

AN  
**PHOBLACHT**  
Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING  
POLITICAL WEEKLY



Sraith Nua Imi 5 Uimhir 8 Deardoin Feabhra 24 Thursday February 24th 1983 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

International Women's Day

**ARMAGH JAIL  
PICKET**

**Sunday 6th March  
Assemble 2pm**

See Page 9 for details



● The derelict Albert Bar in Armagh city where a member of the notorious RUC shoot-to-kill squad died in an IRA bomb blast on Monday 21st February

# IRA on the attack

IN A STRING of attacks across the North over a four-day period this week, the IRA once again showed its ability to switch from a period of apparent lull to one of successful action, with operations which resulted in the deaths of two RUC men and the wounding of another RUC man and a UDR soldier.

Tragically, the spate of action was marred by the death of a civilian, standing in for a UDR soldier, in a case of mistaken identity.

The effectiveness of the successful attacks was underlined by the fact that one of them — an ambush at Warrenpoint — took place directly outside

the enemy barracks.

And the death of one of the murderous shoot-to-kill Divisional Mobile Support Unit in a remote control bomb attack in Armagh was a timely confidence shaker for that particular RUC menace.

The squeals of condemnation from

church leaders, SDLP collaborators and loyalist politicians against the IRA can yet again be contrasted with the mild expressions of concern and, indeed, the open delight which marked the exploits of the same RUC killer squad in Armagh only two months ago.

## HEARTENING

For beleaguered nationalists, continuously at the receiving end of British repression, the regular and reliable ability of the IRA to wage an effective

guerrilla war is always heartening. And for the repressors, it is always a disheartening blow to morale.

The armed struggle is an essential element of the republican struggle, which has been complemented in recent months by dramatic progress in political growth and economic and social agitation.

Together they make an unstoppable combination of resistance which shakes with ever-increasing force the foundation of British rule in Ireland and hastens its day of departure.



# PLAN TO MONITOR PTA SHELVED

BY KEVIN BURKE

**YET AGAIN**, a storm of contrived hysteria has been whipped up over an Irish issue and the Greater London Council (GLC), where the controlling British Labour Party is led by the British media's favourite hate-figure.

An application made by the Troops Out Movement for a GLC grant to monitor the operation of the racist Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), fell this week amidst tumult from politicians and media.

And instrumental in stopping the plan was Labour Party leader Michael Foot who had hypocritically pledged already to lead his MPs through the Westminster lobby against a renewal of the PTA. His pressure on the GLC Labour Party succeeded, almost on the eve of the crucial Bermondsey by-election, in rejecting the plan.

Commenting afterwards, however, GLC leader Ken Livingstone said that of more than 1,000 Londoners detained under the PTA, only 2% were found guilty of any offence.

"Clearly this must create a lot of resentment," he said, "with a consequent effect on community relations."

In a statement on Tuesday, February 22nd, the Troops Out Movement said it was "horrified" at what had happened to the application:

"The hysteria generated bears no relation to the actual application for a grant towards monitoring the PTA. It would appear — bearing in mind the proposed visit of Danny



Morrison and Gerry Adams last year — that there are only two positions possible: total support of the British government or total support for the IRA, with no room for any middle of the road attitude."

The grant sought by Troops Out would have amounted to £53,000 over the next two years and would have gone towards two salaries and an office from which the PTA monitoring project would have operated.

From this base, the full-time workers would have offered practical help for those affected by the PTA, collected a detailed body of evidence on the operation of the legislation by the police, and published reports of their findings.

Sponsoring the application were two Labour Party MPs, Reg Race and Ernie Roberts, Pat Delaney of the Irish in Britain Representation Group and Jonathan Rosenhead of the British Society for Social

Responsibility in Science.

Several Labour GLC councillors were also in favour of the grant being given.

The application has now been shelved, but is expected to be reconsidered in a month's time when the Troops Out Movement will be re-applying, and in the meantime they are expected to canvass extensively for support for the plan from local London councils, further Labour MPs and civil rights groups and individuals.



Wives of the jailed Ranks workers join the occupation of the mills earlier this week

## Ranks 14 gain support

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

**THE EXEMPLARY** persistence of the 14 jailed Dublin Ranks workers began to bear fruit this week as a number of groups of trade unionists held work stoppages in their support, and the ITGWU finally began to show some of its muscle by threatening a major shut-down if the men are not released by the weekend.

The struggle could yet prove to be pivotal both in respect of forcing a change in legislation which allows the jailing of workers involved in an industrial dispute, and in providing an inspiration to hundreds of other workers faced with redundancy.

The occupation of the Ranks flour mills — for which the 14 are in jail for an indefinite period for defying court injunctions — is continuing, with wives of the jailed

men joining the protest inside the factory.

On Saturday last, about 300 people marched from the Phibsboro plant to a protest rally at the GPO via Mountjoy Jail where pickets are maintained every evening.

And on Monday morning, O'Connell Bridge was blocked by the workers and supporters for an hour during peak traffic time.

On Tuesday, following calls, in particular from the ATGWU,

for supportive work stoppages, 600 dockers, checkers and maintenance workers in Dublin port walked out during the afternoon in support of the jailed 14.

On Wednesday, their example was followed by about 300 workers at the Datsun factory in Dublin and messages of support and pledges of action coming in from around the twenty-six counties reached a steady flow.

Then, on Wednesday evening, the ITGWU, who have refused to give official backing to the Ranks action, finally conceded to the pressure and threatened a national strike of all ITGWU members if the men are not released by the weekend.

## Fianna slam Kelly's view

**THE HARSH** reality of life in capitalist Ireland was brutally outlined by Fine Gael's John Kelly last weekend when he claimed that there will never be full employment in Ireland.

The Free State's education system, instead of filling young people with hope of a livelihood in Ireland, should instead be gearing them towards emigration, he said.

In a statement, Na Fianna Éireann (Republican Youth Movement) commented:

"Between 1951 and 1961, over 400,000 people emigrated from the twenty-six counties. They left because the land of their birth could not provide them with the means to live. That crime was made the more

heinous by the fact that it was inflicted by Irishmen on their fellow countrymen.

"Today, emigration is being touted as an alternative for the youth of this country once again. And so it is — under capitalism. But then for young people capitalism holds nothing but increasing unemployment, education cut-backs, and inequality.

"All the youth employment projects — the work-experience schemes, the pre-employment courses, AnCO, ACOT or SFADCO —



John Kelly gave us Fine Gael's answer to unemployment — emigration! will not solve the problem of unemployment because they don't tackle the fundamental cause which is an economic system based on exploitation and on greed."



## TCD strike begins

**MAINTENANCE** and security workers at Trinity College Dublin began a strike on Monday of this week in pursuance of a £7.50 parity claim. About 480 members of the FWUI are involved.

The strike, the first ever official stoppage at the university, follows the refusal to increase wages in line with the grades in Dublin Corporation, which received increases last year, and with which the university workers have parity.

The TCD authorities claim that the public pay-freeze prevents them from paying the increase due to the workers.

On Monday an attempt was made to

break the strike on its first day with an offer to students to do the work of the strikers at the rate of £3 per hour. But this was quickly withdrawn after strong protests from both the FWUI and the students' union.

Some secretaries and clerical staff, and a few of the academic staff, are refusing to pass the picket, although others are carrying out some of the duties of the striking workers.



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

# IRA INTENSIFIES ATTACKS

ACROSS THE occupied North, over the past week, the IRA intensified its level of successful military operations fairly dramatically, resulting in the deaths of two RUC men and the wounding of one RUC man and a UDR soldier. Regrettably, however, the IRA also shot dead a civilian in a case of mistaken identity.

## WARRENPOINT ATTACK

The South Down Brigade of the IRA successfully ambushed and shot dead a member of the RUC Reserve in the centre of Warrenpoint on Sunday 20th February.

The 20-year-old Reservist — who had joined the RUC in June 1981 — was caught in a sustained burst of automatic gunfire as he left the local barracks in Charlotte Street and crossed the road towards a sweet shop. He was hit several times in the chest and soon afterwards.

As the active service unit withdrew safely, a Volunteer lobbed a hand grenade at the barracks, which although not causing any serious damage, succeeded in deterring its craven occupants from taking up pursuit.

