobby Sands was to vote for the IRA.

They blackmailed and intimidated the nationalist electorate who nevertheless braved all arguments and threats and made republican hunger-striker Bobby Sands a Westminster MP.

DESPICABLE

Perhaps the most despicable intervention came from British Labour opposition spokesperson on the North, Don Concannon.

Speaking from the sanctuary of the British parliament on polling day, he declared that the electorate had a 'unique opportunity to denounce the men of violence' and said that a vote for Bobby Sands was a vote of approval for IRA operations such as the Narrow Water ambush (when eighteen British soldiers were killed).

Had a by-election been taking place in Britain, propriety would dictate that on polling day such an electioneering outburst would not be made, let alone be reported by the live media, which is legally



● DON CONCANNON despicable intervention

obligated to give fair and equal coverage to contestants. (The reporting of such statements places the particular contestant with an immediate advantage over others, who have only a limited time in which to re-influence the voters before the polling booths close.)

Concannon's stupid outburst, unlike the statement from Fianna Fail Euro-MP Síle de Valera, who on the eve of polling day called for support for Bobby Sands, was given extensive coverage in the North.

Concannon had worked at Stormont as a direct-rule minister from 1976 until May 1979, and during that time was respons-



● SÍLE DE VALERA supported Sands

ible for the administration of the H-Blocks and knew of the brutal beatings taking place. However, he seems to have learnt nothing from his time in Ireland.

One of his last acts in the North was to go to Lisnaskea and visit the late Frank Maguire (whom Bobby Sands had succeeded as MP) on the eve of a crucial vote of confidence in the Labour government in April 1979.

He pleaded with Maguire to make a rare visit to Westminster and support the crumbling Labour government. Frank Maguire's price (and the sentiment of Fermanagh and South Tyrone) was political status for the men in H-Block and women in Armagh. But the Labour government would not concede, and so without Maguire's support it fell and the Tories subsequently came to office.

Concannon's bungling intervention this time almost certainly confirmed native instincts that their choice of Sands was the correct one.

ABUSIVE

British press reaction to the election victory was hysterical and as abusive as that which followed the IRA execution of Lord Mountbatten and the killing of eighteen British soldiers in August 1979. An editorial in the 'Sunday Express' said of the electorate 'May God forgive their hypocrisy' and concluded: 'Their attendance at Mass this morning is as corrupt as the kiss of Judas.'

The 'Sunday Times' was less insulting, and saw the result as a watershed, 'the election result finally and publicly puts paid to the notion — wishfully fostered by Protestants in the province and by government spokesmen abroad — that the Provisional IRA enjoys no popular support.'

However to the IRA, the validity of its mandate, which has undoubtedly been enhanced by the election of an IRA Volunteer, rests after the election, as before the election, upon the illegitimacy of partition and the British presence. Undoubtedly, however, internationally the result will be interpreted as a popular mandate for the armed struggle for national liberation.

Following the election victory, Sinn Féin president Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, pointed out that the people had spoken: 'The message from Fermanagh and South Tyrone to all the world is clear: political status for the political prisoners now, before Bobby Sands and his comrades die.' He slammed the 'begrudgers' of the victory, especially Gerry Fitt, who he called upon to resign his Westminster seat.

The political repercussions of the outcome of the election dominated the news media for a full week.

SDLP leaders, who forty-eight hours earlier had warned that a vote for Sands was 'a vote for violence', soon abandoned that tune after thirty thousand four hundred and ninety-two voters made an IRA Volunteer an MP. It was not, after all, said Austin Currie 'a vote for violence'!

West, by using quotes from the Pope had waged a 'very stupid campaign', whereas Bobby Sands' camp had waged a 'very shrewd and unprincipled election campaign', said the former Stormont MP who once called for a civil disobedience campaign and then, as a cabinet minister in the power-sharing assembly, seized the cattle of poor people in lieu of payment of rent and rates which they had withheld as part of that disobedience campaign.

SDLP

Last Tuesday, SDLP leader John Hume, still carefully avoiding the SDLP taking up a clear position on the H-Block crisis, urged Bobby Sands to demand facilities of the British administration so that he could take them to the European Commission on Human Rights for a ruling on the commission's H-Block report.

Attacking Hume's smokescreen substitute for hard anti-British criticism, a Sinn Féin spokesperson pointed out: 'Last week, Mr. Hume did not run to Europe for a ruling when he advised the electorate to vote against Bobby Sands. What the people would be really interested to hear is not John Hume's advice but his attitude towards the British government and its brutal treatment of the political prisoners.'

Discredited West Belfast MP, Gerry Fitt — who had, even before the killing by an unknown gunman of a census collector in Derry two days before 'polling day', unashamedly attempted to sway the nationalist electorate in favour of Harry West — declared the Sands victory 'a mandate for the Provisional IRA'.

The Alliance Party said that the Fermanagh and South Tyrone electorate 'are to be condemned' and Official Unionist leader, James Molyneux, said that the result would be read as 'support by the Catholic community for the Provisional IRA'.

LOYALIST

The loyalist paramilitary Ulster Defence Association said that the vote was 'a vote for the IRA'.

Attempting to prove this point, the terror gang's leader, Andy

■ Bobby Sands

Tyrie, said: 'If he stood in the same would have been five thousand men got thirty thousand years have been out success, independence' (through a 'separation' of the Research Group) out a sectarian election, made the election result would away from politics' paramilitarism, which never abandoned it. A 'crisis meeting' commanders was held on Tuesday evening the future of the front group, though statement was made. Paisley's Democratic Party were undecided at the result, since them, in the republican government election to blame the Official

Notes BY CORMAC

IT'S INCREDIBLY SMALL! IT'S VERY CHEAP! IT'S THE MOST REVOLTING AND DISGUSTING OBJECT YOU HAVE EVER SEEN! IT'S THE **SOUL** OF AUSTIN CURRIE!!

IT SEEMS TO BE COMMON KNOWLEDGE BY NOW & I MAY AS WELL CONFESS — I DIDN'T DESTROY MY VOTE AT THE ELECTION!



I VOTED FOR HARRY WEST?



BUT I HAD NO CHOICE! AFTER ALL, THIS MAN SANDS IS A CRIMINAL!



HIS CRIME?



DESTROY MY CAREER?





...s' sister, Marcella, and mother, shortly after the election victory announcement, with jubilant young supporters in the background

UDA man had the election he was lucky to get votes. This IRA thousand votes."

for a number of advocating, with-punty 'independ- a front organ- Ulster Political while carrying assassination cam- because that the could drive them 's' and back to which they have myway.

ing' of UDA held in Belfast ing to discuss 'independence' no immediate de.

cratic Unionist ably pleased nce it allowed up to the local ions in May, ical Unionists

MYING MY TICAL ER!!

"Now we know," said Paisley, addressing a loyalist rally in Glasgow last Saturday, "where the Roman Catholics in Ulster and the so-called moderates stand. More than thirty thousand of them have voted for the IRA commandant in the Maze prison." (Never mind that one hundred

and eighty thousand unionists in the 1979 European elections voted for a raving bigot with a history of over twenty-five years of anti-Catholic sectarianism behind him!)

CRISIS

Apart from Síle de Valera's welcome for the result, there was very little reaction from Free State politicians. Similarly, British politicians were reticent to speak about the repercussions

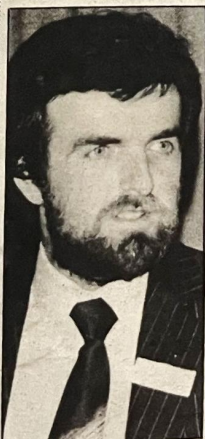
for the continuation of the policy of criminalisation.

British premier Margaret Thatcher, when interviewed exclusively on ITN 'News at Ten' last Monday evening, was extremely evasive even when being questioned by a sympathetic interviewer. She reiterated that there is to be no

change in British government policy towards the North, despite the election result.

On Tuesday the British cabinet met, and reports after the grisly discussion indicated that ministers were told to prepare for the inevitable prospect of Bobby Sands' death.

