

An Phoblacht



REPUBLICAN NEWS

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BOBBY SANDS

H-Block hunger-striker
IRA Volunteer
Westminster MP



**NATIONAL
HUNGER-STRIKE
MARCH & RALLY**

**BELFAST
Sunday 26th April**

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

Days to live



● Bobby Sands

ON WEDNESDAY, H-Block hunger-striker Bobby Sands was reported to be in a dangerously weak condition, with prison doctors indicating that his life could only be measured in days.

Dr. John O'Connell, the Free State politician who visited Bobby on Monday, and who took the opportunity to carry out a medical examination, said, at that time, that he believed that Bobby had no more than five or six days left to live.

Last Sunday night Bobby blacked out for a short period, after which he temporarily lost his sight and hearing and was unaware of where he was. This loss of consciousness was an indication that he could shortly fall into a coma.

Bobby was also reported, at the beginning of the week, to be suffering all the symptoms of an advanced hunger-strike. By then he was permanently confined to his bed, where he lay on a sheepskin rug to prevent his bones piercing his brittle skin. His body was being rubbed several times each day with oil, in an attempt to ease bed-sores.

VISITED

On Tuesday, when his mother, father and sister Marcella visited him, they found him in a very weak condition. His speech was slurred and he had difficulty keeping water in his stomach. He had become unable to read because of his weakening vision and was also having increasing trouble with his hearing.

Nevertheless, Bobby remained



● Marcella (left) and Bobby's mother found Bobby in a very weak condition on Tuesday

as determined as ever to continue with the hunger-strike. He told his family that he would only end the strike when the British government conceded the prisoners' demands.

On Wednesday morning, Bobby was again visited by members of his family. Since the previous night at 8 p.m. he had been unable to drink any water.

By Wednesday his weight had fallen to 7 st. 5 lbs., a loss of 2 st. 9 lbs. He had constant headaches and was having difficulty focussing his vision.

He had very little to say, other than repeating his determination to continue his fast and asking supporters not to forget about his three comrades on hunger-

strike, especially Frankie Hughes who was on his thirty-ninth day without food.

THREE

The condition of the other three hunger-strikers, all in the prison hospital, also continued to deteriorate. Frankie Hughes, in his sixth week without food, being the weakest of the three, being very thin, and constantly feeling tired.

Raymond McCreesh continued to suffer headaches and eye sores,



● Frankie Hughes ● Ray McCreesh ● Patsy O'Hara

and Patsy O'Hara had severe stomach pains and, when drinking water, experienced nausea, in their fifth week of hunger-strike.

Also, last week in the H-Blocks, the blanket men were supplied with furniture, following their public demand that the British government should supply beds, chairs, and lockers for every cell. This ensured that attention remained focussed on the prisoners' demands and pre-empted red herring moves by the British on irrelevancies such as prison furniture.

Badge of defiance

A BELFAST woman was charged with intent to cause a breach of the peace in the city centre last Friday, April 17th — because she was wearing a 'Smash H-Block' badge.

Twenty-six-year-old Mary McKenna, who lives off the Springfield Road, was doing her Easter shopping with her twenty-four-year-old sister, Nuala McKenna, in the city centre, and they were walking down Castle Lane at 11.45 a.m. when they were harassed by the RUC.

"I was wearing a yellow-and-black 'Smash H-Block' badge on my jacket when a woman police constable asked me to take off the badge because she said it would cause a breach of the peace," says Mary McKenna.

"I refused to take the badge off and a Reserve constable called for a vehicle. A landrover came, and I was getting into it when my sister asked them where they were taking me. Then, they started to push her around.

"They brought both of us to Magrave Street police station. I was charged



● MARY McKenna arrested for wearing an H-Block badge

with conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace and my sister was charged with obstruction.

"They kept us at the station for about an hour-and-a-half. During that time, they asked me if I was related to

the former hunger-striker Sean McKenna, and whether I would attend any more pickets in support of the hunger-strikers."

The women, both of whom are active in the hunger-strike campaign, (and neither of whom are related to any of the past or present hunger-strikers), were released on bail of £50 each, and are due to appear in court on Monday.

A spokeswoman for the Belfast H-Block/Armagh Committee said it was the first time, to their knowledge, that someone had been arrested and charged in connection with wearing a 'Smash H-Block' badge.

The fact that Mary McKenna was victimised by the RUC for such a minor personal display of support for the hunger-strikers is a measure of the RUC's frustration at any public show of support for the H-Block men. Frustration which was heightened to a frenzied pitch by the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election victory of an IRA prisoner over a representative of their Protestant ascendancy.

RUC batter boy

A thirteen-year-old boy from the nationalist Unity Flats in Belfast was the victim of a brutal assault by a gang of loyalist RUC men last Monday, April 20th, during a minor riot in the area.

David Macken had just left his family's flat when, on reaching the bottom of the stairs to the flats, he saw a gang of RUC men in riot gear approaching along Upper Library Street.

One of these RUC men rammed young David against a wall, trapping him with a riot shield, and then proceeded to baton him across the face. David was also kicked several times and was left

with a badly bruised face, a black eye, and cuts to his face and hands.

He was thrown into a jeep and taken to North Queen Street RUC barracks, despite being under-age, where he was held until his mother and father arrived to collect him. His parents are outraged at the assault on their young son and are considering legal action against the RUC.



● DAVID MACKEN battered by RUC thugs

UDR MAN SHOT

A PART-TIME UDR SOLDIER was shot dead by IRA Volunteers in Moy, County Tyrone, on Thursday 18th April. The operation was carried out in the village centre at around 10 p.m., when Volunteers, after shouting to bystanders to get down, shot the UDR man dead before escaping in a waiting car. The dead man was named as Jack Donnelly, aged 50. He was a leading member of the Off. man was named as Jack Donnelly, aged 50. He was a leading member of the Off. man was named as Jack Donnelly, aged 50. He was a leading member of the Off.

The day after the killing, the Belfast republican press centre issued what they believed was an authentic supplied statement from the IRA, denying responsibility for the operation. It was later learnt that the denial was not an authentic one, and responsibility was subsequently claimed by the IRA's 1st Battalion, Armagh city. Despite a heavy Brit/RUC cordon thrown around Moy immediately after the shooting, the IRA Volunteers returned safely to base.

Potential victims

A BRITISH ARMY undercover spy post in Derry's Bogside was uncovered last Friday afternoon, April 17th, while a workman was carrying out repairs on a derelict building. The discovery occurred when the workman scaled a ladder to remove corrugated iron sheeting from a window in the building, at the junction of the William Street and Chamberlain Street where much of the recent rioting in the Bogside has been concentrated. As he removed the sheeting, the workman was confronted by a uniformed and armed Brit who ordered him to 'freeze'. British army reinforcements speedily arrived on the scene to enable the occupants, five Brits with faces blacked, to withdraw along with bedding, radios, rifles and other equipment. Two Derry republicans, Colm McNutt and Denis Heaney, were both shot dead by British undercover soldiers. In separate incidents, less than one hundred yards from where this latest stake-out was uncovered, giving rise to local fears that young rioters may have been the potential intended victims of these undercover Brits.

Expedient release

TWENTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD Dolours Price, who was jailed for life following London IRA bombings in 1973, and who was transferred to Armagh jail in March 1975, after a protracted hunger-strike protest for repatriation, was released on Wednesday morning, April 22nd, on 'medical grounds'. Although, in making this move, the British are obviously attempting to appear compassionate, in fact their action is dictated purely by political expediency, and by the fear of having a dead woman republican on their hands at a time when the H-Block hunger-strike of Bobby Sands is reaching a crisis point.

Ten days before her release, on Monday 13th April, Dolours was taken to Muesgrave Park military hospital, suffering from a sharply deteriorating anorexia nervosa condition thought to date from her prolonged force-feeding during 1973 and 1974. Dolours' twenty-six-year-old sister, Marian, who was repatriated along with her in 1975, was released on April 30th last year after becoming dangerously ill with anorexia nervosa.

Unsuccessful attempt

ANOTHER unsuccessful attempt by the RUC to recruit an informer within a nationalist ghetto has been publicly exposed, by a twenty-nine-year-old man, Patrick Curoe, from Andersonstown in West Belfast. The affair began four months ago when Patrick was arrested and held overnight by the RUC, after allegedly assaulting an RUC man in Castle Street in the city centre. One month later, at a remand hearing, he was approached by two plainclothes RUC men who offered to drop charges in exchange for information on IRA Volunteers and arms dumps. They then went on to threaten that if he did not comply more serious charges would be brought against him. Patrick Curoe did not comply, but over the last three months he has been tormented by a stream of phone calls to his home from the RUC Special Branch aimed unsuccessfully at intimidating him into informing. To highlight this he has now publicised his experience.

Anyone approached to give information, by the Brits or RUC, should, of course, refuse to co-operate in any way and should inform the Republican Movement of these attempts.

No chance

THE 'NORTHERN IRELAND COMMITTEE' of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, at its annual conference in Omagh on Wednesday 15th April, voted unanimously to continue its boycott of the RUC Police Authority. The motion endorsed by the conference said the boycott would continue until three recommendations were implemented: a law enabling tribunals to subpoena witnesses and demand production of documents; a British government commitment that complaints of serious injuries in RUC custody be investigated by specialist officers answerable to an independent lawyer; and a British government commitment to publish tribunal reports.

Independent Dungannon councillor Jack Hassard, a trade union member of the Police Authority from 1976 until his protest resignation in 1979 over the Rafferty torture cover-up, supported the protest but added that there was 'no chance' of the recommendations being implemented. He condemned trade unionists who sat on the Police Authority between 1970 and 1976 for their silence on torture — especially during the internment period — and he called for the publication of the Rafferty torture tribunal report once the case against the RUC men accused of his ill-treatment is concluded.

Organiser jailed

GERRY McLAUGHLIN, a twenty-six-year-old maths teacher at a Welsh comprehensive school, and a Sinn Féin organiser in Britain, has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment by a St. Albans court on Tuesday 14th April for 'conspiracy to cause explosions'. The prosecution claimed that radio parts which he had purchased were to be sent for use in bombs in the North. McLaughlin said they were to be smuggled into jails to construct radio transmitters.

To build a case against Gerry McLaughlin, he had been originally charged with possession of explosives as well, and linked to a spate of arson attacks against trial. Arrested and similarly charged at the same time as Gerry McLaughlin was a prominent Luton Sinn Féin member Jim Reilly who has since died of a chest ailment exacerbated by his time imprisoned on remand.

Meanwhile, another Irish political prisoner, Shane O' Doherty, is to take a test case to the European Commission for Human Rights in an attempt to gain a transfer to a prison in the North. His case rests on the European Convention which guarantees the right to family life and freedom from discrimination, and North who have invariably transferred to serve their imprisonment in English jails. Last week, the European Commission accepted a case from another Irish prisoner, Fr. Patrick Fell, who is contesting loss of remission imposed by a Board of Visitors court.

There will be fire and there will be fury



■ **BRITISH SOLDIERS UNDER FIRE IN DERRY ON MONDAY:** *The British government's stubborn insistence that Bobby Sands and his brave comrades are criminals is re-kindling the burning sense of injustice that sparked off the civil rights movement more than a decade ago*

H-BLOCK, after an historic struggle of four-and-a-half years, and after two hunger-strikes, has come to the surface of Irish politics, dominating the stage, and threatening to destabilise British rule and influence, North and South, respectively.

The hunger-strike led by Bobby Sands has come to a crisis point with the nationalist people in the occupied six counties, especially the oppressed and frustrated youth, driven into further alienation from the 'status quo'.

The ineffectiveness of pleas to the British from the SDLP and the humiliating snubs from the British to leading Free State politicians have, once more, thoroughly exposed the essential weakness of constitutional politics.

All the favourable opportunities that the British government have had for resolving the H-Block and Armagh prison protests have foundered on the rock of British intransigence. Opportunities were arrogantly spurned when Cardinal O'Fiaich intervened last year; after the ending of the last hunger-strike in late December; and when the prisoners began

de-escalating their protest earlier this year.

