

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith Nua lml 3 uimhir 46 Deardain Samhain 26

Thursday November 26th 1981 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

THE Christmas issue of 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' will be published on Thursday 17th December. (There will be no issue of the paper on Thursday 24th December.)

Christmas greetings for republican prisoners to be inserted in this issue should reach either our Dublin

office at 44 Parnell Square, or our Belfast office at 51/53 Falls Road, by post or by hand, or by telephoning Dublin 747611 or Belfast 46841, on or before Saturday 12th December, which — it should be noted — is only a fortnight this Saturday.



● Enniskillen, Monday. Uniformed RUC man looks on fraternally as paramilitary Third Force organise road blockade

RUC, UDR, & Third Force pose deadly threat to nationalists

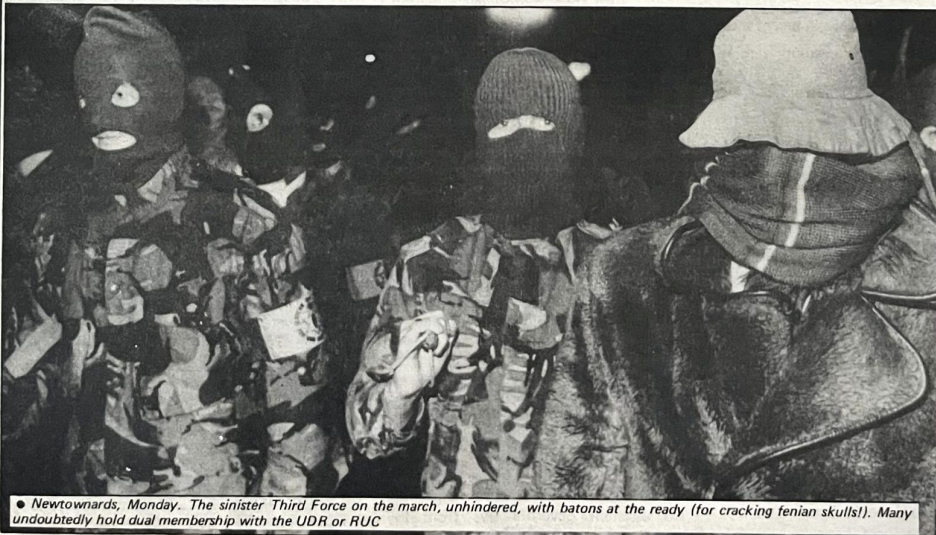
Three forces fraternise

IF ever anyone was in any doubt about the loyalist sympathies of the RUC and the UDR, last Monday's Paisley-led 'day of action' must have been an eye-opener.

But for nationalist people in the occupied six counties, the fraternisation between hooded and uniformed, and in some cases armed, members of Paisley's Third Force and the first and second forces, the RUC and UDR, only confirms the sectarian nature of the six-county statelet, reminds them of the impossibility of reforming it, and reinforces the necessity of destroying its sponsor in Ireland, British imperialism, while maintaining a defensive readiness.

BBC television cameras, last Monday, filmed a hooded and uniformed loyalist standing at an 'illegal' street barricade, chatting to and exchanging jokes with a UDR patrol. And, in Enniskillen, the RUC jointly patrolled the centre of the town with masked loyalists and asked these loyalists for their permission to allow emergency vehicles through.

In Newtownards several thousand uniformed loyalists marched into the town on Monday night in military



● Newtownards, Monday. The sinister Third Force on the march, unhindered, with batons at the ready (for cracking fenian skulls!). Many undoubtedly hold dual membership with the UDR or RUC

(continued on next page)

Three forces fraternise

(continued from previous page)

formation, some carrying side-arms, and, in Derry, masked and armed RUC and UDR men were claimed to have participated in a Third Force parade on Tuesday night.

INVASION

In nationalist areas a street barricade becomes the object of a British army invasion: hooded or uniformed men are arrested or shot for wearing 'illegal' uniforms; and protesting men, women and children are driven off the streets by saracens and plastic bullets.

While the fascist-like Third Force has made appearances in several towns and set up 'illegal' road-checks, British forces have been sealing off and searching nationalist districts, and, in two instances in Belfast, seizing badly needed weapons for defence.

The oppressed nationalist people of the North, whose struggle for justice is a radical threat to British imperialism, loyalism, and the Irish establishment, are being squeezed from all sides to surrender and throw their fate to British 'good-will', to the moral muscle of the Catholic church, to the 'negotiating power' of the SDLP and to the Free State government.

BARRICADES

In the event of Third Force attacks on nationalist areas, for this is its real purpose (and the establishment of an independent loyalist North is its eventual aim), if barricades are to be manned and people to be defended by Free Staters, bishops, or middle class politicians, then there will be neither barricades nor protection.

As in the past, the nationalist people will be deserted, left high and dry and endangered by bankrupt politicians.

The nationalist people in the North need more support now, material and moral, from all quarters, than at any other time in the last thirteen years. The despicably bad campaign presently being waged by the Catholic hierarchy, the problems posed by SDLP collaboration, and the major problems posed by the Free State government (which not only collaborates, but unlike the former two, can also repress and harass republicans) are activities which need exposing. They need explaining for what they are, as opposed to the charade they profess to be, supposedly providing, 'moral direction', 'peaceful change' and 'reconciliation', whilst in reality leaving the nationalist people defenceless.

Above all, the message must be more support now for the struggle for Irish freedom and Irish independence, and more aid to counter the hazards incurred by the nationalist people of the North in pursuit of that just cause.

GUN ATTACKS ON DUBLIN & BELFAST REPUBLICAN CENTRES

Offices attacked

In the second gun attack on republican offices in the space of six days, two voluntary workers for 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' were shot and slightly wounded when a single gunman entered the Sinn Fein headquarters in Dublin and fired up to six shots.

Shortly after 6 p.m. last Wednesday, November 25th, the would-be assassin — possibly a member of the UDA — entered the front outer door of the Sinn Fein office in Parnell Square (which also houses the 'AP/RN' Dublin office), armed with a handgun.

The gunman, aged about forty-five, then walked across the hallway, behind three 'AP/RN' voluntary workers who were unlocking the inner security door, and immediately opened fire.

One 'AP/RN' worker was shot in the leg and a second worker was slightly grazed in the back of the leg, the third man escaped uninjured.

The gunman then fled, running down along Parnell Square, and, despite attempts by an 'AP/RN' van driver (who arrived on the scene) to head him off, escaped.

BELFAST

Six days earlier, on Thursday evening, November 19th, UDA gunmen fired two shots near the Belfast Republican Press Centre and the Northern office of 'An Phoblacht/Republican News', on the Falls Road.

Following the attack — in which there were no injuries — the UDA claimed to have ser-



● DUBLIN — two 'AP/RN' workers hit



● BELFAST — two English journalists missed

iously wounded either Gerry Adams, the vice-president of Sinn Fein, or Danny Morrison, the Sinn Fein director of publicity and editor of 'AP/RN'.

The attack happened around 8.30 p.m. on Thursday when two shots were fired by gunmen hiding in Seavastopol Street, at two English journalists walking towards the centre. The shots missed and struck a shop which faces the republican centre, on the Falls Road.

The two journalists apparently mistaken for republicans were Will Ellsworth-Jones of the 'Sunday Times' and David Beake of the BBC in Belfast. Both were visibly shaken by their experience.

At the time of the attack the building was being used for a republican education lecture, Gerry Adams was about two hundred miles away, and Danny Morrison was one hundred miles away.

Loyalist victim dies

THE catalogue of loyalist sectarian gun attacks on random Catholics in the wake of Bradford's death continued at the end of last week with an abortive attack at a garage in Armagh, and this week there followed the tragic death of a Belfast youth, Stephen Murphy, ten days after his critical wounding on the doorstep of his Oldpark home.

Nineteen-year-old Stephen Murphy was shot in the neck and pelvis by a loyalist gunman armed with a rifle, on Saturday evening, November 14th, when he answered a knock on the door of his home at Oldpark Avenue in north Belfast — an area which has suffered several sectarian attacks in recent months.

That same evening, eighteen-year-old Thomas McNulty was shot and killed as he walked home through the nationalist Short Strand enclave in east Belfast.

Stephen Murphy, who would probably have been permanently paralysed had he survived, died in hospital last Tuesday,

November 24th. His sister Janet is a republican political prisoner in Armagh jail.

ARMAGH

Five days before his death, at around 9 p.m. on Thursday week, November 19th, two motorcycle-mounted loyalist assassins drove into the forecourt of O'Hare's petrol station at Lisnadill, on the main Armagh to Newtownhamilton road.

When an attendant approached to serve them, one of the loyalists produced a handgun and pulled the trigger, but the gun jammed and the gunmen then drove off.



● STEPHEN MURPHY
assassination victim

Two isolated

TWO prisoners isolated in H8-Block of Long Kesh continue on the 'no work' protest with their comrades in H-Blocks 4, 5, and 6.

The men in H8-Block are 'Clinky' McGlinchey and Jock Home, both of whom attempted to escape from the political status cages several weeks ago.

They are kept in separate wings of H8-Block.

McGlinchey, who until recently was subjected to almost continual punishment 'on the boards', is now able to associate with non-protesting republican prisoners in 'B' wing. But Home, who returned to H8-Block from three days 'on the boards' last Friday November 20th, has been put in a predominantly loyalist wing.

An assistant governor by the name of Hall told Home that he and McGlinchey would

be punished by the loss of one visit per month, and by the same curtailments in association and loss of remission as the other protesting political prisoners experience.

The assistant governor also told Home that he would no longer be allowed to eat his meals in his cell, as he had been doing (to avoid assault from loyalist prisoners). He was told that if he did not eat with the other prisoners

then he would get no meals, although this was later amended to one meal each day.

The assistant governor said that this decision had come from above.

Home told him that it now appeared that because the prison administration's cellular confinement policy had failed to bring the two men off their 'no work' protest, the administration was now trying to starve them off.

..WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS...

IRA ambushes

WHILST loyalist reaction has dominated the news headlines in the seven days covered by this 'War News', the IRA has continued to mount a series of attacks — three in the North and one in England.

A UDR soldier was shot dead at the end of last week in an ambush in Strabane which proved to be the final one in a sustained spate of almost daily attacks on the UDR and RUC over the previous fortnight.

Then at the beginning of this week the IRA mounted yet another bomb attack in London, with a booby-trap ambush outside Woolwich barracks. But whilst Volunteers in London are currently showing great technical expertise and flexibility they are not — as yet — having the best of luck.

STRABANE AMBUSH

The IRA shot dead a UDR soldier in Strabane, Co. Tyrone, on Thursday 19th November. It was the IRA's third successful attack in three days against the British army's front-line regiment, the UDR.

On Tuesday, a member of the regiment had been shot dead in Maguiresbridge, County Fermanagh, and on Wednesday a former member had been shot dead in New Buildings, County Derry.

Thursday's operation was a 'well-planned ambush', even according to the RUC. The dead soldier had been a part-time corporal.

Three armed IRA Volunteers from the North-West Tyrone Brigade commandeered a house at Olympic Drive in Strabane's Ballycoolan estate at 10 a.m. that morning. They telephoned a local timber firm, for whom the UDR man worked as a delivery man, and ordered plaster board to be delivered to the house.

When the delivery lorry arrived, four hours later, at 2 p.m., the part-time soldier walked up to the front door of the house and knocked upon it. The door was opened by a Volunteer who shot the UDR soldier in the chest several times.