The British government again reaffirmed that it had no intention of giving the prisoners their five demands, and afterwards Thatcher conveniently took herself off to India and the Gulf States for an eleven-day tour as the crisis point in Bobby Sands' life rapidly approached.



● OWEN CARRON victorious

Thanks!

IN Enniskillen Technical College, last Friday, April 10th, following the official announcement of Bobby Sands' historic electoral victory, his election agent, Owen Carron, spoke for the imprisoned hunger-striker and thanked the returning officer, the counting staff, Bobby's election workers, but particularly the electorate of Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

"A chairde, a dhaoine saile, ladies and gentlemen, on Bobby Sands' behalf I would like to claim victory. Bua dona prisaigh sna H-Blocks agus in Ard Mhacha."

"The nationalist people spoke clearly and voted against Unionism and it is time for the British to do what they should have done long ago — get out."

"Despite intimidation from the so-called security forces, the voters of Fermanagh and South Tyrone stood by the prisoners and told Mrs. Thatcher today, that we, on behalf of the Irish people, will not accept the situation in the H-Blocks and we demand an immediate end to that intolerable situation."



■ Enthusiastic campaign workers in Enniskillen

..hunger-strike....hunger-strike...hunger-strike....hunger-strike

Widespread action

North

STREET demonstrations in the six counties have been dominated over the past week by two very distinct factors: the first was the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election which was a massive defeat for the British criminalisation policy, the second was the alarming increase in RUC harassment, intimidation and physical abuse of hunger-strike activists.

When Bobby Sands' victory was finally announced, spontaneous demonstrations took place in many areas, not only Fermanagh and South Tyrone. On the Falls Road in Belfast crowds gathered outside the hunger-strike centre, and a large banner proclaiming, 'Bobby Sands, elected' hung from the local bank. Slogans appeared on walls within minutes and many areas celebrated with bin-lid banging.

The same night a march in the Lenadoon area of west Belfast was attacked by loyalists and RUC men in the first physical demonstration of sectarian reaction. A victory cavalcade through Tyrone was also stoned by loyalists, but a massive rally in Coalishland to mark the election victory was not interfered with, probably due to weight of numbers.

At the city hall in Belfast, on Saturday, an attempt by anti H-Block/Armagh demonstrators to hold a rally was disrupted by a massive presence of RUC men.

Also on Saturday, between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. hunger-strike supporters in Newry held a successful picket in Hill Street to draw attention to the struggle in the prisons.

The major demonstration of the week was held in Lurgan, following a march from Tullyally shops in Craigavon, which was attended by more than a thousand people with contingents from many areas. A minor riot which followed the rally in North Street, Lurgan, was brought under control by stewards despite intense RUC provocation.

During Sunday afternoon, H-Block/Armagh demonstrators marched around the gaelic football pitch in Ballycastle, during a friendly match, and were warmly applauded by the large crowd of supporters.

On Monday night, a cavalcade toured nationalist areas in Derry to publicise the day of action and to call on people to support the hunger-strike. And still in Derry, the Youth against Oppression groups, during last week, took the stage in all bingo halls in the city, and read letters from the men and women in the H-Blocks and Armagh.

At 2 p.m. on Tuesday, more than fifty H-Block/Armagh activists occupied the GPO in Belfast. Despite the peaceful nature of the protest which was stressed at all times, the sectarian RUC again attacked demonstrators injuring several people and arresting sixteen, including members of the Belfast central committee. On Tuesday night in West Belfast, Lenadoon action committee organised an indoor meeting, and in the New Lodge area in the north of the city, a public rally was also held.

The Industrial Day of Action called by the National H-Block/Armagh Committee for Wednesday 15th April brought out the largest crowds, as expected, in Belfast and Derry, but nationalist

workers and hunger-strike campaigners responded throughout the six counties.

In Belfast, a peaceful demonstration of several thousand people was halted by a massive force of RUC men and British soldiers at College Square. The march started at Kennedy Way and proceeded along the Falls Road gathering people all along the way.

Trade union banners were carried and were joined by local action group and youth banners. There was a sit-down at the blockade and a rally was held, which was addressed by Bobby Dickie, chairman of the Belfast No. 1 branch of the ITGWU and attended by Paddy Mooney a Dublin member of the ITGWU national executive.

After provocation from the RUC, who drove land-rovers through the demonstrators as they were dispersing, a riot began involving two hundred youths who stoned the RUC.

In Derry almost all the nationalist workplaces and shops in the city closed for the afternoon and there was a well-supported march to the Guildhall, where a rally was held.

In Newry, there was a rally in Market Square and many workers came out of factories to attend.

In Crossmaglen there was a complete closedown between 2 and 6 p.m.

In South Derry there were pickets in Toome on the main Derry to Belfast road and the road was also picketed at the Genshane Pass.

In Camlough, County Armagh, there was a closedown for the afternoon and three hundred people attended a demonstration in the town.

In Coalishland there was another closedown and a rally was held in the square addressed by Bernadette McAliskey.

Throughout County Tyrone, most nationalist shops closed down and many nationalist workers left the factories to take part in the half-day stoppage. About sixty people held a picket on the M1 motorway at Dungannon during the afternoon.

Loyalist and Brit harassment of the campaign has not been limited to direct physical attacks. In Cookstown, on two successive Saturdays, and on Sunday in Bellaghy, H-Block protests had to be cancelled, following the announcement of county demonstrations by loyalist groups, thus giving the RUC the excuse to ban all demonstrations.

In Ardoyne, in north Belfast, in the early hours of last Friday, Brits with hydraulic lifts moved in to remove over one hundred H-Block flags in an attempt to conceal popular support for the prisoners. Many tricolours have also been taken down, but where this happens they are usually replaced within a few hours.

South

THE boost given to the hunger-strike campaign by the Bobby Sands by-election victory was reflected in the twenty-six counties by enthusiastic attendances at several meetings last weekend.

On Friday 10th April, a meeting was held in the Regional Technical College in Drogheda to co-ordinate activity for the industrial day of action. Several trade unions addressed the meeting, including John Crilly of Drogheda Trades Council.

In Carlow, on the same day, one hundred and fifty people attended a



● Industrial Day of Action, Derry



● H-Block march, Cork



● Lurgan rally, last Sunday

meeting in the centre of the town where fifteen people were taking part in a 48-hour fast. Among the speakers was Athy councillor Paddy Wright.

On Saturday, a rally for the Connaught area attracted over one thousand people to Carrick-on-Shannon in County Leitrim for a parade through the town centre to a meeting which was addressed by local action group members and by Declan Bree of Sligo Corporation.

A meeting in Limerick for the Munster area was attended by several hundred people, who marched through the city centre. Speakers included Daithi O'Connell, vice-president of Sinn Féin, and local solicitor Gordon Hayes.

In Dublin, hunger-strike action on Saturday was focussed on the Fianna Fail and their taking place at the RDS in Ballsbridge. Two hundred people marched from St. Stephen's Green to lobby Fianna Fail delegates, many of whom signed a petition in support of the hunger-strikers. Speakers also addressed the delegates through a loud hailer.

Christina Carney, of the National H-Block/Armagh Committee, handed in a letter addressed to Charles Haughey demanding his support for the prisoners and requesting a meeting with him, which has so far been consistently refused. Earlier in the day several trade unionists, including journalist Eamonn McCann, spoke at a public meeting in the Finglas area of the city.

In Donegal, also on Saturday, two hundred people marched from Stranorlar to Ballybofey where a meeting was addressed by local councillors Anthony O'Malley Daly and Harry Blaney, and by Oliver Hughes, brother of hunger-striker Francis Hughes.

On Sunday morning, three after-mass meetings in the New Ross area of County Wexford were addressed by Alderman Philip Kelly of Wexford Corporation. All attracted good attendances.

In South Kerry, in the afternoon, three hundred people took part in a march through Cahirciveen to a meeting in the town square.



● Industrial Day of Action, Belfast



● Picket of Fianna Fail and their, RDS, Dublin

On Monday evening, one hundred young people took part in a Youth against H-Block/Armagh meeting through the Liberties area of Dublin.