INJUSTICE

The British demanded 'strict conformity' of defenceless prisoners. And now the disciplined and largely peaceful hunger-strike campaign on the streets, which has taken its lead from the proud rebel prisoners, has further exposed the British in Ireland as naked intruders. The British government's stubborn insistence that Bobby Sands and his brave comrades are criminals has no support in this country outside of loyalist ranks.

Instead it is re-kindling the burning sense of injustice that sparked off the civil rights movement more than a decade ago, and is increasingly threatening to arouse post-internment and post-Bloody Sunday sentiments of grief, sorrow and anger, if the will of the Irish people on the prison issue is ignored, snubbed, spat and walked upon, in true British tradition. And such sentiments are, and will be, by no means confined to the North. In the South, British premier Thatcher's arrogant snub — of refusing to meet the three Euro-MPs and Leinster House members, Sile de Valera, Neil Blaney and Dr. John O'Connell — has given real offence.

IDENTIFIED

The overwhelming majority of the Irish people in the last few weeks have identified with Bobby

Sands: a fourteen-year-old when civil rights protestors first took to the streets in 1968, a mere youth when his heart stirred to the cause of his oppressed country, and, the last nine of his twenty-seven years, a tortured prisoner of the British presence in Ireland. The real crime in Ireland is partition and the British occupation, and from that all ills, and mainly bloodshed, have flowed.

Michael English, a Derryman who buried his slain son on Wednesday, appealed to Margaret Thatcher and the British government to accept the life of Gary, killed by the British army, in exchange for the five demands of Bobby Sands and the blanket men. The Brits appear deaf to this man's humble charity. The Brits are deaf to all reasoned appeals.

They demanded 'strict conformity' of defenceless Irish Republican prisoners and drove them to hunger-strike. But they have got their answer: from Bobby Sands, from Frankie Hughes, from Raymond McCreesh, from Patsy O'Hara, from hundreds of Republican prisoners, from the risen nationalist people, and from a new generation of Irish youth who are too young to remember internment or Bloody Sunday, but who have realised the only answer in their own young days.

There will be no 'strict conformity' from the Irish people. There will be no lying down. There will be fire and there will be fury.

UNIQUE H-BLOCK VISIT TO BOBBY SANDS Euro-MPs give their views

LAST Monday morning, the three Euro-MPs, Sile de Valera (Fianna Fáil), Neil Blaney (Independent), and Dr. John O'Connell (Independent), who are also Leinster House members, visited Bobby Sands, then fifty-one days on hunger-strike, in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

Then, later that afternoon, they attended a press conference in Dublin, chaired by Owen Carron, Bobby's election agent during the recent successful Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election campaign.

Owen Carron explained that the Euro-MPs visited Bobby at his request, and had crossed the border at 7.30 a.m. that morning, and had been escorted to Long Kesh by an RUC patrol, who also escorted them back to the border on the return journey. The visit lasted for almost an hour.

Neil Blaney first gave his impressions: "I was left with an abiding impression of a man who has made his decision, and who, with great sadness has made that decision, because of his belief that what he is now doing may bring about a change in the system that has driven him to the extremity that he is now in."

Neil Blaney said that they would be seeking an urgent meeting with the British premier, Margaret Thatcher, despite the fact that she was abroad. If, instead, this request was taken up by her deputy, William Whitelaw, then they would be just as anxious to meet him. He said that they would also be appealing to the Reagan administration in America to help solve the crisis.

O'CONNELL

Sile de Valera said that Bobby was extremely weak but lucid and resolute.

Dr. John O'Connell said: "My role in going there was to try to persuade Bobby Sands to give up the hunger-strike I was surprised at the vigour of the man and the determination of him to speak and present his point of view, about the conditions there and his demands."

"I did go out of my way to persuade him to give up the hunger-strike. I emphasised to him that the loss of life would serve no purpose. I said that if, as I thought, Mrs. Thatcher was so intransigent, that he was bound to die if he was to continue on this course. He said, yes, he was prepared to do that, he was fully determined to die. And, he said, as well as that there would be three more to follow him ..."



● Euro-MPs Neil Blaney, Sile de Valera and Dr. John O'Connell hold their Dublin press conference after visiting Bobby Sands in Long Kesh, last Monday

"He was very determined. I found that I could not persuade him ... I saw in this man more determination than I have ever seen in any person before."

Dr. O'Connell said that the British government had conceded eighty per cent of the prisoners' demands (through introducing reforms) and that to stand firm on the remainder would be rather stupid.

QUESTIONS

The three Euro-MPs then answered questions put to them by members of the press. Sile de Valera said that she did not ask Bobby Sands to come off his fast as "I did not see that as my role." Neil Blaney also said that he could not "try in any way to pressurise him ... I didn't think that this sort of additional torture should be added to his present condition."

The three said that Bobby had invited them to the prison so that they could experience at first hand what the H-Blocks were like. Sile de Valera said that Charles Haughey, the Free State premier, had given his 'express permission and approval' to her for the visit. But when asked if she would set up the Thatcher meeting through him, she said that it would be up to the three Euro-MPs themselves to set it up.

"We are also seeking," said Neil Blaney, "from the Commission of Human Rights, an immediate visitation and some of those, even the commissioner himself, to try and see if he can move on this matter or get a move made."

"I can see a great deal of detriment to the British image abroad, particularly now that Sands is an MP, if this man is allowed to die and others are to follow on hunger-strike because of the treatment that they have been getting in the H-Blocks over the last four-and-a-half years."

The three made clear that Bobby had not asked them to be guarantors of any settlement or negotiators, and that any settlement would be equally available to loyalist as well as republican prisoners.

DE VALERA

Sile de Valera was asked, that while she had stated her interest was purely on humanitarian grounds, did she recognise the prisoners as political prisoners?

"I would certainly think that they should have some kind of political status because, at least not political status, I would not agree with that particular wording, but they certainly are different prisoners. A kind of special category would be the kind of term

I would use... They and the loyalist prisoners are there because of a particular political situation that you find in the North."

When asked to explain the difference between political status and special category status she said: "It depends on your definition. You can call the term whatever you want ... I think the term political status has become very emotive during the last three months with regard to the first hunger-strike and now with regard to this hunger-strike."

When asked what would be the response of the Dublin government if Bobby Sands died, Sile de Valera was evasive and said it was up to them to decide their own response, and side-stepped a question pointing out that the British government's attitude was an overall bad omen for any progress at all level.

All three Euro-MPs stated that Bobby Sands was on hunger-strike of his own volition, with no outside pressure, and they said that they supported the prisoners' five demands and would work to see them achieved.

Despite the fact that the three Euro-MPs had had a unique and emotive experience in visiting Bobby Sands they did not convey to the press conference the atmosphere in the prison nor how it affected them personally.

Pionós an bháis

LE TOMÁS Ó SE



TÁ Rialtas Fhianna Fáil ag cur i gcoinne iarrachtaí chun pionós an bháis a chríochnú sna Sé Chontae Fíchead. Thug Gerry Collins aird in ainm a bheith ina Aire Dlí agus Cirt le fios go gcuirfidh siad i gcoinne iarracht atá á dhéanamh ag Nollaig de Brún chun an dlí a athrú.

Tagann ráiteas seo Collins i Chontae Fíchead i bhfabhar pionós an bháis. Tá na póilíní ag lorg fóla

cosúil le madraí buile. Tá an dealramh ar an sceal go bhfuil Rialtas Fhianna Fáil i ndiaidh geilleadh doibh.

Cheana féin tá croch tógtha i bPríosún Mhuinseo agus bhí na báirdéirí ag cleachtadh leis. Tá tuairisc freisin go bhfuil croch-adóir á lorg thar lear. Taispeánann na nithe seo go léir go bhfuil sé i gceist ag Rialtas Fhianna Fáil an ceathrar atá daoitha chun báis a chrochadh.

DIFIR

Taid an na deárfadh gur airt an rud é poblachtaithe a bheith ag cur i gcoinne pionós an báis. Dar liomsa ní theicim aon chontrárthaigh idir an seasmh i gcoinne pionós an bháis agus tagairt a thabhairt d'Oglaigh na hÉireann. Tá difir amháir idir duine a mharú i rith cogaidh agus an Stát ag crochadh duine.

Tuigimid go léir go mairtear daoine i rith cogaidh, ní maith le



● PEADAR MAC RUAIRI, poblachtach o Bheal Feirste atá daoitha chun báis sna Sé Chontae Fíchead

haon duine gur mar sin atá cúrsaí ach nuair a bhíonn cogadh ann sin mar a bhíonn cúrsaí. Ní bhíonn ann rogha ann. Tá na hOglaigh sa Tuaisceart ag troid sa mbealach céanna is a throid muintir na hEorpa i gcoinne na Gearmáinigh sa chogadh domhanda deirneannach.

COGADH

Níl cogadh ar bith ag tárlúint sna

Sé Chontae Fíchead. Níl gá ar bith ag an Stát daoine a chur chun báis. Is féidir leis an Stát daoine a chur i bPríosún agus iad a choinneáil ann mós mian leo. Tá sé taispeáinte thar lear nach laghdáil pionós an bháis an méid dúnmarh a deintear.

I ndeireadh na dála, tá a fhios againn go bhfuil pionós an bháis ann chun é a úsáid i gcoinne Poblachtaithe. Úsáideadh cheana é agus is cinnte go ndéanfaí a úsáid arís má fágfar faoi Rialtas Fhianna Fáil é.

Tá Fine Gael agus an Páirtí Oibreachais in ainm is a bheith i gcoinne pionós an bháis ach ní faic á dhéanamh ach chun deireadh a chur leis. Beidh sé speisialtú a theicéil an dtabharfaidh siad tacairocht go Nollaig de Brún san iarracht atá á dhéanamh aige i gcoinne pionós an bháis.

I ndeireadh báire is dóigh liom go mbeimid amuigh ar na sráideanna ag agóid i gcoinne an dlí seo.

RAPID DEVELOPMENTS

But British resist peaceful resolution to prison crisis

BY PETER ARNLIS

WITH Bobby Sands, the most critical of the four H-Block hunger-strikers, apparently having only days left to live, the seven days up to Wednesday saw daily political developments surpassing the past seven weeks, if not the past four-and-a-half years.

On Thursday, Bobby Sands' fifty-fourth day on hunger-strike, growing unprecedented pressure for a peaceful resolution to the prison protest was still being resisted, and scorned, by an uncompromising British premier Margaret Thatcher and her government, with the support of the Labour opposition at Westminster.

The situation has changed dramatically from December 16th last year, when British premier Margaret Thatcher proudly claimed in the House of Commons to have the universal support of the Irish people in her stance against the prisoners.

SDLP

Up until Thursday week, April 16th, the SDLP leadership had avoided condemning the British government. But Bobby Sands' success in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election, and their shrinking grass-roots changed all that.

After a meeting between senior party officials, including party leader John Hume, and a delegation from the National H-Block/Armagh Committee (consisting of Gerry Adams, Bernadette Mc Aliskey, and Fergus O'Hare), the executive committee of the SDLP issued a statement on Friday 17th April.

They said that the present crisis was the most serious to date and was derived directly from the inflexible and vindictive attitude towards punishment in the prisons of the previous Roy Mason regime in the North. The responsibility for resolving the crisis rested, they said, with the British government who should 'act immediately'.

Representatives "should go into the prison and talk to Mr Sands," who has "a mandate in a fair and free election which he sought to pursue as a solution to the H-Block problem."

This represented a significant shift in the attitude of the leadership of the SDLP, who have not fully recovered from the election of Bobby Sands to Westminster.

Writing on this issue, one political journalist, David McKitterick, Northern editor of the 'Irish Times', said: "In the longer term, the SDLP now has a rival, a political rival in the anti-unilateralist community — the Provisional IRA. The result has given the Provisionals a tremendous boost and, though this point will be fiercely argued, the Provos can henceforth claim a mandate for their actions. Those thirty thousand votes at least imply a certain political endorsement."

