

# An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



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Annual Wolfe Tone Commemoration  
**Bodenstown**  
Assemble 2-30 Sallins, Sunday 20th June  
Guest speaker: Owen Carron

NATIONAL H-BLOCK/ARMAGH COMMITTEE  
**MEMORIAL PAGEANT**  
In honour of the ten hunger-strike martyrs  
by **Tomas MacAnna**  
8pm Friday 21st May, Liberty Hall, Dublin  
Memorial lecture: Owen Carron MP



## OUR TEN BRAVE MARTYRS

**HUNGER-STRIKE** commemorations in Ireland and internationally have evoked sadness at the thoughts of last year's sacrifices of epic proportions in the H-Blocks. Older people, born after the turbulent days of the Tan War and Civil War can recall no other similar days in this country, apart from Derry's Bloody Sunday in 1972, when the heart was wrenched out of Ireland; and young people have been left with the indelible memory, which time will not erase, of British hatefulness personified by Thatcher, and Free State treachery, of which there is no choice between FitzGerald and Haughey.

And people around the world have also continued to recall the first anniversaries of the deaths of the H-Block martyrs by holding commemoration ceremonies, exhibitions or protests, such as this one (see picture) in Dublin last Wednesday night.

Last Saturday over 1,000 demonstrators marched to the British Consulate in New York where a union jack and effigy of Margaret Thatcher, the mad maiden, were burned. And in Ireland, Britain and the continent, people from all walks of life have in one way or another recalled the stirring events of one year ago when ten young men laid down their lives for their principles, for the integrity of Irish independence, and to give the oppressed Irish people the strength and courage (and the inspiration of heroic sacrifice) to rise up against their masters.

The Republican Movement salutes those ten brave soldiers of the Irish cause whose moral conviction — and indeed the moral conviction necessary to all struggling, oppressed peoples — was captured so eloquently in 'The Rhythm of Time' by Bobby Sands:

*It is found in every light of hope,  
It knows no bounds nor space,  
It has risen in red and black and white,  
It is there in every race.*

*It lies in the hearts of heroes dead,  
It screams in tyrants' eyes,  
It has reached the peak of mountains high,  
It comes searing 'cross the skies.*

*It lights the dark of this prison cell,  
It thunders forth its might,  
It is 'the undaunted thought', my friend,  
That thought that says 'I'm right!'*



## Land trouble in Leitrim

TENSION has been mounting in recent weeks among small farmers in Leitrim and Sligo following the private sale of a 150-acre farm, the Dickson Estate, to a wealthy German land and property speculator, Tillman Anholt, despite local attempts to persuade the twenty-six counties Land Commission to acquire the land and distribute it among existing small landowners.

The farm land at Kinlough, County Leitrim, on the border with County Sligo, went up for sale following the death of its previous owner on March 10th. Local farmers with uneconomic small holdings immediately asked the Land Commission to step in and buy the farm and re-sell portions of it to the farmers to bring their holdings up to an economic level. Soon afterwards, however, they learned that the sale, of what is some of the best land in Leitrim, had gone through. This is only the latest of a series of swoops on land, lakes and fishing rights in the area by foreign speculators.

Intense local anger manifested itself straight away with a 300-strong petition to the Free State Minister of Agriculture, Ray McSharry, and a series of pickets of the farm by local people which were eventually breached by some workers under garda escort.

Since the protests began, however, the Land Commission have been forced to invoke a 'Section 40' order which forbids the land being used for any purpose until an investigation into the sale has taken place. Whether this results in justice for the hard pressed small farmers of Leitrim waits to be seen.

Leitrim comhairle ceantair of Sinn Féin has expressed full support for the stand taken by the Kinlough farmers whom it congratulates for intervening, when appeals to local Leinster House representatives fell on deaf ears. Sinn Féin spokesperson on agriculture, Joe Gallyogh, has warned local farmers not to be lulled by the invocation of Section 40 but to continue to seek an early guarantee from the Land Commission for redistribution.

## Monaghan killer in RUC

REPUBLICAN sources in Monaghan have named an RUC man as being responsible for the hit-and-run killings of two teenagers in the county on St Patrick's night, March 17th, last.

Fourteen-year-old Noel Reynor of Crevela, and 17-year-old Cathal McLarnon of Demashalloh, were walking along the road at Carrigan, just outside Emlyvale on the main Dublin-Derry road when they were struck by a car which sped across the border to the North.

The IRA have named the killer as 27-year-old Thomas Judson of 51 Grey's Lane, Belfast, and allege that he was armed, had spent the day in Monaghan, possibly gathering intelligence and that he drove back to the RUC/British army barracks in Aughnacloy, County Tyrone, after he knocked down the two teenagers. The IRA also state that other RUC 'spies' are allowed to travel in the area with the indulgences of the Free State authorities.

Judson has merely been charged with dangerous and drunken driving and his case is due to be heard on June 2nd. No reference has been made of the killings of the two teenagers, such is the extent of the collaboration and criminal cover-up between the gardai and the RUC.

## Monument damaged

THE republican monument on the Marsh Road in Drogheda has recently been slightly damaged by vandals. A number of railings surrounding the monument were broken off. The Bobby Sands cumann in Drogheda are presently carrying out an investigation into who was responsible for this action and one theory is that it was the work of political opponents in the area following the very successful display by the Republican Movement on Easter Sunday in Drogheda.

# The price of the 'Irish dimension'

BY HILDA McTHOMAS

A MINOR REVOLT of British Tory backbenchers, combined with dismal attendance from Labour MPs, did not manage to impede the second passage of Jim Prior's 'Devolution Bill' at Westminster on Monday, May 10th. Passed by 291 votes to 29, the Bill now faces the committee stage, and possible attempts at filibustering from those extreme right-wing Tories who unsuccessfully opposed the Bill's First Reading on April 20th, and Second Reading last Monday.

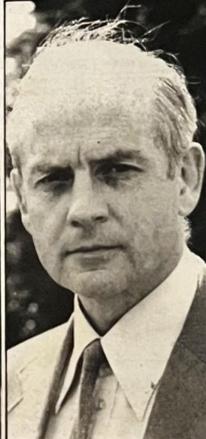
Of his proposed scheme, Jim Prior declared last Monday that there was "no better deal for the United Kingdom," seemingly the view of the vast majority of MPs that day. In spite of alarming noises from Free State and six-county commentators about a 'divided House of Commons', Monday's debate showed once more that British MPs, by and large, agree that devolution 'with a measure of cross-community agreement', is the quickest and safest way of getting rid of the so-called 'Northern Ireland problem' without giving away the six counties.

Vocal opposition to Jim Prior came from the ranks of his own party, namely the Tory backbench Northern Ireland Committee led by extreme right-winger John Biggs-Davidson, who ten years ago screamed for a return to the old Stormont, and now advocates 'total integration'. Three Tory MPs had resigned their front-bench positions in order to vote for an amendment opposing Jim Prior's Devolution Bill. On Saturday, May 8th, Nick Budgen resigned as Tory whip, followed on Monday by Peter Lloyd, private secretary to direct-line minister Adam Butler, and later by Lord Cranborne, a Tory parliamentary secretary. The amendment was backed by a total of 29 — 6 unionists and 23 of the most bellicose right-wingers in the British Tory Party, the latter less concerned with the future of Ireland than with the prospect of devolution being extended to Britain (that is, to Wales and Scotland at the expense of English hegemony).

Labour participation in the debate, like its attendance, was minimal. Don Concannon, Jim Prior's opposite number on the Labour shadow cabinet, announced that Labour would abstain from the vote, but would at a later stage push for changes in the 70% weighted



● JIM PRIOR



● JOHN ROBB



● SEAMUS MALLON

majority' and on the question of parliamentary co-operation with Dublin. Concannon, who helped build and fill the H-Blocks, and who last year paid a ghouliah visit to a dying Bobby Sands to remind him that his party did not support the prisoners' demands, showed once again on Monday that the Labour Party is committed to prop up partition, albeit with a few token gestures of appeasement to the SDLP.

### COMMITTEE

In the past weeks, SDLP leaders have engaged in intense lobbying of the British Labour Party, but failed to secure from them much more than abstention in last Monday's vote. Concannon announced, however, that his party would advocate the setting up of a special committee in the proposed assembly, with the task of liaising with Dublin — an idea which obviously emanates from the SDLP's participationist faction. Such a committee, if it ever came into being, would obviously become the SDLP's preserve, while allowing them to claim they have achieved some measure of 'Irish dimension'.

Eight thousand punts per annum of 'Irish dimension' was offered to SDLP deputy-leader Seamus Mallon on Monday, May 10th, by Free State premier Charles Haughey, in the form of a seat in the Dublin Senate. Dustbin for unseated Free State deputies, and a source of 'jobs for the boys', the Dublin Senate provided Haughey with the triple opportunity to appease the republican-minded among his followers by a demagogic gesture towards 'the North', reward some elements in the SDLP for their political co-operation, and remind

Thatcher that he could dabble in six-county politics even in the absence of any Anglo-Irish summit.

Another Haughey nomination to the Senate was Ballymonee surgeon John A. Robb, leader of a minute faction of anti-unionist Protestants called the New Ireland group, prolific writer of letters to the press and of pamphlets such as 'Sell Out or Opportunity' in October 1972, or 'Westminster Withdrawal' in July 1976, advocating a phased British withdrawal and co-operation between unionists and nationalists leading to some form of united Ireland.

Those two Senate appointments, that of Seamus Mallon, whose close links with the Dublin government are no secret, and of John Robb, probably the only Northern Protestant who could accept such a nomination, may, however, cause political stir in directions not expected by Haughey.

In a lengthy statement explaining why he accepted the seat, John Robb declared that he would use his position to call for a change in the Free State laws on divorce, contraception and extradition! As for Mallon's obscene rush to accept the seat, it must have angered the right-wing of the SDLP no end. Those who favour participation in the proposed assembly, will see the nomination as a sign that their stance is publicly rejected by Dublin. After an SDLP executive meeting last Monday night, Belfast councillor Cormac Boomer accused Mallon of being 'tied to Dublin's apron strings' and demanded that he resign his deputy-leadership. Going by Cormac Boomer's past record, Seamus Mallon will have to keep the old flak-jacket on at the next executive meeting...



## Picket against evictions

AS part of a local campaign to resist impending evictions, as outlined in an article last week ('Mass eviction threat', AP/RN, May 6th) Twinbrook Sinn Féin organised a picket of the local Housing Executive district office in the west Belfast estate, last Friday, May 7th.

... War News... War News... War News... War News...

# Inflicting extensive damage

**THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY** has continued to carry out a flexible variety of operations in a number of six-county locations over the past week, catching enemy forces on the wrong foot again and again, with no republican casualties, and keeping them guessing.