In Clones, County Monaghan, a

torchlight march through the town, on Saturday night, ended with a meeting in the Diamond which was addressed by Sinn Féin president Ruairi O'Bradaigh.

The Industrial Day of Action on Wednesday 15th April was marked in Dublin by a meeting outside Liberty Hall in the evening, calling on the trade union leadership to publicly support the prisoners' demands.

Among identifiable groups attending the meeting were workers from Daxson, Fiat, the Cuffe Street, Wood Quay and Haigins building sites, corporation workers and Teachers against H-Block/Armagh.

The meeting was addressed by Tom Darby of No. 5 branch ITGWU, who said that his branch had passed a resolution in support of the prisoners the previous evening; Brian Higgins, an executive member of the FWUI; and Caroline Healey, the niece of a blanket man.

The trade-union sub-committee of the National H-Block/Armagh Committee met on Wednesday evening, at that stage, they had reports of meetings held in counties Monaghan and Donegal.

Orange colours shown

AT Belfast city hall last Saturday afternoon heavily armed members of the RUC once again prevented nationalists from demonstrating outside their own ghettos, and viciously attacked protesters, arresting twenty-one of them.

Despite the fact that numerous loyalist rallies have been held at the same spot it was immediately evident that a nationalist protest was not acceptable at this 'hallowed' spot.

People gathering outside the city hall were brusquely told to move on,

and the RUC began pushing people back up Wellington Place, in the direction of the Falls. Protestors were set upon by baton-wielding and punch-throwing RUC men, who dragged their unfortunate victims to their land-rovers.

The mood of the RUC was one of unconcealed sectarian hatred, and they were further infuriated when enthusiastic protestors chanted 'Bobby Sands MP'. After RUC provocation, widespread rioting began, that spread up the Falls Road to Divis flats, and which lasted until late Saturday night.



● National H-Block/Armagh Committee member, Maura McCrory, being arrested by RUC thugs



..hunger-strike....hunger-strike.... hunger-strike....

New dimension

Abroad

AROUND the world, the victory of Bobby Sands in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election has, as expected, attracted major attention to the hunger-strike, and added a new dimension to the international view not just of the H-Blocks, but of the British presence in Ireland generally.

Quite out of the ordinary, a Westminster by-election has been given front page coverage by the major establishment press, as well as the radical press, from Paris to New York, where even the prestigious 'New York Times', so used to reprinting British Information Office handouts, gave front page coverage.

And in Washington, on Friday, within hours of the election result being known, the hunger-strike situation was raised in Congress by congressman Benjamin Gilman of New York who urged an immediate resolution of the H-Block issue, with no further renegeing by the British government.

Warning against any British attempts to unseat Bobby Sands, a group of nine New York State assemblymen, led by Bronx representative Sean Patrick Walsh, last Sunday described any such attempt as 'both indecent and typical of the British government, and denounced the 'tireless oppression' of the Irish people. This was followed the next day by Pennsylvania congressman Doug Walgreen's similar statement and by a formal resolution from the Massachusetts state assembly.

The fifth in a series of hunger-strike rallies organised by the Irish Northern Aid in the United States took place on Sunday 12th April at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. The rally was addressed by Fr. Kevin Flanagan, television commentator 'Martin' Abend, Martin Galvin of Irish Northern Aid, former blanket man Seamus Delaney of Belfast, state senator Patrick Dodd of New Jersey and another elected local official, Francis Fahy.

Both Seamus Delaney and his fellow former blanket man Noel Cassidy of Monaghan are continuing their tour of the United States, addressing meetings and lobbying politicians, trade unionists and human rights campaigners.

Stan Parris, a member of the US congress from Virginia, has written to the British embassy in Washington expressing the concern of many of his constituents about the hunger-strike.

Pedraig Malone of Limerick Sinn Féin has just returned to Ireland at the end of a lengthy tour of Canada and Quebec. Among his final activities were addresses to public meetings in Ottawa and Montreal; interviews with a television station in Quebec and a television newspaper in Montreal; and attendance at El Salvador and Puerto Rican solidarity meetings where support was pledged for the H-Block hunger-strikers.

In France, the newspaper of the French Communist Party, 'L'Humain', has hailed the Bobby Sands victory. An appeal from the party's Committee for Human Rights and Liberties, headed by party leader George Marchais, cautioned against any attempt to unseat him.

Meanwhile one of the biggest unions in France, the union FEN, has sent a letter of support for the hunger-strikers. Former Armagh protest prisoner Maureen Gibson and former blanket man Ciaran O'Hagan have been continuing their tour of West Germany, which is being hosted by the Frankfurt-based Anti H-Block/Armagh Committee.

Since their tour began, support for the prisoners has been pledged by branches of the metalworkers, printers, and woodworkers trade unions, as well as by central union bodies in Munster and Meuse.

Amnesty International in Munster, has called on its national executive to



● Kieran Nugent (right), with a member of the Danish left socialist party

send observers to Ireland. The ruling Social Democrat Party have requested a meeting with Maureen and Ciaran to discuss the hunger-strike.

The two have so far addressed public meetings in Dortmund, Munster, Bochum, Hamburg, Freiburg, and Darmstadt. Over the Easter weekend they will be in East Germany.

Former blanket man Kieran Nugent is continuing his tour of Denmark, where he has spoken at a public meeting in Copenhagen and a demonstration in the same city on Thursday 9th April. He has given interviews to all the leading left-wing newspapers, which are the only ones available due to the national newspaper lock-out.

The Communist Workers Party has pledged support for the hunger-strikers. Members of the Danish parliament belonging to the Socialist People's party and the Left Socialist party have issued statements in support of the hunger-strikers and welcoming the Bobby Sands by-election victory.

Other messages of support have been received from War Resisters International in Holland, a conscientious objectors group, and from the Euzkadi Euzkera group in the Basque country.

Britain

THE main development in the hunger-strike campaign in Britain has been the launching, at a press conference a week last Wednesday, April 8th, of an ad hoc committee called 'Don't let the Irish prisoners die'.

British Labour MP Ernie Roberts, who chaired the press conference, announced that fourteen Labour MPs had so far signed an appeal seeking 'an imaginative breakthrough' on the hunger-strike. Twenty-seven lawyers are among the other signatories.

Meanwhile, meetings, pickets, and marches in support of the hunger-strikers have continued to be held around Britain, and organisers have reported and welcomed significant support from the immigrant communities in Britain, particularly among West Indians.

On Saturday 4th April, the left wing group the RCG held a street meeting in the Holloway area of London. The same day in Hemel Hempstead members of Sinn Féin and the Troops Out Movement picketed the Territorial Army Reserve barracks.

On Sunday 5th April a picket was held on Leicester jail, where three Irish political prisoners are held, in solidarity with the hunger-strikers. On the following evening, a Labour Party rally in Birmingham was interrupted by the unfurling of a 'Smash the H-Blocks' banner during the address of party leader Michael Foot.

On Wednesday 8th April, Sinn Féin and the Troops Out Movement organised a public meeting in St. Albans.

On Friday 10th April, Sinn Féin held a public meeting in London's Conway



● The weekly hunger-strike picket and leafletting held in Amsterdam, pictured here last Saturday — the sculpture was made by a Dutch artist



● Black solidarity for the hunger-strikers, in Glasgow



● Bradford solidarity march on April 4th

Hall at which speakers included Mary McDermott of Belfast Sinn Féin and a representative of the Indian Workers Association. The by-election of Bobby Sands announced that day attracted an enthusiastic audience.

The following evening, another left-wing group, the RCT, held a public meeting in Friends House in central London.

Last Saturday, a street meeting organised by Sinn Féin in Brixton attracted considerable interest. The heavy police presence in the area (who over the weekend engaged in unprecedented street fighting with black youths) eventually manhandled demonstrators off the streets and several were arrested. On the same day in Oxford, the newly-formed local Ireland Solidarity Group

placed a large banner reading 'Save Bobby Sands MP' on Carfax tower — a local historic building.