● Woolwich barracks in south-east London was the scene of the IRA's fifth bomb attack in the capital city in just over six weeks

He died soon afterwards. The soldier had been a member of the UDR for ten years.

The IRA Volunteers returned safely to base.

The cleverly executed ambush was not only routinely condemned by the local Official Unionist Party and by the Paisleyite Democratic Unionists but also by the notoriously pro-British parish priest Fr. Anthony Mulvey who appealed in vain for people to tout on the IRA.

DRAPERSTOWN AMBUSH

An RUC man driving out of Draperstown RUC barracks in South Derry was ambushed by an IRA Volunteer on Friday evening, November 20th, but was not wounded.

As the RUC man's car emerged through the barrack gate shortly after 6.30 p.m., the armed Volunteer boldly stepped out from behind a parked vehicle and opened fire, but narrowly failed to hit his target.

The Volunteer made good his escape in an awaiting commandeered car.

LONDON BOMB

The IRA mounted their fifth bomb attack in London in just over six weeks with a booby-

trap bomb at Government Buildings, the headquarters of the Royal Artillery regiment at Woolwich in south-east London, on Monday morning, November 23rd.

The bomb, intended for military personnel, as the London police openly admitted (presumably in order to minimise civilian panic, especially in the pre-Christmas shopping season), in fact unintentionally injured two soldiers' wives, one seriously and the other slightly.

The booby-trap bomb, disguised as a toy gun, and containing several ounces of explosives, had been placed at the gateway of the barracks by an IRA Volunteer on Sunday evening.

The toy gun was noticed by a soldier on Sunday evening but he ignored it, and when the two soldiers' wives, who live in the barracks, and work there as cleaners, came out of the building just before eight o'clock on Monday morning, to walk their dogs, one of the dogs triggered the bomb, catching the women in the blast.

The seriously injured woman is married to a Warrant Officer who has served twenty-two years in the British army.

Meanwhile, the massive police operation in the London area, in

which by last weekend 251,000 lock-up garages had been searched, with 124,000 still to go, has left the IRA undisturbed but not London's 'underworld', especially the petty criminals.

The first week of the search turned up two bodies (one a murder victim and the other a suicide), and stolen property has been found in 127 garages resulting in 82 people being charged, £75,000 of stolen electrical goods was found in one garage.

During the operation, police road blocks supposedly hunting the IRA have discovered numerous stolen vehicles and drugs.

MIDDLETOWN ATTACK

An active service unit of fifteen armed IRA Volunteers mounted a large-scale gun attack on Middletown barracks in South Armagh on Tuesday night, November 24th.

The IRA blitzed the barracks with M60 machine gun fire, and more than two hundred shots were fired, but none of the occupants was hit.

Enemy fire was returned by British soldiers from within the heavily-fortified barracks but the Volunteers returned safely to base.

Ardoyne checkpoint

A six-strong armed unit of IRA Volunteers, last Saturday afternoon, November 21st, mounted a vehicle checkpoint in the north Belfast nationalist area of Ardoyne.

The checkpoint was mounted shortly after 4.30 p.m. for about quarter-of-an-hour at the junction of Brompton Park and Etna Drive. Two Volunteers stopped and checked cars entering the area, whilst the other four took up positions covering the road.

This token show of strength by the IRA was intended as a timely warning to marauding loyalist murder gangs that they cannot drive freely into nationalist areas and as a morale boost to the nationalist people.

RUC thwarted

THE IRA's Belfast Brigade have advised Thomas Loughran of Ballymurphy to leave the country following his revealing to them that he has met with the RUC Special Branch on several occasions.

The IRA state: "Loughran was first arrested by the Special Branch after the summer mortar attack on Fort Pegasus on the Whiterock Road. He was held in Castlereagh where he was told by the Special Branch that they had sufficient evidence to link him with the mortar attack."

"He was coerced into agreeing to work for them and supplying them with information concerning members of the Republican Movement. He was given a code name 'doggy man'. He met the RUC on two separate occasions, in Carryduff dog shelter and a filling station in Doagh."

"He was arrested again, taken to Castlereagh, and released only after agreeing again to work for them. On his release from Castlereagh he made contact with several people, including Fr. Faul, who advised him against contacting the Republican Movement claiming that we would simply shoot him. Mr. Loughran wisely chose to ignore this advice."

"In recent weeks others have followed Mr. Loughran into Castlereagh and all have been threatened or cajoled by the Special Branch to become agents." (The term 'informers' would appear to be one the Special Branch would prefer to forget.)

"All those brought to Castlereagh can expect an attempt to be made to turn them into informers. Victims of RUC interrogators should remain calm, keep your wits, and say nothing!"

Bomb denial

THE IRA have denied any involvement in Sunday's explosion at a marble factory owned by Lord Mayo outside Clifden in County Galway. The IRA's denial was issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin and was signed by P. O'Neill.

£10,000 damage was done by an explosion which occurred at 5.15 a.m. in the Marble Panels Company factory, in which the former British Royal Navy officer Lord Mayo has a controlling interest.

Dílseoirí

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

TÁ IARRAcht ar siúl ag lucht na meán cumarsáide sna Sé Chontae Fíchead trua a mhúsaílt do na 'dílseoirí bochta' san UDR. Tá siad ag iarraidh a chur ina luí orainn gur daoine saonta iad atá faoi ionasf. Deirtear linn gur seichteachas is cúis leis na hionsaí sin.

Mar is gnáth sé atá ar siúl acu ná leathadh dubh propaganda shasana sa tír seo. Níl náire ar bith orthu a leithéid a dhéanamh. Níl siad sásta aon iniúchadh ceart a dhéanamh ar chúrsaí an chogaidh ó thuaidh.

Da mba san Afiric Theas a bhí eachtraí an Tuaiscirt ar siúl is cinnte go mbeadh siad in ann an cogadh a thuiscint. Go doimhin nuair a tharla eachtraí den tsaghas céanna in aimsir na ndubhechrónaigh ná chuid seo den tír bhí na staraíthe in ann

iad a mhíniú gan abheith ag brath ar an seichteachas mar mhíniú.

Le déanaí maraíodh agus gortaíodh móran baill den UDR Seasann na litreacha sin den Ulster Defence Regiment. Reimsint de chuid Arm na Breataine is ea an UDR agus cé gur sna Sé Chontae amháin atá siad, tá siad chomh hoilte is atá aon reimsint eile D'Arm na Breataine.

Saighdiúirí is ea iad agus máir sin tuigean siad go maith cad tá i ndán

dóibh. Má théann duine le saighdiúrach i gogadh tá sé soiléir go ndéanfaidh a naimhde iarracht é a mharú. Is cuma don saighdiúir an ndéantar é a mharú amuigh ar phatról nó ina leaba bíonn sé díreach chomh marbh.

Is aisteach mar atá Paisley agus a leithéid ag béicigh mar geall ar bhás na saighdiúirí seo. Cheapfaidh é eagar-fhocail an 'Irish Times' gur oibríthe shóisialta ba ea iad. Ar ndóigh ní luaitear na daoine a mharuigh an UDR.

Chomh maith le sin go léir is cóir a choimeád san intinn go bhfuil go leor iarbhaill den UDR i briosúin de bharr Caitlicigh a mharú ar bhonn seichteachais amháin. Fiú amháin na Shankill Butchers bhí ball den UDR ina measc.

Maidir leis an RUC agus cúl taca an RUC is cuid iad de chóras an stáit chun poblachtaigh a choimeád faoi chois. Is iomaí Caitliceach a mharuigh siad agus is iomaí duine a léasadar i gCastlereagh agus in áiteanna eile.

Tá na fórsaí seo go léir sa líne tosaigh in éineacht le hArm na Breataine san iarracht atá ar siúl ag Rialtas na Breataine na Sé Chontae a choimeád faoi smacht agus ath



● Gortaíodh ball de chúil taca an RUC nuair a phléas buama faoina ghluastaí in nDroichead na Bandain ar an 12ú de mhí na Samhna. Tá na fórsaí seo sa líne tosaigh chun athaontú na hÉireann a chos.

aontú na hÉireann a chos. Ní féidir leo a bheith ag siúl le haon rud ó mhuintir poblachtaigh na Sé Chontae ach an píleáir agus an buama.

Maidir leis an tríú fórsa atá beartaithe ag Paisley is soiléir go dteastaíonn uaidh, seodi, a gcos a thabhairt do dhílseoirí Caitlicigh a mharú le beannacht Rialtas Sasana

má tá seichteachas mar ábhar cainte ag meán cumarsáide Bhaile Átha Cliath, d'fhéadfaidh iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an bhfáth nach bhfuil lucht an tríú fórsa seo sásta dúl isteach san UDR nó an RUC. Is soiléir dom-sa nach bhfuil uathu smacht ar bith a bheith arthu chur gur féidir leo Caitlicigh a mharú gan freagracht ar bith.

The siege of Donagh

BY PETER HAYES

AN unprecedented level of repression directed against the nationalist people of South Fermanagh by the Brits and RUC — centring on a two-day-long state of siege at Donagh, near Lisnaskea — has been the 'official' response to calls for 'greater security' by the loyalist Third Force gang in County Fermanagh.

In the early hours of Monday 16th November, hundreds of Brits, UDR and RUC men descended on the tiny nationalist village of Donagh, effectively sealing off the area for a full thirty-six hours, searching everyone entering or leaving the area, and conducting extensive house-to-house raids.

Delivery roundsmen were followed by RUC men as they travelled around Donagh, and even the local Catholic church came under close scrutiny — including searches of the tabernacle and belfry — despite the pro-British disposition of the local priest, Fr. McCabe.

SEARCHES

Some of the most abusive behaviour came from RUC men specially drafted into the area for the search operation, from Strabane in west Tyrone, who delighted particularly in searching the nappies of infant babies and in conducting very intimate body searches of young girls.

One of these girls, sixteen-year-old Rita Gleeson from nearby Lisnaskea, was arrested and dragged away to Lisnaskea RUC barracks when she physically resisted one such indecent search.

Another search victim, Sean Lavelle, was stopped and frisked six times in the space of half-an-hour as he attempted to walk to his Donagh home.

Fermanagh and South Tyrone MP, Owen Carron, who went to the area after being contacted by local constituents, was dragged from his car, along with nationalist councillor John Joe McCusker, at a roadblock, and his car keys seized by an RUC tug. The RUC then proceeded to forcibly search Owen Carron's car, while delaying him from reaching Donagh where the search was going on.

REFUSED

The following day, Tuesday, Owen Carron and one of his constituency workers, Michael McManus, were again held up, this



● MP Owen Carron surrounded by hostile RUC gunmen in the vicinity of the County Fermanagh village of Donagh

time on their way out of Donagh. Keeping hold of his keys, the Fermanagh and South Tyrone MP refused to allow his car to be searched, and the RUC — for their part — refused to allow his car to proceed without being searched.

Reversing back into the estate, Owen Carron and Michael McManus attempted to leave Donagh by another road, but were halted again at another roadblock. Only when a crowd began to gather did the furious RUC withdraw, allowing Owen Carron's car to leave the area unsearched.

Finally, at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the Brit/RUC cordon was lifted from around Donagh, the saturation searching of the entire area having yielded up only a solitary, old and broken air rifle.

Ironically, but aptly enough, later that night at Maguiresbridge near Enniskillen in County Fermanagh, the IRA shot and killed yet another hated UDR man. The RUC reacted typically, by arresting nine local people (one a seventeen-year-old girl, another a man in his late sixties) in an intimidation exercise designed to curb local support for republicans.