EURO-MPs

Also that Thursday evening, Bobby Sands' election agent, Owen Carron, had emerged from visiting the hunger-striking MP in the Long Kesh prison hospital and announced that Bobby was asking three Euro-MPs (who are also Lein-



■ ON THE MARCH IN DUBLIN LAST SATURDAY — part of the growing unprecedented pressure for a peaceful resolution to the prison protest

ster House politicians), Síle de Valera (Fianna Fáil) and two independents, Neil Blaney and Dr. John O'Connell, to visit him.

Within twenty-four hours Stormont Castle unexpectedly announced that the three could visit Sands whenever they wished. As was subsequently to emerge, the Brits agreed to this visit (which was opposed by loyalists — though not physically, despite many threats) in the hope that Bobby Sands would be persuaded to abandon his hunger-strike.

Síle de Valera, who was the first to comment on the invitation, said that the office of Free State premier Charles Haughey had contacted her about it, and that she had Haughey's 'express permission and approval' to go on the visit.

HAUGHEY

Haughey's increasing use of Síle de Valera, and her willingness to be used, as a convenient proxy, supposedly expressing what he really feels about the North, but which his station inhibits, is of immense value to him and his 'republican reputation'.

But, after a meeting of the families of the four blanket men on hunger-strike, Oliver Hughes (whose brother Frankie was forty days on hunger-strike on Thursday), on behalf of the relatives, asked for an urgent meeting with Haughey. The request, made on Thursday week, had not been taken up after a week.

Síle de Valera's visit to the jail initially may have served to bail Haughey out of the embarrassment of not responding to emotive face-

to-face appeals from the prisoners' families to condemn his old friend Margaret Thatcher.

But the storm which has erupted over Thatcher's choice of words and dismissive snub to the three Euro-MPs, who requested a meeting with her after their H-Block visit, threatens to strain Dublin/London relations. It has also almost certainly angered widespread opinion in the South, and was partially responsible for fuelling the flames of rioting in Derry which has continued daily since the RUC attacks on youths after the H-Block/Armagh industrial day of action in the city on Wednesday week, and which was particularly exacerbated by the murder of two youths by the British army on Sunday.

THATCHER

The intransigent stance of British premier Margaret Thatcher has been virtually unopposed by British politicians. In fact, it is enthusiastically backed by the Labour opposition, and is proof positive that armed struggle is the only way forward in ridding Ireland of British rule.

British newspapers have typically interpreted Thatcher's snub as a sharp warning for the Dublin government to stay out of Britain's affairs.

Speaking at a press conference in Saudi Arabia an arrogant Thatcher said of the Euro MPs' request for a meeting: "It is not my habit or custom to meet MPs from a foreign country about a citizen of the United Kingdom resident in the United Kingdom. If they wish to make representations they should

ion in Northern Ireland with anyone who shares our concern about it."

From Saudi Arabia, Thatcher also repeated, "There can be no question of granting the prisoners political status."

The three Euro-MPs expressed disappointment at Thatcher's rejection and on Wednesday they met Free State Foreign Minister Brian Lenihan. Síle de Valera gave Haughey a personal account of her visit to Bobby Sands and with the repercussions of the snub still being felt, Haughey called Leonard Figg, the British ambassador in Dublin, to his office on Wednesday afternoon — although no immediate statement was made on their conversation which concerned the H-Block hunger-strike.

Last Sunday, the Catholic primate, Cardinal O'Fiach, who attempted unsuccessfully to negotiate a settlement from the British during most of last year, once again entered the fray.

The day previously he met three Fermanagh councillors, Pat McCaffrey (IIP), Tommy Murray (SDLP) and John Joe McCusker (Independent), and Bernard O'Connor and Fr. Joe McVeigh — who had all been prominent election workers for Bobby Sands in the Fermanagh area. Interviewed on RTE radio's 'This Week' programme on Sunday, the Cardinal was critical of the British and said that they should "make the wearing of prison dress optional at all times for all prisoners in Northern Ireland and the doing of prison work optional because I think these are the two crunch issues..."

INTERVENTION

On Wednesday, two delegations met the Papal Nuncio in Dublin, Dr. Ailbrandi.

A delegation of the Fermanagh H-Block Committee and of Bobby Sands' election workers (who had previously met Cardinal O'Fiach) and a delegation of the hunger-strikers' families have asked the Papal Nuncio to arrange a meeting with the Pope and ask for his intervention.

Dr. Ailbrandi also expressed his willingness to go to Long Kesh and visit Bobby Sands if asked.

On Thursday, former United States Attorney General and human rights campaigner, Ramsey Clark, along with the US Jesuit and renowned pacifist, Fr. Daniel Berrigan, were due to fly into Ireland to express their concern at the H-Block hunger-strike and lend their support to a just resolution.

Interest has also been expressed in personal capacities by members of the European Commission on Human Rights, whom SDLP leader, John Hume, and the three Euro-MPs, have said should be brought in to mediate.

However, the commission has officially told the Euro-MPs that while it can receive applications from people who claim their human rights are being violated, it has received no such request from Bobby Sands or his representatives. Importantly, it is not within the commission's convention to adjudicate on political status and, anyway, it is of the British government that the prisoners are making this demand.



● MARGARET THATCHER arrogantly snubbed three Euro-MPs

do it through their own government in the customary way and it would come to our government in the customary way."

DISAPPOINTMENT

This attitude, which was supported by direct-ruler Humphrey Atkins on television, was in sharp conflict with that made by him on behalf of the British government in the House of Commons on December 4th last year when he said: "We have always been, and still are, willing to discuss the humanitarian aspects of the prison administrat-

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

Dublin rally dominates

North

WITH all areas in the six counties organising for the national demonstration in Dublin, last Saturday, April 18th, and republicans preparing also for the annual Easter commemorations, hunger-strike protests on the streets were less numerous over the past week than previously.

However, all areas continued to work locally to build support for the prison struggle and in particular to ensure a massive demonstration in Belfast this Sunday, April 26th.

On Thursday evening, a rally was held in Bellaghy, South Derry, which was attended by several hundred people to demonstrate local support for the prisoners in general, but particularly for hunger-striker Frankie Hughes who comes from the area. Also, on Thursday evening, a crowd of two hundred blocked the main Derry to Belfast road at Toomebridge.

On Thursday and Friday, H-Block activists in the Springfield area of West Belfast, accompanied by a republican band, visited every house in the area, selling the H-Block bulletin, and urging people to work actively for the prisoners. The response was extremely good.

On Friday, between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., the Falls and Andersonstown Roads were lined with placard-carrying supporters of the hunger-strikers. This has become a very effective, whilst non-disruptive, form of protest.

On Saturday evening, a demonstration was held in Strabane attended by several hundred people. After the meeting had broken up, sporadic rioting broke out in the town.

In Lurgan, throughout Saturday, leaflets explaining the situation in the prisons, were distributed in Edward Street and North Street.

Almost all areas in the North organised buses to take people to the national demonstration which was held in Dublin on Saturday.

Last Sunday most areas held their Easter commemoration ceremonies which were generally better attended this year than ever.

And on Sunday evening, in Derry, a march from Frankie Hughes' home to Bellaghy was stopped by a massive presence of more than one thousand RUC men with reinforcements having been brought in to ensure the disruption of the protest.

Paisleyites had organised a counter-demonstration in the village, under the guise of a prayer meeting, to ensure that the H-Block march would be banned. Despite the efforts of the RUC, hundreds gathered at the Hughes home and, on being refused permission to march, they built bonfires and many resolved to stay where they were throughout the night. A large crowd were still at the scene at 7 a.m. on Monday morning when they finally dispersed.

On Monday and Tuesday, in West Belfast, the St. James' action group held meetings in every street in their area giving a detailed report on the conditions of the hunger-strikers and calling for increased effort from everyone on their behalf.

On Tuesday, a picket at the junction of the Whitehead and Springfield Roads was held in West Belfast between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., with over one hundred people participating.

During Tuesday evening, also in Belfast, a picket organised by the Turf Lodge hunger-strike committee was held outside Fort Jericho between 7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., despite British army attempts to disrupt it by driving at the protestors at high speeds.

In Crossmaglen, at 7 p.m. on Tues-



● The first national rally of the present hunger-strike campaign was held in Dublin, last Saturday



● The hunger-strike picket held on O'Connell bridge, Dublin, each evening



● A rosary picket outside Long Kesh, for the hunger-strikers, on Friday 17th April

day, there was a protest march from Creggan which attracted good support. All GAA clubs and action groups in the area were represented and, after the march, a rally was held in Crossmaglen square.

South

ACTIVITY in the hunger-strike campaign in the South was mainly focussed on last Saturday's national rally in Dublin to which action groups and supporters travelled from all over the twenty-six counties and the North.

Twenty-four members of the Monaghan action group took part in a sponsored relay walk from Monaghan to Dublin, leaving on Friday 17th April and arriving at the GPO for the rally. Other members joined them there for a picket before the meeting began. In all, four coaches and several cars travelled from Monaghan for the Dublin rally.

Activities were reported last week, on the day of industrial action on Wednesday 15th April, include a public meeting in Church Square, Monaghan, attended by four hundred workers from local factories and shops. And Meath Trades Council, meeting that evening, sent telegrams to Thatcher and Haughey demanding that the prisoners' demands be conceded.

On Thursday, 17th April, a joint action planned by the Newry and Dundalk action groups, aimed at closing the cross-border road for the evening

rush hour, was thwarted when the RUC arrested banners and posters and seized two people on the Northern side, and the gardai held eleven members of the Dundalk action group searching and questioning them for over an hour on the side of the road.

Elsewhere in County Louth, Drogheda action group has challenged anyone who disagrees with the prisoners' demands to debate with them on the local 'pirates' radio 'Boyneside'. So far the invitation has not been taken up. Drogheda action group has been holding regular meetings, picketing and leafletting and has an active youth group in the town.

On Tuesday 21st April, in Dublin, fifteen students from the Trinity College action group invaded the grounds of the British embassy in an attempt to seize the union jack from the flagpole. Although they succeeded in lowering the flag their protest ended when six men in plain-clothes burst from the embassy building armed with sub-machine guns. Six of the students were held and taken away by uniformed gardai. They were later released.

And Dublin H-Block/Armagh action group have been holding a picket on O'Connell Bridge every evening during the rush-hour since Thursday 18th April. The picket is to continue indefinitely.

Coinciding with the national rally in Dublin on Saturday a number of North Dublin action group members captured attention by sailing an 'H-Block/Armagh' raft down the River Liffey from Island-bridge to the O'Connell Street bridge,



● Present at the Dublin rally outside the GPO, last Saturday, were (from left): Bobby Sands' sisters, Bernadette and Marcella, and Bobby's election agent, Owen Carron



● Dublin H-Block campaigners sail an attention-catching raft down the River Liffey, last Saturday

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

SUPPORT SHOWN

Abroad

SUPPORT for the hunger-strikers continues to be shown around the world, evidenced by a continuing stream of telegrams and messages of support from organisations particularly in Europe and the United States.

Last weekend, the state senate of Michigan passed a resolution paying tribute to Bobby Sands and his fellow prisoners and ordering the eviction from Detroit city of the British consulate. A demonstration was held outside the consulate last Friday, April 17th.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the British government to free Bobby Sands in order to enable him to take his Westminster seat. Copies of the resolution have been sent to Bobby Sands and Margaret Thatcher.

The major focus of the week in the hunger-strike campaign in the United States has been the continued work of the three former blanket men on tour there.

Noel Cassidy has made media appearances in Detroit; Phoenix, Arizona; Akron, Toledo and Cleveland in Ohio; and Kansas city.

Charlie Crumley has been presented with a resolution of support from the Suffolk County executive and legislature, has made live media appearances in that area and has been interviewed by four New Jersey newspapers.

Seamus Delaney has given interviews in the north-eastern United States and has appeared in Albany, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Boston, Massachusetts.

The sixth in the series of national rallies organised by Irish Northern Aid took place in Boston on Easter Sunday.

Speakers included state representatives Marie Howe and Charles Doyle; Jim Fitzpatrick and Jim Maunell of Irish Northern Aid, and English barrister Richard Harvey. Among the attendance were other state representatives.