Also on Saturday 11th April, a march and meeting was held by the hunger-strike committee in the Moss Side area of Manchester. A street meeting was also held in the same area, earlier in the day, organised by the RCG.

In Bristol, the St. Paul's branch of the Labour Party has unanimously passed a resolution in support of the prisoners' demands.

And last weekend the annual conference of the National Council for Civil Liberties meeting at London university, although rejecting a direct motion in support of political status, endorsed a list of 'the demands for all prisoners which closely approximates those of the H-Block/Armagh protest prisoners.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL
Thursday 18th April
St Fergal's Hall
Finglas
DUBLIN
Music by
Moving Hearts and Resistance
In aid of
Finglas Against Toxic Waste Campaign

**HUNGER-STRIKE
FUND RAISING SOCIAL**
7 p.m. Friday 17th April
Kevin Barry Club
44, Parnell Square
DUBLIN

DURHAM JAIL PICKET
12.30 p.m. Saturday 18th April
Old Elvet
DURHAM

ANNUAL EASTER CONCERT
Featuring Barleycorn & other artists
9 p.m. Sunday 19th April
Patrician Hall
CARRICKMORE
Co. Tyrone

**HUNGER-STRIKE
FUND RAISING DANCE**
Monday 20th April
Star Ballroom
BALLYCONNELL
Co. Cavan

**HUNGER-STRIKE
FUND RAISING FUNCTION**
Friday 24th April
Killeshin House
CARLOW
Music by the Freewheelers and others

HUNGER-STRIKE MARCH
5 p.m. Saturday 25th April
BALLYSHANNON
Co. Donegal

UNEMPLOYMENT MEETING
8.30 p.m. Monday 27th April
White's Hotel
WEXFORD

IRELAND'S HUNGER-STRIKE

A BRAND new one-hour colour video film, 'Ireland's hunger-strike', has been produced on the history of Irish republican resistance to criminalisation, why there has been a blanket protest in the H-Blocks, and why there have been hunger-strikes in Long Kesh and Armagh prisons.

The film is available for hire from the H-Block Information Centre, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast (tel. 23214) or the National H-Block/Armagh Committee, 30 Mountjoy Square, Dublin (tel. 747200).

BOBBY SANDS: PORTRAIT OF A HUNGER-STRIKER

A WELL-DESIGNED booklet 'Bobby Sands: portrait of a hunger-striker' has been published in London. The booklet, which includes a previously unpublished profile of Sands and two of his articles reprinted from *Republican News* and *AP/IN*, and which folds out into a large poster, is published by the 'Information on Ireland' group whose material is always politically sound and expertly produced.

The booklet is available from them at 1 North End Road, London W14 8 ST, at price 25p plus 15p postage in Ireland and Britain (ten copies for £2, including postage), and at price 25p plus 50p airmail postage elsewhere (ten copies for £1.70, plus £1.70 airmail postage to Europe, or £3.40 airmail postage to the rest of the world).

This booklet is strongly recommended for action committees and support groups internationally.

THANKS

THE BOBBY SANDS ELECTION FUND acknowledges, with thanks £101.08 received from the West Limerick H-Block Action Committee.

THE H-BLOCK APPEAL FUND acknowledges, with thanks, donations of £1,000 from European comrades, £150 from friends in Hampstead, London, £150 received from the republican prisoners in Portlaoise via Mary O'Keefe, Portlaoise, and an anonymous donation of £15 received from London.

THE PATRICK MACDORREY SINN FEIN CUMANN wishes to thank the people of Kilmore/Beaumont area in Dublin who sponsored them to a total of £175 on the twenty-four hour token fast for the Bobby Sands election fund.

THE TOM WILLIAMS FLUTE BAND, Scotland, wish to thank the many people who made their recent visit to Belfast for the St. Patrick's day parade possible, and such a success.

IN MEMORIAM

CLARKE, Joe. (5th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear husband Joe Clarke who died on 22nd April 1976. RIP. Never forgotten by Ellis.

CLEARY, Peter. (5th Anniversary). In proud memory of Vol. Peter Cleary who was killed in action on Holy Thursday, 1976. Always remembered by his relatives and friends.

McDERMOTT, Sean. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our friend and comrade Volunteer Sean McDermott, died in action April 5th 1976. Let our memorial to our fallen comrades be the continuation of the struggle for which they gave their lives until we are victorious. Always remembered by John and Billy Chillingworth (Greene).

McDERMOTT, Sean. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory always of Volunteer Sean McDermott, a dear friend and comrade, killed in action April 5th 1976. By truth and honour, by principle and sacrifice alone will Ireland be free. Always remembered by Mrs. Greene and family.

McDERMOTT, Sean. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear friend and comrade Volunteer Sean McDermott, killed in action April 5th 1976. Always remembered, Rita.

McDERMOTT, Sean. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our friend Sean, killed in action April 5th 1976. Ireland unfree shall never be at peace. Terry, Frances and Rory.

McKIBBIN, Trevor. (5th anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Trevor McKibbin, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was shot dead by British forces of occupation on April 17th 1976. Thus se a yalbh aige ar son saoirse muintir na hEireann. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

MOLLOY, Tobias; DEVLIN, Eugene; McGINN, Jim. The Republican Movement in Strabane remember with pride and honour. Fian Tobias Molloy, Vol. Eugene Devlin and Vol. Jim McGinn who gave their lives for Irish freedom.

O'RAWE, Eddie. (8th Anniversary). In proud memory of Vol. Eddie O'Rawe, murdered by Brits while on active service. Always remembered by Maura, Alex and family.

O'RAWE, Eddie. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Eddie, murdered by Brits. Sweet Jesus keep him in your care. Never forgotten by aunt Maisie, Bob and Agnass.

O'RAWE, Eddie. (8th Anniversary). In proud memory of Eddie O'Rawe, murdered by Brits. Mother Mary keep him in your care. Remembered by Bobby, Jean and family.

O'RAWE, Eddie. (8th Anniversary). In proud memory of Eddie O'Rawe, murdered by Brits. Sweet Jesus have mercy. Always remembered by Harry and family.

SMYTH, Brendan. (8th anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Brendan Smyth, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was shot dead by British forces of occupation on April 17th 1976. I maeac laochra na nEise go raibh a nam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

LONDON COMMITTEE OF AN CUMANN CABHRACH remembers with pride, at this Easter time, the following deceased members and supporters (stretching back to the late forties): Dr. O'Boyle, Pat O'Sullivan, Bill Burns, Sean McDermott, Joe Kelly, Captain Saul, Coleman Earley, John Frasset, Tom Flanagan, Mick Collins, Chris Coughlan, Denis O'Donovan, Martin Gavin, Derek Highstead, and Dick Grey.

McGoldrick memorial

A SPECIAL trophy in memory of Sligo republican Martin McGoldrick has been presented to Feis Sligh to be awarded each year to the winner of the Sealaíocht competition, in keeping with Martin's love for the Irish language.

The new cup, inscribed 'Corn Chiuimhneachan Mhairtín Mhic Gualguair', was announced by Joe at the final meeting of the memorial committee on Friday 3rd April. He also thanked all those people who had contributed to the memorial fund.

Inniskeen funeral

A LARGE crowd attended the funeral on St. Patrick's Day of Mrs. Jones, of Inniskeen, County Monaghan, a life-long republican. Her tricolour-draped coffin was escorted to the grave by a republican guard of honour.

Mrs. Jones, a native of Inniskeen, lived for some years in Belfast, where she met and married her husband. At the funeral, sympathy was extended to her husband on behalf of the Republican Movement. Tributes were paid to the family's support for the Irish struggle down the years.

DRAW RESULTS

An Cumann Cabhrach, Dublin

March draw results

£100: 307; £50: 54; £25: 311; £10: 174 and 75; £5: 210, 189, 71, 112, 237 and 154.

GENERAL ELECTION EXPECTED FOLLOWING FIANNA FAIL ARD FHEIS

Haughey leaning on national question for support

BY KEVIN BURKE

A GENERAL election in the twenty-six counties now appears almost certain to be announced by the Free State premier Charlie Haughey shortly after Easter, with polling day before the end of May.