## RUC CAUGHT IN BOMB BLAST

The second RUC man to die at the hands of the IRA in the space of little more than 24 hours, was in the nationalist Shambles area of Armagh city, on Monday 21st February.

At around 8.30pm, members of the notorious shoot-to-kill Divisional Mobile Support Unit (believed to be the unit responsible for the deaths in Armagh city of Seamus Grew and Roddy Carroll last December) were travelling in two unmarked cars along Lower English Street, and stopped at the junction of Cathedral Road where several members of the patrol got out of the cars and took up cover positions.

Moments later, as they returned to their cars, IRA Volunteers in the immediate area — having ensured there was no danger to local civilians — detonated by remote control a bomb which they had earlier located in the derelict Albert Bar.

One RUC man, a 30-year-old

sergeant, who was standing beside the bar, was killed outright by the force of the explosion, which flung him a distance of 50 yards. He was a brother-in-law of the chairperson of Newry and Mourne District Council, DUP arch-bigot George Graham.

## TYRONE AMBUSH

An RUC Reservist and a UDR soldier were both wounded in a carefully planned Tyrone Brigade IRA ambush near Sixmiletown on Tuesday morning, February 22nd.

The two enemy personnel were driving a lorry along the Cloughfin Road at 10.30am, when IRA Volunteers lying in wait on both sides of the road opened fire at a place known locally as the 'Crooked Bridge'.

Both men were hit repeatedly in the heavy gunfire, the RUC man in the arm and leg and the UDR soldier in the head, arm and leg, but both managed to survive. Their lorry careered out of control and overturned in an adjoining field. The men were able to climb out of the lorry and were taken by a passing motorist to Beragh RUC Barracks and from there to the Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh.

Despite subsequent media reports that the lorry's occupants were an RUC Reservist and a former UDR soldier, the IRA in Tyrone has stated that its intelligence reports on the latter individual's activities indicate that he is actually a serving member of the UDR.

## FERMANAGH AMBUSH

The IRA has expressed its unreserved regret following the shooting dead of 53-year-old postman Alan Price at Sessigh, Arney, in County Fermanagh, on Saturday 20th February.

Price, from Drumgallon, Enniskillen, was — unknown to the IRA



● Plainclothes RUC men at the scene of last Sunday's daring execution by the IRA of an RUC Reservist in Warrenpoint — the operation occurred within 50 yards of the local barracks

standing in, that day, for the UDR soldier whose part-time postal delivery round included the Sessigh area, where IRA Volunteers had prepared an ambush. Mr Price

died instantly in the gun attack.

Regretting this tragedy, the IRA in Fermanagh explained that Mr Price bore a strong physical resemblance to the UDR soldier that

its Volunteers were waiting for, and that at the time of the attack there were no grounds to think that the target was not in fact a member of the UDR.

## LURGAN IRA STATEMENT

THE IRA's First Battalion, North Armagh Brigade, has issued the following statement:

"In the early hours of Saturday, February 12th, a man was seriously injured in a brutal attack near the top of Kilwilkie Road in Lurgan. He was so savagely beaten, in fact, that doctors initially thought he would be permanently blinded.

"The man involved was a prisoner just released

from the H-Blocks. But for the intervention of people living in the area he would have been beaten literally to death.

"The First Battalion, North Armagh Brigade, wish to state emphatically that it will not tolerate activity of this nature, or the stealing of cars, break-ins, wanton vandalism, or people using our name for their own ends. Those caught doing so will be severely dealt with."

# SDLP GIMMICKS

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

ON TUESDAY, February 15th, SDLP leader John Hume went to a South Belfast hotel to attend a meeting which was pompously described in a later statement as the 'launching of a new SDLP branch in Lenadoon'.

The meeting, poorly attended in spite of personal invitations sent to all local past contributors (living or deceased), heard Hume call for British direct-ruler Jim Prior to resign — a call as vacuous and opportunistic as that issued by West Belfast SDLP representative Joe Hendron to British troops to withdraw from West Belfast, last January.

The call was described as 'pitiable' by Sinn Féin elected representative 'Gerry Adams, who said it illustrated the SDLP's 'unique form of diluted verbal nationalism.' Gerry Adams, who was addressing a Sinn Féin election meeting in Dungannon on Sunday, February 20th, accused the SDLP of doing little else but 'issuing gimmicky statements or conducting silly discussions with Dublin politicians.' He was referring to Hume's trip to Dublin on the previous Wednesday and Thursday, to try and convince Free State poli-

iticians to lend the SDLP's Council for a New Ireland' plan some badly needed credibility.

## PATHETIC CLAIM

The idea of this council, to draw up a blueprint for a 'New Ireland', was claimed last week as originally belonging to the IIP's Frank McManus in a pathetic attempt to pull the party out of political oblivion.

Meanwhile, in Dublin, Hume explained to party leaders Haughey, FitzGerald and Spring that this so-called Council for a New Ire-

land' would be a gathering of representatives of all Free State parties with seats in Leinster House, and of "whole-hearted democrats from Northern Ireland." This is the phrase which SDLP spokespersons have developed to include themselves but exclude Sinn Féin. A turn of phrase ironically similar to those used down the years by the unionists to exclude the SDLP.

In reply to a rather cold question from Labour Party leader Dick Spring, Hume had to admit that such a council would certainly be shunned by all unionist politicians and would represent what Hume described as the 'Irish side of the argument'.

## LIFELINE

Garret FitzGerald, faced with the urgency of doing something to rescue the SDLP from the path of Sinn Féin's electoral progress, must be sorely tempted to throw Hume this lifeline.

But on the other hand, FitzGerald's constant argument has



● Dick Spring poured cold water on Hume's 'Council for a New Ireland' plans

been one of 'winning over' the loyalists. Already incensed by FitzGerald's approach on the amendment, the loyalists would go berserk at the idea of all-Ireland

quasi-governmental institutions being set up in Dublin.

Some much watered down version of Hume's proposal is therefore the likeliest outcome...





• KATHLEEN STEWART

## Plastic bullet conference

A LABOUR Movement Conference on Plastic Bullets will take place in Manchester this weekend, aimed at a trade union/labour Party audience and examining the range of issues raised by the recent decision of the British Labour Party to campaign for a banning of the weapon.

The conference is hoping to create a climate within the British labour movement which will ensure that the Labour Party is firmly committed to a ban.

Speakers at the day-long conference, on Saturday, February 26th, include Fermanagh / South Tyrone MP Owen Carron; the Labour Party spokesperson on the North, Clive Soley; Euro-MP Richard Balfie; Irish journalist Mary Holland; and Kathleen Stewart, mother of plastic bullet victim 13-year-old Brian Stewart.



• EDMUND BALUKA

## Baluka plea

SINN FEIN has sent a telegram to the Polish government asking it to grant immediate political prisoner treatment to Edmund Baluka on hunger-strike in Szczecin Prison.

"Edmund Baluka," it says, "on his visits to Ireland gave support to the Irish H-Block hunger-strikers, ten of whom died at the hands of the British government."

"We do not wish such tragedies in Poland and believe that amnesty for all detained, convicted or awaiting trial resulting from martial law will help to heal wounds and advance the cause of democratic socialism."

The telegram is signed by Sinn Féin president Ruairi O Bredaigh and the five elected representatives in the North, Gerry Adams, Owen Carron, Jim McAllister, Martin McGuinness and Danny Morrison.

## Cormac goes to college

THE Gaughan/Keenan Sinn Féin cumann in University College Dublin organised a highly successful exhibition of Cormac cartoons in the college during the recent Rag Week.

The exhibition is the latest in a series of events organised by the cumann there and followed a public meeting which was held in the college last month. Up to 400 students attended the lunchtime meeting which was addressed by Paddy Bolger, Rose Dugdale and Sean Marlowe.

Meanwhile, the Sinn Féin Youth Department has produced a new leaflet, 'Students and Sinn Féin', directed at those attending third-level colleges throughout the country.

Students wishing to join Sinn Féin or set up a cumann in their college should contact the Youth Department at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, from where copies of the leaflet can also be obtained.

# IRISH-AMERICANS PREPARE FOR PARADES AND PROTESTS NORRAID IN THE NEWS

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

AS THE VISIT of the British Queen Elizabeth to the United States at the beginning of next month approaches, the spotlight of media attention remains on the strength of Irish-American support for the republican struggle in Ireland.