With shooting attacks in Belfast and in south Derry and Strabane, and bombs of one sort or another in Killeel, County Down, and in Strabane, County Tyrone, the IRA killed one UDR associate, have caused injuries, some serious—some minor, to five Brit, UDR and RUC personnel as well as continuing to inflict extensive and expensive damage.

## RUC MAN WOUNDED IN KILLEEL

An RUC man was injured and badly shocked when an IRA booby-trap bomb exploded at his home in the south Down coastal village of Killeel, reinforcing the message that enemy personnel are not immune from attack wherever they are.

The explosion took place in the Grahamville housing estate in Killeel, in the early hours of Thursday, May 6th, as the RUC man closed his garage door after parking his car. The bomb, attached to the door, was heard up to two miles away, and caused severe cuts and bruises to the RUC man's arms and legs. His car and the garage were extensively damaged.

## PETROL TANKER EXPLODES

IRA Volunteers in west Tyrone caused massive disruption, panic and damage when they placed a petrol tanker containing 5,000 litres of fuel, to which a bomb had been attached, at the permanent British army checkpoint at the Camel's Hump in Strabane.

The operation began, on Thursday, May 6th, when the driver of the petrol tanker was stopped just outside neighbouring Lifford in County Donegal by two Volunteers, while on his way to make fuel deliveries, and taken to where the bomb had been left. This was then fitted to the tanker's pump rack, before the driver was made to return with his tanker and park it at the checkpoint

regiment and had been stationed in Belfast for more than a year.

## SOUTH DERRY UDR AMBUSH

In a daring operation by south Derry IRA Volunteers, reminiscent of many carried out by their former O/C Francis Hughes whose anniversary occurs this week, a mobile UDR patrol was caught in a hail of gunfire along a country road, leaving one seriously wounded and two others slightly injured.

The ambush took place shortly after 11 pm on Friday, May 7th, on the main Toomebridge-Magherafelt Road. After becoming aware that the patrol was using the road three Volunteers lay in wait until the two UDR landrovers came on the scene. They then opened fire, using SKS, Garand and ArmaLite rifles, firing up to 30 rounds in all before withdrawing and returning safely to base.

The south Derry IRA say that they have become aware that UDR soldiers are endangering the lives of members of their families by refusing to travel anywhere when not actually on patrol unless accompanied by their wives or children, and in effect using these innocent parties as a shield. This, on a number of occasions has forced the IRA to withdraw from an ambush situation rather than risk civilian injuries. The IRA point out, however, that the onus rests on the UDR personnel themselves and stress that the IRA will not desist in their attacks on the UDR.

## BELFAST MINE PLANTED

In a supplied statement issued last Monday, May 10th, the Belfast Brigade IRA warned that they had planted an anti-personnel mine four days earlier, at an observation post inside a new Brit/RUC barracks on the Antrim Road in north Belfast.

The IRA said that three Volunteers had been involved in planting the mine, on Thursday night, May 6th. Several months ago, the IRA pointed out that civilians employed in helping to construct these centres of repression did so at their own risk to their lives.

Subsequently the IRA issued a statement claiming that Volunteers had planted a bomb inside the new barracks at Durham Street, on the edge of west Bel-



fast. After a search the RUC declared that this was a hoax. But some time later the bomb exploded.

## STRABANE ATTACK

The IRA in west Tyrone claimed responsibility for the killing of a 23-year-old UDR man, whom the RUC subsequently stated had resigned from the loyalist militia 'a year ago'.

The attack took place in Fountain Park, Strabane, shortly after 2.30 pm, last Wednesday, May 12th, when a woman active service unit entered a house in which repairs were being made and shot the soldier who was working there in a civilian capacity. Commenting on the RUC claim, the IRA said: "According to our information he was a serving member certainly up until a few weeks ago."

And the IRA repeated that if names were to be struck off their list of legitimate targets as a result of someone resigning from the RUC or UDR then that person should inform the IRA through some neutral witness to whom the IRA can give an assurance.

## Support for NGA Appeal

SEVERAL weeks ago the National Graves Association in Belfast issued a statement appealing to the local committees, which flourished as a result of the hunger-strike, not to erect individual memorials at this stage because of the risk of vandalism and the prohibitive cost of keeping republican memorials in good condition, a task which is usually the responsibility of the NGA.

The Belfast Brigade IRA in a statement supporting the NGA appeal have said:

"We would add our voice to their call for local committees which have already raised money to place that money in the central fund held by the National Graves."

"We would also appeal to those local committees to remain active and help the National Graves raise the necessary money to complete the republican memorial in Milltown cemetery as a fitting monument to our Volunteers."

# Catholic shop assistant shot

## LATEST SECTARIAN KILLING

## FOLLOW-UP TO UDA THREAT

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

AT 9.30 am on Wednesday, May 12th, two loyalist assassins coolly walked into Devine's fruit shop on the Antrim Road, north Belfast, and fired a number of rounds at the Catholic shop assistants serving behind the counter.

The owner of the shop Mr Brendan Devine, was shot in the shoulder, his brother-in-law, Gerard Bradley, was hit several times in the lower part of his body and legs but 26-year-old father-of-five Frankie Toner from Ballymurphy Drive was fatally wounded receiving a bullet wound to the neck.

Customers in the shop, including several women and a two-year-old child, fell to the ground screaming as the two gunmen, dressed in duffle coats, ran out of the shop and up Brookvale Avenue which runs adjacent to the water-works on the Antrim Road. A local man, who for obvious reasons wants to remain anonymous, ran after them and tackled one of the assassins as he got into a get-away car—a dark blue Ford cortina parked several hundred yards away in



FRANKIE TONER

Brookhill Street.

He recalls:

"As I got closer to them they were putting their guns away. They didn't know I was chasing them until I was right up behind the last one who was getting into the car. I didn't see their faces but I punched him in the back of the head. I was frightened but it was all I could do as I knew the fellows in the shop. I didn't think I could have been shot at the time."

The car sped off in the direction of the loyalist Cliftonville Road.

Another local woman whom Frankie was serving at the time he was shot, recalls:

"I go into the shop every morning. Frankie was just getting me some tomatoes when the next thing all I heard was loud banging noises. I saw the gun at the side of my face and the noise deafened me. My son and everyone else started screaming. I couldn't believe what was happening."

This latest sectarian attack, coming as it does a few weeks after a loyalist no-warning bomb exploded in Clyde Street in the nationalist Short Strand area, could well be an intensification of the loyalist assassination campaign as warned by the UDA leaders after the arrests of some of their leading figures last month, yet the British still resist calls for the banning of the UDA.



Devine's on the Antrim Road—does Frankie Toner's murder signal a renewed sectarian campaign?

## Waterford PRSI protests

THE Waterford Trades Council, together with other representative trade unionists held a meeting on Monday, May 10th, to discuss the PRSI situation. A work-stoppage had already taken place the previous Friday in the local glass factory, followed by a march and meeting in the town to protest at the recent PRSI increases (from 4% to 7%). The Monday meeting decided, as a further means of highlighting the issue, to mount a protest outside the City Hall where the weekly meeting of the local council was taking place. No less than 120 took part in this protest.

Nevertheless, when they arrived, they were confronted by large forces of both uniformed and plain-clothes gardai. Then, when they requested the council to allow a spokesperson to speak for a few minutes on the subject of their protest, they were refused point-blank. Though this was not totally unexpected, what was nauseating was the role of the two Workers' Party members of the council, Paddy Gallagher TD and Davy Walsh, neither of whom left to meet the protestors outside, even though Gallagher is himself a delegate to the Trades Council in Waterford. And it was Jimmy Kelly, Trades Council president, who requested the few minutes to address the council!

The Trades Council later issued a statement on the affair. It seems that, on this showing, the Workers' Party's original stance in allowing PRSI increases through Leinster House is their real position on this issue, and not the rhetoric adopted by them after the workers had revolted. The Workers' Party?

## Limerick march

OVER 300 people took part in the May Day march in Limerick called by the local trades council to protest against unemployment and unfair taxation.

The march proceeded through the city centre and returned to its starting point at Percy Square where a rally was addressed by local trade union leaders.

A regrettable aspect of the march was the banning, by the organisers, of political banners. This, of course, is but a further indication of the weak reformism of the whole trade union leadership who want to keep their very political protests 'non-political'.

However, many republicans did participate and Sinn Fein distributed a leaflet expressing ongoing support for the just social and economic struggles of the working class and stating the 'unbreakable link' between these struggles and the national struggle for freedom and independence.

The leaflet said: "Sinn Fein believe that it is only by organised and militant actions that working people can hope to alleviate the over-worsening effects of the economic crisis. Using all methods available such as and including, mass demonstrations and industrial action, working people should demand: 1. fair taxation - a complete and radical overhaul of the tax system designed to ensure that business, finance and big farmers pay an increased share of taxation; 2. a crash programme of public works to alleviate unemployment; 3. the implementation of policies to protect existing jobs even if this means contravening EEC regulations."

## New cumann

A NEW Sinn Fein cumann has been formed in County Monaghan. At a meeting of local republicans in the Smithboro area the county organiser of Sinn Fein in Monaghan urged all rural areas to organise themselves effectively, in particular with a view to achieving the maximum number of seats possible in the June 1984 local government elections.

The Smithboro cumann has been named after local republican activist, the late Aine Ni Neill. The officers of the cumann are: chairman, Hensey McKenna; asst. chairman, Seamus Murray; secretary, Mary Tierney; asst. secretary, Ann McKenna; joint treasurers, Martin Tierney and Kieran Murphy; PRO, Marcella McKenna.

The new Aine Ni Neill Sinn Fein cumann, Smithboro, invite anyone in the area interested in joining Sinn Fein to contact any of the above.



# COMPANY PROFITS FROM STRIKERS' LOSSES

BY KEVIN BURKE

STRIKE action is seen by most workers as their ultimate and most effective weapon, but there are occasions when it has had an effect completely opposite to the one intended. The nine-week strike by 500 production workers at the Finglas plant of the Dublin-based engineering group, Unidare, last year appears to have been a good example.

Unidare's figures for 1981, recently published, reveal that the company could have suffered a loss of £2 million for the year had it not been for the strike. In the event it made a profit of £700,000.

Of course, the chairman's report issued along with the accounts' attempts to hide the reality, speaking of "difficulties which arose, both at home and internationally being compounded by the nine-week strike." But the truth, as the figures themselves reveal, is just the opposite.

In 1980, Unidare made a profit of £2.6 million. Its cost of sales, which includes materials, wages and all production costs, was £32.5 million. That year the figure was up 14.6% on the previous year, as you would expect from inflation.