Last weekend's Fianna Fail ard fheis — held after the February postponement — turned out, as expected, to be little more than a marathon party political broadcast, with even less lively discussion than usual, let alone dissension, from delegates.

Haughey's own unprecedented two-hour speech to delegates on Saturday evening dominated the proceedings as it ranged over every likely area of attack on the Fianna Fail record of failure during this term in government, detailing the lines of defence which will be drawn in the election battle.

Each minister in turn was also allowed his personal defence, with Minister for the Environment Ray Burke unveiling, to much applause, the first of the electoral goodies in the form of extra money for first-time home buyers (most of which will inevitably be gobbled up by builders who will quickly push up prices).

There was plenty of indication that voters are again going to be seduced with their own money by Fianna Fail with more grants to farmers and dramatic reductions in motor insurance being two of the strongest tips for conjuring tricks. And the recent claims that things are looking up, and that recession has levelled out and so on, were constantly proclaimed as if by repetition it would make it so.

But a May election will mean that Haughey for one does not believe it, since he can wait for another year if he wishes. And privately, Fianna Fail are determined that however much they spend on electoral bribes there is no way they are going to allow the effects that last time's bought election cost. Economic stringency will be the sting in the tail of a Fianna Fail return to office.

But although Fianna Fail are ready to outbid and bluff on the economic front, they recognise that it is very much the chosen ground of Fine Gael and Labour at the hustings. And last weekend's ard fheis reinforced without doubt that Haughey's strategy for success at the polls will rest very heavily on the national question.

DE VALERA

Forty-eight hours after publicly supporting the candidature of Bobby Sands in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election, Síle de Valera arrived on the ard fheis platform, just minutes ahead of Charles Haughey. She was met with a prolonged standing ovation from the packed hall of undoubtedly sincerely nationalist delegates.

At a party function later she congratulated the nationalist electorate on their decision, and over the weekend both the Agriculture Minister, Ray McSharry, and the Minister for State at Transport, Pádraig Flynn, publicly concurred with her outspoken — and popular — view.

At any other time than election time, there is no doubt that Haughey would require his close associates to be more circumspect. Currently he is allowing the 'republican wing' free rein. His mild description of Síle de Valera's attacks on Thatcher as 'emotional' on RTE on Sunday, was nowhere near a slapdown. It is unlikely, however, that Síle de Valera



● SILE DE VALERA's (extreme right) reputation as a 'republican' hawk in Fianna Fail has to date always worked to HAUGHEY's (extreme left) advantage, and seems likely to continue to do so as Haughey plays the 'republican' card in the run-up to an election

is anybody's puppet, even though her activities to date have always worked to Haughey's advantage. Her amazingly confident (some would say arrogant) display, after Haughey's speech, in taking over the forefront of the platform, to personally congratulate him and reinforce the family rights in the party, may have delighted the delegates and embarrassed the platform party, but it left no one in doubt that she is a force to be reckoned with.

PATHETIC

The power of the nationalist view in Fianna Fail was displayed when Haughey finally got round to the North in his marathon party address. The determination of the delegates to cheer hysterically was — however patronising it appears — rather pathetic as they seized on words or phrases to applaud, totally out of context.

The unanalytical nature of Fianna Fail nationalism is clearer, now that they think they have a 'republican' leader, than for a long time. It is a phenomenon which can only be dispelled with determined efforts at explanation and information by republicans. It is too easy to dismiss it as hypocrisy and insincerity.

Haughey's references to the North were particularly interesting in so far as they had changed in emphasis quite markedly from the speech he would have made in February, and which was revealed exclusively in *An Phoblacht/Republican News* of Saturday 7th March.

CONTRAST

The February speech was to have very briefly referred to the 'progress' of the London/Dublin talks and then devoted the rest of the section to flattering the loyalists. The nationalists of the North were not due for a mention.

In contrast, last Saturday's section on the North was long on the process begun in the talks with Thatcher, was careful to mention 'both communities' in the North, and was very much shorter indeed in appeals to the

loyalists.

Since the February postponement, the British intransigence which has precipitated a new hunger-strike, the 'Carson trail' rallies of Paisley, and the events culminating in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone election of Bobby Sands, have had a dramatic effect in showing in the simplest possible and indisputable way the beleaguered position of the nationalist people in the North and the determination of their stand against imperialism and loyalism.

It was this clearly drawn picture which forced on Haughey his change of emphasis and requires him to have Fianna Fail expressing stronger nationalist sentiments. It is in this area that his tight-rope act is shakiest. Put at its most cynical, the prospect of a hunger-striker dying cancels out Haughey's claim of a close understanding with Thatcher and undermines his supposed strategy.

HUNGER-STRIKE

Fianna Fail delegates lobbied by H-Block hunger-strike supporters outside the ard fheis are undoubtedly concerned about the hunger-strike. Their awareness of its importance was such that Haughey kept all mention of it outside the ard fheis, and presumably hopes that any tragic conclusions can be similarly distanced from his responsibility.

Haughey, however, has shown that he is particularly sensitive to the national question and is ready to make cynical alterations in emphasis to keep step with events. Hunger-strike campaigners can force him to move by emphasising that his policies, and his election chances, are in ruins unless he acts.

A by-election in the North has been turned in favour of the hunger-strikers, a general election in the South can be turned in the same way. But this time there is no time to wait for the starting gun, the politicians are already away and running in the campaign. Those concerned for the prisoners have little time to catch up.

Easter

ANDERSON, Martina, (Armagh). Happy Easter, Martina, to you and all your comrades, from Sheila, Martina and Mary in Cork.

BROWN, Tony (Scuby), (H-Block). Easter greetings to Tony (Scuby) Brown. Best wishes from Rosaleen McDonnell. Adm mor.

BROWNLEE, Brelge, (Armagh). Easter greetings to you and all your brave comrades from Ella and Brendan.

BROWNLEE, Brelge, (Armagh). Easter greetings, Brelge, from mother and father, brothers and sisters in Belfast and Dublin.

BUTLER, Eddie, (Leicester). Birthday greetings, Eddie, from the O'Connells, Querin.

CALLAGHAN, Rosemary, (Armagh). Easter greetings to my daughter Rosemary and her comrades in 'A' wing, Armagh Jail, and to all Irish prisoners throughout the world. Thinking of you always. Love from mum, Malachy, and Jackie.

CALLAGHAN, Rosemary, (Armagh). Easter greetings to my son Bernard and his comrades in Armagh and the H-Blocks. A special hello to Seán Daragh and to all the men from the Short Strand. May victory soon be yours. Lots of love, from Joe, Jacqueline and Fergal; Geraldine, Raymond and Claran, Marian, Terry and Sinead.

CAMPBELL, Peter, (H-Block). Easter greetings to you Peter and wishing you a happy 21st birthday. Love from the 27th. From Maurice, Brelge and Shane.

CHILLINGWORTH, Billy, (H-Block). Happy birthday to my son Billy. Easter Sunday. To one who brings such happiness in so many different ways, a greeting, dearest Billy, on this your day of days. God bless you, all my love, mother. xxx. UTP.

CHILLINGWORTH, Billy, (H-Block). Best wishes to our brother Billy, on his birthday on Easter Sunday. You are the best Billy, from your brother James, and Annette: Joe, Gerard-Martin, Hugh and Michael.

CHILLINGWORTH, Billy, (H-Block). Happy birthday on Easter Sunday to my dear brother Billy from John (H-Block) Ellen and children.

CHILLINGWORTH, Billy, (H-Block). Happy birthday to my son Billy on Easter Sunday. Love and happiness always, from your sisters Hanna and Frances; Mary and niece Caitlin Thérèse; Kathleen, Charlie and Lorraine; Sinead, Cathy and twins Charles and Gerard.

CHILLINGWORTH, Billy, (H-Block). Warm congratulations on your birthday Billy. All the best, from Alice and John Bradley and family, also from John (H-Block).