Following the controversial but overwhelming election of Irish Northern Aid (Noraid) leader Michael Flannery as grand marshal of the St Patrick's Day parade in New York, a number of other centres have been following suit.

Both Philadelphia and Kansas City have named Michael O'Rourke, the republican prisoner who blasted his way out of Dublin's Green Street Courthouse in 1976, as honorary grand marshal of their parades.

O'Rourke has been in jail in the United States for the last two years, fighting extradition proceedings.

In San Francisco, the St Patrick's Day parade committee there has named the late H-Block hunger-striker Francis Hughes as honorary



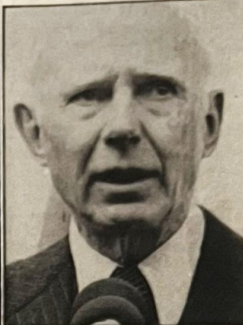
• FRANCIS HUGHES

grand marshal.

Noraid has also caused a sensation in the Californian city by obtaining a copy of a secret document detailing step-by-step Queen Elizabeth's visit on March 3rd, and major demonstrations are expected along the route.

The document includes details of the entrance and exit she will use from San Francisco Opera House, her exact seat inside, and even the spot where she "will stop and listen to a pipe band" after leaving the City Hall.

Irish-Americans are predicting



• MARTIN FLANNERY

that she will hear more than a pipe band.

Meanwhile, back in New York, the city's mayor, Edward Koch, has indicated that he will not heed calls from the Dublin government for a boycott of the St Patrick's Day parade, and will be attending.

On the other hand, Senator Daniel Moynihan — who with Senator Edward Kennedy, Speaker Tip O'Neill and Governor Hugh Carey, forms the 'Four Horsemen' of Irish-American politics — has announced that he will not be marching this year.



• MICHAEL O'ROURKE

Commenting on Moynihan's decision, Noraid spokesperson Martin Galvin said:

"In past years Senator Moynihan has been a St Patrick's Day Irishman marching with the Irish parade while ignoring victims of British rule in Ireland throughout the rest of the year."

"Moynihan has even served as a pro-British apologist. Thankfully Senator Moynihan has realised that he does not belong with the Irish on St Patrick's Day. He does not share the support of those who defend Irish soil from British rule."

# SWAPO - on the offensive

BY SEAN HALPENNY

THE SOUTH-WEST Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), who are currently engaged in an armed struggle for national liberation against the occupation forces of the racist South African regime in Namibia, are gathering their forces for the annual rainy season offensive.

This year, SWAPO are confident that they will be able to field more guerrilla fighters against the South Africans than ever before. Despite punitive expeditions by the South Africans into Angola and Zambia, where SWAPO have established base camps, and despite the presence of over 100,000 South African troops in Namibia, SWAPO over the past few years have turned from defending the population from wholesale intimidation, torture, imprisonment and murder, to a particularly successful offensive campaign.

In fact, such is the campaign that alarm bells are ringing inside the South African regime.

## 'ALARMING VIGOUR'

The regime's leading newspaper, the *Rand Daily Mail*, commenting on SWAPO's offensive, declared that SWAPO "hardly gives the appearance of being a down-and-out organisation which is on the run, rather it displays alarming vigour and organisation."

This situation was confirmed when the European representative of SWAPO, Shapua KauKunga, addressed a meeting in Dublin on Wednesday, February 16th, organised by the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement.

After describing the present situation in Namibia, and saying that SWAPO is "definitely on the offensive", KauKunga declared: "We are proud of what we are doing — our forces are doing very well as far as we are concerned. We are confident of ultimate victory."

## ANGOLA

KauKunga slammed America's involvement in Namibia, and also the insistence by South Africa, at the behest of the Reagan administration, that Cuban forces, who



• There are over 100,000 South African troops in Namibia but, as Shapua KauKunga (inset) says, SWAPO are 'doing very well' and confident of ultimate victory

were invited into Angola in 1975 by the Angolan government, should leave before any 'meaningful' negotiations on the future of Namibia can be discussed.

The Angolans for their part know that the only guarantee they have of South African forces not overrunning the country is the presence of the Cubans. The Cuban presence, of course, has not deterred the South Africans from conducting raids across the border in 'search and destroy' missions on Namibian refugee camps.

The Angolans have estimated that over £5 billion worth of damage has been caused by these invasions since 1975, and thousands of people, both Namibian and Angolan, have been killed.

Despite this reign of terror, the South Africans have completely failed to halt the tide of national liberation in Namibia.

SWAPO is now enjoying support on an unprecedented scale and this was brought sharply into focus on January 18th when the South African regime was forced to dissolve the four-year-old National Assembly in Namibia, the only members

being the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA).

The DTA is a pro-South African coalition of ethnic political parties, headed by a white rancher, Dirk Mudge. It was also promoted by Pretoria as an alternative to SWAPO but completely failed to win any concrete support and failed to stem any international criticism of the South African regime.

## ELECTIONS

In 1982 there was much talk of general elections through the machinery of the DTA, but the South Africans, realising the enormous support for SWAPO, abandoned this because of the "unpreparedness" of the DTA — which in plain language means that in any election there is no doubt that SWAPO would sweep the boards.

The South Africans can now only play for time, with the assistance of the US, Britain and other imperialist countries. It remains to be seen how the South Africans use that time, but there is no doubt it will mean more repression and oppression for the resurgent Namibian people.



## PRIESTS CALL ON HIERARCHY TO CONDEMN STATE VIOLENCE

# Bishops told to face the real issues

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

REPUBLICAN remand prisoners in Crumlin Road Jail walked out of Mass last Sunday, February 20th, as the priest was reading the Lenten pastoral letter from the Bishop of Down and Connor, Cahal Daly.

The pastoral included more of the one-sided condemnations of violence which have become the norm from the bishop since his move to the Belfast diocese.

In a rather puerile outburst, Bishop Daly wrote:

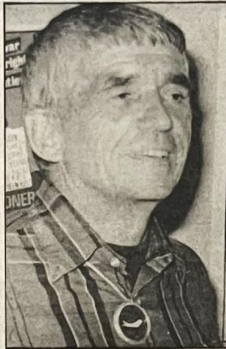
"You cannot make a united Ireland, or a new Ireland, by bullets and bombs, by getting children to fire petrol-bombs, or to throw stones, or by shouting ugly words."

And after a lengthy condemnation of nationalist resistance he added a few words of caution to the British about the dangers of what he demurely called 'excesses' by their forces.

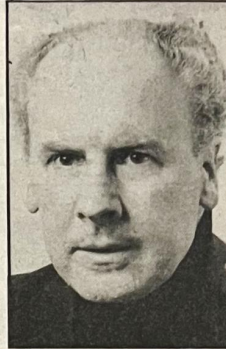
A timely answer to this British

propaganda line came on Tuesday of this week with the publication of an open letter by a group of priests to all the Irish bishops.

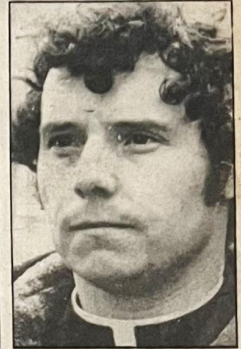
The letter — signed by Fr Desmond Wilson, Fr Joseph McVeigh, Fr Patrick O'Brien, Fr Michael Doyle, Fr John McNamee, Fr Daniel Berrigan and Fr Brian McCreesh (a brother of the dead hunger-striker Raymond McCreesh) — urges the Irish bishops "to speak out against the structural violence that condemns people to inferior citizenship and constant harassment by the forces of law and order; to speak out against arbitrary arrests and the unjust Diplock courts; to speak out against the abuse of



● FR DANIEL BERRIGAN



● FR DES WILSON



● FR BRIAN MCCREESH

The letter also says:

"While finding a political solution is not your primary business, we feel that you have a responsibility to address the moral issue of the injustice of British misrule in the North of Ireland."

"The most pressing moral issue facing the people of Ireland is the mistreatment of a section of the population by an outside oppressor. This section of the population is subjected to constant harassment, inadequate housing, unemployment and discrimination."