In Maguiresbridge — a predominantly loyalist area — a concerted campaign of terror has been carried out over the past fortnight by the RUC and loyalist paramilitaries.

Owen Carron's brother, Seamus, whose newly-built home was blown up several months ago has been intimidated out of the area, and his flat raided by Brits and RUC.

In a statement in response to these events, the Fermanagh and South Tyrone MP urged the nationalist people to 'remain calm but to exercise extreme caution' in the face of this renewed threat from the joint RUC/Third Force loyalist threat.

He said: "We see the RUC in full collaboration with loyalist bullyboys, allowing them to break their own laws by parading in military uniform brandishing firearms, conniving with them twice within a week as a mere handful of them blockaded the town of Enniskillen."

"The RUC has not changed, and over the past thirteen years has proved incapable of change. Their jackboot is reserved for the nationalist community."

Fifty in Castlereagh

RENEWED loyalist demands for increased oppression in nationalist areas resulted, inevitably, in a series of arrests in various parts of the North, last weekend, with over fifty men (and one woman) being held in Castlereagh.

As well as the nine arrested in County Fermanagh, four people were arrested in Derry and the surrounding area, thirteen were arrested in Derry city, and at least a further twenty-five were arrested in various nationalist districts of Belfast.

Almost all of those arrested were being held under seven-day detention orders, in an exercise which was clearly designed to placate loyalists by a further turn of the screw against the nationalist population, whilst attempting to gather low-level intelligence on republican activists and activities.

Kashmir mini-curfew

A TEN-HOUR mini-curfew was placed on the Kashmir district of west Belfast on Thursday week, November 19th, during an extensive raid and search operation — looking for arms and ammunition — in which some twenty houses were ransacked. Several houses were searched simultaneously in the nearby Beechmount area.

Members of the British army's Royal Green Jackets regiment and RUC men swooped on the Kashmir area (a small nationalist enclave adjacent to the loyalist Shankill district) around 5 a.m. on Thursday, and stayed until after 3 p.m. that day.

One of the worst damaged homes in the raids was that of Mrs. Mary Corrigan, a mother of two young children, who lives in Bombay Street.

Mrs. Corrigan's front door was broken down by the raiding party — no-one was at home at the time — at noon on Thursday. During the two-and-a-half-hour search, holes were punched in the front bedroom ceiling, a ventilator was ripped off from the wall, wallpaper was ripped off, floorboards and stair-carpet were pulled up, and several stairs were broken.

Several other houses in Bombay Street were

also raided, and in nearby Kane Street the home of seventy-three-year-old Mrs. Elizabeth Donnelly was raided for over four hours.

In the Beechmount area, the home of Mrs. Sheila Healy, a mother of five children, from Beechmount Grove, was extensively damaged during a raid which began at 5 a.m. on Thursday.

While the entire family was placed under house arrest, plain-clothes and uniformed RUC men ransacked the working kitchen, lifted tiles, ripped off wall boards, and punched a hole in the ceiling.

Two doors up from the Healsys', the home of the McMenemy family was also raided, as was a third home in the street, causing damage to property in each house.

These raids on nationalist homes, coming in response to calls by sectarian loyalist politicians and organisations for greater repression of nationalists, and in the midst of a sectarian assassination campaign against Catholics, mark an expected but nonetheless sinister attempt by the Brits and RUC to render 'front-line' nationalist areas unarmed and defenceless in the face of a possible loyalist onslaught, and the certain expectation of increased sectarian attacks.



● Ceiling smashed by British soldiers in a wall cupboard in the Corrigan's Bombay Street home

THEY SAY ALL THE REVOLUTIONARY

Revolutionary Calendar 1982

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR

A WELL-PRODUCED, glossy and recommended revolutionary calendar, each month illustrated by a Belfast wall mural in full colour, has been produced by the Republican Movement.

The calendars are available at 80p each, or £6 for ten, plus postage, from John Connolly, 2a Monagh Crescent, Turf Lodge, Belfast, telephone Belfast 620768.

BULK ORDERS

ANYONE wishing to purchase bulk orders of H-Block badges or posters, republican posters, 'The Writings of Bobby Sands', 'The Diary of Bobby Sands', etc., should contact John Connolly, 2a Monagh Crescent, Turf Lodge, Belfast, or telephone Belfast 620768.

REMEMBRANCE CALENDAR

A 1982 remembrance calendar is now available from the Sinn Féin centre, Ann Street, Dungannon, at price £1 plus postage. The calendar is produced by the Carty/Crowley/Loughran Sinn Féin cumann, Dungannon.

TROOPS OUT CALENDAR

'IRELAND — England's Vietnam' 1982 calendar is available from the Art Shop, 51 Falls Road, Belfast, at price £2 plus postage.

This large attractive calendar, with twelve pages each in two colours, consists of illustrations of significant events in recent Irish history, accompanied by explanatory texts. It has been produced by the Open Road Printing Co-op in York, England, to raise funds for Irish solidarity groups in Britain.

ENGLISH POW XMAS CARDS

CHRISTMAS cards from Ireland and abroad have always been a boost for the republican prisoners in English jails, and no doubt remind the British authorities that the prisoners are not forgotten.

This year, relatives of the prisoners have reported that the British Home Office are cutting down on the number of cards allowed into the prisoners. It appears likely that only cards bearing the name and address of the sender will be given to the prisoners.

The prisoners themselves are restricted to sending out a mere twelve cards this year.

Anyone sending cards to the jails are also warned that money included in the card is not likely to reach the prisoners unless it is from someone who is already in some correspondence with them. If there is any doubt, the money can be sent instead to An Cumann Cabhrach or Green Cross.

Anyone wishing to check the address of a prison where a particular prisoner is currently held, can do so by phoning the Sinn Féin POW department at Dublin 308783 or Belfast 23214.

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LOYALIST MONSTER ON THE MOVE SILENCES FITZGERALD

Crusade set-back

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

A LONG and eloquent silence has fallen over Free State premier Garret FitzGerald's 'constitutional crusade' to appease the Northern loyalists in the wake of the events of the past week, as the wraps were once again taken off the loyalist monster.

The people of the twenty-six counties would indeed take some convincing that they were guilty of sectarianism and to blame for partition as they nightly watched their television screens and scanned their morning newspapers.

The sight of Paisley's 'Third Force' operating under the noses of the RUC and UDR, the daily baying for blood by Protestant clergymen at religious services, the emergence of Protestant clergymen as commanders of the latest paramilitary body, the hatred of loyalist politicians directed Southwards, as well as at Northern Catholics, was hardly the stuff to promote thoughts of friendship and 'reconciliation'.

SILENCE

Following the IRA's shooting dead of loyalist MP Robert Bradford and the revenge-filled aftermath, FitzGerald's only comment was in introducing a minute's silence for the dead bigot by once again portraying loyalist murderers as 'retaliators'.

That minute's silence in Leinster House on Tuesday 17th November, repeated the following day in the Senate, was in sharp contrast to both those bodies' reaction on the deaths of hunger-strikers Bobby Sands, MP, and Kieran Doherty, TD.

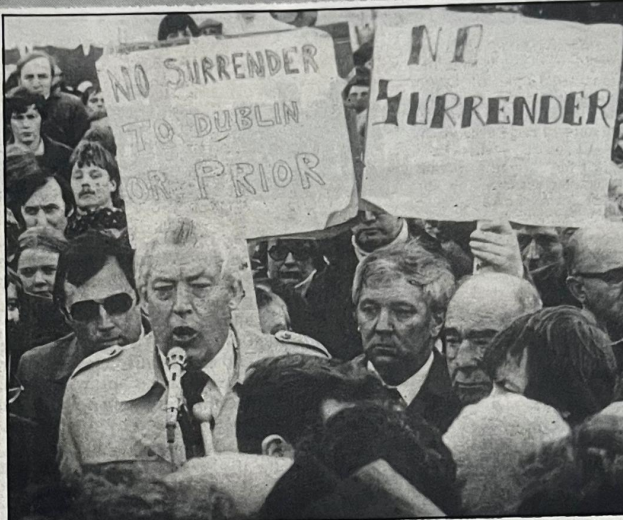
In the aftermath of the Bradford shooting, another set-back for FitzGerald's constitutional crusade was obscured. The SDLP conference, meeting the same weekend, rejected FitzGerald's plans to abandon the Free State's claims to jurisdiction over the thirty-two counties (contained in articles 2 and 3 of the constitution), although the motion was watered down by a leadership amendment.

In addition, in contrast to FitzGerald's agreement to Britain's loyalist guarantee in the communiqué after the London summit, the SDLP conference called for an end to the guarantee, although again the leadership strove to negate this by substitute guarantees of their own to loyalist dominance.

Nevertheless, the obvious implication that even the SDLP were not willing to put their faith in FitzGerald, leaves him further exposed to the charge that he is totally abandoning the Northern nationalists.

COLLABORATION

Free State collaboration with the RUC, the UDR, and the rest of the British army, now



● The people of the twenty-six counties would indeed take some convincing that they were guilty of sectarianism and to blame for partition as they nightly watched their television screens and scanned their morning papers

shrouded in total secrecy following further concessions in the Anglo-Irish studies and at the London summit, now take on terrifying proportions with the evidence of open friendship between the RUC and UDR and the 'Third Force', even extending to joint patrols in Fermanagh.

In addition to which, also flown into the border areas is the British army's Spearhead battalion comprising six hundred men of the notoriously murderous Parachute regiment.

Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey, who, since the exposure of his empty 'progress' with Margaret Thatcher by the latest London summit, has been running his own 'republican' crusade, proclaimed last weekend that the North needed 'impartial security forces', conveniently forgetting that only a few months previously he in his turn was enthusiastically co-operating with the existing very partial and sectarian 'security forces'.

But for FitzGerald's crusade, the most telling comment came on Monday night, November 23rd.

Speaking on Granada Television's 'World in Action' programme, Andy Tyrie, commander of the UDA, 'wished FitzGerald well' and

described the crusade for the removal of articles 2 and 3 as 'what Protestants had been calling for for years'.

JOLT

In a strong statement, directed to the people of the twenty-six counties, Sinn Féin, commenting on recent events, said:

'Monday's demonstration of Paisley fascism should jolt people in the South as to one major aspect of the Northern conflict.'

'Ian Paisley is hell-bent on establishing a one-party, sectarian fascist state. The so-called 'Third Force' Paisley paraded in Newtownards is simply the re-emergence of the B-Specials whose record of murder, pillage and destruction is embedded in the mind of every nationalist. It is not too long ago since thousands of refugees arrived South having suffered at the hands of sectarian killers.'

'In the face of this threat, it is nonsense for Dublin politicians to shed crocodile tears about unionists' fears while thousands of beleaguered Irish people are subject to naked sectarian terror. The time is long overdue for the people of Ireland to stand in united opposition to this latest campaign of Paisley fascism.'



● Belfast republicans Tom Hartley (left) and Kieran Nugent have returned from well-received tours of Mexico and Nicaragua recent visit by him to the art museum in Philadelphia.

A large rally was held in New York on Sunday 22nd November in support of two Irish-Americans who are charged with smuggling arms to Ireland. The meeting was addressed by Bernadette McAliskey who is currently visiting America.

Also conducting a tour of the US is English barrister Richard Harvey, who teaches at the City College of New York. He is promoting his booklet 'Diplock and the assault on civil liberties' which is a denunciation of the non-jury courts and the Emergency Provisions Act in the North. In press and television interviews, Harvey has

been calling for British withdrawal from Ireland.