### SAVING

In 1981, taking into account inflation and the type of increases in other manufacturing companies, this cost of sales figure would have been expected to have risen by about 16% to £37.6 million; in fact it only rose by 4.4% to £33.9 million - a considerable saving.

The salaries figure itself for 1981 was actually lower than the previous year, although again it would normally be up by 16% or more. Seventy-three redundancies in the year were not significant in the workforce of nearly 1,000.

So the long strike and the consequent savings in salaries and overheads suited management very well. By managing to keep sales figures about the same as the previous year, they came out of 1981 with a profit, thanks to the strike.

Just how much of a coincidence this was can be gauged by a look back at last year's events.

The financial results for the half-year to June 1981 showed sales down 2% and profit down 73%. In his half-term report, Unidare chairman Tom Spellman told the shareholders, very significantly as it turned out:

"Our ability to take advantage of any marginal upturn in home and export markets will depend upon cost containment in the coming months. Rising overheads are a serious cause for concern, in particular the level of wage increases..."

### SUSPENDED

On August 18th the company suspended two security men for refusing to operate a new roster which the men claimed was being implemented unilaterally without prior union agreement. The two immediately began picketing the company and the 500 production workers supported the action.

At all times the strike was unofficial, pleas from ITGWU officials to resume work pending negotiations were ignored and the strike was directed by a strike committee of shop stewards, who demanded direct negotiation with management and over the weeks expanded demands from the reinstatement of the security men to include increased wages and better working conditions.

On September 16th the company placed the clerical staff of 350, who were not supporting the strike, on a 3-day week. On October 9th the production workers were served with dismissal notices.

Ten days later the strikers accepted an agreement worked out between management and ITGWU officials.

The back to work agreement included withdrawal of the dismissal notices, an interest-free loan of £200 per worker, and a wage increase of £5 pending negotiations.

The two security men were reinstated on condition they operated the disputed roster pending negotiations.

### PROFITABLE

No doubt for the workers it was a bitter pill to swallow. Had they known then of how profitable the nine weeks, without wages or strike pay for them, had been for the company, it would have been more bitter again.

Management-inspired strikes, whether to save losses or to excuse total closures are by no means a rarity and a little figuring out can warn workers that they may be being lured into such action. In the right situation industrial action linked to a 'refusal' to strike can have amazing results.

Meanwhile, at the Unidare plant in Finglas at the beginning of this month, 100 workers were put on a 3-day week for an indefinite period. To keep the company profitable...

# Hospital workers' strike

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

IN THEIR BID to fight for a 12% pay rise - as opposed to the meagre 4% set by the British government - the National Health Service (NHS) which covers Britain and the six counties, has decided to take a firm stand on the issue, warning that action will be taken to force the government's hand.

One of its largest affiliated unions, the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) in England and the North staged a number of official lightning strikes, to highlight the inadequate pay offer which is completely out of line with the ever increasing rate of inflation.

Last Friday, May 7th, in Belfast, NUPE staged a 24-hour strike which was supported by members from NIPSA, ITGWU and ASMA. Picket lines with placard-wielding union members, all ancillary workers, formed at entrances to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Musgrave Park, Dundonald, the Throne and Mater hospitals. The previous day, Thursday, May 6th, some country

hospitals, this time with the support of OOHSE (who have not ruled out further widespread action), went on strike for 24-hours also.

Ancillary staff consists of domestics, laundry workers, porters, security people and most ambulance men and telephonists, all essential personnel in the efficient running of any hospital. But as the workers pointed out last Friday, all essential services were manned during the stoppages and no risk or major inconvenience was caused to patients.

The British government argues that if a rise of more than 4% is given it will have serious long-term repercussions, for example, less money will be available for

patients, and there will be cut-backs in hospital budgets and reductions in the work-force. All these ploys have been used to blackmail NHS employees in the past to refrain from going on all-out industrial action, their main slogan being that in doing so patients will suffer. Undoubtedly prolonged action may well result in certain hardships but as one NUPE shop-steward, Ms Charlotte McAuley points out:

"We are only seeking a living wage. The 4% offered would amount to an increase of 78 pence per week in my take home pay and the same with most ancillary workers, yet all other public service workers in manual and industrial areas as well as the police and armed forces are all well above our scale having received substantial pay increases. We don't want to see anyone suffering, yet the government are quite prepared to crucify us. Are our services any less important to the public?"



# Changing gear

BY KEVIN BURKE

**THE emptiness of Free State foreign policy has never been more clearly revealed than in its present confusion over the Falklands/Malvinas crisis. And Charles Haughey, in the driving seat, in an attempt to change from automatic following behind Britain, the EEC and NATO, has in more recent days found himself embarrassingly stuck in reverse gear as he desperately strives for neutral.**

At the time the Argentinians recaptured the islands from Britain, a truly independent Ireland would have welcomed the move as another blow against colonial power in the world, whatever its opinion of the present Argentinian government.

Instead, with a British war fleet making preparations to sail amidst hysterical war fever in Britain, the Free State government backed Britain both in the anti-Argentinian United Nations Security Council Resolution 502 and in the unanimous EEC economic sanctions.

Undoubtedly this support from its western allies, coupled with the eventual open support from the United States, gave Britain the confidence it needed to satisfy its own blood-lust, attack and recapture South Georgia, go on to break its own rules and murder hundreds of Argentinians on the General Belgrano and carry on the war.

## COLONIAL

The Free State played its part, however insignificant, on the side of Britain in its colonial war against Argentina.

In the twenty-six counties, the Free State government's abandonment of its supposedly sacred neutrality in support of Britain was massively unpopular from the beginning. In Fianna Fail itself, the party of the architect of this 'in the West but neutral' mythology — Eamonn de Valera — the tensions were also very apparent.

The refusal by grand-daughter Síle de Valera, to back Britain in the EEC parliament, put her in a



familiar role, out in front representing grass-roots anti-British feeling.

By the time Fianna Fail's Minister for Defence Paddy Power, exploded at a Kildare party booze-up on Monday, May 3rd, Charles Haughey had already realised that he could not continue his 'I'm backing Britain' line. Power, after the Belgrano sinking, labelled the British as the aggressors and contrasted Britain's demand for the withdrawal of Argentinian troops from the Falklands/Malvinas with their refusal to withdraw British troops from the North.

Immediately the Fianna Fail government slammed into reverse gear. A UN Security Council meeting was demanded and it was announced that the Free State would be against the renewal of EEC sanctions when they expire next Monday, and it was confident that it could persuade the other EEC states likewise.

## DROPPED

A Security Council meeting

would have provided an excellent forum for several countries to condemn the British aggression and substitute Resolution 502 with a plain demand for Britain to stop its attempts at colonial reconquest. But the Free State lacked the guts to continue when diplomatic pressures were exerted by friends of Britain, so the suggested meeting was equally quickly dropped.

In the EEC, one of the main reasons for backing Britain had been a typically unprincipled one for the Free State. It had been hoped that by selling its neutrality Britain would raise its veto on the 1982 farm price increases which is crippling Irish agriculture.

Of course, Britain put the expected price on Free State neutrality at nil — and Dublin politicians were reduced to the humiliating posture of actually pleading publicly with Britain to reward their loyalty with a British response on farm prices. All of which was treated with predictable British arrogance and contempt.

When the Fianna Fail Minister

for Foreign Affairs went back to Brussels last weekend, to seek the ending of EEC sanctions against Argentina, he got nowhere. Whatever other EEC states think privately of Britain's appalling war-mongering, the demands of solidarity among NATO countries obviously weigh much heavier than the arguments that the EEC's weakest state might put forward.

## STABBED

In Britain, the Dublin change of direction was met predictably with outrageous cries of disgust that the neo-colony should have stabbed its mistress in the back. And among Britain's more open supporters in the Free State, the damage to 'Anglo-Irish relations' was bewailed on high.

But for Haughey this is not the problem it might seem. When he lost the 'H-Block' election last June, his 'Anglo-Irish relationship' was lost with it — insofar as he had to admit to himself that it had never existed.

He had gone down the line with

Margaret Thatcher on the hunger-strike, but for all his support for her he received not a crumb in return.

In opposition Haughey could not hope to continue his policy. Under threat from the Colley/O'Malley wing, he could not afford to see his own nationalist backers in the party become anymore disillusioned with him. The surge after the election against him, the dependence for survival in Leinster House on Neil Blaney (and even in this context on Tony Gregory), inevitably brought Haughey into his 'Brits Out' phase, with the US tour as its highpoint.

The outright opposition to the Prior devolution plans in the North, meant also that even those in the British cabinet who might allow Haughey to play at special relationships and the like, are in no mood to allow it to happen.

## BALL-GAME

So Haughey has lost nothing on that front at all. Anglo-Irish relations, at that level, as a solution to the British presence, was last year's story anyway.

Haughey is well aware that from Thatcher nobody gets anything, and he may as well forget her. And who knows if there is a British humiliation in the South Atlantic, might not the one political element opposing Thatcher at Westminster on the crisis, find itself plunged into power? And a Bennite Labour Party in power would mean a different ball-game.

If he could only cloud over the embarrassment of his foreign policy, Haughey is content for the present to play the game at home, to pull his familiar public relations strokes with the appointment of Seamus Mallon and John Robb to the Dublin Senate, and to concentrate on the important home issues such as the Dublin West by-election.

And he is content in the knowledge also that where co-operation with Britain really counts, in silencing and attacking genuine efforts for real freedom and true independence of the Irish people, the Falklands/Malvinas crisis will make no difference.

Free State neutrality has never ruled out enthusiastic backing for and collaboration with the British war machine in this country.

In collaboration on the border, exchange of information, imprisonment of republicans, harassment of activists and supporters, in charging Gerry Tuite, the Free State has never been neutral.

# CHILD ABUSERS

BY MICHAEL O'NEILL

**IMAGINE a bright May afternoon. Four or five youngsters between the ages of 6 and 9 are playing together on a football pitch safely screened from the road by a 5-feet high wall. Suddenly, a tall stranger strides onto the pitch and without warning grabs the nearest youngster by the throat and drags him, screaming with fright, towards his motor vehicle. As he nears the vehicle, he grabs the boy by the stomach, squeezing him hard, trying to put him into the vehicle. An outraged neighbour rushes up and manages to pull the child away from the man. Meanwhile, the strange man's companion grabs a nearby 6-year-old by the jumper and throws him up roughly against the concrete wall.**

An outrageous attack? Yes. Something normally resulting in warnings and condemnations of the attackers and demands for stern action, from local church and political leaders. But the authorities will ignore this incident, because

these children live in Creggan and their attackers were members of the RUC.