CHILLINGWORTH, John, (H-Block). Easter greetings to our dear son and brother. We may have had brave men, but we will never have better than the blanket men and the Armagh women. From your loving mother, and all your brothers, sisters, brother-in-laws, nieces and nephews.

CHILLINGWORTH, John, (H-Block). Easter greetings to my husband John and brother-in-law Liam. Always thinking of you both. From your wife Ellen and children.

CUSHINAN, Henry, (H-Block). Easter greetings to our son and his brave comrades in Long Kesh. We support your fight for political status. From mum and dad.

CUSHINAN, Henry, (H-Block). Greetings to our brother Henry on the blanket in Long Kesh. Your struggle is our struggle, Henry, and we are behind you and your comrades all the way. From Frances and Brian.

DOWD, Brendan, (H-Block). Easter greetings to my son Brendan, and Brian and Eddie in Portlaoise; and to all the boys and girls in prison in the North. Mrs. John Dowd.

GREEN, Lawrence, (H-Block). Easter greetings to Lawrence and Leo. From aunt Mary Anna and family, Lurgan.

HAYES, Bill, (Portlaoise). Thinking of you always, especially at Easter. From your family and relations in Ferrybank, also Kathleen and Sean.

KELLY, J.J., (Portlaoise). Easter greetings from mother, brothers Bill and Frank, and sisters Carmel and Kathleen.

LAMBERT, Stephen, (Crumlin, H-Block). Easter greetings from Una.

LARKIN, Joe, (Portlaoise). Easter greetings from Una.

LAVERY, Seamus, (Magilligan). Easter greetings, Seamus. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Love and best wishes. From mum, dad and family circle.

LAVERY, Sean, (H-Block). Easter greetings, Sean. I'll wear no convict's uniform, nor meekly serve my time that Britain might make Ireland's fight the hundred years of crime. All our love. From mum, dad, brothers, sisters and all the family circle.

LOUGHRAN, Paddy, (H-Block). Easter and solidarity greetings to our son Paddy and his comrades in Long Kesh and Armagh. Greetings also to all political prisoners in Irish and English jails. Victory to the hunger-strikers. From mum, dad, brothers and sisters. Also from Anne and Grainne.

LYNCH, Sandy, (H-Block). Wishing you a happy Easter Sunday. We will remember you in our prayers, all the best from Mr. and Mrs. A. Malone and Brendan; also your old pal Hugh in H-Block.

MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). A happy Easter, Bernard, from the Silery family, and Elizabeth and Brendan O'Brien, Dublin.

MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). Easter greetings to my son Bernard. Always of love, thinking of you always. From your mother, and brother Mick.

MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). Wishing you a happy Easter. From Noel, Larry, Rabbie, Bert, Brian, Paddy, and all the countless ones in Dublin.

MALLON, Kevin, (Portlaoise). Best wishes

as for Easter from B. Moran.

MALONE, Hugh, (H-Block). A very happy Easter, son, may your next one be spent in freedom, you are always in our thoughts and prayers. God bless, all our love, mum and dad.

MALONE, Hugh, (H-Block). Every good wish for Easter, Hugh, hope you will be home soon. Thinking of you always. Take care, God bless, love from Brendan.

MALONE, Hugh, (H-Block). Easter greetings to my brother Hugh. Thinking and praying for you always. Our meeting times are seldom, our writing times are without a thought of you. Love from Sal, Rog, Martin and Tracy.

MORGAN, Michael, (Portlaoise). All the best for Easter from Doris.

MULHOLLAND, Ailwyn, (H-Block). Easter greetings and happy birthday from Mum, Dad and all in Portlaoise.

MULHOLLAND, Ailwyn, (H-Block). Easter greetings and happy birthday, from Mick, Josie and all your friends in Duncraig, Peter and Frank in Dublin, all in County Offaly and all in Australia.

MURPHY, Chris, (H-Block). Happy Easter, Hugh, Phil and Gerald. Brownie, Eddie, Easter greetings to our brother. Chris and cousins Hugh and Philip. They may lock you away, deny you your rights, but Ireland's true son continue to fight. Also to our brother-in-law Eddie and cousin Gerald in Portlaoise. Love from Mary and Isabella.

MURPHY, Chris, (H-Block). Eddie, (Portlaoise); ROONEY, Gerald, (Portlaoise); Phil and Hugh (H-Block). Easter greetings to our dear son Chris. They may imprison your body but they will not take your spirit. Greetings also to our son-in-law Eddie, and to our brothers Philip and Hugh. Victory to our POWs everywhere. God bless you all.

MCCANN, Malachy, (Portlaoise). Easter greetings, Malachy. 'Ireland unfree shall be at peace. I hope to see you free in August. Love from mum, dad, and all the family and friends in Toome and Donagh.

MCCAUGHLEY, Brelge Anne, (Armagh). Easter greetings to you Brelge Anne and to all your comrades on protest for political status. Greetings also to Billy McAllister, Tony McKee, and Claran, Sean and Damien Lannon (Long Kesh) and to Deirdre McDonnell (Limerick). God bless you all. Love from mum, dad, Fionnuala and Claran. xxx.

MCCOY, Patrick, (Cage 11, Long Kesh). Easter greetings Patrick. Thinking of you at Easter and always. All our love. From Maggie and Sorcha. xxx.

MCCOY, Patrick, (Cage 11, Long Kesh). Easter greetings, Patrick. Thinking of you at Easter and always. All our love. From Maggie and Sorcha. xxx.

MCCOY, Patrick, (Cage 11, Long Kesh). Easter greetings, Patrick. Thinking of you at Easter and always. All our love. From Maggie and Sorcha. xxx.

MCCOY, Kevin, (H-Block). Easter greetings, Kevin. You are not alone in H-Block, no matter what they say, for outside, your friends and loved ones are and your family circle. Love and best wishes from mum, dad, family circle and friends.

MCDONNELL, Deirdre, (Limerick). Easter greetings from all your friends in Andersonstown.

MCDONNELL, Deirdre, (Limerick). Easter greetings to our daughter Deirdre and to her two friends. Thinking of you always. No Easter egg this year but a big one with all our love. From mum, dad and all the family. UTP.

McGEOWAN, Gerard, (H-Block). Easter greetings to Gerard. Victory to the blanket men and to the Armagh women. Always yours. From Ann. xxx. UTP.

McKEOWN, Lawrence, (H-Block). Easter greetings, Lawrence, you're always in our thoughts and prayers. Love from all the family circle.

McKEOWN, Pat, (H-Block). Easter greetings to my husband, Pat. You are always in our thoughts. From your loving wife Pauline and son.

McKEOWN, Pat, (H-Block). Greetings to our son Pat. Always in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you and your comrades. From your mother, father, and family.

McKEOWN, Pat, (H-Block). Solidarity greetings to you Pat at Easter time. From your old mate, Hendie.

McLAUGHLIN, Reamonn, (Parkhurst); COUGHLIN, Martin, (Scrubs); BYRNE, Eddie, (Gartree). Easter greetings to Reamonn, Martin and Eddie, and to all Irish POWs and their families in English and Irish jails. 'They may lock you up, deny you your rights, but Ireland's true son continue to fight. Also to our brother-in-law Eddie, and to our brothers Philip and Hugh. Victory to our POWs everywhere. God bless you all. Love from Mum, Dad and all the family in Lurgan.

McNULTY, Ultan, (H-Block). Easter greetings, Ultan. From Bridie, brother and sisters.

MILNE, Ian, (H-Block). Easter greetings to you Ian. From prison bars divide us and we are far apart, they have you in their keeping, we have you in our hearts. From dad, sister, uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces.

MOLLOY, Paddy, (H-Block). Easter greetings to you Paddy. Fuar mé do lili a chara, Schönbach me freagairt an eigh. Go dtí sin, bí go maith. Greetings also to Sid Walsh, Zack, Tomboy, Paddy Mo, Dickie and all the ex-cage 11 bunch. Greetings to all the men and women from the Short Strand in prison in Ireland and England. From Dan, Deborah and kids.