Meanwhile, the director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of Sinn Féin, Richard Behal, has been refused a transit visa by the American embassy in Dublin which would have enabled him to change planes in New York en route to a conference sponsored by Guayaquil University in Ecuador, with Ecuadorian government support, and United Nations participation.

Richard Behal is now unable to travel in time to fulfil. Sinn Féin's official invitation to the conference which is discussing the proper utilisation and protection of the natural resources of developing countries and their relevance to the question of national liberation.

● COLIN WINTER, bishop-in-exile

Revolutionary witness

COLIN O'Brien Winter, who died on Tuesday week, November 17th, in England, was, until February of this year, Anglican Bishop of Namibia, although a bishop-in-exile, since he was expelled from Namibia in 1972 because of his militant opposition to South Africa's occupation of that country.

He was a political cleric but not the power-seeking variety like Paisley who sits in an imperial parliament, nor the hypocritical variety who equivocates and tries to be on both sides. He was with the oppressed against the oppressor.

As a Christian and a socialist, Bishop Winter supported the revolutionary fighters in Namibia: he did not call upon them to cease their struggle, for he knew that the people of Namibia are violently oppressed and have no choice but to fight.

At a rally in London in September 1980 he said that it was plain to him that Ireland and Namibia are fundamentally the same, for both nations are engaged in a war of liberation. In a powerful speech he stated firmly that Irish republican prisoners were political prisoners, that their demands were fully justified, and that they were revolutionary fighters for national freedom.

When Owen Carron, MP, and ninety-two relatives of republican prisoners visited London in September of this year, because of illness Bishop Winter was unable to attend a reception in their honour, but from his sick-bed he sent a message of support: "The state of war in Northern Ireland", he wrote, "is the inevitable consequence of English imperialism, English colonialism, English intransigence, English policies and English callousness. Is it not to be expected that such an institutionalised state of violence will be met with counter-violence?"

He ended his message with the words, "I open my arms in love and solidarity with you. May English troops be removed, may English consciences be spared, may English Christians be roused from indifference and that silence which is an acquiescence in evil."

When Bishop Winter died, the oppressed in Namibia and Ireland lost a friend. He will not be mourned by the high and the mighty, but freedom fighters can draw strength from this witness.

Cork arrests

SINN FEIN president Ruairi O Bradaigh has condemned the arrest of two Sinn Féin activists in County Cork.

He said: "The first response of the Coalition administration to the increased involvement by Sinn Féin on political action, as decided by the recent ard theils, has been the arrest of two prominent Sinn Féin members on ridiculous charges."

"Gearoid MacCarthaigh of Cork city, veteran republican and until recently Comhairle na Mumhan representative on the ard comhairle of Sinn Féin, is charged with incitement in the course of a speech made last June at the height of the H-Block hunger-strike, and immediately following the success of H-Block prisoners in the general election."

"Kenneth O Cinnéide, of Cobh, has joined him in Portlaoine prison charged with possession of a poster which has been on free public sale for some time now, and which decorates the abodes of many young people at this time."

"Kenneth O Cinnéide is aged twenty and is full-time organiser for Sinn Féin in Munster for over a year now. He was very active in Southern constituencies in the general election and also in the Bobby Sands and Owen Carron by-elections in Fermanagh and South Tyrone."

"Dr. FitzGerald has not delayed long following his recent meeting with Mrs. Thatcher and his acknowledgement of the British guarantee of unionist power and privilege in the six counties. Sinn Féin is the first victim of the new and closer collaboration with the English ruling class."

Well-received

A well-received tour of Mexico and Nicaragua was completed last month by former blanket man Kieran Nugent and Tom Hartley of the Sinn Féin ard comhairle.

The Mexican tour was at the invitation of the Comité San Patricio Battalion, a solidarity group named after an Irish contingent which fought alongside Mexican republicans in the 1847 war.

The two Belfast republicans were given rapturous welcomes at the public meetings they addressed and gave many television radio and press interviews during their stay.

They also met representatives of revolutionary organisations from El Salvador, Guatemala, Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Peru, and were guests-of-honour at an international conference of Latin and Central American support groups.

Nugent and Hartley also visited Nicaragua, this time at the invitation of the revolutionary government there, which in 1979 overthrew the Somoza dictatorship. They held several press conferences and public meetings there and in discussions with leaders of youth, women and trade union organisations learnt of the intense acclaim for the ten dead hunger-strikers felt in Nicaragua.

CANADA

Former Armagh prisoner Sile Darragh is still on tour in Canada and Quebec.

On Monday 16th November she appeared on the high-rating 'Women of Today' programme on Quebec television. The following day she held a well-attended press conference in Ottawa and on Thursday 19th November addressed three hundred delegates at the annual conference of CEQ, the French teachers' union.

On Friday 20th November she spoke to an audience attending a showing of the film 'The Patriot Game', and on the following Sunday addressed a public meeting in Toronto.

On Monday 23rd November she was interviewed on CBC television and gave two press interviews. On Tuesday 24th November she met with officials of the Canadian Federation of Labour, and later was interviewed by CBC radio.

STATES

In the United States there have been recent protests at the tour of the British army Coldstream Guards and the Royal Scots Dragons at the venues of their visits in Arizona and San Diego, California.

Demonstrators also greeted the British ambassador to the United States on a

SHOW OF LOYALISTS

But visible divisions wear

BY PETER ARNLIS

AS THE Third Force, a fascist-like movement loyal to Paisleyism, openly emerges in the North, loyalists remain politically divided despite the opportunity for uniting after the IRA execution of loyalist leader Robert Bradford, two weeks ago.

And, although the issues which divide them — ultimate goals, means of achieving them, and personality clashes — provide considerable obstacles to their unity, any serious crisis initiated by Ian Paisley's Third Force could soon become a popular rallying-point because of the way this new paramilitary organisation is viewed by the loyalist people.

Loyalists, frustrated by the inability of the British government to defeat the IRA, suspicious of the London/Dublin talks, and anxious for the return of Stormont, have been given an outlet and leadership-of-sorts by Paisley, the Lundy-spotter.

This Third Force has exhibited what it says are legal firearms, but in a way which a British high court, concerning a separate case, last Tuesday, ruled as 'illegal'.

The Third Force threatens to carry those arms on patrols, seal off areas, and man checkpoints 'to defend loyalists against IRA attacks'. But in practice such patrols would come into conflict with innocent nationalist people, and their uncurtailed recruitment and military marching is a first step towards asserting by force Paisley's emerging political goal — an independent six counties — should his demands be resisted by the British government.

SYMPATHY

RUC and UDR sympathy for the Third Force has been clearly evident in recent weeks, but especially during last Monday's

loyalist day of action, which was originally planned by Paisley as a protest against the London/Dublin talks, but which after Bradford's death was linked to the 'security crisis' and was imposed by Paisley on other unionist parties, much to their resentment and with some rivalry.

The RUC and UDR have taken absolutely no steps against the 'illegal' activities of the Third Force: its road-blocking, street-barricading, marching in military formation (in Carrickfergus, New Buildings, and Desertmartin, last weekend), the wearing of hoods, masks and combat uniforms, and more seriously, its display of weapons.

Indeed, in Ballymena, on Monday, a hooded and uniformed loyalist (who later claimed to be a member of the proscribed UVF) was filmed chatting to and exchanging jokes with the driver and front-seat passenger in a UDR jeep which turned away from a road-block.

In Enniskillen, on Monday afternoon, the Fermanagh commander of the Third Force, Ivan Foster, a Free Presbyterian and member of the Paisleyite Democratic Unionist Party, boasted that the RUC had asked him to organise joint traffic patrols.

RUC Chief Superintendent Tom McGowan stated: 'We asked Mr. Foster to provide one or two stewards. This was to ensure that emergency vehicles, such as ambulances, could get through the cavalcade of vehicles.'

So, the RUC patrolled the town with hooded and uniformed loyalists who wore orange armbands bearing the insignia 'Ulster's

3rd Force: For God and these hooded civilian traffic and identity of travellers.

On Tuesday night, 100 members of the who marched in the district of Derry and masked out-of-UDR men in Furthermore, RUC Hermon, although receiving the end of other sections of managed to survive confidence from the Federation' by only to eight) on Thursday November 1981.

SPLIT

The loyalist split Force and where Paisley is going was all last weekend a on Monday, with bedfellows emerging.

There is a split Official Unionist Party differences between notably Harold Mcsided with the UDR Taylor 'to call support for Paisley between the rest of Unionist Party (O Democratic Unionists between McCusker and between the churches and the DUP.

It now appears that Unionists, who were third force before played his Third different conception and composition of

Their really turn network of radio co between loyalist RUC men living border. They also gather intelligence surveillance, the re would be passed forces.

If it sounds because the Official just that: they refused, feel uncomfortable of 'rebels', are by their aristocratic bringing (if not by interests), do loyalty and respect of law emanating minister.

For example, four hours after setting-up of almittees to carry on of local government with the ostrac British direct-ruler Castle, the DUP Molyneux, and He broke the boycott saw direct-ruler the heads of the R army at Hillsborough.

They had a meeting and issued interpretations to the value of the neaux also repeated a postponement day of action was



● The Orange monster himself, a dangerous buffoon whose evil influence increasingly infects unionist ranks as he accurately voices their fears of British expediency leading to the undermining of their guaranteed ascendancy



● Paisley and his supporters on the road to Stormont — in more ways than one if they have their way

STRENGTH

When enemy camp

God and Ulster',
men stopped
checked the
night, several hun-
in the Waterside
RUC chief Jack
subsequently
employment from
of the RUC,
RUC Police
one vote (nine
Thursday week,

roped them into. McCusker described the meeting as 'a waste of time' and used it to confirm loyalist suspicions that the British administration lacked the will to defeat the IRA.

DIFFERENCES

The differences between the Official Unionists, the UDA, and Paisley's Democratic Unionists are as follows:

Generally speaking, the OUP are suspicious of Paisley (he is also a political threat to them) and feel that he is out to break the Union and secretly wishes to declare himself head of an independent six-county state.

The OUP feel that the defeat of the IRA can be achieved by the crown forces, but only if 'the handcuffs' (political restrictions) are taken off them (that is, they would like to see more military repression of the nationalist people). If the British government does not 'defend' them, then they see themselves entitled to set up a third force, which is really a threat aimed at putting political pressure on the British government to exercise more military repression.

It is because they are unionists that they do not wish to stray any further into 'sinister' activities which could jeopardise the Union. They fear too that the London/Dublin talks could lead to a degree of Free State involvement in Northern affairs, but they are more inclined to accept assurances given by the British government (like those from Prior and Thatcher last Tuesday) that the Union is not under threat, than is Paisley.

MCCUSKER

However, two natural contenders for the Official Unionist leadership, Harold McCusker and John Taylor, had different attitudes towards last Monday's day of action (for 'day of in-action' as a 'Guardian' newspaper correspondent noted wryly). Taylor was overwhelmingly enthusiastic about it, but McCusker and the rest of the OUP organised separate protests, mostly at cenotaphs around the six counties, of short duration, which would not upset industry or commerce or damage the economy.

And, on Saturday, at a symposium in an east Belfast hotel to discuss loyalist unity, Taylor remained behind when McCusker and two other Official Unionist representatives stormed out after being insulted by Johnny McQuade of the DUP who ordered McCusker to sit at the top of the table beside Paisley! (The extent of this united front, whose object is the return of a loyalist government for Stormont, will be gauged from the meeting to be held in Derry this Saturday.)