At 4 pm last Saturday, May 8th, Mrs Veronica McClean, a mother of 6 children, was standing in her garden with her baby daughter in her

arms enjoying the sunshine. She watched her two sons, 9-year-old Patrick and 6-year-old Paul, playing on the football pitch across the street. A high concrete wall protected them from the traffic at Creggan Heights, suddenly four RUC landrovers drove by, and, nearly 100 yards away from where the youngsters were playing, someone threw a stone, hitting one vehicle's armour plating. The convoy screeched to a halt.

Mrs McClean recalls: "Because of the wall, the youngsters could not see the RUC and so hadn't the chance to run. A red-haired RUC man ran onto the pitch and grabbed Patrick by the throat and dragged him off towards his landrover.

People must have heard Patrick's squeals half a mile away. At the landrover, the cop squeezed him hard around the stomach, trying to get him in, but a neighbour pulled Patrick away. Another RUC man grabbed Paul by the jumper and threw him roughly against the wall. When the neighbours and I intervened, the RUC cursed the children loudly before driving off."

Patrick McClean, the children's father, is particularly worried about the effect this will have on the two youngsters. Both have been attending hospital, including the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, for investigations into convulsions from which they suffer.

"This may scare Patrick off altogether from playing outside," he said.

As Mrs McClean points out, "If you or I had gone up to someone's child in the street, and done the same thing, we would be taken up to court the next day for it."



● Paul McClean (left) and his brother Patrick who were physically assaulted by RUC men. Both lads suffer from convulsions.

# NO MORE H

AS THE Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament gets under way in Ireland, following a resurgence in Europe, a number of minor breakthroughs have been achieved. Motions declaring areas nuclear-free zones have been passed by Dublin Corporation, Derry, Cork and Belfast and just last week by Dublin County Council.

In the following article Dave Farrell, Sinn Fein's national director of education, outlines the history of nuclear weapons and the threat they pose to civilisation and he urges republicans to involve themselves with the CND movement.

'LITTLE BOY' was the name of the first atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945. Three days later a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The nuclear age had begun. There also exists the belief, not confined to the Japanese, that the bombings were ghastly experiments aimed at finding out what happened to human beings when exposed to atomic blasts.



At the time of the nuclear blasts the Japanese had already sent peace feelers through Portugal. The United States had also intercepted a message intended for the Japanese ambassador in Moscow saying the emperor would be sending a former prime minister to the USSR on July 12th, 1945, to explore the chances of peace.

The message clearly indicated Japan's intentions and it was conveyed to US president Truman by Stalin at Potsdam where Stalin asked Truman if it merited a reply. An affirmative answer would have laid the way open for United States - Japanese negotiations with Soviet mediation.

The official US justification for the use of the atom bomb was that it would shorten the war and save many lives. Truman and other leaders knew before the bomb was used that Japan was on the verge of surrender.

The two bombs used were the only ones that existed at the time, and they differed in several respects. The Hiroshima bomb was a uranium bomb equivalent to 12 kilo tons of TNT and was exploded 580 metres above the centre of Hiroshima standing on a flat delta surrounded by mountains on the north and west: a perfect target. The Nagasaki bomb was a plutonium bomb equivalent to 22 kilo tons of TNT exploded about 500 metres above the ground. It was probably mis-aimed and mis-timed because it was brought from another target (the first choice) where the weather conditions were adverse. Nagasaki is a hilly city lying on both sides of a harbour and estuary. The northern part of the city was the most affected by the blast. The damage varied greatly in different areas due to the contours of the ground and the devastation was not as complete as that at Hiroshima. Whatever about the extremely doubtful military justification for the first atomic blast at Hiroshima, there was no justification whatsoever for the second blast at Nagasaki.

## DESTRUCTION

The experimental nature of the bombs gives the US leaders of that period a unique place in the social history of humanity if one comprehends the nature of the complete and utter destruction in a flash, not only of human life but of all services and every other environmental factor that makes life livable. The conservative estimate for the number of people killed in both blasts is 300,000, with people dying to this day. There is only one name for those who ordered this destruction and that is mass murderers.

Today there is the equivalent of 4 tons of TNT for every man, woman and child on the earth. US president Ronald Reagan's latest defence budget is £128 billion and

along with new advances in radar and space technology leads the Pentagon to believe that by the late 1980s the USA could initiate a devastating 'first strike' on the USSR and win a nuclear war. What was up to now the 'unthinkable' is becoming the 'possible' and judging by statements emanating from the Pentagon, more alarmingly, the 'probable'.

## MILITARY INVESTMENT

Economic survival and the survival of life itself are today threatened by the same forces. Investment both from the state and the private sector is being increasingly diverted away from socially useful developments worldwide to protecting and expanding the power of military and industrial combines.

The effects of this policy steadily erode the living conditions of people throughout the world. In Ireland unemployment is a tragic and unnecessary reality for over 400,000 workers. In the midst of the so-called international recession we see massive additional investment in the military and related industries: nuclear power, uranium mining, electronic systems for surveillance and communications. We in Ireland are already caught up in this arms race. Telecommunications lines are being laid into Derry GPO, and all evidence suggests that these connect the former US base in the Waterside (now a Signals Intelligence Communication station) to RAF Bishopscourt, County Down, linking the North into the NATO radar network. (For the US to believe it can fight and win a nuclear war they need extensive radar surveillance in Western Europe.)

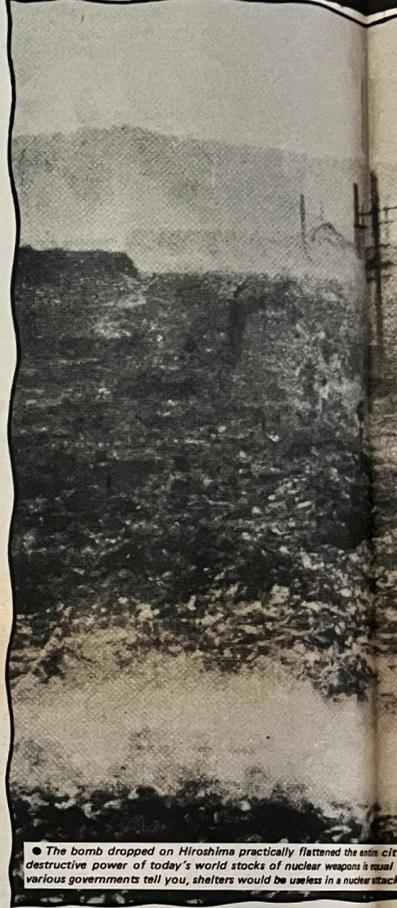
Sean McBride has said that Cruise missiles will in the event of an 'emergency' be placed in the six counties. By virtue of the fact of the Brits' commitment to NATO the occupied counties are sucked into America's war strategy. The Free State government is coming under increased pressure to enter into formal alliance with NATO and judging by the Free State's automatic support for actions taken by members of the alliance (for example, in supporting economic sanctions against Poland, the initial trade embargo on Britain's behalf against Argentina and its prevarication in pursuing its own subsequent call for an end to the Argentinian embargo) the Dublin government is already far down the road of open alliance.

Our small island, strategically placed in relation to the communications and surveillance networks essential to nuclear war strategy, would receive as a member of a military alliance not military protection, but the unenviable status of prime target within the first minutes of the outbreak of hostilities.

Recent statements from Sean McBride (*Sunday Tribune*, March 15th) indicate that Ireland's future, North and South, is



● The Pentagon war-lords believe a nuclear war can be won...



● The bomb dropped on Hiroshima practically flattened the entire city. The destructive power of today's world stocks of nuclear weapons is such that various governments tell you, shelters would be useless in a nuclear attack.

increasingly being decided in NATO HQ rather than in London.

## INDIFFERENCE

It has been estimated that the money required to provide adequate food, water, education and health for everyone in the world would cost the staggering amount of 17 billion dollars a year. This is indeed a huge sum of money - it is roughly about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks!

War-related industry is considered the most profitable use of investment which amounts to a virtual blank cheque for weapons manufacturers. Because of this massive investment in the war industry there has been a corresponding decrease in funding to aid developing nations which is causing suffering on a far greater scale than that which we have yet experienced. This callous indifference to human suffering is a sound indicator of the readiness of world leaders to use their nuclear weapons to turn the planet earth into a planet as silent and desolate as the moon.

The pious nonsense about surviving a nuclear holocaust should be treated with the contempt it deserves. There will be no survivors, no victors, only victims. Even in the scenario where no atomic weapons were aimed at Ireland, fall-out from the radio-active desert across the Irish Sea would contaminate our air, water and land. A thought for those who believe in the militaristic posturing of NATO and their ridiculous advice about building yourself a bunker is that even if you can afford

a fall-out shelter, live for a week. But the fall-out rains dangerous years. Just how long stay in our little b...  
The simple fact there are over 60 the world; enough every human being...  
We, as republicans the struggle for n... who daily fight... our island. We must fight for pe... generations from... With the very r... becoming embro... republicans should... sign for Nuclear... Ireland.  
This body has success in that... have officially... zones. In Donegal... fuel for nuclear... the Donegal... forced the mil... panies out. This... areas any activit... in any shape or... opposition.  
This is a st... be declared a n... sea space in... coast should also... tragedy of our... when an Irish tr...

# HIROSHIMAS



the city and its effects are still being felt 37 years later. The equal to about 1 1/2 million Hiroshima bombs and whatever a track

either, you may, if you're lucky, weak longer than the rest of us. I-out from an atomic blast rendered out to life for thousands of how long are we supposed to little bunkers?

ple facts are that at present ver 80,000 nuclear weapons in ough destructive power to kill in being several times over.

epublicans, should understand for nuclear disarmament — we ight for peace with justice on We also understand that we or peace, to protect our future from the evils of imperialism.

ry real threat of our island mbodied in a nuclear war, should be active in the Camp- nular Disarmament (CND) in

he already had some limited at Dublin, Belfast, and Derry been declared nuclear-free e areas where uranium ore, the e weapons, has been found, Uranium Committee have ernational uranium com- ivity relating to nuclear power e or form will meet massive

start. The whole island should e nuclear-free zone, and our e area of 500 miles off our e nuclear-free. The near e coast a few weeks ago e trawler was sunk by a British

NATO submarine, raises the question, is NATO stationing nuclear missiles on our sea-board?