NEARY, Peadar, (Portlaoise). Happy Easter Peadar. Thinking of you all the time. From your loving wife Sinead and children: Sinéad, Cathra, Catha, Daili, Sinead and Ursula.

O'CONNELL, Joe, (DUGAN, Harry, DOHERTY, (Parkhurst); DOWD, Brendan, BUTLER, Eddie (Leicester). Easter greetings from the O'Connells, Querin.

O'HAGAN, Feim; O'HAGAN, Fintan. Easter greetings to Feim and

Fintan in H-Blocks 4 and 5. La gra mor daibh. From mammy, daddy, Dora and Kevin.

O'REILLY, Kathleen, (Armagh). Happy Easter, Kathleen, we are behind you and all your comrades in your struggle. Love from your sisters Sheila and Martina and brother-in-law Gerry in Cork.

ROGERS, Peter, (Portlaoise). Easter greetings, Peter. My thoughts are always with you. Love from your aunt Annie.

ROGERS, Peter, (Portlaoise). Greetings to you at Easter time, Peter. Our thoughts are always with you. Love from aunt Jean and family.

SCULLION, Fintan, (Long Kesh). Easter greetings, Fintan. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Keep your chin up. Love from all at Crosskeys.

SLOAN, Eugene, (Portlaoise). Easter greetings from Una.

SHANAHAN, Paddy, (Portlaoise). Easter greetings to our dad, Paddy Shanahan. Looking forward to September, dad. Hurry on home, Rita, Deirdre, Martin and grandson Alan.

SHANAHAN, Paddy, (Portlaoise). A happy Easter to our dad, Paddy Shanahan. From your son Sean, Rita, Glen and Joanne.

SHANAHAN, Paddy, (Portlaoise). A happy Easter, dad. Soon we will all be united. From your daughter Mary, son-in-law Tony and grandchildren Gary, Sinead and Claran.

SHANAHAN, Paddy, (Portlaoise). A very happy Easter to you Paddy. From your sisters Margaret and Julia.

WHELAN, Joe, (Portlaoise). Wishing you a very happy Easter. No-one could be prouder than we are of you to-day, and this is just to tell you we are behind you all the way. From Mam, Dad, brothers, sisters and families.

WHELAN, Joe, (Portlaoise). Lots of love at Easter, Joe, from Deirdre and Alan.

AN CUMANN CABRACH AND SINN FEIN IN BRITAIN. A revolutionary solidarity greetings to all Irish Republican POWs in Ireland and England. To all our brave incarcerated warriors we pledge our continuing support, especially to those presently on hunger-strike in the H-Blocks and in the blanket in Ireland and England struggling for the just demand of political status.

THE BELLAGHY POW WELFARE ASSOCIATION. A happy Easter greetings to all Bellaghy POWs in Long Kesh, Magilligan, and Portlaoise.

THE CLARE, MCCANN / PHELIN GRANT SINN FEIN CUMANN, TOOMEBRIDGE send Easter greetings to all political prisoners of South-West Antrim, North Antrim and South Derry in Long Kesh, especially cage 11, the H-Blocks, Portlaoise, Magilligan, Armagh and English prisons.

THE CONNOLLY-KEEGAN SINN FEIN CUMANN, WEST HERTFORD send Easter greetings to all Republican prisoners in jails in Ireland and England.

THE DOROTHY MAGUIRE SINN FEIN CUMANN, DUBLIN SOUTH WEST, send Easter greetings to all prisoners in Irish and British jails, especially the women in Armagh and the men in the Long Kesh H-Blocks. A very special greeting to our heroic hunger-striker. Congratulations to Bobby Sands.

LOIN WE WOMEN'S CO-ORDINATING GROUP ON ARMAGH sends Bobby Sands, MP, all best wishes for his tremendous victory in solidarity with you and all your brave comrades in H-Block and Armagh.

THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT IN STRABANE send Easter greetings to all Republican prisoners in Irish and English jails.

THE SINN FEIN POW DEPARTMENT, DUBLIN sends Easter greetings to all prisoners throughout Ireland and England.

THE SHORT STRAND EX-PRISONERS ASSOCIATION send Easter greetings to all prisoners in Portlaoise. Also to our brothers on hunger-strike for political status.

WALKINSTOWN AN CUMANN CABRACH extend Easter week greetings to all republican prisoners in Irish and British jails. We especially remember the women in Armagh and the blanket men in the H-Blocks. particularly our brave hunger-strikers.

EASTER GREETINGS to Cathal, Finbar agus Ruairidh Glebe. Son ar líe. The wealth of our nation is its children. From Orla and John.

EASTER GREETINGS to Seamus Twomey, Kevin Mallon, Phil Campbell, Vivian Hayden, Mick Fox, and to all the political prisoners in Portlaoise. Also to Paddy Agnew in H-Block. From Gerry O'Brien and friends.

EASTER GREETINGS to my fiancée Teresa, on the second anniversary of our engagement. Thinking of you always. From Mick and Mary O'Hara. (H-Block).

EASTER GREETINGS to all POWs in Ireland and England from Treasa, Henry Joy and Seán in London.

EASTER GREETINGS to Kevin McMahon, Philip Campbell, Sean Kind, Joe Malone, Hugh Whelan (Portlaoise). Best wishes to you all. From Rosaleen McDonnell.

EASTER GREETINGS to all the women in Armagh jail, especially to Mairead Farrell and Bridie Anne McCaughley, also to Sid Walsh, Zack, Tomboy, Paddy Mo, Dickie and all the ex-cage 11 bunch. Greetings to all the men and women from the Short Strand in prison in Ireland and England. From Dan, Deborah and kids.

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Easter commemoration ceremonies Sunday 19th April



All nationalist cultural and sporting groups, and trade unions, are invited to take part in the Easter commemoration ceremonies, which are organised by the National Graves Association. But no banners are to be carried on the parade.

People who wish to take photographs of the parades and ceremonies must first obtain permission from the organisers; and, in Belfast, press cards are available from the Republican press centre at 51 Falls Road.

ARMAGH 11.30 a.m. Junction of Banbrook Hill and Moy Road March to Republican plot	NORTH KERRY LISTOWEL After 12 noon Mass TRALEE 3 p.m. Denny Street
NORTH ARMAGH DERRYMACASH 11.45 a.m. Ballinamoney Cottages MAGHERY 12 noon Maghera cemetery	SOUTH KERRY 3 p.m. Cahirciveen
PORTADOWN 1 p.m. Drumree cemetery LURGAN 2 p.m. Francis Street	KILDARE 3.30 p.m. Grey Abbey cemetery
BELFAST 1.30 p.m. Beechmount Avenue March to Milltown cemetery	CO. LEITRIM DRUMSHAMBO 3 p.m.
CARLOW TRILLYVILLE After 12 noon Mass	LIMERICK LIMERICK CITY 11.45 a.m. Best of Row March to Mount St. Lawrence cemetery ATHEA 3 p.m. March to Temple Athea graveyard
CAVAN 2.30 p.m. Jack McCabe Memorial Kilnamoine cemetery, Shercock	CO. LONGFORD NEWTOWNFORBES 3 p.m. March to cemetery
CO. CLARE SHANNON After 11 a.m. Mass COONING After 11 a.m. Mass SAMAGALISH Assembly 3.30 p.m.	LOUTH DROGHEDA After 11 a.m. Mass at St. Oliver Plunkett church March to Memorial Cross on Marsh Road
CORK 2.30 p.m. Grand Parade March to St. Finbar's cemetery	MAYO BONNICONLON 3 p.m.
CROSSMAGLEN 10.45 a.m. Rangers Hall	MEATH FORE 2.30 p.m. Bus to Fore from Duleek 12.15 p.m., Navan 12.45 p.m., Kells 1.15 p.m.
DERRY CITY 2.30 p.m. Bogside Inn	MONAGHAN 2.30 p.m. Fergal O'Hanlon monument March to Laturian cemetery
CO. DERRY WALKINSTOWN 12.15 p.m. LOUP 3 p.m.	ROSCOMMON ELPHIN 2 p.m. County Memorial TULSK 3 p.m. Giltcloze cemetery
DONEGAL CLADY BRIDGE After 11 a.m. Mass	SLIGO 3 p.m. Town Hall March to republican plot
CO. DOWN NEWRY 10.30 a.m. CASTLEWELLAN 4.30 p.m.	NORTH TIPPERARY NENAGH After 10 a.m. Mass at republican monument BORRISOLEIGH 2.30 p.m. Glenkeen
DRUMBOE 3 p.m. Ballybofey St. Johnston's corner, Stranorlar March to Drumboe	SOUTH TIPPERARY 3 p.m. Coolbawn Cross, Fethard March to George Plant's grave in St. Johnston
DUNDALK 2.30 p.m. The Square March to St. Patrick's cemetery	TYRONE ARDROE 11.30 a.m. AUGHANAN 12.30 p.m. CLONOE 12.30 p.m. COALSILAND 12.30 p.m. CARRICKMORE 3 p.m.
DUNGANNON AREA MOY 10 a.m. EDENDRICK 10.30 a.m. GALBALLY 11.15 a.m. DONAGHMORE 12 noon EGLEIGH 12 noon CARRICKMORE 3 p.m.	CO. WEXFORD ENNISCORTHY 11.30 a.m. Foley's Bridge WEXFORD 3 p.m. Crescent Quay