While McCusker is very alert and articulate, and represents Official Unionist interests, he sided with the UDA, and made a guest appearance speaking at a rally they organised at the Belfast

shipyard, when they were forced to abandon the 'neutral' stance they had originally adopted with regard to Monday's protests.

In television interviews McCusker hinted that loyalists, if 'forced out' of the Union would have to set up an independent six-county state.

UDA

The UDA's disagreement with Paisley is a consequence of their bad experience with him during the attempted general strike of May 1977. They felt that he used them and then abandoned them.

They also claim that they are the third force needed to defend loyalist interests and they have already declared themselves in favour of an independent six counties. They cynically viewed last Monday's day of action as the activities of the Grand Old Duke of York and were only prepared to back it fully if Paisley was prepared to commit himself to more thorough and meaningful protests and form a co-ordinated united front, which they doubt.

PAISLEY

Paisley's position on the third force is a step or two ahead of McCusker's. He believes, or more accurately, says he believes, that 'the handcuffs' on the hands of the crown forces have been placed there deliberately by the British government 'which shares the same goals as the IRA — a united Ireland'!

The suggestion is preposterous, but strikes a responsive chord in the hearts of loyalists because it explains why not enough republicans are being hanged or shot, or tortured in Castlereagh.

So, runs Paisley's argument, the loyalists must defend themselves with those weapons they possess — so far — within the law.

They must resist the 'sell-out' — the London/Dublin talks — and the IRA, and if they fail to persuade the British government then they must have an independent North to protect their sectarian privileges.

It was on last Sunday's ITV 'Weekend World' that Paisley

declared that this was his strategy. Monday, he said, was "only the overture — the orchestra has yet to come... We have a lot of very serious weapons which, please God, we will not have to use."

MOBILISE

Before Monday it appeared as if Paisley's day of action was collapsing but in the end he managed to mobilise many thousands of loyalists, and thousands more took part in rival demonstrations, although the total turnout was not as impressive as everyone was hyped-up for.

When no shots were fired in Newtownards square on Monday night, at the conclusion of the demonstrations, the day of action had some of the characteristics of a spitting quib which failed to explode.

Businessmen, industrial chiefs, trade union leaders, shop stewards in Harland and Wolff, the Official Unionist Party, the UDA and the Protestant Irish Council of Churches, were all opposed to the half-day stoppage. But in the end, the loyalists who participated in most of the rival Official Unionist protests, stayed out of work and went on to Paisley's demonstrations.

Last Saturday, two days before the half-day stoppage, several more loyalist organisations, including the Ulster Loyalist Central Co-ordinating Committee (the umbrella grouping for the paramilitaries), had decided to protest in some form in attempting to upstage Paisley, but implicitly this added to Paisley's mobilisation.

CENOTAPH

Loyalist disunity was publicly evident at the Official Unionist meeting at the cenotaph in Belfast, which Paisley barged in on.

The fear of the Official Unionists that Paisley's flamboyance and political extravagance actually damages the unionist image abroad and weakens the tolerance of the British people, was expressed by one speaker, Mr. R. McCartney, a Belfast lawyer, after someone from the crowd suddenly sprang to the



● The Paisleyite throng at Belfast's city hall on Monday far outnumbered those at an earlier Official Unionist gathering, which Paisley muscled in on

microphone and harangued both parties for being divided.

Paisley muscled in, grabbed the microphone from McCartney and, to loud cheers, repudiated his accusations.

There were protests in about fifteen other towns and villages and the climax was the Newtownards rally in County Down on Monday night. There were major media discrepancies in assessing how many participated in the rally and how many uniformed members of the Third Force were marched by Paisley into the square.

The 'Irish Times' estimated 7,000 uniformed men, the 'Irish News' said 15,000, and, strangely, the RUC said they never made an official count.

Paisley, wearing a Homburg hat like Ed Carson's, marched his men into the square and they formed into ranks.

Screaming hysterically, he declared: "There is one army that the republicans and every other person who is our enemy fear, and that is an army of armed, determined and resolute Protestants... We demand that the IRA have got to be exterminated from Ulster," and he said that the presence of the Third Force would be firstly to "give defence to the defenceless and to give confidence to those who have lost hope."

He said they would protect loyalists on the border and called for recruitment to a hundred-thousand-strong paramilitary army.

HOSTILE

British press reaction, and presumably public opinion, has been extremely hostile to Paisley in this last week. Writing in the 'Sunday Times' last weekend, Hugo Young, political editor, wrote:

"Mr Paisley is not a friend, He is a hater..."

"We pay a price for giving Mr. Paisley our support. He is allowed to revile us, but we must go through fire for him. We sacrifice our soldiers, in a war no soldier believes he can win. We spend our treasury and distort our economy for the sake of a province which

Mr. Paisley and his people refuse to allow to be governed democratically, sharing power between all its citizens."

Young continued: "Ranting at his meetings, using the Union Jack as tablecloth, he exudes about the same degree of loyalty as the National Front... Every time Mr. Paisley appears on TV... radical questions can hardly avoid being asked in kitchens, drawing rooms and pubs, up and down the country."

Tuesday's 'Guardian' newspaper had another major attack on Paisley, one of the repeatable comments being: "This egregious bore gives the church the worst name since John Knox."

REPRESSION

The British government's immediate reaction to the presumably growing loyalist crisis has been to step up repression — over fifty arrests were made in dawn swoops in nationalist areas, six hundred paratroopers were drafted in, there were raids in Ardoyne, Clonard, and Twinbrook, in Belfast, and Donagh in County Fermanagh was practically curfewed for two days.

But the British premier, Margaret Thatcher, and Northern direct-ruler, James Prior, have both repeatedly stated that the Union is not under threat and could never be unless the loyalists themselves wanted it changed.

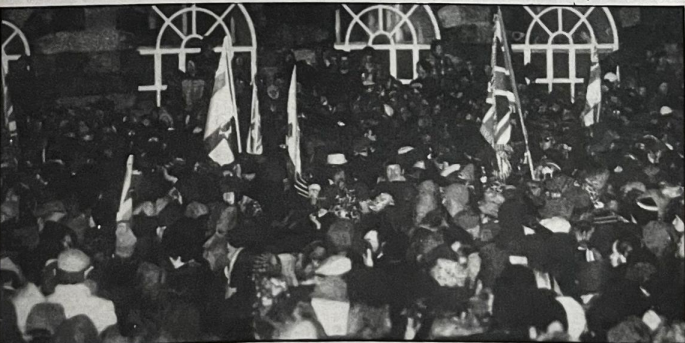
More worrying has been the way the British government has now begun to twist the loyalist crisis to secure more cross-border collaboration from the Free State authorities.

The nationalist people, under threat of death by loyalist sectarian assassination squads, under threat of self-excommunication from the Catholic church if they support the IRA, under repression from crown forces, will soon be witnessing increased repression of their republican supporters in the twenty-six counties.

Assuring the loyalists, Prior, speaking in Westminster on Thursday week, said: "Some people have got the wrong impression from these talks. We can't better security co-operation on the border or on economic matters without agreement."

Whitehall sources have begun emphasising Dublin's need to appreciate the British government's predicament by stepping up border collaboration in order to placate loyalist fears.

Even before the execution of Robert Bradford, and before the inability of the British to defeat the IRA produced the present crisis, the Free State government under FitzGerald had mounted an increasing campaign of harassment of republicans, coupled with a propaganda offensive misrepresenting the aims and the objects of the Republican Movement, as if the Free State government was preparing for an attack on republican organisations.



● The paramilitary Third Force openly parade in Newtownards square without a hint of hindrance from the British army or RUC, the supposedly impartial forces of 'law and order'

DERRY CHRISTMAS POST

ONCE again Derry Sinn Fein will be operating its own Christmas postal system: for a fee of 8p each, Christmas cards or letters will be delivered anywhere in Derry city.

The service will operate from December 11th until December 21st at the Sinn Fein centres: at Creggan shops in Central Drive; at Shantallow shops; in the Waterside at 19 Corrody Road; and at the newly-opened Republican Information Centre in the Bogside at 15 Cable Street, to where cards and letters from out-of-town should be sent with 8p enclosed for each item.

A special set of ten stamps has been produced featuring the faces of each of the dead H-Block hunger-strikers. Special gift packs of a set of ten stamped envelopes, plain or franked, are available from the centres.

Any enquiries, contact the Cable Street centre, telephone Derry 68926.

HOME-MADE LEATHER WORK

HOME-MADE leather work — handbags, wallets, purses, belts, etc. — is available from 'Conhar', the Derry Co-operative Association, 17 Waterloo Street, Derry, telephone Derry 67474.

NEW ROSS SINN FEIN

AT the annual general meeting of the Michael O Hanrahan Sinn Fein cumann, New Ross, County Wexford, the following officers were elected: chairperson: Mick O'Reilly; vice-chair: Mrs. M. Hayden; runner: Pat Walsh; youth: Danny McPhillips; education: Helen Gannon; and PRO: Jim O'Dwyer.

SPONSORED SWIM

THE annual sponsored swim, at noon on Christmas day, in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach, will take place as usual at the Third Lock on the Grand Canal in Dublin. Organised by the Inchicore-based Robert Emmet Sinn Fein cumann, the event raised over £1,400 in sponsorship last year.

The organisers of the swim believe that this figure can be greatly increased and are appealing for more swimmers and more sponsors.

Further information, including sponsorship cards, can be obtained by contacting the cumann at 44 Parnell Sq., Dublin 1. Tel: 747611

BALLYFERMOT SINN FEIN

AT the annual general meeting of the James Connolly Sinn Fein cumann, Ballyfermot, Dublin, the following officers were elected: — chairperson: Mick Quinlan; and secretary: Willie Carey.

CASTLEBLAYNEY SINN FEIN

AT the annual general meeting of the John Green Sinn Fein cumann in Castleblayney, County Monaghan, the following officers were elected: chair: George Poyntz; vice-chair: Thomas Donaghy; secretary: Jackie Crowe; treasurer: Frankie Poyntz; PRO: Ciaran McConville; delegates to comhairle ceantair: Jackie Crowe and Frankie Poyntz.

Votes of sympathy were passed with the relatives of the ten dead hunger-strikers and of the late Frank Driver.

DUNGARVAN SINN FEIN

A NEW Sinn Fein cumann has been formed in Dungarvan, County Waterford.

Anyone interested in joining Sinn Fein in the area should contact Michael Whelan, Ella Walsh, Jim Kiely or Denis Crotty; or the Sinn Fein head office, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Tel: 726932.

Join Sinn Fein

ANYONE interested in joining Sinn Fein 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 Fein.

NAME

ADDRESS

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The background to the sorry tale of Viyella

Derry shirt factory shut down resisted

BY TERRY O'DOHERTY

"I'm frightened of the future. At my age where will I get another job?"

These words, spoken by an employee of the Viyella shirt factory at Bligh's Lane in Derry, sum up the despair and fear felt by all the 310 workers recently made redundant by the massive Carrington-Viyella group.

An examination of the background to the closure and the history of the company reveals many unsavoury details and provides a vivid example of the weakness of trade unions and the strength of unscrupulous foreign-based managements in the six counties.

In June 1971, Carrington-Viyella (its major shareholder is ICI with nearly 50%) took over William Hollins and Co. Ltd. in Derry, and a year later the name was changed to Rocola Shirts Ltd.

In 1979 the Rocola label was transferred to Peter England Ltd., another Carrington-Viyella subsidiary, and Rocola Shirts began to produce the Viyella brand, a less up-market product.