Demonstrations also took place last week in Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Providence, Rhode Island.

Elsewhere from around the world, a telegram has been received from the Communist Workers Party of Canada pledging support for Bobby Sands and the hunger-strikers.

A lengthy telegram has also been received from the People's Mojahedin in Iran, one of the country's largest revolutionary organisations, expressing support for the prisoners and for the Irish struggle.

A member of the Norwegian parliament, belonging to the Left Socialist Party, is tabling a question to the government there on the hunger-strike. The Irish solidarity groups in Norway have been picketing the British embassy and consulates on a regular basis.

On Thursday this week, the parliamentary members of the Left Socialist Party and the Socialist People's Party in Denmark were due to visit the British embassy in Copenhagen to express support for the prisoners' demands. The two parties have already sent messages to the same effect to both the British and Free State embassies in the city.

Britain

EASTER weekend in London was marked by three token twenty-four hour fasts in support of the hunger-strikers, organised by the Troops Out Movement.

About sixty people took part in the fasts which began on Good Friday evening. One group took up a position on the steps of Westminster Cathedral, where people were attending religious services.

A second group held their fast at Finsbury Park in North London, where thousands were attending the annual Easter fair.

The third group originally planned their demonstration for Brixton town hall but were prevented from doing so by



● Sinn Féin Easter Commemoration parade in London, last Sunday



● Solidarity and hunger-strike picket on Wormwood Scrubs prison, London, last Saturday



● Twenty-four hour token fast, Finsbury Park, London, Friday 17th April



● Token fast: Westminster Cathedral, London, Saturday 18th April



● Hunger-strike protest, Melbourne, Australia

police, and therefore moved to the steps of Westminster Abbey.

On Saturday 18th April, a meeting in Shepherd's Bush in West London preceded a march to Wormwood Scrubs where the prison was picketed in solidarity with the hunger-strikers and with

the Irish political prisoners held there.

In the north of England, the Leeds hunger-strike committee held a public meeting on Wednesday 15th April, with speakers from the National H-Block/Armagh Committee, the Troops Out Movement, Leeds Women and Ireland

group, and the Iranian Students Society.

On Saturday 18th April a picket was held outside Durham prison, again in solidarity with the H-Block hunger-strikers and the Irish political prisoners held there.

WHAT'S ON

ANTI-BRITISH ARMY
PICKET AGAINST
GENERAL HACKETT
(Speaking at T.C.D.)
8 p.m. Friday 24th April
Assemble Front Square
Trinity College
DUBLIN

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

HUNGER-STRIKE RALLY
2.30 p.m. Saturday 25th April
Fair Green
DUNDALK

HUNGER-STRIKE YOUTH MARCH
2.30 p.m. Saturday 25th April
St Stephen's Green
DUBLIN

HUNGER-STRIKE MARCH
3 p.m. Saturday 25th April
Top of Marine Road
DUN LAOGHAIRE

MEMORIAL MASS
11.30 a.m. Sunday 26th April
University Church
St Stephen's Green
DUBLIN

Organised by the National Graves Association for late members: Joe Clarke, Sean Fitzpatrick, Sean Goulding and Charlie Woods.

COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHEAN
There will be no Comhairle Cuige Laigh-ean meeting on Sunday 26th April because of the national hunger-strike rally in Belfast on the same day.

BRISH H-BLOC MÓRSHIÁL
7 p.m. Domhnach 26 Aibreán
GAOITHIOBHAR
Co. Dun na Gall

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

PUBLIC MEETING
Socialism and the Irish National Question
7.30 p.m. Thursday 30th April
Walton Theatre
New Arts Block
Trinity College
DUBLIN
Organised by TCD Socialist Society

HALF-DAY STOPPAGE
DCTU Action on Unemployment/Taxation
3 p.m. Friday 1st May
March from Parnell Square
DUBLIN

IRELAND'S HUNGER-STRIKE

A 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).

Join Sinn Féin

ANYONE interested in joining Sinn Féin should contact their local cumann; head office at 44, Parnell Square, Dublin; or 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast.

I am interested in becoming a member of Sinn Féin.

NAME

ADDRESS



THE WIDESPREAD and persistent rioting against British troops and the RUC by nationalist youths in Derry city over the last ten days has been a genuine expression of popular anti-British sentiment. And one which must be extremely worrying to the British who have recently portrayed Derry as a model picture of 'normalisation'.

The rioting has been a militant expression of the sense of grievance and frustration so bitterly felt by wide sections of the oppressed and underprivileged nationalist people in the city. The rioting, which has escalated with the deepening of the H-Block crisis and with the increasing likelihood of British inflexibility leading to the death of hunger-striker Bobby Sands, particularly intensified following two separate murderous acts by British troops.

The first was the attempted killing of a youth by a soldier with a plastic bullet gun, a week last Wednesday. The youth now lies seriously ill in hospital, where he has been joined by at least two others who subsequently suffered a similar fate. The second was the deliberate killing of two youths, last Sunday, by a British army landrover which drove at high speed into a group of fleeing rioters.

SHOT

Over recent months there had been sporadic rioting in Derry city at the traditional spot at William Street on the edge of the Bogside, where the nationalist ghetto meets the Brit-controlled, loyalist-dominated city centre. But the rioting had not noticeably disrupted the city's everyday life and had attracted little media attention.

That was, until a week last Wednesday,

when, on a successful industrial day of action in solidarity with the H-Block hunger-strike, a routine mini-riot developed following a march and a rally at the Guildhall Square.

Then, at about eight o'clock in the evening, a British soldier, armed with a lethal plastic bullet gun, stepped out from behind a barricade on the waste ground adjacent to William Street. He deliberately aimed his gun at the head of the nearest youth to him and shot him from a range said to be between six and ten feet. The plastic bullet crushed the skull of fifteen-year-old school boy Paul Withers, of Belview Avenue in the Bogside. (Paul now lies seriously ill in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, where, even if he survives, doctors predict that he could be reduced to just a vegetable.)

Widespread anger naturally followed the shooting, and nightly rioting, on a new and grander scale, ensued in the Bogside. Then on Sunday evening, the fifth successive night of rioting, came the Brits' foulest deed for a long time in Derry.

DELIBERATELY

Two Bogside teenagers, Gary English, aged 19, and Jimmy Brown, aged 18, were deliberately knocked down and killed by a British army landrover which drove into fleeing rioters at high speed.

The double killing, cynically described by the RUC as a 'road accident', took place at a crossroads on Creggan Street on the edge of the Bogside and Creggan. It was clearly witnessed by a score of onlookers at the rioting, including a local BBC reporter from Radio



BY SEAMUS BOYLE

DERRY

Foyle, whose broadcast account reinforced community opinion that deliberate murder had been committed.

Tension in the city's nationalist ghetto areas reached such a pitch after last Sunday's double killing that seasoned observers (including the editor of the 'Derry Journal') began drawing realistic comparisons with the political effects on the community of the British army's shooting dead, in July 1971, of two unarmed youths, Seamus Cusack and Desmond Beattie. Ten years ago, the alienation of the nationalist community from the 'status quo', caused by that double killing, was a significant step along the road to the downfall of Stormont.

BARRICADES

At the beginning of this week, scores of token street barricades, and some not so token, were erected all around the Bogside and Creggan by hundreds of militant youths, many of whom were masked. And since then scores of commandeered commercial vehicles have been used to strengthen the barricades.

Throughout the week, bargains of stones thrown at troops, ensconced in their usual

Rioters rescue 'Mirror' man

DURING rioting in the Bogside last Wednesday afternoon, after the funerals of British army victims Gary English and Jimmy Brown, British soldiers, indiscriminately firing plastic bullets into groups of onlookers, shot and wounded 'Daily Mirror' press photographer Cyril Kane.

He suffered a compound fracture of the arm and was picked up by three masked rioters who carried him to safety and handed him over to press colleagues.

spot at the William Street 'interface' between the Bogside and the city centre, were frequently reinforced with hundreds of petrol bombs and even the occasional hand grenade. And business premises on the fringe of the city centre were attacked and burnt. On Tuesday evening, a new weapon in the rioters' arsenal appeared on the streets, when acid bombs — corrosive chemicals in milk bottles — were thrown at

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF DOUBLE-KILLING

BRITS SLAY TWO

"THE two army landrovers appeared suddenly over the brow of the hill and drove very quickly down the hill towards the crowd. As the people in the crowd started to run for cover the two army landrovers continued on, travelling at what I would estimate as a speed of over fifty miles an hour, through the junction and into the crowd who were in the middle of the road.

"I saw at least one young man, wearing a blue denim jacket, hurled into the air by the force of the impact. There was total confusion with both men and women screaming loudly as one of the landrovers then reversed and the soldiers inside began firing plastic bullets at the crowd."

With these words BBC local Radio Foyle reporter Paul Clements described the killing of two youths by the British army, which he and many others witnessed in the Bogside of Derry city last Sunday evening at about half-past six.

KILLING

The two youths were nineteen-year-old Gary English, a bar man, of Cable Street, and eighteen-year-

old Jimmy Brown, a baker, of Beechwood Crescent. They were among a group of between one and two hundred youths at the Infirmary Road and Marlborough Terrace crossroads with Creggan Street, at the edge of the Bogside, where fierce rioting was taking place against British troops.

Another eye-witness of the double-killing, who gives a typical account, is a quiet-spoken serious young woman, twenty-year-old Mary Campbell of Marlborough Terrace, who was watching the

rioting from the top floor of her family's house, an excellent vantage point from which to see all that happened.

She confirms that the landrovers definitely did not have any intention of stopping. They just drove straight into the crowd at full speed. If they had wanted to stop, they could have done so. For when they started to brake, they came quickly to a halt. It was just cold-blooded, brutal murder, their intention was not to disperse, but to kill, she states.

All eye-witnesses agree that it was a brutal killing and that the wonder was that more youths were not killed. In fact, sixteen-year-old John Mulhearn of Creggan was also hit a glancing blow by the first landrover, but was only slightly injured. He received a badly cut lip, and was also cut and bruised on his arm and leg.

As far as both he and his enraged mother are concerned he was the near victim of the

deliberate murder attempt by the soldiers, members of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Anglian regiment.

HORROR

The full horror of the whole incident becomes even clearer from the articulate account of twenty-nine-year-old father-of-five Maurice McCusker of Creggan Heights.

He was driving his car, with one of his young sons, up the extremely steep hill which Creggan Street climbs. The first thing which alerted him, like the rioters and other onlookers, was the sound of screaming motor engines.

"Then all of a sudden these two jeeps appeared, coming down the hill at a terrifying speed," he recalls.

"There was no way out of it. They were coming down to kill. They were going flat out and they just smashed straight into the crowd. I saw one boy go under-



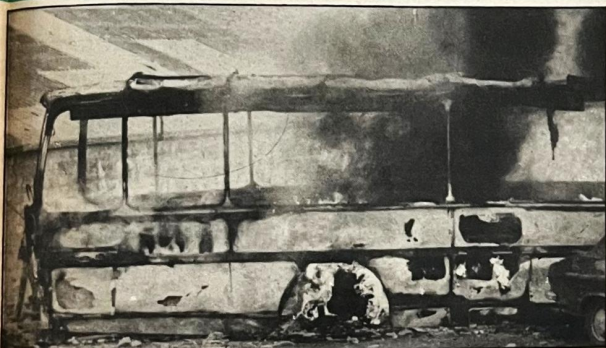
● Grief-stricken at their sons' funerals on Wednesday, above: Jimmy Brown's mother, Myra, and step-father, Jack Murray; and below: Gary English's mother, Maureen



● GARY ENGLISH'S mother, Maureen, is seen in the foreground, with her son's body just below her, as she goes into the road and the crowd.