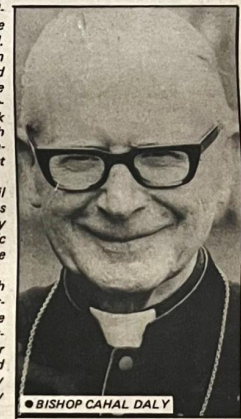
"As spiritual and social leaders you have a special responsibility to the poor and oppressed in the North of Ireland where the military might of Britain is used against a defenceless working-class people. This has been especially sore on women and young people."

"In such a situation to plead neutrality is tantamount to ap-

proval of British government policies and the presence of the British in the North of Ireland. If a political system has been created by force and maintained by force then leaders within the Christian community have a responsibility not only to speak against but to actively resist such a system. Surely this is the primary violence in our country that must be confronted."

"The Second Vatican Council gives a direct mandate to bishops to confront injustice and tyranny even if this means taking a public stand against the authority of the state."

"The Catholic Church has rich resources and world-wide connections which could be used to make known the truth about the situation, especially since the poor and oppressed have been denied the ability and the opportunity to make known the truth as they experience it."



● BISHOP CAHAL DALY

## CANDIDATE CHOSEN

A 21-YEAR-OLD Carrickmore man has been chosen by Sinn Féin to contest the by-election for Omagh District Council, County Tyrone, to be held on Tuesday, March 22nd.

Seamus Kerr, who has been in Sinn Féin for a number of years, and who worked full-time for the Movement during the hunger-strike campaign in 1980 and 1981, is a popular figure in the Tyrone area, known for his organising ability and public-speaking.

He will face an array of opponents, most of whom are also from the Carrickmore area, which contains the bulk of the electorate in Area 'D'. Already the IIP,

Workers' Party and Alliance Party, have chosen candidates.

Last Monday night, at a meeting in Gortin, the SDLP, which was having great difficulty in finding a suitable and willing candidate, plumped for Peadar Montague, whom they had originally put forward for co-optation to the council but failed when IIP councillor Francis Conway objected.

The previous evening, at a well-attended republican convention in Carrickmore, Seamus Kerr was proposed by Francis Hurson, brother of dead hunger-striker Martin Hurson, and seconded by Frank Ward from Greencastle, two men whose names had been earlier mentioned as potential candidates.

Kerr was unanimously adopted by the meeting which was attended by republicans from Loughmacrory, Gortin, Mountfield, Creggan, and Drumnakilly.

Sean Begley was appointed election agent and director of elections and the Sinn Féin elected representative for Mid-Ulster, Danny Morrison, was placed in charge of publicity.

Thanking the gathering of workers, Seamus Kerr pledged to do his best and continued: "together we can make this a great victory for Sinn Féin and the Republican Movement. We will put our hearts and souls into this campaign."

"We must knock on every door to deliver our message of freedom from British rule and proper representation for the people."



APART from agreeing, in the assembly this week, that they are all against the IRA, the unionists, both at Stormont level and local council level, seem currently intent on division.

While the DUP has been trying to present a 'responsible' and 'statesmanlike' image by participating in the assembly and its committees, and issuing numerous statements on economic issues, the inner tensions of Paisley's party were revealed last week when two local councillors resigned from the DUP and a third threatened to resign.

The first resignation was that of William Belshaw, DUP mayor of Lisburn, who decided to quit because of the heavy criticism he had had to face from the party leadership since his attendance at a dinner at which Free State premier Garret FitzGerald was present. The dinner had been held last January in Belfast to commemorate ten years of EEC membership, and most unionists had boycotted it. DUP members for South Antrim accused Belshaw of "fraternising with a foreign head of state which claims jurisdiction over Northern Ireland."

### ABSTAINED

The second resignation was that of Belfast councillor Joe Cogle, from the

## Unionists divided



● A united front by Paisley's DUP hides cracks under the surface

Shankill area, following criticism from other DUP councillors that he had abstained during a vote on the Sunday closure of a leisure centre in the Donegall Road area

last January. Probably a wise move from Cogle anyway, as 40% of the electors of that area had signed a petition opposing the Sunday closure.

Another DUP councillor from the same area, William Gault, blamed the resignation on the 'little Hitlers' who rule the DUP locally — carefully avoiding to lay any shadow of blame on the party leaders — and announced that he would probably be the next to 'be forced to resign'.

But a reply to those loyalists who dare to challenge the gospel according to Ian Paisley, came from the Stormont assembly the next day, Thursday, February 17th, when Ian Paisley himself, during a debate on tourism, launched into a song of praise on the 'uniqueness of the Ulster Sabbath.'

The matter under discussion was that of Sunday closures of pubs, restaurants and sports facilities, and their effect on tourism. Paisley declared that far from apologising, people should 'glory' in their 'strong Protestant background' and apparently consider it to be a strong tourist attraction.

Meanwhile, the Official Unionists have shown themselves to be less than unanimous regarding their recent return into the assembly's committees.

On Thursday, February 17th, OUP assembly member Jeremy Burchill resigned his membership of a committee in protest against the 'contemptuous' treatment of his deputy-leader Harold McCusker the previous week, by speaker Jim Kilfedder when almost half of the OUP had staged a 'mass walk-out' from the assembly.



# INSIDE MOUNTJOY

## Ireland's only growth industry

BY JACK MADDEN

**A** rising crime rate and what is termed as general 'moral decay' have become major issues in today's world. The symptoms of a major social problem, particularly in urban areas, are identified by a sensationalist press every day.

On the other hand, sociologists have identified the source of the disease: social and economic deprivation and disenchantment or inability to cope with the technological society in which we live.

Successive governments have ignored these causes and, egged on by a frightened public, have attempted to tackle the symptoms instead.

The cry 'Let the punishment fit the crime!' is heard far and wide but few stop to think where this is leading. Birch-rods and imprisonment have captured the imagination of a conservative people, but what are the results? Is the system designed to exact revenge or rehabilitate?

In Mountjoy is the proof that nothing is being done to solve crime in Ireland. Containment has become the accepted creed.

### BUILT TO PUNISH

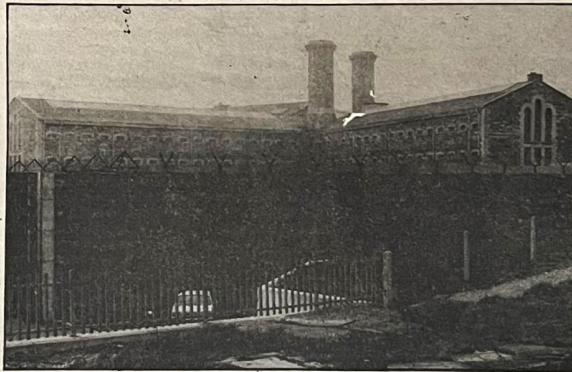
**M**OUNTJOY Jail was built to punish. Cold, bleak and oppressive, it was constructed as a monument to Victorian severity and a dread to would-be criminals. Little has changed today except that Mountjoy is now constantly packed to capacity, stretching the limited recreational and educational facilities still further. Control of the jail has passed from the prison governor to the Department of Justice who have proved equally uncaring in the area of prison reform.

Everyday life is as monotonous as ever for the ordinary prisoner. Food which is good quality when it arrives at the jail is served to the prisoners as slop. Prisoners are stripped of their individuality as they enter Mountjoy. While warders insist on being addressed with respect, they refer to prisoners using surnames only.

Verbal and physical brutality are so entrenched in tradition that they are now regarded as an unspoken policy.

### WELFARE OFFICERS

**W**ELFARE officers who run the prisons on a day-to-day basis have been a total failure. The reason, according to a Department of Justice source, is that



● It's commonly known as the 'Joy' but there's no joy for its over-crowded inhabitants

they are so overburdened with administrative work that they have no time to do any real welfare work. In the opinion of the prisoners, the real reason is that these people just don't give a damn!

When a prisoner is first committed to Mountjoy they are sent to the welfare officer for 'evaluation'. Here it is decided where the prisoner will serve his sentence and, if in Mountjoy, in which wing. While serving their sentence prisoners must approach the welfare officer when looking for parole or when a problem arises. This can mean long delays because prisoners must first get the warden on their wing to arrange an appointment for them. The animosity which exists between warders and the welfare officers slows the process up still further, as does the fact that the welfare office is only open to prisoners for four hours each day.