During its years in Derry the Hollins/Rocola enterprise was typical of outside capital in a dependent economy. The workers were poorly paid, conditions were bad, and little or no assistance was received from the trade unions.

Earlier this year the factory introduced a two-day week, but from September full working was restored plus an element of overtime. In addition, management, while not advertising posts, recruited extra workers during August and September. No hint of closure there.

In fact, the current president of Carrington-Viyella, a Mr. Leonard Regan, had claimed in March '80 that "the successful parts of the group like the *Dorma Bed Linen*, *Van Heusen* and *Rocola Shirts*, will get the lion's share of new spending."

BOMBSHELL

On Friday 30th October the workers were told bluntly that there was only two days work left and that everyone put out would be paid guaranteed minimum payments. This bombshell created an immediate militancy among the workers who demanded that the union become more active, and a sit-in was organised and the factory occupied.

In the days that followed, a series of meetings were held between management, union, and workers.

The chief personnel officer, a Mr. Page, arrived from England. The local management admitted that there had been no loss of production and that they were satisfied, but Mr. Page stated that the factory was no longer viable, that there was no market nor future for Viyella Shirts, and so the workers were now redundant.

Since then there has been stalemate. The workers still occupy the factory, but this is a purely defensive measure, and will probably peter out through frustration and lack of achievement.

The question of redundancy and severance payment is still not resolved, and there are indications that the company may renege on previous promises. This unsettled



● Militant women workers faced with redundancy occupy the Viyella shirt factory, whilst (inset, above) factory gate pickets are mounted in their support

situation can only further embitter the workers.

At a meeting held on Wednesday week, November 18th, the workers decided to maintain their sit-in for another two weeks, pending an investigation into the possibility of an order for one million (military) shirts from Iraq.

The Department of Commerce is involved in this scheme but details are vague as yet, and even assuming that such an order materialised the workforce would be much reduced for such a temporary order.

The workers are determined that the factory should not close and have even discussed a re-training programme whereby Carrington-Viyella might introduce a new product or products from one of their subsidiaries.

There is confusion among the workers. Many, so militant in other ways, in H-Block protests, etc., are now apathetic and willing to accept redundancy because there's nothing else they feel that they can do.

Others will continue to sit-in, not because of any future plan, but merely to ensure that Carrington-Viyella do not do a fly-by-night operation with the machinery.

Some have discussed the feasibility of taking control of the plant and operating on a co-operative basis, but the role of co-ops in today's capitalist economy require much investigation, and few are optimistic about this possibility.

One adverse spin-off from the whole sorry tale of Viyella is that because of the higher productivity of Viyella workers, the management in other local factories can threaten their workers with replacement by more productive workers. This has already happened, and with the latest announcement of short-time work at Peter England Ltd., another Carrington-Viyella subsidiary, management is in the driving seat in Derry's shirt factories.

AFRICA

While Carrington-Viyella cries poverty, the fact emerges that the group has a subsidiary in South Africa, Gelynor Textiles Ltd., which according to the Carrington-Viyella report in 1981 showed record results and 'further increased its capacity during 1980'. Naturally, details of wages and conditions of African workers employed by Gelynor Textiles are not read-

ily available.

It is apparent that with the deepening world-wide economic crisis and the collapse of profitability more and more multi-nationals are investing abroad, and specifically in colonised lands. South Africa is the prime example. Trade union rights and political rights are non-existent. The workers receive starvation wages and are held in check by all the racist structures of apartheid.

Imperialist investment in South Africa has a two-fold purpose — primarily it ensures an extremely high level of profit and secondly it is used to crush any worker resistance in Ireland and Europe. More and more redundancies are unwillingly accepted in face of the continued threat to close whole operations.

UNIONS

Ironically, while the black South African has no union rights, the Northern Irish workers have unions so reformist that they are in essence mere extensions of management.

Viyella workers feel disillusioned by the role of the union, not only during the closure, but throughout the history of the factory.

During the years there had been many disputes which ended in compromise, usually favouring the management. Strikes were virtually unknown and any that did occur were unofficial and lasted a day or two — gestures rather than meaningful action.

Some of the workers feel that the unions were merely, or meekly, accepting the 'reality' of the situation — fall into line or the plant will close, was the management's stance. Of course, for a union to adopt such a defeatist attitude demoralises the more militant workers and even in reformist trade union terms is an indefensible position to adopt.

Curiously, the workers belong to the Dublin-based ITGWU, yet its leadership have remained silent on the Viyella closure. Perhaps a tacit acceptance on their part of the partition of this country and their underlying fear of being involved in a six-county workers struggle.

Since the closure, the local union representatives have been quite loud in their protests, but, when there was no talk of closure in the past, these same union rep-

were conspicuous by their refusal to sanction the least acts of militancy among the workers.

PRODUCTIVITY

During the 'seventies, when, as part of the 're-organisation' of industry, productivity schemes were introduced after many ruthless time-and-motion studies, there was little reaction from the union. Re-organised production processes and method study were 'de-skilling' jobs and putting increasing pressure on workers to match targets determined by the capacity of machines. On many an occasion workers fled the factory in tears because of this enormous stress.

Workers had to be 'persuaded' — coerced — to produce more for wages that did not increase proportionately, or the number of jobs would have had to be cut. The stark choice for Viyella workers was redundancies or productivity agreements, and still no union militancy.

One interesting side-line was the psychological methods employed by the management time-and-motion study teams. In a factory predominantly female the company deliberately employed presentable 'handsome' young men in these teams. There is something inherently distasteful in the blatantly sexist management view of its workers and workers' complaints on this issue should have been pursued by the union.

LESSON

The lesson to be gained from the history of trade unionism in Viyella is that the union, unless it is militant and united, cannot defend workers' rights in an isolated dependent economy like that in the North of Ireland.

Irish workers will always be the first to suffer when foreign-based companies decide to spread capital elsewhere or cut back on loss-making concerns.

And here we have the crux of the matter.

Unless we establish a socialist republic in Ireland, and take control of the means of production, Irish workers will continue to be exploited by the multi-nationals whose ultimate objective is to increase profit regardless of the requirements of any particular national economy, or of their work-

Burke's at the back

BY KEVIN BURKE

IT IS a strongly held belief that all this talk of nuclear weapons, short-range weapons, limited nuclear war, neutron bombs, coupled with regular civil defence exercises of pretend nuclear wars, is all leading to a psychological acceptance of the day when some lunatic world-leader will no longer be able to resist the temptation of seeing his monstrously expensive weapons in action.

I must admit, however, that I was surprised the other day to come across a magazine entitled: 'Protect and Survive Monthly' — your guide to surviving a nuclear war.

This magazine, now into eleven issues, carries adverts from a variety of British companies who apparently are making a comfortable living from building and selling nuclear shelters 'for the home' at anything from a couple of thousand pounds upwards. And there appears to be several firms in the business.

Other adverts offer such items as long-life food packs, radiation meters and respirators. We are also invited to join the 'Survivors Wine Club' and wear a 'Survivors Tie'.

Articles in the magazine advise on how to transform your cellar into a shelter, how to calculate 'blast over-pressure and calculated distance from detonation' by a new improved formula, and 'vermin control' in post-nuclear days.

It certainly seems to be a mushrooming industry.

There was probably something of a guilt complex involved in the outrage in the British newspapers over Waddingtons' latest Christmas game for the kiddies — 'Bombshell' — the explosively funny game.

The mind that thought up the undoubtedly sick idea is too easily identified as the mind of British 'public opinion' which cares almost as little about the squaddie in the North as it does about that squaddie's victims.

The game, which your intrepid reporter snatched from the shelves minutes before the rest were withdrawn from sale in Dublin, involves four 'brave but bungling soldiers' who are trying to defuse an unexploded bomb. The soldiers go by the names of Major Disaster, Sergeant Jimmy Jitters, Private Tommy Twitters and Piper Willy Fumble.

Players turn the top of the bomb one at a time until it springs off. When this happens, the unlucky player has to put a bandage on his soldier, after four errors the soldier is dead. The survivor wins.

A bizarre and as yet unexplained occurrence happened last Sunday in Limavady, County Derry, as Derry Templemore Ards team lined up for a soccer match against Coolagh United. Three minutes into the game, a UDR patrol marched onto the pitch and

Being prepared



● Guaranteed excitement in this pack, according to Waddingtons. The mind that thought up the undoubtedly sick idea is too easily identified as the mind of British 'public opinion' which cares almost as little about the squaddie in the North as it does about that squaddie's victims

arrested ten of the Templemore Ards players and took them to Fort George army base in Derry still in their football kit. Two hours later they were released.

Reports that Coolagh United won the match 75-0 have been denied and the teams have in fact arranged a re-match.

To the impartial observer, I have little doubt that Paisley's 'Third Force' rally in Newtownards last Monday night was an intimidating experience. Certainly I did not feel too comfortable watching RTE's repeated live coverage throughout their news bulletin.

But journalists on the scene, who were indeed threatened by the crowd on several occasions seem to have given unusually wild estimates of both total attendance and 'Third Force' marchers.

The 'News Letter' reported 18,000 present and 5,000 marchers. The 'Irish News' said 15,000 marched and that Paisley claimed

20,000 marchers. The 'Guardian' said 4,000 marched. The 'Irish Times' headline claimed 7,000 'Third Force' marchers, but contradicted itself immediately in the first sentence of the report by giving the same figure for the total of marchers and onlookers at the rally.

RTE at first said 10,000 marched but quickly corrected itself to 1,000. The 'Irish Independent' said 10,000 marched but reported Paisley as claiming only 13,000.

The 'Irish Press' was in total confusion, it said on its front page that 5,000 marched and the square was filled by the 'Third Force'. Paisley, reported the 'Press', had claimed 20,000 marchers. But in the editorial on the inside pages the 'Irish Press' claimed that only 1,000 marched and that 'the square was at least half-empty'.

Which all goes to show that you cannot always believe what you read in the papers. (Except if you read it here, of course.)

But it makes you think what the effect of the same level of publicity for the massive hunger-strike rallies could have been.

Cause for concern

THE medical condition of Irish political prisoner Patrick Hill — twenty-six days on hunger-strike last Wednesday — has begun to give cause for concern, resulting in his being transferred to the prison hospital at Albany jail in the Isle of Wight.

Thirty-two-year-old Patrick Hill, a native of Ardoyne in north Belfast but who had been living in Birmingham for many years prior to his arrest, commenced his hunger-strike on October 31st, when a fellow political prisoner, Gerard Hunter, was refused leave by the British House of Lords to sue the policemen who tortured confessions out of six Irishmen, including Hill and Hunter, in November 1974.

Patrick Hill, in a statement outlining his reasons, said that he felt there was now no channel open to him other than to commence a hunger-strike.

He was one of six men arrested and tortured in November 1974 following the Birmingham pub bombings, principally on the basis of forensic evidence which suggested he had been in contact with explosives.

However, despite the evidence of

Woolwich Arsenal forensic scientist, John Yallop — at their trial — that the forensic test (which he had originated himself) had been incorrectly carried out and by a junior laboratory technician, and by a junior laboratory last year that despite his public avowal last year that the same results could have been obtained by proximity to cigarette smoke, moves to have the case re-opened were unsuccessful.

For not only would such a re-opening expose the brutal maltreatment employed by the police to obtain confessions against the 'Birmingham Six', and the subsequent beatings they suffered while on remand, but it could also expose the massive, cynical frame-up which convicted the men, including Patrick Hill, who were uninvolved in the Birmingham bombings — in the same way as several other Irishmen in British jails are there solely on the basis of frame-ups and tortured confessions.