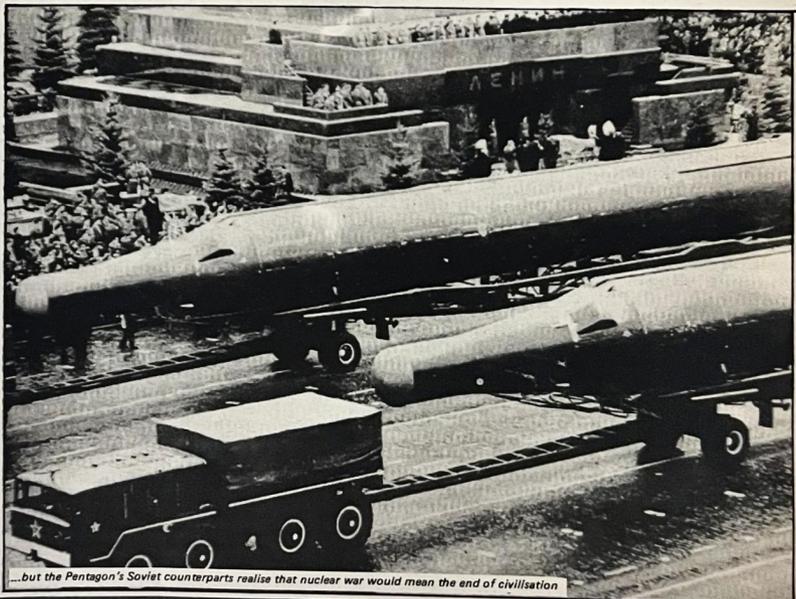
### ATTITUDE

Speaking about the First World War Connolly asked: *"What ought to be the attitude of the working class of Ireland in face of the present crisis? In the first place, we ought to clear our minds of all the political cant, which tells us that we have either 'natural enemies' or 'natural allies' in any of the warring powers!"*

What Connolly is clearly saying here is that squabbles between imperialist powers are not the fight of the Irish working class. Sinn Fein today still embodies this principle in its policies. We support neither NATO or the Warsaw Pact. We pursue a line of non-alignment and try to forge links with emerging nations of the Third World and other neutral countries. If we are serious about this policy we must become active now in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Consider the words of the Italian prime minister in June 1980 when speaking to the United Nations General Assembly:

*"Of all transitional periods in history, ours is the most crucial. For the first time, the technical and scientific revolution has placed in the hands of men the means of either destroying the life of their own kind or of causing it everywhere to flourish."*

Republicans demand the right to live in peace without foreign interference and without the threat of extinction to the human race posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons.



...but the Pentagon's Soviet counterparts realise that nuclear war would mean the end of civilisation

# •Mála poist...Mála poist.

All letters should be addressed to: The Editor, An Phoblacht/Republican News, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, or 41 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Preferably they should be typewritten in double spacing with wide margins and on one side of paper only.



## Bradford 12

Comrades, A major political trial is taking place at the moment in Leeds, England. The case has many parallels with the Irish struggle, and is raising many important questions, such as judicial bias, police conspiracy, and the self-defence of an oppressed community.

The trial concerns the Bradford 12 - all Asian youths from Bradford, west Yorkshire. Many of them had several years experience of fighting against racism, whether it be in the form of fascist marches in their areas, state attempts to deport members of their community, or discrimination in employment.

They are all members or sympathisers of the United Black Youth League, a radical organisation committed to fighting racism. Several of the 12 had previously been members of the Bradford Asian Youth Movement, which has consistently supported Irish demonstrations and pickets in Britain, as the United Black Youth League has also done. Indeed, the day before their arrest on July 30th last year, several of the 12 were on a hunger-strike march in Leeds.

The UBLY sent an observer to last year's Sinn Féin and the 12 in Dublin.

The Bradford 12 face two charges familiar to Irish republicans: making an explosive substance (petrol bombs) with intent to endanger life or damage property; and conspiracy to make explosives. They face up to life imprisonment.

These are the most serious charges to be faced by youths in Britain arising from last summer's uprisings/riots. As their supporters have pointed out consistently and loudly, the 12 are facing such heavy charges simply because they have been active anti-racists. In effect, say the Bradford 12 Defence Campaign, the entire black community in Britain is on trial.

This criminalisation process is, of course, familiar to republicans. Bradford 12 supporters have been quick to see the links as well. In April Sinn Féin was invited to speak from the platform of the national Bradford 12 demonstration in Leeds, and on May 5th the following message was read out at the Troops Out Movement's Bobby Sands commemoration:

"The nationwide campaign to free the Bradford 12 expresses its complete and unconditional support for the

A Chara, One year ago, Bobby Sands, revolutionary, soldier-poet and elected representative of the nationalist people of Fermanagh and South Tyrone, died after a protracted and agonising hunger-strike. He was followed to the grave by another nine of his comrades who, like himself, were imprisoned here in the H-Blocks at Long Kesh.

The deaths of the hunger-strikers and indeed the deaths of those people who died on the streets are a damning indictment of British misrule in the occupied six counties. While that statement appears glib and hackneyed it is nonetheless true, because there would be no deaths or popular violence but for the annexation of the six counties by Britain.

It would be wrong to believe that the hunger-strike deaths were fruitless. Although this is little comfort to their sorrowing families certain important changes have occurred. The main one is that all prisoners can wear their own clothes and the drab prison uniform has been dispensed with. This is a considerable advancement, achieved at an enormous cost - some might say too

high a cost. Another, and equally important change, is that prison officials from the top down, have ended their vicious and punitive policy of harassment which was extensively used over the last five years to break the will of those prisoners on protest. There is a begrudging respect from prison officials for republican prisoners because of the dignified deaths of the hunger-strikers. How long this will

Irish liberation struggle and its revolutionary organisations."

The charges against the youths stem from the uncovering of two crates containing 38 petrol bombs in July last year. The prosecution say that the devices were going to be thrown at the police and at city centre shops. But the youths say that the petrol bombs were prepared purely as a defensive measure, because coachloads of fascists were said to be on their way to attack the Bradford Asian community, and many Asians had indeed been attacked in the previous weeks.

A recent Home Office report shows that an Asian person living in Britain is 50 times more likely than a white person to be the victim of a racist assault; West Indians are 36 times more likely than whites to be victims.

From the moment of their arrests last July, supporters have been demonstrating, picketing, gathering sponsorship, and generally kicking up a stink all over the country.

This campaign helped to get the youths out on bail after several months, and then to reduce the extraordinarily restrictive bail conditions which initially banned them from attending any political meetings!

When the trial opened on Monday, April 26th, up to five hundred people demonstrated outside. Police made six arrests.

But it is clear that the campaign will go on throughout the four or five-week trial.

fully, only temporarily), in the H-Blocks myself - I can answer the question posed with some authority.

It is now seven months since the hunger-strike ended and the issues which fed it remain largely unresolved. At the present minute 250 men remain on work protest in H-Blocks 4 and 5, and scattered throughout the other Blocks are 20 republicans who have been sentenced since last November and have joined their comrades in refusing to carry out prison work. This number will continue to grow as more republicans are processed through the Diplock sentencing tribunals. In effect, problems in this prison will continue and the H-Blocks will remain a flashpoint because the British government remain obdurate in their prison policy.

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them to achieve a long-term settlement in here.

The burning issues are segregation and re-definition of prison work. The prison administration already accept the need for some form of segregation for remand prisoners because they cooperate in the working of a system which the remand prisoners have devised - self-imposed segregation. It would be a small step to segregate prisoners right across the jail population. People who are adversaries on the outside and who have separate loyalties cannot suddenly be at one in a prison. If this is accepted while they are on remand then it should be all the more readily accepted after they are sentenced.

Prison work is not as major an issue as segregation and could be resolved very speedily indeed. All that this requires is an enlightened attitude as to the range of chores available.

Finally, it would be advisable for the British government to make positive overtures to the prisoners and not allow the present protest to fester.

Jim Gibney, H-Blocks, Long Kesh.

Messages of support for the youths, and requests for further information, can be sent to the Free the Bradford 12 Campaign, c/o Box JK, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2, England.

F. Burns, Leeds, England.

## Plastic bullets

A Chara, A recent second-hand Daily Mirror which I picked up whilst waiting for someone really totally convinced me of the Brit media's non-concern / sectarianism with regard to murders by Brits of nationalists of all ages. The headlines screamed out about how the gallant armada's sailors had asked for more Daily Mirrors to be sent out to them, with which, of course, the patriotic Mirror duly obliged them.

On page five of my second-hand edition at the very bottom was a banal, pitiful six-line account of how a "10 or 11-year-old boy was wounded by British soldiers retaliating against a petrol bomb and rock-throwing mob."

I sat down and stared at the murky print and nearly sobbed! An 11-year-old boy gets his head blown off by British murderers and the Mirror gives it six lines. If a Brit had been shot would the Mirror have done



Stephen McConomy: his murder at the hands of a Brit merited a pithy six lines in the Daily Mirror

the same, I wonder? Gerry Molyneux, Rathgar, Dublin.

## Armagh women!

Dear Comrades, Many of the women currently serving sentences in Armagh jail are as brave, if not more so, than their predecessors. Many of them have been waging war since they were mere girls and three of their number took part in the hunger-strike of 1980. Are we really to believe as Owen Carron's report from Armagh implies, that these women have nothing to say for themselves. Are we too 'respectable' to hear the details of their resistance to the brutalisation of

those brave women at the hands of the Brits, RUC and prison warders, as we have heard and been inspired by the resistance of the men in Long Kesh?

Patronising tales or jokes jokingly made about the new-found fame of Carron, should not be used as they were in AP/IRN, April 8th, 1982. Although the men in the blocks refer to one another as 'boys', almost all of your reports, rightly accord them their adult status as men, knowing that this is an important part of the psychological battle for self-determination. Are women in Armagh not to be accorded this same status? Even the mother of a child born in custody could be titled no better than as a 'wee girl'. On top of fighting the Brits for political status, it appears that the women prisoners have an uphill battle even in the Republican Movement for their own adult as well as full-prisoner status. We know that men all too often refer to women as 'girls' in everyday life, but that is a manifestation of the everyday treatment of women as inferiors and not something one expects to get from the republican newspaper.

Perhaps Owen Carron was so impressed with, and overawed by, the struggle of the women in Armagh that he clean forgot to tell us anything of that struggle and about what those women think about what is happening on the outside. The reference to Pauline Deery's 'set' views on elections leads vaguely to the supposition

that she holds an abstentionist position. Why couldn't this be said? Why couldn't we hear the views that these women, who have given so much for a new Ireland, had about the new Ireland and about women's place within it, instead of all that rubbish about Owen Carron never having been with so many women before. (He can see plenty of us down at the labour exchange or doing the shopping.)

Even if that particular visit didn't bring forth much political debate, there are lots of opinions which haven't been printed in AP/IRN to be found in the Women Against Imperialism pamphlet on 'Political Status' and in Margretta D'Arcy's 'Tell Them Everything' and in 'The Armagh Women' by Nell McCafferty, not to mention the various interviews given by women ex-prisoners and the smuggled out letters.