Y ERUPTS



huge number, and with some considerable effect, at British troops and RUC men. The youths, with the approval of a community

showing its sullen rejection of British rule, turned the Bogside and Creggan into semi 'no go' areas for British troops and the RUC,

with barricades even being thrown up in the relatively quiet Shantallow estate. The British — obviously fearful of the political consequences of massive and bloody street confrontation adding further fuel to the H-Block crisis in the eighth week of Bobby Sands' hunger-strike — kept their forces of troops and RUC men straining at the leash on the edge of the ghetto area.

COST

The cost of rioting to the people, particularly if contained within the ghetto area, can, of course, be dear. Particularly through not only the lives of youngsters being tragically lost and the heartbreak suffered by bereaved families, but in terms of youths being injured and arrested.

During the rioting, scores have suffered minor bruises and cuts from the lethal plastic bullets fired at close range at them by British army and RUC gunmen. One youth, Alex McLaughlin of Shantallow, lost an eye after being hit in the face by a plastic bullet on Monday. Whilst on Tuesday, another young lad, named Keeney, from the Bogside, under-

went an emergency operation after he was struck on the head by a plastic bullet.

The serious inconvenience, especially to old people, caused by the rioting, and the damage to private premises and housing, all take their toll. In order to minimise the adverse effects on the community of the street resistance, the IRA's Derry Brigade, acknowledging the youthful rioters' frustration and generally positive role, appealed to them not to commandeer private cars or to burn local business premises.

DETERMINATION

Nevertheless, the youthful rioting has demonstrated beyond contradiction the unflinching determination of the most socially deprived section of Derry society — the nationalist youth — to combat British repression on the streets with whatever crude weapons they have to hand.

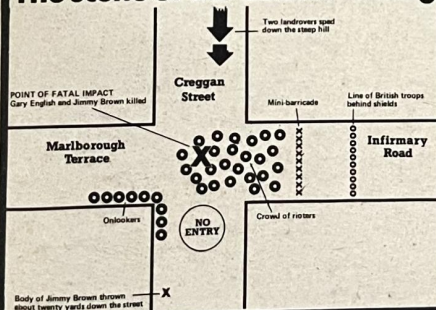
It is a determination, which, in the short term, helps to focus the spotlight of media and international attention on the hunger-strike and its effect on the nationalist community, and one which increasingly threatens to burst like a dam out of the ghettos. It is a determination, which, in the long term, will be reflected in the readiness of a significant section of that youth to take up more sophisticated weapons to combat British repression, and British occupation, in an even more positive fashion.

But for the present, Derry city, it can be said, through a combination of industrial action, mass marches and peaceful protests, culminating in steady rioting and the creation of semi 'no go' zones, has — in the wake of the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election result — led the way in showing popular nationalist support for the H-Block hunger-strike, and rejection of the British army and British rule.

ING BY LANDROVER

NO YOUTHS

The scene of the double-killing



■ JIMMY BROWN

and stopped. The soldiers just lifted the boy off the ground and threw him in the back. They just dragged him in like a dog or a load of rubbish, and his feet were hanging out of the back. They seemed more interested in lining up targets for their rubber bullets than getting this boy some aid, and they just let the other boy lie

there. He was lying face down in the gutter with blood just pumping out of his head."

DEAD

The dead youth in the gutter was Jimmy Brown, and the one dead in the landrover was Gary English, whose parents did not learn of his death until eight hours later, when his body was identified at 3 a.m. on Monday morning.

Michael English, aged 39, the dead youth's father, (and, incidentally, a former chairman of Derry Sinn Féin), said of his son: "I know he was murdered, and the driver of the jeep knows it. Every time the British government is under pressure the lives of young Irish men and women become mere fodder."

Jack Murray, aged 36, step-father of Jimmy Brown, says: "It

was just murder, that's all it was."

A sentiment strongly felt by the saddened nationalist people of Derry, who on Wednesday morning turned out in massive numbers to pay their last respects for yet two more victims of the British army.

Opportunist SDLP calls for a public enquiry into the tragic double-killing have been opposed by Sinn Féin, whose spokesperson Martha McClelland points out that people are well aware of the facts and where the responsibility lies.

Meanwhile a cynical RUC attempt to cover up the Brits' murderous action by referring to it as a 'road accident' was echoed by the British spokesman at Stormont, David Mitchell, a junior Minister, who made a typically Brit, comment: "Many people are killed in road accidents."

1916 ~ Easter commemorations ~ 1981

THERE were three public displays of arms by the IRA in the North on Easter Sunday.

At Donagh, in County Fermanagh, a volley of shots was fired over the grave of Volunteer Louis Leonard, who was killed in December 1972. In Carrickmore, County Tyrone, Volunteers carrying weapons accompanied the parade.

And in Belfast, which, like most other areas throughout the thirty-two counties, saw the largest public participation in nine years, three masked Volunteers fired the traditional salute over the republican plot.

Antrim

AN Easter commemoration was held for the first time in many years at Shane's Cairn in the Glens of Antrim on Easter Tuesday afternoon. An oration was given by Richard Behal of the Sinn Féin ard chairle.

Armagh

IN Armagh city, a crowd of several hundred paraded through the republican plot from Banbrook hill. The parade was headed by a colour party, and at the cemetery wreaths were laid on behalf of the various branches of the Republican Movement. Malachy McNally, of Armagh, now resident in Belfast, delivered the oration.

In the afternoon, three hundred people took part in the Easter commemoration at Ballymacnab, just outside Armagh city, which again ended with a meeting at the republican plot in the local cemetery. Wreaths were laid here, and Malachy McNally again gave the oration. Local sporting and cultural groups, and a band, joined the parade behind the colour party.

North Armagh

THE largest Easter parade in North Armagh was held in Lurgan, with well over a thousand in attendance.

The parade began from Francis Street, and was headed by a colour party of seven Volunteers in full

uniform. After marching to the republican plot in St. Coleman's cemetery, wreaths from the IRA, local Sinn Féin cumainn, relatives of dead Volunteers, and local ex-POWs, were laid, followed by the oration given by veteran republican Charlie McGlade.

Earlier, in Derrymacash, several hundred local people followed a colour party of uniformed Volunteers to the graveside of Volunteer Michael Crossey, where a wreath-laying ceremony took place.

Charlie McGlade gave the oration here also, stressing that this period of struggle must be the conclusive one, and that we cannot leave the fight to the next generation. To this end he urged everyone, especially young people, to join the Republican Movement.

In Portadown, the commemoration was held at the grave of Volunteer Julie Duggan, and was attended by the biggest crowd in several years. A civilian colour party of two men and a woman attended, and wreaths were laid on the grave from the Duggan family, Sinn Féin and the IRA.

Also in North Armagh, a wreath laying ceremony was held in Maghera cemetery.

South Armagh

A COMMEMORATION ceremony was held at Dromintee in South Armagh, where local people gathered at the graveside of Volunteer Jim Loughrey, accompanied by the local Setanta youth band and by a colour party which included relatives of the three fallen Volunteers from the area: Jim Loughrey, Sean Campbell and Francis Jordan.

Eamonn Larkin chaired the ceremony, veteran republican Owen Grogan read the Proclamation, and Donal Duffy piped the lament. Sarah Murphy gave the oration, and urged the people of South Armagh to join their action committees in support of Bobby Sands and his comrades on hunger-strike.

Belfast

BY last Sunday morning in Beechmount, the gathering point for the Belfast march, tricolours festooned many telegraph poles, the defiant flying of the national



■ Above: IRA Volunteers fire the traditional salute over the republican plot, at Milltown cemetery in Belfast; below: the Belfast parade (seen here approaching Milltown cemetery) was the largest in nine years



(continued on next page)

1916 ~ Easter commemorations ~ 1981

(continued from previous page)

flag being one of the hallmarks of the last six months with the growth of Youth against H-Block/Armagh activities.

Also, the previous night, republican slogans had been freshly painted on gable walls relating the hunger-strike to the Easter rising commemoration.

A sixteen-strong colour party of Belfast Brigade IRA and Cumann na mBan Volunteers led the procession to Milltown cemetery.

After the playing of the Last Post, the IRA firing party stepped forward and delivered three volleys over the republican plot. Wreaths were laid and the Easter statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement received loud applause.

The guest speaker was Phil Flynn of the Sinn Féin and comhairle, who warned the British, that, "if any of the H-Block prisoners die you will be overwhelmed by the anger of the Irish people. Anything you have seen so far will be made to look like a Buckingham palace tea party."

He also condemned and challenged Westminster MP Gerry Fitt: "You are no longer fit to represent the people of West Belfast. Resign and fight your seat against a prisoner or someone representing a prisoner."

Phil Flynn also said that the Thatcher/Haughhey talks would not bring about a united Ireland. These talks should be viewed with the deepest of suspicion and caution.

He warned against loyalist attempts to set up an 'independent' six counties and said that the best way of combatting the growing loyalist threat would be for nationalist people to form 'street committees' and set up their own citizens' defence groups.

In Ardoyne, in North Belfast, on Tuesday, a local commemoration was held to honour the dead from the area. A wreath laying ceremony was held at the Ardoyne memorial.

Carlow

The County Carlow commemoration took place in Rathvilly where the Easter ceremonies took place at the Kevin Barry memorial in the town. The oration was given by Frank Graham of Dublin.

Cavan

SEVERAL hundred people marched from Corravilla in County Cavan to the Killann graveyard, where the Easter commemoration ceremonies took place at the grave of Jack McCabe, who was killed by an accidental explosion in Dublin in 1971.

The parade to the cemetery was led by an IRA colour party, Clann na Gael, and the Bunroe Brass Band. The ceremonies were chaired by Cavan county councillor Charlie Boylan, wreaths were laid, the 1916 proclamation and roll of honour was read, and a decade of the rosary in Irish was recited by Brid Ni Fiaich.

The oration was given by George Lynch of Dublin. Paying tribute to Jack McCabe he went on to point out that British withdrawal was only the first major step to the eventual goal of a socialist republic. Events had shown that only armed struggle could achieve that first step, he said.

Clare

THERE were three commemorations in County Clare on Easter Sunday.

In the morning a large crowd took part in a parade led by Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna to the republican plot in Shannon where the ceremonies were chaired by Paddy Byrne. The oration was



● The colour party moves off across The Square, in open defiance of the occupying British garrison stationed yards away

Crossmaglen

A PERSONAL ACCOUNT BY SEAN DELANEY

DRIVING ALONG the narrow, winding maze of country lanes leading out of Newry — through Camlough, home of hunger-striker Raymond McCreeh — it was clear to see why the very mention of Crossmaglen and South Armagh should fire pangs of fear and dread into the hearts of every British soldier, every foreign armed intruder into the stillness of this countryside.

Every corner conceals for them the unknown; each surrounding foothill, gorse bush, low stone wall or roadside ditch, each cowshed or farm outbuilding may give cover to God knows what, or who.

In the 'sleeping' South Armagh countryside only the fields hold the secret of what may lay in store for passing enemy patrols, those 'erectors of headstones'. Here, the only visible signs of resistance are the posters of the hunger-strikers pasted boldly over the roadsides everywhere.

Yet, as we drove on to our destination in the growing warmth of Easter Sunday, past fields of sheep and cattle, it was clear too that the land has a separate existence far beyond such tactical considerations of guerrilla war.

The cowsheds and the outbuildings serve the needs of farm life first, rural life goes on regardless — and mostly disregarding — of the British occupier. For them the land holds only threats and danger, but for those who work — and defend — the land it is as natural, hospitable and unchanging as ever.

The Derry poet Seamus Heaney wrote, of an armoured British convoy which invaded the country roads of his native county, blind to the land's permanence and fertility: "O charioteers, above your dormant guns, it stands here still, stands vibrant as you pass, the invisible, untapped omphalos." Those words are just as true here in South Armagh....

PARADE

In Crossmaglen, the Easter parade, led by a colour party of Fianna and Cailini, moves off across the village square in front of the British garrison stationed there. Few people watch the parade from doorways, most of them are there on the march.

For the people of Crossmaglen, the Easter parade and its underlying message of the nation's inalienable claim to freedom, is part of their nationalist heritage.

In such a village, the British presence, no matter how intensive, can gain no foothold. Everyone is well aware their presence is temporary. Inside the fort, a couple of Brits fidget quickly with the lock on the security gate, and stay well inside.