● Hunger-striker Patrick Hill

WHAT'S ON

BALLAD SESSION
Christy Moore and guests
Friday 27th November
Sunnybank Inn
BRAY
Admission £2.50

FUND-RAISING SOCIAL
Saturday 28th November
Kevin Barry Club
44 Parnell Square
DUBLIN
Admission £1
Organised by Henry Heaney
Sinn Féin cummáin, Crumlin

DANCE
Saturday 28th November
Horseshoe Inn
Ballindrait
LIFFORD
Co. Donegal
Admission £2
Organised by Sinn Féin

SINN FEIN MEETING
COMHAIRLE CUIGE CONNACHT
Annual General Meeting
2.30 p.m. Sunday 29th November
Percy French Hotel
STROKESTOWN
Co. Roscommon
Each cummáin to send two delegates

SINN FEIN MEETING
COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHEAN
Annual General Meeting
2.30 p.m. Sunday 29th November
West County Hotel
Chapelizod
DUBLIN
All Sinn Féin cummáin in Leinster must send two delegates

FUND-RAISING SOCIAL
Sunday 29th November
No. 5 Blessington Street,
DUBLIN
Organised by Jim Bryson
Sinn Féin cummáin

STRIKERS' BENEFIT CONCERT
Featuring Christy Moore
and local artists
8.30 p.m. Thursday 3rd December
The Lavens
Ballyfermot
DUBLIN
Admission £2

45 CARD DRIVE
9 p.m. every Thursday
European Hotel
COBH
Co. Cork
Organised by
H-Block/Armagh Committee

KEVIN BARRY CLUB
now open
8 p.m. to midnight
every Sunday
44 Parnell Square
DUBLIN

SINN FEIN MEETING
COMHAIRLE CUIGE MUMHAN
2 p.m. Sunday 6th December
NENAGH
Co. Tipperary
Each cummáin to send two delegates

SUPPER DANCE
Music by Black Magic
10 p.m. — 2 a.m.
Sunday 6th December
Three Ways Motel
LETTERKENNY
Co. Donegal
Tickets £3
Organised by
An Cumann Cabhrach

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring 'Brimmer' and guests
8 p.m. Thursday 10th December
Jonathan Swift's
New Street
DUBLIN
Organised by Prisoners' Dependents Fund

IRISH SOLIDARITY
MARCH & RALLY
11.30 a.m. Saturday 12th December
Assemble Roystonhill
GLASGOW
Scotland

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT MARCH
2.30 p.m. Saturday 19th December
Assemble St. Stephen's Green
March to GPO
DUBLIN
Organised by
na Flanna Éireann

Dublin martyrs recalled

THE murder of three IRA Volunteers in Dublin castle on 'Bloody Sunday', November 21st 1920, was recalled at a short ceremony in Dublin's Finlaggins village last Saturday, November 21st.

The commemoration, attended by local members of Sinn Féin and na Fianna Éireann, took place at a memorial to one of the three, Dick McKee.

McKee, along with Peadar Clancy and Conor Clune, was shot dead after torture in Dublin castle on a day which had begun with the killing of fourteen British agents in Dublin, and in the afternoon, the shooting dead of thirteen people and the wounding of twenty more by the Black and Tans at a football match in Croke Park.

Dick McKee, at the time of his death, was commanding officer of the IRA's Dublin Brigade.

Born at Phibsboro Road in Dublin in 1893, he moved with his family to Finlaggins Bridge following the death of his father.

He joined the Volunteers in 1913 and fought under Thomas McDonagh in Jacob's factory in the 1916 Rising and afterwards was imprisoned in Knutsford jail and Frongoch camp. He later served a short term in Mountjoy before his appointment as the Dublin Brigade's O/C.

Peadar Clancy, McKee's deputy, was arrested along with him, the night before they were murdered, in a house in Gloucester Street, Dublin.

Clancy was born in Carrowreagh East, Cranny, County Clare in 1888. He went to work in Dublin in 1913 and joined the Volunteers.

In the 1916 Rising he fought in the Four Courts. He was afterwards sentenced to death, but this was commuted to penal servitude and he was released in the general amnesty of 1917.

Conor Clune was also arrested on Saturday night, November 20th 1920, in Vaughan's Hotel in Parnell Square which at the time was used as an IRA meeting place. He was in Dublin to see Piaras Beaslai, the IRA's director of publicity, having travelled there that day from County Clare.

Clune, born in Quin, County Clare, in 1893, had joined the Volunteers shortly after their inception and was active in the IRA's Clare Brigade during 1919 and 1920.

Dromintee veteran dies

THE death has occurred of veteran South Armagh republican Owen Grogan, in his seventy-seventh year. Owen Grogan was a legend in his own lifetime in the Dromintee area.

His funeral cortege - one of the largest ever in the parish - was led by a uniformed Fianna guard of honour. Local people carried the coffin in relays as the cortege wound its way along one-and-a-half miles of country lanes to the strains of a lament played by piper Donal Duffy.

The graveside oration was delivered by writer and historian Michael J. Murphy, who said:

"Owen Grogan, Volunteer of the 4th Northern Division of the Irish Republican Army, served his country faithfully during his lifetime and was a symbol of the unbroken link in the struggle for Irish freedom from the United Irishmen, the Fenians, and Padraig Pearse, right down to the present day.

"He was engaged in action at Dundalk barracks in 1922 and was one of the most fearless Volunteers of the time. However, many of his compatriots, he was eventually forced to flee, and he emigrated to America in 1927. Whilst there, he worked unceasingly with the Irish-American organisations.

"On his return from exile in 1950, he once more lifted Ireland's burden and began at once to re-organise the Dromintee area. He was instrumental in forming the Easter commemoration committee in the area, and was notable at the Easter commemorations for his reading of the 1916 Proclamation, a duty he fulfilled only last Easter.

"Working by every means possible for the good of the Republican Movement, he formed the Lochrie/Campbell Sinn Féin cumann and was a founder member of the Dromintee hunger-strike committee."

Michael J. Murphy concluded: "The seeds sown by Owen Grogan are ripening in the great upsurge of republicanism that is inspiring the youth of today."



REVIEW BY KEVIN BURKE

PRODUCING a high-quality quarterly magazine with limited resources both in contributors and finance, is a daunting task, and we have yet to see how the new republican magazine 'Iris', the second issue of which has just been produced, will develop as it faces the challenge.

The first issue of the magazine, which is edited by Eamonn McCrory, chairperson of Sinn Féin's Foreign Affairs Bureau which publishes 'Iris', came out last April and admirably faced the preliminary task of putting the current situation in the context of the past twelve years.

In doing so the first issue of the magazine was transformed into a useful handbook for republicans and for anyone interested in republicanism, but in particular for overseas solidarity groups, which, after all, must be a focus for the Foreign Affairs Bureau.

In the first editorial of the magazine we were promised for the future "a quarterly republican analysis of contemporary developments and events, as well as feature articles and general information." However the events of the period between the first and second issue have once again postponed that promise.

Inevitably, the workload imposed by the hunger-strike has meant a seven month gap between the first and second 'quarterly'. In that period the Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau undertook the major task of organising and stimulating international support for the hunger-strikers. In addition, Eamonn McCrory was intimately involved in Belfast in the campaign and for a few weeks stepped in as acting-editor of 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' during the brief hospitalisation of Danny Morrison.

SECOND

The second issue of 'Iris' then, takes up the task of covering the previous seven months and devotes the first fifty-six of its bulky one hundred and twenty pages to detailed coverage of the hunger-strike, including profiles of the ten dead hunger-strikers. The pressure of producing the extended edition shows somewhat in its production, but once again a valuable record of the hunger-strike period has been produced.

Elsewhere in the magazine there are interesting features detailing the carnage caused by plastic bullets a short look at the Sticky 'Sinn Féin the Workers' Party', and another at na Fianna Éireann.

'War News' from April to October is recorded and excellently illustrated, there are two book reviews, and short, perhaps superficial, articles on El Salvador and Angola. In addition there is a section on women in Ireland, which is made up of the reproduction of the Sinn Féin policy document - 'Women in the New Ireland' - and the excellent lecture on 'The oppression of women' by Rita O'Hare.

QUESTION

This material, representing presumably the



● 'Vote Sinn Féin' was the message plastered on the burnt-out shell of Bruree RIC barracks and courthouse, in County Limerick, one of hundreds of barracks destroyed by the IRA in the Tan War. This illustration introduces an article in the latest 'Iris' which provides a good history of republican election intervention until 1923 but inexplicably stops there

more 'normal' content of the magazine brings into question its future intentions.

The 'War News', of course, is already recorded weekly in 'An Phoblacht/Republican News', and the whole of the section on women has also previously been printed there, and indeed is available also in leaflet form. In fact the profiles of the hunger-strikers first appeared in extended form in 'AP/RN', which provided detailed coverage of manoeuvres around the hunger-strike each week.

Putting this together in easily accessible form is of course of value, but it is not providing the complement and contrast to 'AP/RN' by way of the more detailed 'republican analysis' which we might hope would not be afraid to examine or question some of the accepted republican policies or attitudes, or draw out republican policy in areas which are neglected.

ELECTIONS

The remaining section on 'Elections' may illustrate this point further.

It carries an interview with Owen Carron, MP, and a record of the election interventions and successes during the hunger-strike. There is also the previously published explanation from an IRA spokesman on the IRA attitude to elections in which he says: "There is fundamentally a need for republicans to bring about conditions whereby the Irish people may seize political and economic control of their own destinies."

"Whether this can be assisted by an intervention in the electoral process should be the basis for discussion within republican circles."

Such a discussion it would seem would be an excellent subject for 'Iris' to get its analytical teeth into. But here the article on 'Election Interventions' is a disappointment.

It provides a good history of such interventions to 1923, but inexplicably stops there,

shying away from an examination and explanation of Fianna Fáil, the Republican Congress, Clann na Poblachta, Sinn Féin election successes in the 'fifties North and South, and Sinn Féin local authority involvement since.

In this context a consideration of the philosophy of abstentionism would have been particularly interesting looking at Leinster House, Westminster and the EEC parliament and examining the different attitudes to each.

And in regard to present local representatives, and future electoral strategy, an examination of whether the clientelism of the established parties is the correct attitude or a new agitational approach as already outlined in Sinn Féin's social and economic policy is needed. The setting up of Sinn Féin advice centres, which have already, in some cases, adopted the unfortunate title of 'clinics' makes such a consideration particularly urgent.

It is disappointing, therefore, to find such an article, in a present-day republican publication, ending, like the history books, at the Civil War.

It would appear that, given the Foreign Affairs Bureau involvement, 'Iris' will continue to provide concise coverage, aimed at overseas readers, of current events, and as such is a valuable publication. But, given that resources only allow one magazine, it must at this early stage, as promised, begin to fulfill its other role of real analytical examination and development of republicanism's attitude to the widest possible range of subjects - a task currently more suited to a quarterly magazine than a weekly twelve-page newspaper.

We look forward then with interest to issue number three.

'Iris' is available from the Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, telephone 726932, or 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, telephone 23214, at £1.25 plus postage. Bulk rates are available on request.