Why such a silence and misrepresentation of this doubly oppressed section of republicans?

PRO, London Armagh Co-ordinating Group, c/o Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

Editor's note: Owen Carron's report on Armagh jail was cut significantly so AP/IRN must bear some of the responsibility for excising some of the political comments expressed by the women prisoners. However, Owen Carron's references to 'the girls' were faithfully reproduced and he can defend that potato on his own! The point is taken.

THE Free State government has just signed a new declaration in the Council of Europe. It is a declaration on 'Freedom of Expression and Information' and contains much about the 'principles of genuine democracy' and that kind of thing.

In its text, the declaration, in the field of information and mass media, states its objective to be the "protection of the right of everyone, regardless of frontiers, to express himself, to seek and receive information and ideas, whatever their source..."

And it seeks to achieve the "absence of censorship or any arbitrary controls or constraints on participants in the information process, on media content or on the transmission and dissemination of information."

Republicans who, in the light of this, wish to appear on RTE should form an orderly queue outside the Montrose Studios, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.

★★★

For the *Yorkshire Evening Post* on Friday, April 30th, the Falklands war became a side-line issue and the front page story was given over to Bobby Sands.

The reason was a petition organised in Leeds by the local Irish Freedom Movement to have a wall mural of the dead hunger-striker painted at a suitable city centre spot. A large sketch of the proposed mural accompanied the article.

Four Labour Party councillors in the city are among hundreds of signatures collected in favour of the idea, which is causing the predictable 'storm of protest'.

★★★

Figures released by the Northern Ireland Office last week show that in the six months ended December 31st, 1981, 259 people were detained in the North under the repressive legislation entitled the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Charges were brought against 82 of these.

Of the 177 others, the NIO says that 51 were held for under 48 hours before being released, and 124 were held for up to 7 days before being released. Two others were deported from the North after their period of detention.

The total number of persons detained under the Act during 1981, according to official statistics, was 495 - more than double any other year since the legislation was introduced.

★★★

For British revolutionaries and extra-parliamentary agitators, comes the inevitable news that the famous Lieutenant-General Sir Frank Kitson is to be put in charge of keeping them in their place.

Kitson, who was British army chief in Belfast from 1970 to 1972, after fighting Kenyan and Cypriot nationalists, is best known for his theories on counter-insurgency, dealing with civilian unrest and urban guerrilla warfare, as set out in his book 'Low Intensity Operations'.

It has always been his view that the British army will have to be used to put down social and economic unrest among the British population sometime in the not too distant future and he has been concentrating his energies in recent years in formulating strategies for such a situation.

# Section 30-what?

**Burke's at the back**  
BY KEVIN BURKE



● The prospect of a wall mural in Leeds, England, honouring Bobby Sands has sent some of the town's linguistic worthies into apoplectic fits

Anyway, on July 1st next, he is to be promoted to general and made 'Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces'. Perhaps at last the British left may be about to get just a taste of what they have largely been giving a blind eye to in the North over the last decade.

★★★

Readers who like to keep in touch with the travels of Ireland's absentee cardinal, might like to know that his Eminence Tomas O'Fiaich is presently in Portugal and shortly will be moving on to France.

Well the weather and wine are much better in those parts, and there are no nasty decisions to make about Britain's 'just war' in the South Atlantic.

But don't relax too much, he can still send a postcard of protest if some Brit gets shot dead whilst patrolling the diocese back home.

★★★

Another 'bad apple' was in court in Belfast last week - UDR soldier William Thomas McCartin. He was charged with malicious wounding and released on bail.

His solicitor told the court that he would be pleading guilty and there was no danger of

him deserting or leaving the country. Indeed, why should he?

★★★

The scales of justice in the North continue to be out of balance, as the sectarian courts proved once again last week.

Two members of the UDA, Kenneth McMaster and William Killen, admitted to being part of a UDA squad which gave a lift in a car to Terence Miskimmon in August 1974. In the car he was shot dead and his body dumped on the side of the road.

Miskimmon was suspected of having visited a republican prisoner in Long Kesh.

In court last week one UDA man got 7 years for his part in the murder and the other got 6 years.

And also in Belfast court last week a man was sentenced for possession of a pistol, two shot-guns, two Sterling magazines and a quantity of .404 ammunition.

Hugh Whiteside admitted holding the ammunition for the UDA of which he has been a member for 8 years.

He received a 3-year prison sentence and will be back on the streets before the end of next year.

★★★

Irish-American Robert Buckley, president of Pittsburgh-based multi-national metals company Allegheny International, lost his cool at the annual general meeting of the group on Tuesday last week, May 4th.

Several shareholders raised objections to some of the profits from Allegheny's \$2 billion sales coming from the sale of plastic bullets to British forces in the North. Allegheny owns the Wilkinson (razor blade) company in Britain, which in turn owns the Schermuly company which makes the bullets.

An angry Robert Buckley claimed that Schermuly had stopped production, but he was still forced to admit that it was distributing the lethal bullet from its stock-piles. Bullets, which the shareholders pointed out, were banned for use against British people but not for use against Irish people.

In the end Buckley adjourned the meeting to avoid further protests and stormed out, on the way ignoring two people whom he had earlier agreed to meet.

They were Mrs Emily Groves from Belfast, completely blinded by the plastic bullet predecessor, the rubber bullet, in November 1971 and Alec McLaughlin who lost an eye, suffered a fractured skull, a dislocated cheekbone and a broken nose when struck by a plastic bullet in April 1981.

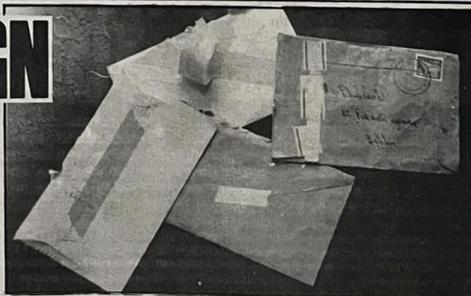
## GARDA CAMPAIGN

THE INCREASE in garda harassment reported in *An Phoblacht/Republican News* on April 22nd has continued unabated throughout the twenty-six counties. Sinn Fein in Counties Offaly, Tipperary, Limerick, Monaghan and Dublin have reported many instances of people being stopped and searched and arrested under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act for no other reason than political harassment.

In Dublin members of Sinn Fein who frequent 5 Blessington Street or 44 Parnell Square are being shadowed by plain-clothes Special Branch officers, and those who merely occasionally socialise with republicans have also been questioned. In Kilsheelan, County Tipperary, two Sinn Fein activists, Louie Kennedy and Gerry Rockett were erecting black flags when they were accosted by an out-of-uniform garda, Eamonn Gavigan, who was out walking his dog. (When not attired in uniform Gavigan supplements his income by training grey-

hounds.) He verbally abused them and threatened them with prosecution over the flags.

Just last month two Limerick republicans, Mick Handley and Joseph Lynch, were arrested and jailed for a month in Mountjoy prison, for painting political slogans during last year's hunger-strike. Incoming and outgoing mail of the AP/RN office in Dublin continues to be interfered with. Newspapers sent to subscribers are being delayed or withheld altogether and letters to the office are just being crudely opened and pasted down with masking



● Interference with AP/RN's mail is similar to Special Branch harassment - crude and blatant

tape. Last week a cheque for £45 was stolen from one such opened envelope. Protests to the GPO have resulted in little satisfaction.

Political interference of a different kind was responsible for distressing 14-year-old Donegal schoolboy Jimmy Doherty. To commemorate Bobby Sands' death he wore the familiar hunger-strike badge to

Dungloe Community School on May 5th. However, Hugh Gallagher, a teacher at the school with anti-republican views, and with an address at Rashine, Dungloe, allowed his prejudices to get the better of him and ripped the badge from the jumper of his young pupil, tearing a hole in the jumper and bending the badge.

## WHAT'S ON

**CUMANN NA gCAILINI SOCIAL**  
Thursday 13th May  
No. 6 Club  
5 Blessington Street  
DUBLIN  
Admission: £1

**OPENING OF WATERFORD REPUBLICAN CRAFT CENTRE**  
10am Friday 14th May  
Peter Street  
WATERFORD  
(Opening hours: 9 am-6 pm Mon.-Sat.)

**EL SALVADOR SOLIDARITY WEEKEND SOCIAL**  
Featuring international musicians  
8pm Friday 14th May  
Hotel Pierre  
**DUN LAOGHAIRE**  
Admission: £1.50  
**FILM, PHOTO & SLIDE EXHIBITION**  
12 noon-6pm Saturday 15th May  
Boylan Centre  
**DUN LAOGHAIRE**  
Organised by Dun Laoghaire El Salvador Support Committee

**BUNCRANA SINN FEIN ANNUAL DINNER**  
Featuring 'The Barleycorn'  
9 pm Friday 14th May  
Lake of Shadows Hotel  
**BUNCRANA**  
Co. Donegal  
Tickets available from Sinn Fein members

**DISCO**  
8 pm Saturday 15th May  
Martin Fogarty's Club  
**TURF LODGE**  
Belfast  
Admission: £1  
Organised by the Turf Lodge Youth Against H-Block/Armagh

**COMHAIRLE CUIGE MUMHAN MEETING**  
2.30pm Sunday 16th May  
**DUNGARVAN**  
Co. Waterford  
(Two delegates from each comhairle ceantair to attend)

**BALLAD SESSION**  
Featuring 'Brimmer'  
Friday 21st May  
Wagon Wheel Lounge  
Trinity Street  
**DROGHEDA**  
Co. Louth  
Admission: £1

**IRISH NIGHT**  
Featuring Cuchulainn (Irish Brigade)  
(last local appearance before tour of America)  
Saturday 22nd May  
Bellaghy GAA Club  
**BELLAGHY**  
Co. Derry  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**HALF-DAY WORK STOPPAGE**  
In support of tax equity  
Monday 24th May  
Assemble 3 pm Parnell Square  
**DUBLIN**  
Organised by the Dublin Council of Trade Unions

**AN CUMANN CABHRACH ANNUAL REPUBLICAN RE-UNION**  
8.30 pm-2 am Friday June 18th  
Royal Marine Hotel  
**DUN LAOGHAIRE**  
Taillie: £11  
(Tickets available from An Cumann Cabhrach, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin)

## Join Sinn Fein

ANYONE interested in joining Sinn Fein should contact their local cumann; or head office at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

I am interested in becoming a member of Sinn Fein

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

# Sympathy

**COUGHLAN.** The Pearse/McDaid Sinn Fein Cumann, Birmingham, extend their deepest sympathy to Martin Coughlan (Wormwood Scrubs) and family on the death of his brother, Masses offered.