Crossmaglen is a sea of tricolours and banners. The national flag flutters from almost every house we pass, as the parade winds its way down North Street into Ard Ross. Most shops display the tricolour too.

St. Patrick's youth band from Cullyhanna follows the colour party, and behind them the local Barney Morris Sinn Féin cumann, Crossmaglen Rangers GFC, Cullville GFC, and a banner emblazoned: 'Behold our shame. South Armagh demands Freedom and Unity.' There are no Brits in sight. They are lying in ditches and dug-outs in the countryside nearby, and spying from a careful distance.

At the far end of the village, in the churchyard, as the strains of Amhrán na bhFiann are played, a massive British helicopter rises from behind houses a hundred yards away and whirrs swiftly overhead at roof height. No-one bothers to look up, before the parade files into the church for Easter Sunday mass. After all, it is not only republicans who are there, but most of the village.

COMMEMORATION

The commemoration takes place after mass, at the republican plot just below the church. The wreath laying, a decade of the rosary, a minute's silence for those who have died for Ireland, the reading of the 1916 Proclamation of an Irish Republic, Tom Hartley from Belfast, a member of the Sinn Féin ard comhairle, gives the oration.

He speaks of the conditions of the four hunger-strikers and urges full support, and of the republican ability to wage a long war, and of the twin evils of loyalism and



● Tom Hartley, from Belfast, gave the oration



● A Volunteer from the IRA's 2nd Battalion, South Armagh, read the leadership statement

Free State collaboration. He is warmly applauded.

Then a hooded Volunteer steps forward, from South Armagh's 2nd Battalion, to read the leadership statement. The Brits and their press call this 'bandit country', a place where 'law and order' holds no sway, but this 'bandit' belongs as naturally and fearlessly to the community, and as incomprehensibly to the Brits, as the surrounding countryside of South Armagh.

Neither he, or those he addresses, will ever bend the knee to British rule. On behalf of his comrades he renews their resolution to continue the war, and warns the British: 'Get your armed thugs out of South Armagh and the rest of our country, while they are still alive.'

The ceremony concludes with a smuggled letter from a local republican in H-Block, with a statement from na Fianna Éireann, and with the last Post and Reveille.

As we drive away from Crossmaglen, we are stopped twice by the steel ring of Brits, faces blacked, thrown around the village, skulking along the back roads and lying in the ditches. They do not hold us up for long. They have to keep on the move. Here in South Armagh, by Crossmaglen, even the countryside seems to threaten them.

given by Kenneth O Cinneide of Cobh.

Also in the morning, there was a local commemoration at Doonbeg.

In the afternoon, the main commemoration was held at Sean Eaglais. The oration was given by Sean O'Bradaigh.

Cork

ABOUT six hundred people assembled at the national monument in Cork city for the commemoration.

Wreaths were laid, before the parade, led by a colour party of IRA Volunteers, Cumann na mBan, Cailini and Fianna, marched to the republican plot at St Finbarr's cemetery. The Cork Volunteer Pipe Band took part in the parade as usual.

The ceremonies were chaired by Peadar Beecher. John Joe McGirl, chairperson of Leitrim county council, gave the oration.

Derry

FOUR major Easter commemorations were held in County Derry, three of them on Sunday, and the fourth (in Swatragh) on Monday.

In Derry city, a large march was headed by a twenty-three-strong colour party of uniformed IRA Volunteers. The march made its way from the Bogside Inn, along the two-mile route to the republican plot in the city cemetery. Here the guest speaker, Gerard MacCarthy, from Cork Sinn Féin, praised the young men and women who are involved in the struggle against British imperialism and said that this generation would see the fight finished once and for all.

In The Loup, in South Derry, again there was the largest attendance for several years. Over two thousand people, along with five bands, marched behind a civilian colour party to the grave of Brigadier Sean Larkin, who was killed by Free State forces in 1923.

Several members of the Larkin family attended, including Brigadier Sean Larkin's youngest brother, Malachy, who read the Proclamation; Sinn Féin ard comhairle member Richard Behal gave the oration, and veteran republican Kevin Agnew chaired the meeting. Three wreaths were laid, on behalf of the IRA, the local Sinn Féin cumann, and the South-Derry Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin.

Earlier, in Dungiven, a crowd of several hundred attended an after mass commemoration, at which veteran Derry republican Sean Keenan spoke. The Proclamation and the message from the IRA leadership were read, and the local band played the national anthem.

On Monday, in Swatragh, in South Derry, this year's general trend of larger demonstrations than usual was emphasised when the Easter Rising was commemorated for the first time in many years.

A march led by a civilian colour party went from Swatragh hall to Granagher churchyard, where wreaths were laid on the grave of Volunteer Jim Bradley, killed in 1921. The crowd of several hundred, accompanied by two bands, then marched back to Swatragh, where a meeting was addressed by Richard Behal, and at which the statement from the IRA leadership and the Proclamation were read.

Donegal

MORE than two thousand people took part in the main Donegal commemoration at Drumboe on

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Sunday afternoon.

The parade from Ballybofey was led by an IRA colour party and included the Letterkenny percussion band, the Letterkenny youth band and the St. Oliver Plunkett band from Strabane. At the Drumbone monument, the 1916 Proclamation was read by John O'Donnell of Dungloe, the roll of honour by Ted McGarrigle of Stranorlar, and a decade of the rosary was recited by Joe Begley of Fanad. Liam McIlhenny chaired the ceremonies.

The oration was given by Sinn Féin president Ruairi O'Bradaigh.

He said that the best guarantee of victory in the struggle is the hardening of a new generation of fighters. The young people today 'have their heads on the levers of history', he said. He went on to say that only the Republican Movement can defend the nationalist people. From the Free State government all that can be expected is increased collaboration with Britain, he said.

On Sunday morning, a local commemoration took place with a parade from Cloughfinn to Clady Bridge, where Jim McGinn was killed in 1973. A wreath laying ceremony was followed by a short oration by Ruairi O'Bradaigh.

A commemoration ceremony was also held later in the morning in Lifford at Mulog graveyard at the grave of Robert McLaughlin, killed in 1972. Ruairi O'Bradaigh also spoke here, a decade of the rosary was recited by Tommy McGinty, the Proclamation was read by Liam McIlhenny and the ceremonies were chaired by Patsy McHugh.

Down

IN County Down, two large commemoration parades were held.

The first was in Newry where the biggest crowd in years was on the streets. The colour party which headed the march was made up of local ex-POWs. The Wolfe Tone band from the town also marched, and large crowds were in attendance along the route of the parade. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the IRA, na Fianna, Cumann na mBan and the local Sinn Féin cumainn. Jack Murphy, of Dublin Sinn Féin, delivered the oration.

Later in the afternoon, a crowd of over a thousand accompanied by seven bands, marched around Castlewellan headed by a civilian colour party. Wreath laying preceded speeches by former blanket man Kieran Nugent, from Belfast, and Jack Murphy of Dublin Sinn Féin.

Dublin

EASTER commemorations in Dublin took place on Sunday at Glasnevin cemetery and on Monday at Deansgrange cemetery, near Dun Laoghaire.

The ceremony at Glasnevin, which was preceded by a parade from the pro-cathedral in the city centre, led by a colour party of Na Fianna Éireann, was chaired by Peter Cunningham of Dublin Sinn Féin.

A statement from Na Fianna was read out, Margaret Langsdorf read the 1916 Proclamation, a decade of the rosary in Irish was led by Sonnie McStay, several wreaths were laid, and the IRA's Easter statement was read out.

The oration was given by Sean MacStiofáin, who reminded his listeners that the motives of the 1916 revolutionaries had been summed up by James Connolly — 'We want a full, a free and a happy life for all our people or for none.' This could only be realised by the destruction of imperialism and cap-



• A colour party of Fianna led off the Easter Sunday parade to Glasnevin, in Dublin



• The Fianna colour party at Deansgrange, Dublin, on Easter Monday

italism. He stressed the importance of republicans campaigning on unemployment, within the trade union movement and towards the restoration of the Irish language.

The second Dublin commemoration took place at Deansgrange on Monday and was preceded by a parade led by a colour party of Fianna and Cailini and a local pipe band.

The ceremonies were again chaired by Peter Cunningham, the Proclamation was read by Margaret Langsdorf, and a decade of the rosary in Irish led by Deasun Breatnach. The oration was given by Sean Halpenny of the Sinn Féin ard chairmair.

Fermanagh

THE county commemoration in Fermanagh this year was held in Donagh, where, in the biggest parade ever, one thousand people marched from the local GAA pitch to the cemetery. A twenty-strong colour party of uniformed Volunteers headed the parade.

At the cemetery, a woman Volunteer read the message from the

leadership of the Republican Movement, and George Staggs gave the oration. A six-strong firing party then fired a volley of shots in the graveyard.

Galway

TWO commemorations took place in County Galway on Easter Sunday, at noon in Oughterard and later in the afternoon at Donaghpatrick.

The oration at both venues was given by Micheal MacConmara of Dublin. At Oughterard, Caoimhghin MacCathmhaoil of Galway Sinn Féin also spoke.

A large crowd attended the afternoon ceremonies in North Galway, which were chaired by Frank Glynn of Galway county council. Two bands led the parade to the cemetery, where wreaths were laid at the republican plot.

The 1916 Proclamation, roll of honour and IRA Easter statement were read and a decade of the rosary in Irish recited. In his oration Micheal MacConmara condemned the collaboration of Charles Haughey with Britain and demanded that he

stop hiding behind Síle de Valera on the hunger-strike issue.

Kerry

THREE commemorations took place in County Kerry on Easter Sunday.

In the morning, two hundred people marched from the square in Listowel to the local cemetery led by a colour party and a lone piper. At the republican plot, a decade of the rosary in Irish was recited, the IRA Easter statement was read, and an oration given by Myles Shevlin of Dublin.

In the afternoon, over one thousand people, led by a colour party of Cumann na gCailini, marched to the republican plot in Tralee. The Gillbrien accordion band took part in the parade.

Among wreaths laid was one by the mother of Brendan Dowd, an Irish political prisoner in England, on behalf of republican prisoners. The oration here was also given by Myles Shevlin.

In South Kerry, hundreds took part in the commemoration at Cahirciveen, where the Valentia

pipe band led the parade to the local cemetery.

The ceremonies were chaired by Tim Garvey, and Sean O'Neill, brother of Maurice O'Neill who was executed in 1942 by Fianna Fáil, read the Easter message from the IRA leadership. The oration was given by Tony Ruane of the Sinn Féin ard chairmair.

Kildare

A PARADE from the square in Kildare town marched to Grey Abbey cemetery behind a colour party and a lone piper.

Matt Conway chaired the proceedings at the republican plot. Jackie O'Shea recited a decade of the rosary in Irish, Sean Fanning read the 1916 Proclamation and veteran republican Frank Driver read the Easter message from the IRA leadership. The oration was given by Liam Mínnagh of Cavan.

Leitrim

ONE of the largest attendances ever, gathered for the Easter com-

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memoration in Drumshanbo where the parade to the republican plot was led by a colour party and the Riverstown band.

The 1916 Proclamation was read by Peadar O'Gríofa, Brieg Griffin recited a decade of the rosary in Irish, and Patrick McWeeley chaired the proceedings. The oration was given by Dave Farrell of Dublin.

Limerick

THE Limerick city commemoration took place on Sunday morning with a parade led by a colour party to Mount St. Lawrence cemetery to the graves of Sean Glynn and Sean South.

The Easter statements from the IRA leadership and Na Fianna were read out, and Des Long who chaired the ceremonies recited a decade of the rosary in Irish. A bugler sounded the Last Post. The oration was given by Donal O'Lubai.

In County Limerick, the second commemoration of the day was held at Athea, in the afternoon. A colour party of Na Fianna Eireann led the parade to the republican plot where Donal O'Lubai gave the oration following a wreath laying ceremony.

Longford

THE County Longford commemoration took place in Newtownforbes, where a colour party led the parade to the local cemetery.