ANNUAL SALE OF WORK

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Friday 4th, Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th December

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Commencing 4 p.m. Friday, open until 10 p.m. each night

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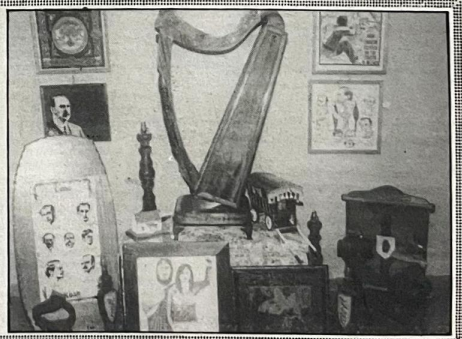
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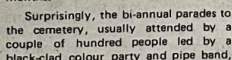
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Support the prisoners' dependants





Since that last march there have been efforts to clean the monument, but each time it has been daubed again with paint. It remains the only monument to Irish martyrs on English soil, now a reminder also of the mindless English reaction to Ireland which has always been the root of years of oppression.

MARLEY, Michael. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Fian Michael Marley, Belfast Brigade, na Fianna Eireann, who died on active service duty on November 24th 1973. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Always remembered by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee, Belfast.

Also, we gratefully thank all who organised and attended the function.

E5: 011, P. Starky; E5: 038, M. Wals
E5: 126, Mrs. Fitzmaurice; and E
066, C. Conway.

Also, we gratefully thank all who organised and attended the function.



TREACHEROUS TRIO LINE UP WITH THATCHER TO LASH IRA

THE Catholic hierarchy mounted a massive and vitriolic attack against the IRA on behalf of the British government, last weekend, just at the very time when maximum unity was most needed amongst the nationalist people in the North in the face of potential loyalist attack.

Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich, in Armagh on Friday evening; the Bishop of Derry, Dr. Edward Daly, in a pastoral letter read out in all churches of the diocese on Sunday; and Fr. Denis Faul, in a public statement, on the eve of loyalist leader Ian Paisley's sectarian day of reaction on Monday, all gave vent to uncalled-for viciously anti-republican and pro-British propaganda messages that Margaret Thatcher and her Tory henchmen must surely have loved to hear.

Meanwhile, the notoriously pro-British Fr. Anthony Mulvey of Melmount, Strabane, has called upon people to tout on the IRA and last Sunday he orchestrated in his own church an anti-republican stunt in the name of 'peace'.

All this, on the one hand, whilst, on the other hand, Protestant clergymen of all shades give full voice to grass-roots Protestant sectarianism, demanding the 'flushing out of republican enclaves' and 'capital punishment for republicans', loyalist code-phrases for 'search and destroy' operations in Catholic areas, and for killing Catholics.

Cardinal O Fiaich, last Friday in Armagh, directed his attention towards condemning the 'violence' of the IRA, apparently un-mindful of the much greater and unjustified British and loyalist violence against his own flock, and un-mindful that only the end of both the British presence and the loyalist ascendancy will bring permanent peace to this country.

The cardinal, worried by the obvious appeal of the IRA to the unemployed and idealistic young, said, "let priests and people unite to show the young that justice can be achieved through political means."

But as the cardinal himself well knows, both as a keen student of Irish history and of current affairs, the only 'political means' that the British understand, and that will free Ireland, are those employed by republicans: armed struggle plus mass mobilisation of the people.

Cardinal O Fiaich stated that participation, in, or substantial co-operation with, the deeds of the IRA is a 'mortal sin'. But, as a Sinn Féin spokesman pointed out, how can it be a mortal sin to fight for a just cause; surely it would be a mortal sin to stand idly by while injustice is done, and to refuse to live up to one's moral obligations?

HYPOCRITICAL

The Sinn Féin spokesman also pointed out that Cardinal O Fiaich's political speech was 'typically hypocritical'.

The spokesman said: "Cardinal O Fiaich watched as ten young men died on hunger-strike this year while all the time knowing in his heart where the real guilt lay. Rather, however, than publicly stand up to the British he cynically used his position to break the relatives and so end the hunger-strike."

"The suffering endured by the blanket men in the past, today, and in the future, is now as much his responsibility as it is those who devise and implement British penal policy."

The Sinn Féin spokesman went on: "As important, however, has been the deafening silence from Cardinal O Fiaich towards British atrocities and British misrule perpetrated in this country of ours."

"Eight people, including two young children, have been murdered, this year alone, by the British and RUC with plastic bullets."

"The British, through their presence in this country and their policies over the centuries and in recent years, have murdered tens of thousands of Irish men and women. The British, for example, continue to permit the UDA to remain legal, to train, organise, recruit, and murder."

"Few, if any, condemnations, have come from the Catholic hierarchy about these injustices and yet even opportunists like SDLP leader John Hume admit that the national liberation struggle is but a symptom of the disease, and that the disease is the British presence."

"Does commonsense not dictate that if the problems of our country are to be resolved that our attention should be directed at curing the disease?"

The IRA also condemned Cardinal O Fiaich's stance.

In a statement issued through the Irish



Dr. Edward Daly

Fr. Denis Faul

Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich

Hierarchy expose fear of republican progress

BY GERARD CRAWFORD

Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin, and signed by P. O'Neill, the IRA said:

"Many of our supporters have expressed disbelief in recent months at the stance of the Catholic hierarchy, especially over the hunger-strike and the violence of the RUC and British army."

"Once again Cardinal O Fiaich has issued a statement condemning the IRA — this time in the strongest terms possible. To put it plainly Cardinal O Fiaich, under pressure from Protestant churchmen, who have a political vested interest in the status quo, has capitulated and taken an expedient line."

"Of course the cardinal has thrown in condemnation of loyalist sectarian violence for good measure, but we ask him now, equally in the strongest terms possible, as we asked him without reply several weeks ago, how moral is the British occupation of Ireland and how moral were the plastic bullet killings of Carol-Anne Kelly and Julie Livingstone?"

"There is another important question which needs answering. Does Cardinal O Fiaich back up his statement by calling upon the nationalist people to inform to the British on their fellow Irish countrymen?"

DISHONEST

The most deliberately dishonest statement of the weekend barrage came — regrettably, but as might be expected these days — from Fr. Faul.

Echoing British and loyalist propaganda claims, Fr. Faul listed part-time UDR soldiers and RUC gunmen successfully ambushed recently by the IRA, slyly describing each one purely by their respective civilian occupations. He ridiculously characterised these enemy gunmen as 'innocent Protestant working class men', thus adding fuel to false claims that IRA operations against these British armed forces are sectarian attacks on the Protestant people.

Fr. Faul, in his attack on the IRA, again exposed his genuine fear of republican potential in the political arena, when he spoke of trying to take away the IRA's future, and described the IRA's claim to

represent Irish nationalist interests as 'phony'.

(Interestingly, more importantly, and in sharp contrast, on RTE's 'Today Tonight' television current affairs programme on Monday evening, Harold McCusker, soon to be leader of the Official Unionist Party, sharply pointed out to SDLP leader John Hume that if the Paisleyite-inspired scenario of an independent six counties does arise, then those whom the loyalists should negotiate with would be the British and Free State governments, and — not the SDLP — but the IRA, as was confirmed, McCusker added, by the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election results.)

INTERESTS

Fr. Faul warned that the IRA's armed campaign has nothing to do with the best interests of the Irish people, nor with justice for Catholics, without substantiating this unfounded allegation. But republicans are confident that judgement on this can best be left to the people concerned, without whose support the IRA would not be able to function and to flourish as it does today.

More to the point, what single act has the Catholic hierarchy carried out in the interests of the people in the last thirteen years of the 'troubles'? All we get is calls to lay down our arms, to get back down on our knees, and to call off the struggle.

Who have laid down their lives in defence of the people? Who are the modern-day martyrs?

This year there have been the ten selfless and dedicated H-Block martyrs whose motives not even Fr. Faul dare attack. This very week we remember with pride and honour three Derry Brigade IRA Volunteers, John Brady and James Carr, killed November 28th 1972, and Patsy Duffy, shot in the back on November 24th 1978; a North Armagh IRA Volunteer, Michael Crossley, killed November 22nd 1971; and Belfast Brigade Fian Michael Marley, killed November 24th 1973.

And then Fr. Faul has the impudence to impugn the motives and idealism of men who are prepared to sacrifice their lives on others' behalf: IRA Volunteers!

Dr. Edward Daly's outspoken and outrageous pastoral letter, last weekend, came the closest yet — in recent times — to the excommunication of IRA Volunteers.

Dr. Daly appears to have never heard of the Catholic concept of a 'just war', which this war of national liberation most certainly is. For in his selective and hypocritical condemnation of 'violence' — the IRA's physical force — Dr. Daly stated: "No member of our church can remain a member of our church and, at the same time, remain a member of any organisation that decides of its own accord to perpetrate cold-blooded murder as a central part of its strategy, whatever the motive, whatever the ideal."

One can be certain that this politically motivated and specifically directed message has not been communicated to the Catholic chaplains in the British army, nor to those to whom they minister.

As Dr. Daly himself pointed out: "This campaign (the IRA's campaign) has been condemned by the Holy Father, by cardinals, by bishops other than and as well as myself, by priests, and by members of our laity, so often that the vocabulary of moral condemnation has been virtually exhausted."

And all to no avail, because politics, especially the politics of fighting the Brits, rightly remains outside the realms of theology, according to the mass of the nationalist people.

The nationalist people are certainly wise enough to distinguish their political leaders from their religious mentors, and given the pro-British track record of the Catholic hierarchy, it is both just as well and hardly surprising.

Dr. Daly asked: from whom do the IRA derive their authority? An easily answered question: from the historical negation of democracy by the British, from the oppression suffered day and daily by the nationalist people, and from the popular support given to the IRA by the people, without whom it could not survive.

According to Dr. Daly: "A political solution to our problem is needed urgently, but that has to be sought and found through peaceful, non-violent means."

Again Dr. Daly, like Fr. Faul, reiterates a well-tried recipe for disaster and defeat. At the end of the day there is only one message the Brits understand and that — unfortunate as it may be — is delivered through the barrel of a gun. There is not a single example in Irish or world history that dictates otherwise.

TIRADES

These latest hypocritical anti-republican tirades by the Catholic hierarchy, spearheaded by the treacherous Fr. Faul, who in the past has masqueraded as a friend of the beleaguered nationalist people and their prisoners, appear to be primarily motivated by the — politically conscious and reactionary — hierarchy's fear that republican participation in the electoral sphere (as confirmed by Sinn Féin's recent and their decision to contest six-county local council elections) will undermine their political counterparts, the SDLP, and reinforce republicans as the true representatives of the nationalist people.

The Catholic hierarchy are correctly fearful that IRA-led progress towards a united independent Ireland prefaces their own rejection, together with that of the SDLP leadership, from the backs of the nationalist people, as the people throw off their conservative ideological chains in favour of radical working class republican socialist politics.

(Both the Catholic hierarchy and the SDLP leadership represent Catholic middle class opinion bent upon collaboration with, and servility to, the British, and the preservation of the political status quo and of capitalist stability.)

The Catholic hierarchy appear to have gained the false confidence to embark upon this latest assault on republicanism, directly opposing the physical force necessary to remove the British presence, because of their eventual success two months ago in undermining the H-Block hunger-strike through the cynical manipulation of distressed prisoners' relatives.

But the hierarchy will find to their cost that attempting to undermine the armed struggle waged by a confident IRA, with rejuvenated mass support behind it, against a backcloth of the everlasting contradictions of the sectarian six-county statelet (as currently manifested by Paisley's 'Third Force'), is a totally different task — the outcome of which will be their reduced influence amongst the nationalist people.