**FAUGHEY, McALINDEN.** The Barney Morris Sinn Fein cumann, Crossmaglen, deeply regret the recent deaths of John Faughey, IRA veteran, and Art McAlinden, south Armagh Oglath na hEireann, and extend our sympathy to their families and friends. "We may have had great men but we will never have better."

**TONER.** The Belleeks Memorial Committee, Co. Armagh, extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Pat Toner on his recent death. He shall always be remembered for his constant support for the Republican Movement and his hard work on its behalf throughout the years.

**TONER.** The Ballymacnag Pipe Band, Co. Armagh, deeply regret the death of Pat Toner, and extend their sympathy to his family and friends.

# GREETINGS

**ADAMS, Paddy.** (H6-Block). Happy birthday, daddy. Lots of love from Patrick and Bridget Anne. xxx

**ADAMS, Paddy.** (H6-Block). Lots of love on your birthday, Paddy. They have you in their keeping; I have you in my heart. Love from Anne Marie. xxx

**ADAMS, Paddy.** (H6-Block). Happy birthday, Paddy. We'll not say your age but when do you want us to send up the Greelan 2000! Lots of love from PCB.

**ADAMS, Paddy.** (H6-Block). Best wishes on your birthday, son. All our love. God bless. From father, mother and brother Dominic. xxx

**ADAMS, Paddy.** (H6-Block). With best wishes on your birthday, brother. God bless. From Gerry, Colette and Gerald O'S; and Margaret, Michael, Deldre, Malred, and Liam Sean; and from your nephews and nieces Aine, Liam, Conor and wee Sinead. xxx

**ADAMS, Paddy.** (H6-Block). Happy birthday, brother. All the best from Sean, Bernie and Sean Og. Also from Frances, Billy, Patrick, Claran and Liam Sean; and from Maura, Eddie, Michele and Kathleen. xxx

**ADAMS, Paddy.** (H6-Block). Happy birthday, Paddy. All our love from Daire, Paul and Paul O'S. Also from Anne, Eamonn, Eamonn Og, Fionnuala and Sean.

**CORBETT, Gabriel.** (H-Block). Birthday greetings to my brother and our uncle, Gabriel, for May 15th. Lots of love from sister Patricia, brother-in-law John, nephew Joseph and nieces Nicola, Sarah-Jane and Patricia Anne.

**CUNNINGHAM, Peter.** (H-Block). Greetings and best wishes, Peter, for your birthday on Saturday, May 8th. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. From your mother, John (Long Kesh) and Frankie.

**CUNNINGHAM, Peter.** (H4-Block). All the best on your birthday, Peter. Take care. From Harry, Geraldine and kids.

**CUNNINGHAM, Peter.** (H-Block). Greetings to you, Peter, on your birthday. They have you in their keeping but we have you in our hearts. From Willie and Ailish.

**CUNNINGHAM, Peter.** (H-Block). Birthday greetings to you, Peter, for Saturday, May 8th. Bless you and all your comrades. From Ann, Tommy and kids.

**CUNNINGHAM, Peter.** (H4-Block). All the very best for your birthday, Peter. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. From John and kids.

**CUNNINGHAM, Peter.** (H-Block). Greetings to you for your birthday, Peter, on Saturday, May 8th. Look after yourself, kid. From Danny.

**McGARRY, Jack.** (H-Block). Birthday greetings to you, Jack. All the best from Catherine, Chicago, USA.

**MOORE, Gerry.** (H5-Block). Birthday greetings, son. You are always in my thoughts. I love you and I will see you soon. Take care. Love from mum. xxx

**MOORE, Gerry.** (H5-Block). If you keep going, Gerry, you'll be too old for the girls. (Never too old!) Happy birthday from Seamus and Marie-Louise and Gerry, and Linda, Peter and wains.

**MOORE, Gerry.** (H5-Block). Birthday greetings to my brother, Gerry. You are always in our thoughts but especially today. Take care. From Joe, Ellen, Joseph and Gerard; and from Marcella, Michael and Michael Jr.

**MOORE, Gerry.** (H5-Block). Happy birthday, big brother. Here's hoping your next is spent with us here. Take care. From your brothers and sisters.

**MOORE, Gerry.** (H5-Block). You wore no convict's uniform and merely served your time and thanks to your heroic comrades, you can have a somewhat happy birthday. From Michael, Leo, Niall; and Mackells, Majella and Leon.

**MOORE, Gerry.** (H5-Block). Best wishes on your birthday, Gerry. Victory will be ours. From your friend and comrade Geraldine.

**O'CONNELL, Joe.** (Parkhurst). Birthday greetings and best wishes from Sammam, dad, Johnny, Mary, Jimmy, Robert, Niall, Niamh, Lorna, Nellie and all your friends in Quarter.

**THE VENSTRESOCIALISTERNE (LEFT SOCIALIST PARTY), DENMARK.** send revolutionary and democratic greetings for International Workers' Day to all our Irish republican comrades fighting within and outside the walls of national liberatory and a socialist republic.

**APOLGY**  
The organisers of the Bobby Sands Memorial Mass which was due to take place at 10 am on Wednesday, May 5th, at the Church of the Assumption, Howth, wish to extend their apologies to anyone who was inconvenienced by it being held earlier and at a different venue. This was due to an oversight on their part and they extend their profuse apologies to all concerned.

# What's left among youth?

BY PRO, NA FIANNA EIREANN

IT IS ENTIRELY natural and appropriate that when young people look around them at the Ireland in which they are growing up they should be attracted to radical politics. All the major political parties in this country, North and South, have set up youth sections, largely in the last 5-10 years. The Young Unionists, Ogra Fhianna Fail, and Young Fine Gael are familiar names to many people. They should be — they are so well-publicised in the media. As usual, more radical organisations rarely get a look in. But the rapid growth in membership, and importance, of radical youth organisations is one of the most notable developments of the Irish left in the last 10 years.

## NA FIANNA EIREANN

Na Fianna Eireann is the most senior radical youth organisation in the country. Indeed, the National Youth Council of Ireland cites it as the first Irish national youth movement.

It was founded by Constance Markievicz in 1909 in opposition to the pro-British Baden-Powell scouts and to "train the youth of Ireland to fight Ireland's fight when they are older". In its early years the Fianna was closely associated with the revolutionary Irish Republican Brotherhood. It was involved in the great lock-out of 1913, the Howth gun-running in 1914, the Easter Rising and subsequent Tan War. The organisation took the side of the Republic during the Civil War and has always remained an integral part of the Republican Movement.

Na Fianna Eireann is an illegal organisation in the six counties, and 19 of its members have been killed in the armed struggle since 1969. Today, the Fianna is a non-combatant organisation, involved in a broad range of activities, including political, cultural and scouting.

Its aims are: a) to promote the principles of Irish republicanism among the youth of Ireland; b) to work for the establishment in Ireland of a democratic, socialist republic based upon the principles enshrined in the 1916 Proclamation, and the Democratic Programme of the First Dail; c) to foster a love for, and propagate the use of the Irish language and culture among the youth of Ireland; and d) to promote the objects, principles and exercises of scouting among young people in Ireland.

The organisation has taken an increasingly prominent public role since before the hunger-strikes. It staged a large number of successful protests during the hunger-strikes, including the take-over of a pirate radio station, during which a broadcast was made over Dublin's airwaves. The Fianna also organised the largest youth demonstration yet seen in Dublin on the H-Block issue.

More recently the organisation has turned its attention to the plight of Irish prisoners in English jails, and to the question of youth unemployment. Last December, they set up a youth unemployment action group, and organised a youth march against unemployment. It was poorly attended but it was a beginning for even greater involvement by the Fianna in the day-to-day issues facing young people in Ireland. And any such beginning is a good beginning.

## CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT

The Connolly Youth Movement (CYM) was founded in 1966 (to commemorate the 1916 Rising) and is closely associated with the Moscow-orientated Communist Party of Ireland. The CYM refuse to disclose its membership but it is believed to be no more than 50, centred in Dublin, Belfast and Sligo. It has a monthly newspaper, *Forward*, and a junior scouting section, the Young Pioneers for children aged from 9-15.

The relationship between the Connolly Youth Movement and the CPI is somewhat complex. On the one hand, the policy document of the CYM, and the statement on the youth policy of the CPI are practically one and the same. But on the other hand, the CYM had a disagreement with the party on the H-Block issue and took a more active supporting role in the struggle for the 5 demands. At one stage in their history,



● The hunger-strike brought thousands of enthusiastic and determined youths onto the streets in support of the prisoners. Now that the campaign has abated many of these youths have joined Na Fianna Eireann or the Sinn Fein youth groups

the CYM put up a candidate in the local elections in Sligo. He was denounced from the pulpit — and was elected.

Councillor Declan Bree now stands as an independent socialist and was catapulted into national prominence for condemning the hypocritical cant of politicians at the time of Lord Mountbatten's execution. However, in last June's Free State elections he stood in Sligo/Leitrim and adversely affected hunger-striker Joe McDonnell's chances of success.

## THE IDYM

The Irish Democratic Youth Movement is the youth organisation of the Workers' Party. It has a claimed membership of 500, and at one time produced a newspaper called *Challenge*. The IDYM was formed in 1976 when, as part of the movement of the Sticks away from militant republicanism, the Sticky Fianna was dissolved. The name "Democratic Youth" was drafted by the party hierarchy from the World Federation of Democratic Youth — an international group of communist youth organisations.

It was hoped that the new IDYM would gain entrance to the organisation and become the Irish representative (in place of the Connolly Youth Movement). Unfortunately the CYM did not agree, and fought to prevent them. The IDYM were part of the 'official' Irish delegation (along with the CYM) to the International Festival of Youth and Students in Havana, Cuba, in 1978. Na Fianna Eireann sent along an 'unofficial' delegation to put the republican case and succeeded admirably, much to the annoyance of the Sticks.

## YOUTH OF PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

Youth of People's Democracy was the title of a short-lived youth organisation which lasted for a short while before, and a short while after, a large Na Fianna Eireann-organised Youth Against H-Block/Armagh march in April of last year. At least, that was the name put at the bottom of a leaflet distributed by PD at the demonstration. Youth of People's Democracy

has not been heard of since.

## LABOUR PARTY YOUTH

The Labour Party Youth is the youth section of the Irish Labour Party. It was organised in some haste in 1977/78 when Garret Fitzgerald began to organise Young Fine Gael. It is controlled to a large degree by the Militant tendency.

Similarly, in Britain the Labour Party Young Socialists is controlled by Militant supporters. The Militants are Trotskyist and in the context of Ireland, anti-coalitionist. Naturally, Labour Party Youth are also anti-coalitionist. They are organised on the basis of the constituency party, and a lot of their efforts seem to be spent on internal politicking, where they line up with the Michael D. O'Higgins and the left-wing majority on the Labour Party's administrative council in the anti-coalition camp.