Easter messages were read from Na Fianna Eireann and from the IRA leadership. The 1916 Proclamation was read by local councillor Michael Nevin and his fellow councillor, Sean Lynch, who is chairman of Longford County Council, chaired the proceedings. The oration was given by Daithí O'Connell, vice-president of Sinn Féin.

Louth

THE Easter commemoration in Drogheda took place on Sunday morning with a parade led by Na Fianna Eireann and two local brass bands to the republican monument in 'the Marsh'.

The ceremonies were chaired by Tom Grogan, of Drogheda Sinn Féin, and the oration was delivered by Paddy Bolger, of the Sinn Féin and comhairle.

Paddy Bolger also spoke at the Dundalk commemoration on Sunday afternoon, where hundreds took part in the parade including a sizable contingent of republican veterans.

The march was led by a colour party of Fianna and Calini and the Wolfe Tone accordion band from Newry. The ceremonies were chaired by local county councillor Fra Browne. Easter statements were read from the IRA leadership and Na Fianna Eireann.

Mayo

THE Easter commemoration in County Mayo took place in Bunnyconnell where a colour party led the parade to Kilgarvin cemetery accompanied by two pipers.

Jackie Clarke of Ballina chaired the ceremonies and Tadgh Hastings of Westport recited a decade of the rosary in Irish. The oration was given by Tom Bannon.

Meath

IN Meath, the Easter commemoration took place at Fore and attracted the largest attendance in the county for several years.

Following a parade to the ceme-

tery, the proceedings were chaired by Pat Gurke of Oldcastle, wreaths were laid, and a bugler sounded the Last Post. The oration was given by Dymna Higgins, who is a sister of Sean McKenna, one of the H-Block blanket men who took part in the

first H-Block hunger-strike.

Monaghan

THE largest ever crowd attended the commemoration in Monaghan town which began with a parade

from the Fergal O'Hanlon monument to Latturcan cemetery where Fergal O'Hanlon is buried.

The parade was led by an IRA colour party, members of Na Fianna and the Knockatallan band. The graveside ceremonies were

chaired by Brendan Toal, a decade of the rosary in Irish was recited by James McKilwaine, the 1916 Proclamation was read by Brian Mc Donnell and Frankie Mohan sounded the Last Post. The oration

THE full text is published here of the Easter statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement, which was issued last Sunday and was read at Easter commemoration ceremonies

Easter statement

ON THIS, the sixty-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the Irish Republic, the Irish Republican Army extends greetings to friends and supporters at home and abroad, to struggling peoples throughout the world, to the Irish people, to Volunteers and political activists and to the political prisoners and their families.

We pay a special tribute to Irish women: mothers, wives of prisoners and active service Volunteers, and to those women who have taken their rightful place alongside the men in the people's struggle for independence.

The sacrifices of our supporters and your commitment to the Republican cause and to the struggle for the thirty-two county Republic declared in arms sixty-five years ago has been unselfish and uncompromising, one more indication of the political and national integrity of our people.

Your support for the political prisoners, especially for our protesting brothers and sisters in Armagh and the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, has been rewarded by the solidarity, the unbreakable bond, which has been forged between the people and the prisoners — a bond which denies Britain's propaganda assertion that the political prisoners are criminal.

Now into the fiftieth day of the second hunger-strike we must redouble our efforts on the prisoners' behalf. The election of Bobby Sands by 30,492 votes has shown the British government that the people support the prisoners. We and the prisoners never doubted that fact.

The electorate of Fermanagh and South Tyrone were asked to act by proxy on behalf of the Irish people. They have given a lead to the rest of us and an answer to the British government who showed yet again, as they did after the general election of 1918 and the setting up of Dail Eireann, that they are not prepared to recognise the will of the people even when that will is expressed peacefully and democratically. That clearly leaves armed struggle as the only other option, an option tried and trusted in Ireland and by other peoples throughout the world.

Only through armed struggle will we be listened to, only through the struggle waged by the Irish Republican Army can we win national freedom and end division and sectarianism in Ireland.

Whilst attention has been of necessity focussed on the H-Blocks and Armagh prison our comrades imprisoned in Britain itself are never far from our thoughts. Despite their deprivations they too have been primarily concerned with and have followed with intense interest the prison struggle waged in the North.

In British prisons they maintain their Republican principles, their political ideology even rubbing off on ordinary prisoners whom the various penal administrations have abused and humiliated, and often used to persecute Republicans. While the public focus has not been upon the Irish political prisoners in Britain, we do not forget them nor their families. To you all goes our solidarity and admiration. Beir Bua.

While the last twelve months has to a large extent seen a public focus upon the plight of the prisoners, we take this opportunity to re-emphasise our commitment to the complete destruction of British rule in Ireland and to the reconquest of Ireland by the Irish people.

We demand the immediate and complete withdrawal of British forces as the first step in this process. And realising that a demand is only as strong as it is pressed the Irish Republican Army stands willing, ready and as able as ever to press throughout the countryside and in the city street our political war against the British occupation forces and the loyalist RUC and UDR.

Charles Haughey and Margaret Thatcher, despite Paisley's protestations, are not on the road to a united Ireland, as sought by the vast majority of Irish people. It is not in their interests to do any-

thing other than to attempt to secure, at the utmost, a neo-colonial arrangement whereby British interests would be protected with an economy of British lives.

Haughey's efforts to create the illusion that his collaboration with Thatcher is seriously aimed at seeking Irish unity is an extremely dangerous development based on fraudulence and deception. The hand-in-glove relationship between the Dublin and Westminster governments has led, among other things, to a situation where the taxpayer in the twenty-six counties is now actually paying more for the maintenance of partition and the British presence than the taxpayer in Britain itself.

This and the orchestrated argument over so-called 'neutrality' is no more than a rather feeble attempt to divert public attention away from Dublin's failure to deliver on the national question and from the worsening economic and unemployment situations; a situation thrust upon both partitioned parts of this island and the Irish people by a ruling class which has more in common with the British ruling class than with its own working class.

The Dublin government has never taken a 'neutral' attitude to British involvement in this country. Instead, while pretending to seek an end to that involvement, the Free State has actively aided and abetted the British military, political, economic and cultural presence and influences on this island.

In world terms, the Dublin government has increasingly aligned itself with the military bosses of NATO. The Republican Movement warned that Irish entry into the EEC would lead not only to the selling-off of Irish natural and human resources but also to a military alliance of those former colonial powers which make up the EEC. Haughey's assertions that Free State neutrality is not at stake is a nonsense. It has never existed in anything but in name.

Verbalised nationalism has never achieved peace and freedom and has never yet completely camouflaged the contradictions inherent in Dublin's pro-British stance. Republican opposition to Haughey rests on this incontestable fact which in the end will serve also to destroy the myth of 'Haughey, the Republican'. Results count and the fact that Haughey cannot deliver Irish unity will become apparent in the next year to all who wish to see.

In the meantime, against the background of armed struggle, the Republican Movement commits itself to securing the political leadership of the whole people of Ireland. Sixty-five years after the Easter Rising of 1916 and following twelve years of bloody and courageous struggle we are determined to secure conditions in which all the people of the country will unite in a thirty-two county, democratic, socialist Republic. Nothing less will suffice. Nothing else will be accepted.

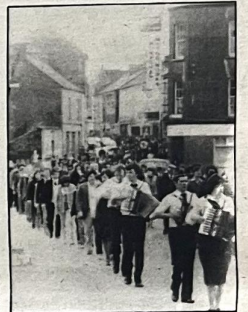
Nothing else can make up for the deaths, the sufferings and the self-sacrifice of our people, and nothing else can guarantee the unity and freedom, both spiritual and physical of the whole Irish people.

Caitídh muid a bheith saor agus gan amhras beidh muid saor. Le cuidiú De, tiocfaidh an la. Our struggle is hard and long but it is just and it will be victorious!

Beir Bual Victory to the Irish people
Victory to the Irish Republican Army!



● Martha McClelland from Derry gave the Monaghan oration



● Easter parade, Monaghan

was given by Martha McClelland of Derry.

In the morning wreath laying ceremonies took place at the graves of Sean McKenna and Patsy McKenna in Clara churchyard. Caoimhghin O'Caolain gave the oration.

In Carrickroe a wreath was laid on the grave of Connie Green and in Clontibret churchyard, Padraig O'Baighill delivered an oration at a wreath laying ceremony at the graveside of Peadar Mohan.

Offaly/ Westmeath

WREATH LAYING ceremonies were held at Clara, at the grave of Liam Kignam in Kilcoursey cemetery, and at the Newmann and Seery graves in Meedin cemetery. The ceremonies, which took place on Sunday were organised by Clara Sinn Féin.

Roscommon

A COLOUR PARTY of Na Fianna Eireann and the Raheen pipe band led the parade in Elphin to the local graveyard where wreaths were laid at the republican plot.

Following the reading of the Easter statement from the IRA leadership, the oration was given by Margaret McKearney, whose brother Tommy took part in the first H-Block hunger-strike.

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Sligo

THE Easter commemoration in Sligo took place this year in the town itself with a parade from the town hall in the afternoon to the republican plot in Sligo cemetery.

Following a wreath laying ceremony, the reading of the 1916 Proclamation and the Easter statement from the IRA leadership, the oration was given by Liam Cotter of Kerry.

Tipperary

CEREMONIES to commemorate the Easter rising began in North Tipperary on Sunday morning, when three hundred people attended a wreath laying ceremony, presided over by Jim Morris, at the republican monument in Nenagh. Tomas Og Malone read the 1916 Proclamation and Sean Condon led a decade of the rosary in Irish. A wreath was also laid on the grave of Jim Cleary.

In the afternoon, four hundred people led by a colour party and a piper marched to the cemetery at Glenkeen near Borrisoleigh. At the grave of Jeremiah Bourke, the Fenian, veteran republican Ned Shea recited a decade of the rosary in Irish and another veteran, Dan Gleeson, read the message from the IRA leadership.

The 1916 Proclamation was read by Bridget Hackett whose twin brother Patrick is an Irish political prisoner in England. The ceremony was chaired by J. P. McDonnell. The oration was given by Anthony O'Malley Daly of Ballyshannon in County Donegal.

In South Tipperary, about five hundred people took part in a parade, led by a colour party and the Cashel pipe band, from Coolbawn Cross at Fethard to the St. Johnstown graveyard where George Plant, executed in Portlaoise in 1942, is buried. His sister attended the ceremonies.

Mary Healy of Fethard chaired the proceedings and the oration was given by Padraig Malone of Limerick.

Tyrone

EASTER commemoration ceremonies were held at ten different locations in Tyrone, on Sunday, culminating in a parade at Carrickmore where the IRA staged a major show of strength, with the entire village sealed off.

Wreath laying ceremonies and brief meetings were held in all parts of the county on Sunday morning, after which many people travelled to Carrickmore for what has become the main Easter parade in Tyrone.

Carrickmore itself was sealed off and patrolled by republican stewards from lunch time, and the gathering crowds were entertained with republican songs which were played throughout the day. The entire village was decorated with bunting and tricolours flew from most houses.

The parade began at around 4 p.m. when an IRA unit of thirteen Volunteers, all dressed in full military uniform, came out on to the street to act as the colour party. Twelve young Fianna boys and girls then fell in, and as they moved off the parade of several thousand formed up behind them to march the mile-long route around the village, and then down to the Garden of Remembrance. Here, wreaths were laid on behalf of Sinn Féin, the IRA and other groups.

A young Fianna girl read the Proclamation, and then three IRA Volunteers from the colour party mounted the platform, two of them



■ The IRA staged a major show of strength in Carrickmore, County Tyrone, last Sunday



■ Easter parade, Carrickmore

openly displaying their weapons as the third read the statement from the IRA leadership.

Belfast republican Jim Gibney gave the oration in which he stressed the need for republicans to recognise the pro-imperialist and reactionary nature of loyalism, and he also pointed out the danger in the Thatcher/Haughey talks, urging that no-one should be fooled by them. The struggle will go on until the British are forced out of the country, he concluded.

The commemoration ended with the playing of the national anthem by one of the three bands.