### PUNISHMENT

**T**HE function of the governor has obviously been weakened since the introduction of the welfare officers. His sole area of responsibility seems now to be in punishing prisoners. These disciplinary proceedings are a sham, according to Joe Costello of the Prisoners' Rights Organisation (PRO), who argues that prisoners should have the right to legal representation at these hearings in which the governor acts as judge, jury and executioner and can extend a prisoner's sentence by withdrawing parole.

"Although there are ten cases a day brought before disciplinary hearings,"

says Costello, "no prisoner has ever won a case. Surely since the governor is claiming a judicial role, the prisoners should have a right to legal representation."

### SUICIDES

**A**NOTHER area of concern to the PRO has been the recent suicides by Michael Lynagh and James McNamara.

Their deaths have led to fresh demands that prisoners be given a psychiatric examination, as well as the statutory physical examination, on reception to prison. This, they say, is "to ensure that the medical authorities are aware of any psychiatric history and to assess the individual prisoner's ability to cope with the excessive periods of isolation — 17 to 19 hours daily."

"Should any prisoner demonstrate characteristics of mental disturbance during incarceration, we want that prisoner to be put in an association cell and to be fully supervised."

### DRUGS

**G**REAT attention is being focussed lately on the widespread drug abuse in Irish prisons. Less attention has been paid to the inhumane treatment of drug addicts by the prison administration.

A heroin addict, for instance, is, when committed to Mountjoy, given less than 60 mg of phsyptone (a heroin substitute) on his first day. This inadequate dosage is quickly reduced until after only six days they are given nothing.

This is much too short a time to allow for an easy withdrawal from the drug and prisoners have been known to suffer

severe agony as a result. Small wonder, therefore, that they now go to great lengths to have a heroin supply smuggled into them.

### EDUCATION

**T**HE education facilities in Mountjoy are seen by the prison administration as a privilege to be granted or withheld from prisoners depending on their conduct.

As with everything else in the jail, admission to the school is a cumbersome administrative process and takes a long time. This, added to the pressure of numbers applying to get into the school, has meant that many prisoners are due for release before admission is granted.

Days are spent hanging about or doing prison work. Although breaking stones has gone out of fashion the prisoners in Mountjoy are still expected to go out, in all weather, and cut wood.

### TRAINING

**I**N 1976 a training unit was opened, at Glengarriff Parade, to provide some prisoners with industrial training for life outside jail. This is run on the same lines as AnCO but has not been successful as a long-term benefit.

One reason for this is the general unemployment, but complaints have been made that the courses themselves are not adapted to market needs and that in the areas where it does provide training this tends to be of a very basic nature.

Prison warders in the training unit are hand-picked 'softly-softly' types who do not wear uniform. Cells are referred to as 'rooms'. These contrasts with the main prison have existed because the training unit is officially distinct from Mountjoy.

Lately, however, they have become more closely identified with one another since the over-crowding in the main prison has meant that more and more prisoners are being dumped in the training unit and being left there longer. Even though the courses last only ten weeks, prisoners are being left in the unit for six months with nothing to do.

### POLITICAL PRISONERS

**I**NDEED, the unit and Mountjoy are now interchangeable when it suits the government.

The recently imprisoned Ranks workers and the fishermen are sent to the training unit rather than to the main prison because they are different. This differentiation between prisoners, which tends to ensure that political or trade union prisoners are comparatively better off than ordinary



● Joe Costello of the Prisoners' Rights Organisation — fighting the State's Victorian penal system, is deeply angry because middle-class prisoners

These 'elite' prisoners are given the training unit or which is reserved for prisoners, is deeply angry because middle-class prisoners

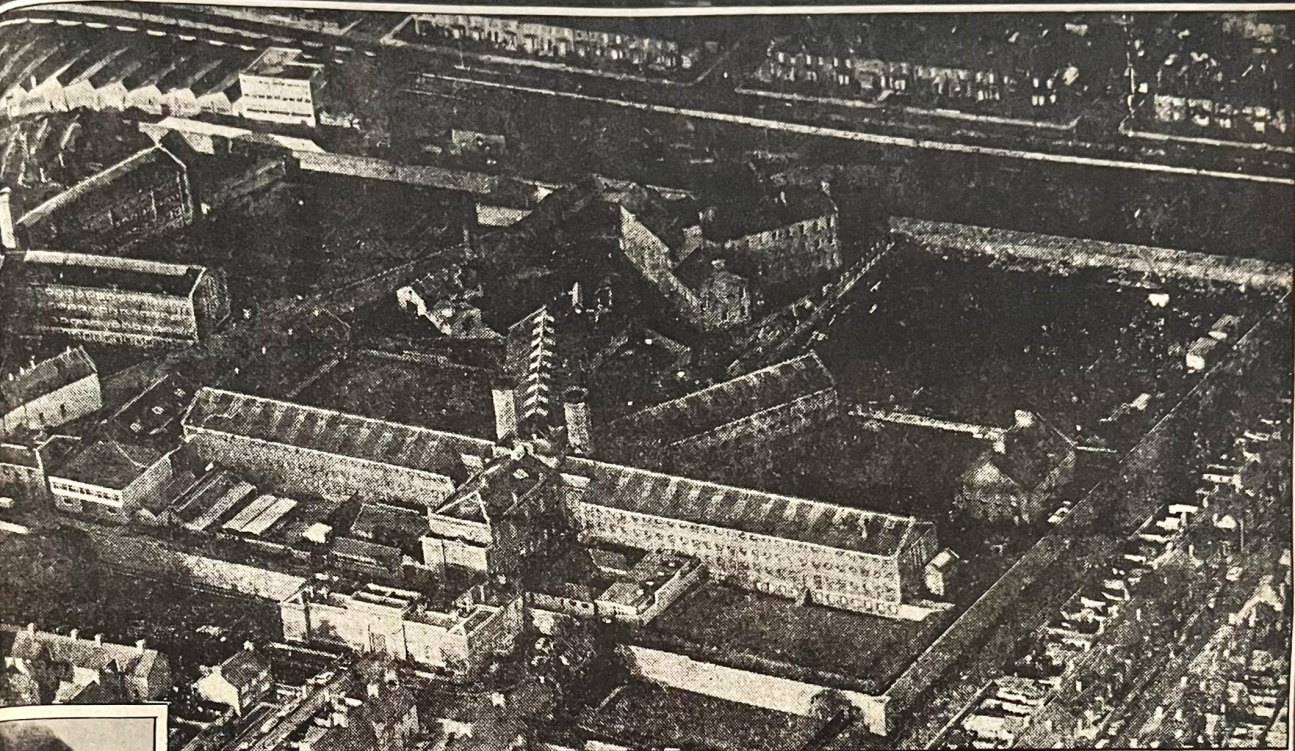
The over-riding of the training unit or which is reserved for prisoners, is deeply angry because middle-class prisoners

Those who run the training unit or which is reserved for prisoners, is deeply angry because middle-class prisoners

Those who run the training unit or which is reserved for prisoners, is deeply angry because middle-class prisoners

Those who run the training unit or which is reserved for prisoners, is deeply angry because middle-class prisoners





vice in the first place. Therefore the number of probation officers on this scheme could be reduced and employed in Youth Encounter Projects, working with young people before the problems begin."

#### MIS-USE OF STAFF

**T**HE main complaint of social workers within the prison service is the overall mis-use of welfare staff both inside and outside prison. Policy is determined by civil servants with no qualifications whose priority aim is to facilitate the minister. His priority is, in turn, to keep as many people in prison as possible for as long as possible, regardless of conditions. This means that the welfare service is tied up in administrative work rather than in rehabilitation which is its real purpose.

The PRO feel that there will be no real change until provision is made for setting up an independent prison board consisting of qualified personnel who would be competent in dealing with the problems which arise in prisons.

The Visiting Committee, which acts as the complaints body at present, is composed of "political appointees, who are always well-to-do and will rubber-stamp the prison administration's viewpoint," says Costello.

"Furthermore, they have to produce an annual report which is nothing more than a whitewash job."

Whether the government listens to these views is a moot point since the PRO has been regarded as 'subversive' since the days of Paddy Cooney.

Despite this, it is believed that the PRO voices publicly many of the reforms which the welfare service believes in but is not allowed to advocate.

#### DAMNING INDICTMENT

**P**ERHAPS the most damning indictment of the present system is the high incidence of recidivism (serving more than one term of imprisonment) in the twenty-six counties.