Could all commemoration committees, in conjunction with the Republican Movement locally, please send (or telephone) reports, and send photographs, of the ceremonies, to 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, or 51 Falls Road, Belfast (tel. 46841).

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"Life springs from death and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations...."

"The 'defenders' of this realm have worked well in secret and the open. They think they have pacified Ireland. They think that they have purchased half of us and intimidated the other half. They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools: they have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace."

PADRAIC H. PEARSE



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Vol. Ethel Lynch Dec. 7th 74
Belfast
Vol. Dorothy Maguire Oct. 23rd 71
Vol. Maura Meehan Oct. 23rd 71
Vol. Anne Parker Aug. 11th 72
Vol. Ann Pettigrew Sept. 1st 73
Vol. Bridie Dolan Dec. 9th 75
Vol. Laura Crawford Dec. 1st 75
Vol. Rosemary Bleakley Jan. 13th 76

Derry Brigade

Vol. Thomas McCool June 27th 70
Vol. Thomas Carlin June 27th 70
Vol. Joseph Coyle June 27th 70
Vol. Eamonn Lafferty Aug. 18th 71
Vol. James O'Hagan Aug. 19th 71
Vol. Colm Keenan Mar. 14th 72
Vol. Eugene McGillan Mar. 14th 72
Vol. John Starrs May 13th 72
Vol. James Bradley July 31st 72
Vol. Michael Quigley Sept. 17th 72
Vol. John Brady Nov. 28th 72
Vol. James Carr Nov. 28th 72
Vol. James McCaid Dec. 29th 72
Vol. Joe Walker Dec. 3rd 73
Vol. Gerard Craig June 24th 74
Vol. David Russell June 24th 74
Vol. Michael Meenan June 24th 74
Vol. John McDaid Dec. 7th 74

Vol. Bernard Coyle June 30th 76
Vol. Dennis Heaney June 10th 78
Vol. Patrick Duffy Nov. 24th 78

Co. Derry

Vol. Martin Lee Dec. 18th 71
Vol. John Bateson Dec. 18th 71
Vol. James Sheridan Dec. 18th 71

Co. Donegal

Vol. Peter McIlcar July 17th 76

Downpatrick

Vol. John Carlin Aug. 26th 72
Vol. John Curran Aug. 26th 72
Vol. Leo O'Hanlon Feb. 10th 73

Dublin

Vol. Patrick Cannon July 17th 76

Dungannon

Vol. Patrick McDonald Mar. 15th 73
Vol. Kevin Murray Mar. 15th 73
Vol. Sean Loughran June 25th 73
Vol. Patrick Carty June 25th 73
Vol. Dermot Crowley (Cork) June 25th 73
Vol. Daniel McAnallen Aug. 16th 73
Vol. Patrick Quinn Aug. 16th 73
Vol. Eugene Martin Mar. 13th 74
Vol. Sean McKearney Mar. 13th 74

England

Vol. James McDaid Nov. 14th 74
Vol. Brian Fox Dec. 21st 74
Vol. Michael Gaughan June 3rd 74
Vol. Michael Gaughan June 3rd 74
Vol. Francis Stagg Feb. 12th 76

Co. Fermanagh

Vol. Louis Leonard Dec. 15th 72
Vol. Kevin Coen (Sligo) Jan. 20th 75

GHQ staff

Vol. Jack McCabe Dec. 27th 71
Vol. Thomas O'Donnell May. 17th 73

Long Kesh

Vol. Francis Dodds Sept. 9th 73
Vol. Teddy Campbell May 3rd 74
Vol. Patrick Teer July 2nd 74
Vol. Hugh Coney Nov. 6th 74
Vol. James Moyné Jan. 13th 75
Vol. Henry Heaney June. 4th 78

Co. Monaghan

Vol. Peadar Mohan Feb. 1st 81

Na Fianna Eireann

Fian. Gerard McAuley Aug. 15th 69
Fian. Michael Sloan Jan. 11th 72
Fian. Eamonn McCormick Jan. 16th 72
Fian. Gerry Donaghy Jan. 30th 72
Fian. David McAuley Feb. 19th 72
Fian. Sean O'Riordan Mar. 23rd 72
Fian. Michael Magee May 13th 72
Fian. Joseph Campbell June 11th 72
Fian. John Dougal July 9th 72
Fian. Joseph McCormiskey Sept. 20th 72
Fian. Bernard Fox Dec. 4th 72
Fian. Sean Hughes Dec. 4th 72
Fian. Michael Marley Nov. 24th 73
Fian. Robert Allsopp Mar. 23rd 75
Fian. Kevin McAuley Nov. 6th 75
Fian. James O'Neill Feb. 13th 76
Fian. Paul Williams Aug. 9th 77

Newcastle

Vol. Alphonsus Cunningham July 21st 73

Newry

Vol. Colm Murtagh Aug. 9th 72
Vol. Patrick Hughes Aug. 22nd 72
Vol. Oliver Rowntree Aug. 22nd 72
Vol. Noel Madden Dec. 24th 73
Vol. Brendan Quinn Dec. 24th 73
Vol. Edward Grant Dec. 24th 73
Vol. Patrick McKeown Aug. 27th 74
Vol. Michael Hughes Oct. 18th 74
Vol. Robert Carr Apr. 1st 80

North Armagh

Vol. Michael Crosse Nov. 22nd 71
Vol. John Greene Jan. 10th 75
Vol. Terry Brady Dec. 5th 75
Vol. David Kennedy Dec. 10th 75

Portlaoise

Vol. Thomas Smith Mar. 17th 75

South Armagh

Vol. Michael McVerry Nov. 15th 73
Vol. Sean Boyle Feb. 1st 75
Vol. Francis Jordan June 4th 75
Vol. Sean Campbell Dec. 6th 75
Vol. James Loughrey Dec. 6th 75
Vol. Peter Cleary Apr. 15th 76
Vol. Seamus Harvey Jan. 16th 77
Vol. Peadar McElvanna June 9th 79

Strabane

Vol. Eugene Devlin Dec. 27th 72
Vol. James McGinn Dec. 15th 73
Vol. Tobias Molloy July 16th 75

Toome

Vol. Phelim Grant Feb. 5th 72
Vol. Charles McCann Feb. 5th 72

Co. Tyrone

Vol. Jimmy McGlynn Aug. 11th 73
Vol. Seamus Harvey Aug. 11th 73
Vol. Tony Ahearne (Cork) May 10th 73
Vol. Paul Duffy Feb. 26th 78

Sinn Fein

Maire Drumm Oct. 28th 76
Paul Best Feb. 18th 76
• Noel Jenkinson Leicester Prison Oct. 9th 76
• Sean O'Connell Parkhurst Prison Oct. 1st 77
• (both posthumously awarded membership of Sinn Fein)