Wexford

THE first of two commemorations in County Wexford took place on



● Pictured at the commemoration in Enniscorthy, County Wexford, are Jim Cowman, reciting the rosary; Sean O'Duill, who chaired the ceremony (centre); and Rita O'Hare, who gave the oration

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Easter Sunday morning in Ennis-corthy with a parade to the cemetery led by Na Fianna Eireann and the St. Patrick's fife and drum band.

The ceremonies at the republican plot were chaired by local councillor Sean O'Duill, the 1916 Proclamation read by Kevin Sheehan, and a decade of the rosary in Irish recited by Jim Cowman. The oration was given by Rita O'Hare.

Rita O'Hare also spoke at the commemoration in Wexford town in the afternoon where several hundred people, including members of Wexford Corporation, marched to St. Iban's cemetery behind a colour party of Na Fianna Eireann, the St. Patrick's fife and drum band and the Loch Garman silver band.

The ceremonies were chaired by George Molloy, secretary of the local National Graves Association, who also read the 1916 Proclamation. Wreaths were laid on the republican plot and on the graves of other IRA Volunteers nearby.

In her oration, Rita O'Hare described this Easter as one of the most critical since the 1916 rising. She slammed the ignoring by the British of the election of Bobby Sands and stressed the urgency of action to force Haughey to act publicly against Thatcher's intransigence. She also warned against being fooled by the Haughey/Thatcher talks and described the very real danger of loyalists' current militancy.

Following the commemoration the parade returned to the 1798 monument in the town where the ceremonies ended with the playing of the national anthem.

London

SINN FEIN in Britain held their annual Easter commemoration in London with a parade from Speakers' Corner at Hyde Park to Kilburn Square. Several hundred people took part in the march which included two bands from Glasgow. The marchers were addressed by Eddie Caughey of Sinn Fein's POW department in Britain and Sean Crowe of the Sinn Fein ad comhairle.



● Above and below: Sinn Féin Easter Commemoration in London



IN MEMORIAM

CLEARY, Peter, (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peter Cleary, O'glaigh na hÉireann, South Armagh, who was shot dead while on active service duty on April 15th 1976. Thus as a shaft as troid ar son saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in Ghaeil na hÉireann, South Armagh.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear husband and our daddy, Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, O'glaigh na hÉireann, who died on April 23rd 1977. "And so I speak. Yea, ere my hot youth pass, foolish as I; ye shall scatter, not save. Ye shall venture your all, lest ye lose what is more than all. Ye shall call for a miracle, taking Christ at his word, and for this I will answer, O people that I have loved and hereafter, shall we not answer together?" RIP. Always remembered and loved by his wife Annelise and sons Brendan and Paul.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Brendan who died for his beliefs on April 23rd 1977. "When I remember all the friends so linked together, I've seen around me fall like leaves in wintry weather, I feel like one who treads alone some banquet hall deserted." Always remembered by mum and dad McCann, brothers-in-law Pat, Frankie and Colum, sisters-in-law Margaret, Jeanette and Mary.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear friend, Brendan, who was killed by British forces of occupation on April 23rd 1977, while defending the nationalist people against loyalist attack. Eternally remembered by his comrade Jim Glinney.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, O'glaigh na hÉireann, who was murdered by British forces of occupation on April 23rd 1977. "We may have had great men but we will never have better." Never forgotten by his comrade Fluff.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear friend and comrade Brendan O'Callaghan, who was shot dead by British forces of occupation on April 23rd 1977. Fuaire sé bás ar an oisín ar na hÉireann. Always remembered by Jay McCann (H5-Block).

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, O'glaigh na hÉireann, who was shot dead while on active service duty by British forces of occupation on April 23rd 1977. I miss Laochra na nGael go raibh a namh. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, O'glaigh na hÉireann, who was killed in action on April 23rd 1977. RIP. Ireland unfree shall never be at peace. Always remembered by the McDonnell family.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, O'glaigh na hÉireann, who was killed in action on April 23rd 1977. "What plaintive sounds strike on my ear? They're Erin's deep-toned groans, her hard-earned memory to sorrow joins her moans in doleful groans. Around her stands her many sons, her greatest pride, in mourning dead, for by the hand of death she will be Brendan died." Always remembered by Dáirde McDonnell, Limerick Jail.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

HACKETT, Patrick, (Wakefield). Birthday greetings to you Patrick on April 27th. Although you may be far away, thoughts of you are near and dear. With love and affection from mammy, nannu, Bridget, Joan and Eugene.

HACKETT, Patrick, (Wakefield). Congratulations on your birthday from Jane, Patrick and Devenanny Martin, Rosanna and Caitliona Morris; and Jimmy, Nannie, Con and all the Morrisises at Anbrook.

HACKETT, Patrick, (Wakefield). Birthday greetings on April 27th to a great brother, brother-in-law and uncle. With love and best wishes from Don, Maureen, Róisín and Daniel.

HACKETT, Patrick, (Wakefield). Happy birthday on the 27th, Patrick. With love and fondest wishes from Michelle, Michael, Jane and Andrew; Nuala and Harry; Jennifer, Chris, Crona and Emma-Jean.

MCCURDY, Liam, (H-Block). Happy birthday, Liam. The best of everything

for you and the blanket men. God bless you all. From the McNulty family.

MCCURDY, Liam, (H-Block). All the best on your birthday on April 23rd. God bless you and all your comrades. From mum, dad, brothers, sisters and wee Seana.

WALSH, Seanna, (H-Block). Birthday greetings to our son Seanna on his 25th birthday. Your ninth birthday spent in British chains, but victory will soon be yours. From Katy and big Sid. With all our love.

WALSH, Seanna, (H-Block). Birthday greetings to our brother Seanna. We're behind you all the way. From your brothers and sisters and baby Triona.

WALSH, Seanna, (H-Block). Birthday greetings to our brother Seanna. May victory come to you and all your comrades. From Liza, Tony and wee Toni.

WALSH, Seanna, (H-Block). Birthday greetings to you Seanna. Your fight is our fight. From granny, granda and all your aunts and uncles in Twinklbrook. May God bless you and all your comrades.

WALSH, Seanna, (H-Block). Solidarity greetings on your birthday, Seanna. Out of sight but never out of mind. All my love, Eibhlín, xxx.

Solidarity Greetings

COLEMAN, Sean, (H-Block). Solidarity greetings to Sean, and to Leo and Felim, on completing three years on the blanket on April 24th. Thinking of you always. From Jim and Nora Coleman, and family, Lurgan.

GREEN, Leo, (H-Block). Solidarity greetings to our son and brother, Leo, and to his comrades Sean and Felim, on completing three years on the blanket protest on April 24th. God bless you all. From Kathleen and Eddie Green, and family, Lurgan.

LAMBERT, Stephen, (Crumlin Road). Easter greetings from all the lads in Dublin.

MCLINCHY, Paul, (H5-Block). Easter greetings to you Paul. "I'll wear no convict's uniform, nor necker serve my time, that Britain might make Ireland's fight eight hundred years of crime." Best wishes to you and all your comrades, especially the four brave hunger-strikers. Love from Mary T. xxxxx

MCLAUGHLIN, Gerry, (Wormwood Scrubs). Solidarity greetings to you Gerry. They may imprison your body but not your spirit. Love from Val, Wales.

O'HAGAN, Felim, (H-Block). Solidarity greetings to Felim and his comrades, Leo and Sean, Ian and Seamus, on completing three years on the blanket protest on 24th April. Bua dona fir pluid, Tlooc

faigh an is le grá mór. From daddy, mammy and Dara. Victory to the blanket men and to the Armagh women. Victory to the hunger-strikers.

O'HAGAN, Felim, (H6-Block). Solidarity greetings to Felim and his comrades on completing three years on the blanket on April 24th. Your struggle and endurance is an inspiration to all anti-imperialists and we will continue to work hard for a British withdrawal. Victory to the blanket men and to the women in Armagh. Victory to the Irish people. From the Manchester hunger-strike committee, especially Paul, Barry, Alan and Geoff.

PRIGENT, Paul, (H-Block). Easter solidarity greetings to my son Paul. "They may lock you away, deny you your rights but Ireland's true sons continue to fight." From mother and brothers Gerard and Dominic.

SMITH, Eugene, (H5-Block). Belated Easter greetings to our dear son, Eugene and congratulations on completing four years on the blanket. Victory to the blanket men. Victory to the brave hunger-strikers. From mum, dad and from Sean, Frankie and sister-in-law Pat and family, your sisters Kate, Geraldine, Esther and brother-in-law Claran and family.

SOLIDARITY AND EASTER GREETINGS to Pickles, Seamus and Dermot Finucane, Big John Gough, Benny Jazz, Pat and Martin Livingstone, Big Doc, Sinead Moore, Mairead Farrell and all the comrades in the Kesh, Crumlin and Armagh jails. Victory to the Provos. Duff, West Germany.

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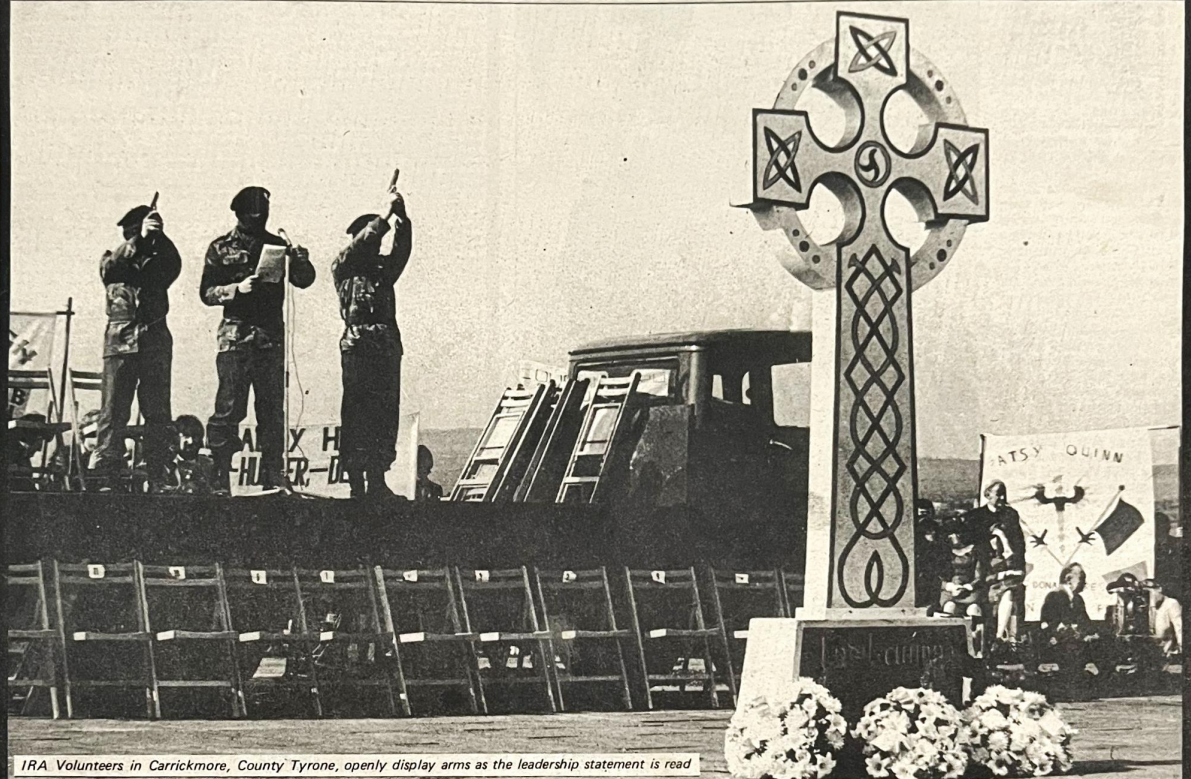
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1916 ~ Easter commemorations ~ 1981



IRA Volunteers in Carrickmore, County Tyrone, openly display arms as the leadership statement is read



IRA Volunteers on the march in Carrickmore, County Tyrone