This presently runs at 67% of the prison population which means that two-thirds of the people presently in Mountjoy will serve another term in the future. The over-crowding is, therefore, likely to worsen in the future and, no doubt, more prisons will be built, more garraí recruited to 'curb' crime, and more prison warders to contain the criminal, with the government refusing to face the fact that it would be less expensive to have spent money removing the social and economic deprivation which leads to crime than to have relied on repression which never cures injustice.



of the Prisoners' Rights Organisation for a reform of the Free Prison system.

resented by the ordinary man. It extends to include prisoners and is discriminatory. Prisoners are either sent to 'A' or 'D' Wing of the jail for them. The attitude towards a middle-class prisoner is sharply with his attitude towards a prisoner.

ing concern of the Minister of Justice is to provide a service. These post-release prisoners who might have served a term in Mountjoy but are in areas best left to an independent prison

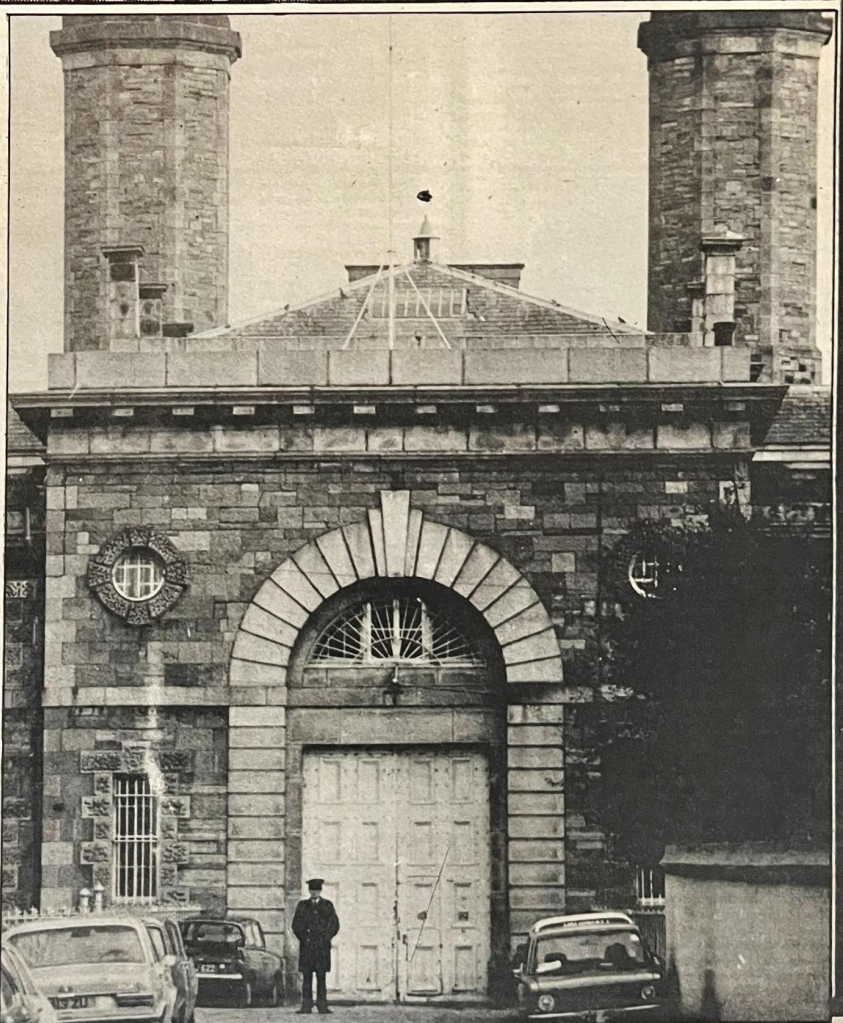
#### PAROLE

Supervision Scheme is one of the minister as is the service. These post-release prisoners, according to the PRO, are "live merchants who do not want to be prisoners."

the scheme argue that it is not fair to have them playing truant in the streets who might have served a term in jail and do not want the

subject to pre-release or probation. When which, they feel, is a service. Justice Ministers in their department is work-

officer commented: "This social work ser-





# Mála poist...Mála poist.

## Armagh solidarity

A Chára,  
As the days draw nearer to International Women's Day, March 8th, may we bring to the attention of all women that not only is International Women's Day a day of universal celebration and fertility but also a day when women throughout the world unite in sisterhood and solidarity with oppressed women; women burdened under the shackles of male dominance; women in jail; women starving in Third World countries; women denied their rights and individualism; the list, unfortunately, goes on and on.

This year, for the fourth year in succession, republicans and various support groups and feminist organisations in Britain and elsewhere, will appropriately focus their attention on Armagh Jail where they will stage a picket on Sunday, March 6th.

The Sinn Féin Department of Women's Affairs is organising a weekend of activities for delegates, while concentrating on letting them experience at first hand the everyday repressive existence of life for women in Belfast under British imperialism.

However, we extend also an invitation to all women (and men) both in the North and Free State, to attend the picket this year where their presence is needed more than ever in the light of developments inside the jail.

Since last November, republican remand prisoners have been forcibly strip-searched and on several occasions badly beaten by female screws when going to and from court.

This procedure has been authorised by the prison governor, Thomas Murtagh, who appears to take a sadistic pleasure in inflicting on imprisoned and vulnerable women a thoroughly barbaric and personally humiliating form of sexist oppression.

On March 6th, the Sinn Féin Department of Women's Affairs asks you to raise your voice outside Armagh Jail in protest against these strip-searches and petty harassment.

As women, and in unity with our sisters in Armagh, this is your opportunity of shouting aloud 'Halt!' to strip-searching.

If you require tickets for the Belfast bus they are £2 each and the bus leaves Dunville Park at 12.30pm. Names can be left in at the Sinn Féin Centre, 51/53 Falls Road. Please make your enquiries as soon as possible, as buses must be booked in advance.

Chris McAuley,  
Sinn Féin Department of Women's Affairs,  
Belfast.

## Potato republic

A Chára,  
Has the Free State government turned the twenty-six counties into a *de facto* banana republic of the northern hemisphere?

Recent media reports tend to confirm that the USA doesn't really need the open membership of the Dublin government in NATO as they are already assisting, albeit unofficially, in military operations.

On February 8th, Michael Begley, TD for Kerry South, during 'Question Time' in Leinster House, sought to 'have a Kerry fisherman compensated for recovering an American spy buoy off the Dingle coast.'

Jimmy Flannery, the man who found the electronic listening device - part of a 'ring' of devices used by the US navy to monitor submarine activity in the area - had the Free State army

## POWs in BRITAIN

A Chára,  
In a recent edition of *AP/RN Sinn Féin* (Britain) had a few lines stating that Sinn Féin (Britain) is the only body that officially speaks on behalf of Irish republicans. This was the culmination of months of inter-faction squabbling which seems to bedevil the anti-imperialist pro-Irish liberation groups here on the enemy mainland.

Please allow me as one of those imprisoned to state the case as I see it, and as other comrades imprisoned here view it also.

Sinn Féin (Britain) does officially speak for all republican prisoners, but does this mean that all other pro-Irish Republican Army groups can't make protests on our behalf, or have the use of prisoners' names to sponsor Irish solidarity groups, or highlight the conditions under which we suffer?

From prisoners I have spoken with, the opinion is that all pro-IRA and anti-imperialist demonstrations are to be welcomed - especially where the question of repatriation is concerned for in this field we need all the help we can get. What is happening now is the aged curse of socialist elitism raising its divisive head.

Let me emphasise one point: no prisoner here gives a damn about his or her position. Whether it's 5 years or 35 years, we can do our work, but we won't stand by while a few selfish people spout about their own brand of truer-than-true socialism, or let those who should be active



● Bobby Campbell: 'I ask all comrades to exercise tolerance... to forget about their differences so that we can defeat the scourge of capitalism'

castigate those who try to be helpful to our cause.

This must stop otherwise we shall experience what Che Guevara called 'self-defeat'.

I ask all comrades supportive of our just cause to exercise tolerance towards each other - as is the essence of socialism - and to forget about their hair's breadth differences on ideology so that we can defeat the scourge of capitalism.