Their most public 'accomplishments' to date have been to organise a march in Dublin against youth unemployment which attracted 250-300 people, and a public meeting in Liberty Hall at which Tony Benn spoke.

## YOUTH AGAINST H-BLOCK/ARMAGH

One of the most heartening features of the H-Block campaign was the prominent role played by masses of young people. Hundreds, if not thousands, of youths, North and South, organised themselves into Youth Against H-Block/Armagh groups. Most people admit that they carried an enormous burden of the campaign work and were a source of great enthusiasm and hope.

After the end of the hunger-strike, and the winding down of what had been a single-issue campaign, hundreds of young people in the six counties joined either the Sinn Fein youth groups or the IRSP-inclined local republican youth groups which have taken the names of the dead hunger-strikers. These are new developments, and the role they will play are only now being decided upon.

Ireland awaits with interest.



# Sacrifices recalled

## Belfast

THOUSANDS of tramping feet, for the second time last week, took to the streets of Belfast to honour the memory of the ten dead hunger-strikers, once again demonstrating a risen people's gratitude for their heroic and courageous sacrifice. The march, organised by Belfast H-Block/Armagh Committee, assembled in bright sunshine at the Busy Bee Shopping Centre in Andersonstown, in contrast to the previous Wednesday night which was cold and damp.

Led by several black taxis and a blanket man, the marchers made their way along the three-mile route, spurred on by the boisterous music supplied by the numerous bands from all over Belfast. At St James Road, at Beechmore and all along the route, hundreds more joined the march, many walking in groups along the footpath. Helicopters hovered overhead and several RUC and Brit mobile patrols took photographs of the marchers at Fruithill Park and several other sidestreets.

On reaching the H-Block/Armagh centre at the corner of Linden Street, Maura McCrory of the Belfast Committee reminded the listeners that although they were there to commemorate the deaths of the ten hunger-strikers nevertheless, she reminded them:

*"Every one of us must re-dedicate ourselves to the cause, the goal and thoughts for which they died. We must not go back to our homes and forget. A government is only a government while we let it remain, it's up to us to smash it. When we do that we will get our 32-county republic. Then and only then will we be able to walk down this road with our heads held high, only then will we be able to say to Bobby Sands and his comrades: 'We have won the goal which you gave your lives for'."*

Two statements from the prisoners, one read by Sile Darragh on behalf of the women POWs in Armagh and another read by Padraig Wilson (recently released from the H-Blocks), both reinforced the prisoners' determination to resist British rule and called on the people to do likewise.

Although Bernadette McAliskey was due to address the crowd, she was unable to attend.

The next speaker was Paddy Bolger, Sinn Fein national organiser, who in a bitter attack on Margaret Thatcher and the British government accused them of historically "identifying our best people, our potential leaders, our theoreticians, and killing them."

Bobby Sands, he said: "Had a command of theory and no empty theory. Bobby encapsulated all that our struggle is about, all that justice is about when he said that he had the spirit of freedom. He meant national freedom, he meant social freedom. We must put his writings into practice."

Calling on the people to organise in a concrete fashion in pursuit of those aims Bolger, amid loud applause, emphasised:

*"We need a machine to bring about this socialist republic: we have the means and we have the aims. If you want to use the means and share the aims, join the Republican Movement, that can construct a real epitaph for Bobby Sands."*

As the crowd dispersed several RUC landrovers parked at Grosvenor Road and a Brit garrison in Dunville Park provoked a few stone-throwing incidents but the bulk of the marchers dispersed peacefully.

Earlier that day a memorial and wreath-laying ceremony in honour of Bobby Sands, organised by Twinbrook Martyrs Sinn Fein cumann, was held in Milltown cemetery which was attended by about fifty local people. Eimannus Collins laid a wreath on Bobby's grave and Paddy Loughran recited a decade of the rosary in Irish. A close friend of Bobby, Thomas McCullough, then briefly outlined Bobby's achievements as a writer and poet, his dedication to the Republican Movement, but mostly his love for the Irish people.

## Drogheda

The Drogheda H-Block movement held two successful demonstrations



The people of Belfast once again pay tribute to Bobby Sands



Leeds, England



Hunger-strike supporters pass the British parliament in London



Milltown cemetery, Belfast, May 5th



Irish solidarity groups form up for the May Day march in Paris

during the week to mark the anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands.

On Wednesday, May 5th, a black flag picket remained on the Bridge of Peace from 9 am until 6.30 pm and was supported by 40 members of the organisation. Banners of the hunger-strikers were hung on the bridge and there was a sympathetic response from passing motorists.

On Saturday, May 8th, a well-attended public march and meeting took place through West Street and the Tholsel. Speakers at the rally included George Stagg from Sinn Fein; Joe Stagg and Tony O'Hara from the National H-Block/Armagh Committee; Councillor Fra Browne, Dundalk, and Patsy Sweeney representing the Drogheda H-Block movement.

Plans are now in progress by the Drogheda H-Block movement for the erection of a plaque in memory of the hunger-strikers on Drogheda's Bridge of Peace. Permission is being sought from the Drogheda Corporation and it is hoped that an unwilling ceremony can take place during August 1982.

## Galway

RINNE cumainn na Gaillimhe de Choiste Craobhacha H-Block/Ard Mhacha comóradh ar Bobby Sands ar an 5ú lá de Bhealtaine. Cuireadh postairí thar timpeall na cathrach agus bratacha dubha comh maith.

Bhí tséipneánts iontach ag coisnte na

mic léinn san ollscoil. Bhí postairí, pictiúirí, ceirníní, taifid, leabhras agus 7rl á dhíol ansin. Crochta ar an bpríomh fhoirgneamh nua bhí bratach oll-mhór, "Bobby Sands Day". Sa séipéal príomhsíochá bhí Afreann ag 7.30 in.

IN GALWAY, where black flags were flown from all main junctions in the town, a Bobby Sands Commemoration Committee was organised by students in University College Galway.

A magazine was produced and an exhibition entitled "Struggle of the H-Blocks" was held in the basement of the university. Up to 3,000 people pass through the area every day and the exhibition was very successful.

## Limerick

A WREATH-LAYING ceremony in memory of Bobby Sands was held at the 1916 memorial in Limerick city on Wednesday evening, May 5th. During the day a vigil was held in the city centre.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Limerick H-Block/Armagh Committee, the Ballynatty H-Block Action Group and Limerick Corporation Workers Against H-Block/Armagh.

A short oration was delivered by Des Long, chairman of the Limerick H-Block/Armagh Committee, who pointed out that while Thatcher's intransigence had claimed the lives of young Irish men in

the H-Blocks last year, that same attitude was now claiming the lives of Argentinians and her own soldiers in the South Atlantic.

## Brittany

SINN FEIN member Dermot Whelan on behalf of the Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau, last week completed a highly successful tour of Brittany to mark the first anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands. The tour was sponsored and organised by the Brittany section of the French Communist Party, which last year gave sterling support to the hunger-strikers and spearheaded French opposition to Thatcher's murder policy.

An early highlight of the tour was an address to the May Day rally of the CGT (the biggest trade union federation in France) held in Brest. This received widespread coverage in both the local newspapers, *Quest-France* and *Le Télégramme*. A number of local festivals organised by the PCF (French Communist Party) were also addressed over that weekend, including a question and answer session at Vieux.

The main highlight, however, was the naming of new streets in two towns after Bobby Sands by the mayors and town councils. The towns in question are Douarnenez and Carhars, where Whelan was also given a civic reception. Civic receptions were given too in

Concarneau and Huelgoat, where the local councils will rename a street after the hunger-strikers later on this year.

A moving ceremony was held in Brest city centre on May 5th to commemorate Bobby Sands' death. This received not just newspaper, but television coverage as well. Other events at which Dermot Whelan spoke were debates on the Irish struggle at the university in Brest and at a local secondary school. An interview was also given to *Quest-France* and to a local radio station.

## Leeds

OVER 100 people marched through Leeds, west Yorkshire, England, on Wednesday, May 5th, to remember Irish hunger-striker Bobby Sands MP. Black flags were carried in memory of the ten H-Block hunger-strikers who gave their lives last year.

The demonstration, organised by Leeds Troops Out Movement, was noisy but there was no hint of trouble.

It ended with a rally at Leeds Trades Council club, where a minute's silence was observed for the hunger-strikers. A video film of "Curious Journey", featuring interviews with veteran republicans and banned from television, was shown, and the "H-Block Song" was played.

## London

SEVERAL THOUSAND attended a demonstration in London on Saturday, May 8th, commemorating the death of Bobby Sands and his nine comrades. The demonstration, organised by an ad hoc committee initiated by the Troops Out Movement, had the twin demands 'Britain out of Ireland' and 'Self-determination for the Irish people'.

There was a 500-strong labour movement contingent, with banners from trades councils, trade union branches and local Labour Parties. Many Irish and solidarity organisations were represented, together with groups from the black community and Palestinians and Iranians. Headed by the Shamrock Flute Band from Glasgow, the demo had a distinctly republican flavour.

The rally at the end was chaired by Ernie Roberts, Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington. A big cheer greeted Owen Carron MP, who said that Bobby Sands and his comrades had died not just for the five demands, but for Irish freedom. He appealed to British people to build a strong and united British withdrawal movement.

Plaid Cymru MP Dafydd Ellis-Thomas pointed out that the same British state machine that was oppressing the Irish people was also oppressing the black minority in Britain and people fighting for sexual liberation and language liberation. He was applauded when he said that there was nothing to choose between the propaganda machine of the Argentine junta and the BBC and IBA, which had consistently spread disinformation about Ireland.

Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, was given an enthusiastic welcome.

"Socialists believe that a free united Ireland will make a major contribution to socialism in Europe and the rest of the world," he said. He attacked the editor of the *Sun* newspaper as "a liar", and accused him of mounting a sustained campaign of racism against both Irish and black people. He reiterated that if he had lived in Fermanagh and South Tyrone he would have worked for and voted for Bobby Sands, and pledged that he would continue to support groups working for British withdrawal and Irish reunification.

British Labour Euro-MP Richard Balfe called once again for the banning of plastic bullets. A representative of the Indian Workers' Association reminded the audience that British imperialism had butchered thousands of Indians, and recalled how Irish troops had mutilated rather than fire on Indian demonstrators.

"There is a long-standing solidarity between the Irish and the Indian peoples," he said. To applause, he concluded: "Those who rule by the gun can be defeated by the gun."

Other platform speakers included Mary Pearson of the Troops Out Movement, Von McLary of the IRSP and Mrs Hill, mother of Paul Hill, a prisoner in England.