No POW - I repeat, no POW - wants and expects any deviation from the war effort, be it the military or political side of the struggle, because of the conditions we are suffering, but it must be said that Sinn Féin - both in Ireland and Britain - could do better where the interests of the POWs are concerned.

For example, comrades could keep their respective members imprisoned over here informed

as to what is happening politically within their areas (send us local news-sheets, etc.). An *Phoblacht/Republican News* (when we receive it) once a week, whilst being very informative, can't cover everything.

The ard comhairle can also help. Could not one person be delegated to keeping the POWs informed as to what proposals are being made, adopted for discussion, etc., at the 3rd feis, or post us the odd piece of new republican literature on policy, etc.? Besides the obvious interest value these considerations would hold for us, there is one particular aspect which springs to my mind: that is it's necessary that we be allowed access to political knowledge if we are to be part of what is going on.

It's common conversation lately for *AP/RN* contributors to express consideration for POWs

over here, with repatriation being the main topic. Well, such a campaign could be viewed from two points:

1. That it's an integral part of the overall struggle.
2. Such a campaign would only tie down valuable personnel and use up badly needed finances.

Which ever course is adopted will be fully understood by the POWs, but let it be taken now and not left to speculation, which causes divisive arguments for and against such speculative points.

The vast majority of us here try to express our actions as republican POWs at all times. We play our small parts as best we can by facing the repressive administrations here at every opportunity we see. Some concentrate on the spreading of information on how the prison system uses drugs on those seen as politically aware prisoners and a large number keep foreign solidarity groups and individuals informed as to the Brits' torturous and murderous actions.

When necessary we operate against the enemy in violent terms of action - we can't all be level-headed and calculating all the time.

On occasions we have protested (rarely newsworthy from the Brits' point of view) in support of actions at home in Ireland. I believe the POWs carry our flag proudly.

On a personal level, one bitter lesson I've learned from Sinn Féin's magnificent election success is that no POW can with any accuracy gauge the political feelings at home from inside a prison. I admit openly that I thought we could win one or two seats - five was heaven!

Wouldn't it help us if we were better informed, comrades?

Bobby Campbell,  
Parkhurst Prison,  
Isle of Wight,  
England.

leave ye and love ye.  
Jimmy Hope,  
Dublin.



● SEAN MACDIARMADA

## MacDiarmada commemoration

A Chára,

As most of your readers will know, 1983 marks the centenary of the birth of one of Ireland's greatest patriots, Sean MacDiarmada. Each year, in his native Killybegs, County Londonderry, a commemoration is held in his honour.

To mark the centenary, a special event is planned for this year. As always, the commemoration is locally funded and whilst donations have been generous we still find ourselves very short of our target. Therefore we appeal to anyone who is able to contribute to make a donation, however large or small, to enable us to mark the day fittingly.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all republican bands to take part in this year's Sean MacDiarmada commemoration to ensure that it is indeed a very memorable day.

Once again, I would urge you to be generous in your donations. Marion Connolly,  
Sean MacDiarmada Commemoration Committee,  
Parks,  
Killybegs,  
County Londonderry.

## We'll be back

A Chára,

May I through your columns make a protest regarding an incident which happened at 2.30pm on Monday 31st January 1983.

A bus carrying two bands from Scotland (who were in Ireland for the Bloody Sunday commemoration) was stopped at the Poleglass roundabout on its way from Twinbrook to Larne. The RUC, backed up by the Black Watch Regiment, boarded the bus and threatened to take everyone aboard the bus to the nearby Woodbourne Barracks.

When they found that we were to catch the 3.30pm ferry from Larne they took us all off the bus saying that they 'saw someone trying to hide something'.

They threw posters, newspapers and other items of republican literature onto the rain-soaked ground. They let us go after they knew we would miss the ferry.

If they think that this blatant harassment will stop us going back to Ireland, they are mistaken. It has served as a reminder of the oppression the Irish suffer daily, and we pledge to do all we can to support the republican cause.

We will return as often as we can and this we promise.  
Tom Main,  
Twinbrook Martyrs Memorial Band,  
Scotland.

but finds that the twenty-six county government attaches 'great importance to the observance and maintenance of human rights'.

If you're having difficulty reconciling this report with spy buoys around Ireland, Section 31, the political prisoners in our own little potato republic, etc., then the US State Department's section on South Africa should set your mind at ease.

"National elections are free and fair, but only whites may presently participate."

See, it's easy with the right point of view.  
Brian Haran,  
PRO,  
Bobby Sands Sinn Féin cumann,  
Killoggin,  
County Kerry.

## Mug's game

Comrades,  
It is right to assail the Free State budget, which drives the Irish people deeper into poverty. However, let not republicans call for more taxation on any section of our people - for all but a few taxation is far too high already.

The per capita income of most people in Western Europe is 2½ times what it is in Ireland. Their tax levels are lower than ours; the prices of many necessities of life even in France, Holland and Germany is lower than here.

No, it is a mug's game to imagine that if everyone paid more taxes there could be a fairer share-out for everyone. The Free State bureaucracy and government is so wasteful that the more money it receives the more it will seek.

Look at the wasted manpower guarding republicans in that shameful Bastille, Portlaoise. Look at the expense of their slavish escorts for a few minutes' hear-



● FitzGerald, thinking of his £2 million from public funds?

ing' at the Four Courts or Green Street. Look at the state cars costing £38,000 yearly to run; it takes 25 average taxpayers to maintain each single car.

Look at the barriers the state erects against employing people. With PRSI and other forms of wasteful taxation it costs an employer (plus employee) £120 merely to give a man £60 weekly. That is why small employers are having to jettison their workforces.

Think of what boot-lucker Garret and his family will have fished out of the state treasury before he retires.

With pay and allowances to wife, son, daughter-in-law, running his car, secretarial, travel, office space, and funding his index-linked pension, he could Garret will take near two million pounds in his lifetime.

Fluskey Cluskey, Barry of Cork, and the rest of the gang, will take only a little less.

Is it for their sake we should pay taxes? Not on your nanny, boy!

No, with one stroke our present difficulties could be straightened out and the cruel weight lifted from everyone: reschedule our foreign debt.

At present, merely to service it and to pay the interest consumes all the PAYE and income tax. Soon it will consume the VAT as well.

Tell the foreign bankers (as

Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Rumania and Poland have already done): 'Have a heart, chum, we can't pay. But, honest, we will. Give us five years at no interest and then spread payments over 50 years.'

That would save us £1,000 million. Revert the border to normal police levels, and that would save £250 million. With those two savings alone, the budget deficit would vanish overnight and we would have £500 million to spare.

Mind you, no-one in Western Europe would lend us another farthing, but we know they have allowed us on so long only as a means of sucking us into NATO. Eh, comrade?

And forget about taxing the rich. There are not many really rich people around.

Six years ago it was worked out that if Smurfit, Purcell, Tony and the rest were grounded down to the level of the average joxer and divested of all their assets, there would only be £206 to be given to the rest of the 3½ million in the twenty-six counties.

Tax the banks? Well they will simply add it to the cost of your next cheque book, friend, as they are already doing. And even the £100 million combined profits of the four main clearing banks here - if you grabbed it all - would only pay the interest for one month on the £12,000 million plus that we owe.

Do you see now the spend-thrift whirlinggig these politicians, academics and bureaucrats got us into? And we end up with 200,000 unemployed (plus 120,000 in the North) 700,000 for one month on the poverty level and a mounting toll of suicides among young people 'living' in Dublin in the run-up to Christmas, not reported (the two 'moles', Geraldine and Bruce, had to steal the limelight, of course).

And children are having to give up school for want of a bus from Huesey.

Honest, I'm too full up. I'll



## WHAT'S ON

**PICKET IN SUPPORT OF JAILED RANKS WORKERS**  
6.30 to 7.30pm every evening  
Mountjoy Jail  
DUBLIN

**SOCIAL NIGHT**  
Featuring The Breakaway Ramblers  
9pm Thursday 24th February  
Upstairs Lounge  
The Stag's Head  
Linenhall Street  
DUNDALK  
Admission £1  
Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach

**SING-SONG & DANCE**  
8pm Friday 25th February  
The Hibernian Hotel  
CLONES  
County Monaghan  
Admission £1.50  
Organised by Sinn Féin

**TESTIMONIAL DINNER**  
(to honour veteran republicans  
Clement Geaney & Liam Fagan)  
8.30pm Friday 25th February  
Castlebellingham Castle  
CASTLEBELLINGHAM  
County Louth  
Tickets £10 (including 4-course  
meal & free bus from Dundalk)

**PEOPLE'S MARCH FOR DECENT JOBS ORGANISING CONFERENCE**  
2 to 5pm Saturday 26th February  
AGEMOU Office  
22 North Frederick Street  
DUBLIN

**RANKS WORKERS PROTEST MARCH**  
2.30pm Saturday 26th February  
Parnell Square  
to the GPO  
DUBLIN  
Organised by the Dublin  
Council of Trade Unions

**IRISH NIGHT**  
Featuring local artists  
Saturday 26th February  
Kiloran's Traditional Lounge  
TUBBERCURRY  
County Sligo  
Admission £1  
Organised by Sinn Féin

**DISCO**  
In aid of the Shaws Road  
Irish school, Belfast  
9pm to 2am Saturday 26th February  
The Teachers' Club  
36 Parnell Square  
DUBLIN  
Admission £3.50  
Meal & bar extension  
Doors close at 11pm

**ARDOYNE GREEN CROSS '73 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
2.30pm Sunday 27th February  
The Shamrock Social Club  
ARDOYNE  
BELFAST

All friends & relatives of POWs in the area, as well as ex-POWs, are invited to attend

**SINN FEIN DEPT. OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS FILM SHOW**  
Featuring 'Women in Arms' -  
Nicaraguan women and their struggle to maintain and expand the freedoms won during the revolution  
8pm Sunday 27th February  
The No. 5 Club  
5 Blessington Street  
DUBLIN  
Admission £1

**COUNTRESS BRIDGE COMMEMORATION**  
8pm Saturday 5th March  
The Monument  
(next to ESB Park)  
KILLARNEY  
County Kerry

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ARMAH PICKET**  
Sunday 6th March  
Belfast buses leave  
Dunville Park, 12.30pm  
Tickets £2 from 51/53 Falls Road  
Dublin buses leave Art Gallery,  
Parnell Square, 11am

**SOUTH LEINSTER SINN FEIN EDUCATION SEMINAR**  
(Wexford, Wicklow, Carlow,  
Kilkenny & Kildare)  
'The Role of Officers in Sinn Féin'  
1.30pm Sunday 6th March  
Murphy Flood's Hotel  
ENNISORTHY  
County Wexford  
All committee members & cumainn  
officers to attend

# The source of violence

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

AT LAST the Irish churches seem to have agreed on someone to blame for all the violence in the North, whom they think might not answer back.

The Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace have launched a 'peace education programme' aimed at the 8 to 12 age group. The course will offer children 'alternatives to violence'.

Whether children will actually fall for this line that they, and not the heavily armed foreign marauders whom they see on the street and crashing in to their homes, are the source of violence in Ireland is another matter.

Personally, I don't think the churches have a prayer.

One night in October 1981, a Falls Road youth, Philip Mervyn, was walking home when he was stopped by a two-jeep patrol of Marine Commandos.

They bundled him into one of the vehicles, drove to the heart of the loyalist Shankill Road, dragged him down an entry there, and beat him unconscious.

When he came to, the terrified youth managed to reach the safety of the New Lodge Road and seek help. It could have been otherwise.

Earlier this month, three members of the Marine Commandos pleaded guilty to the assault. They were fined £50 each.

Anthony Woods of the British army's Royal Engineers went absent without leave from his regiment in the North last year and spent a weekend with his wife's parents in England.

The next day, he was found dead, hunched behind the exhaust pipe of a car with a plastic bag covering his head.

His father-in-law told a Southwark inquest last week that Woods "thoroughly enjoyed the army and the stint in Ireland did not worry him at all."

Twenty-two British soldiers belonging to the 2nd Light Infantry have been returned for trial from Newry Magistrates' Court to Down Crown Court on a series of theft charges arising from

their tour of 'duty' in South Armagh last year. Goods worth almost £300 were stolen from several premises, including two garages and a school in Crossmaglen, between April and June 1982.

The 2nd Light-Fingered Infantry would perhaps be a better name in the circumstances.

One of the most unpopular public spending cuts with most of our readers will probably be the order that has gone out for the reduction in Garda overtime.

This will not mean less of them around however as the difference is made up by hundreds of new recruits emerging from Templemore.

But some of the force will be feeling the

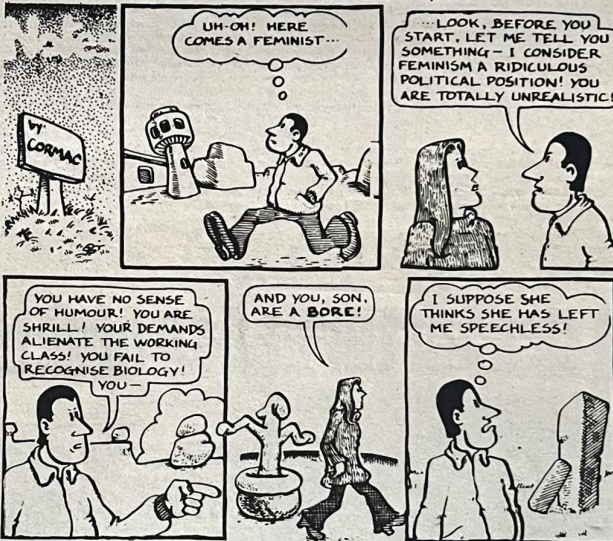
pinch of a reduced wage packet.

Not among that number is one Tony Mulhearn, a familiar Branchman in the Rathmines area of Dublin.

As well as guarding the peace, Mulhearn finds time to run the popular Concorde public house on Upper Rathmines Road and is thus well-cushioned against all recessions and public spending cuts.

Tony Mulhearn, nicknamed 'Bulldog', began his plainclothes career in the Drug Squad, monitoring that lucrative industry, and then moved to the Special Branch. He now boasts of being in the elite Murder Squad.

I think that means solving them, not carrying them out. But drinkers at his hostelry may have a different opinion.



# ROBÁIL GAN ARM

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

IS MAITH is eol dóibh, a chairde, pé fostaithe nó dhífhostaithe sibh, nach bhfuil ag éirí libh caighdeán na beatha atá agaihbh a chosaint. Bliain i ndiaidh bliana ta an caighdeán sin ag titim i dtáarmaí réalaiacha. Arís agus arís eile, deirtear linn go gcaithimid glacadh le seo.

Táthar ag tathaint ar oibrithe is cuma má tá siad faoi chois ag Fitzgerald nó Thatcher glacadh le hisliú páigh arís i mbliana. Deir ceannairí na gearrchumann go bhfuil siad sásta a bheith réalaiacha, sé sin go nglacfaidh siad le seo.

An rud is maeas ar fad a chairde ná go bhfuil oibrithe ag aontú le seo agus siad glacadh leis. Tá an propaganda go léir dírithe i dtreo is go nglacat le seo. Níl guth láidir le cloisint ag fógaírt cearta ne-oibrithe agus sásta troir a thabhairt.

## BRABÚS

Bímid cinnte de rud amháin, níl aon leisce ar rachmasóirí iad fíin a chosaint. Níl bolsaireacht dírithe orthu siad ag áiteam orthu glacadh le hálú. A mhé-

airt ar fad a chairde. Gach lá tá siad le cloisint ag áiteam a thuilleadh chéim. Tá sé acu le brabús níos mó chun jobanna a chruthú mar dhe.

Fíoch mar shampla ar na bancanna sna Sé Chontae Fíchead. Nuair a ghearradh cúlín orthu siad, fuair siad thar n-ais trína goid costais a chur suas. Mar an geallana leis na comhluchtaí áireachais. Níl aon leisce orthu siad a brabús atá á dhianamh acu a chosaint. Agus is fíor a rís gur thug rialtas na Sé Chontae Fíchead cead dóibh a leithéid a dhianamh.

Tá sampla maith den chomhluchtaí - eacht seo le fáil má deintear iníochadh ar ghnó na comhluchtaí creidmheasa agus na comhluchtaí oibríonn cíos chéannach. Tá na figiúirí seo a leanas tógtha as an t-earráin de Mheitheamh 1982 de Feas-



● Caithfidh oibrithe troid a dhianamh chun iad fíin a chosaint

achán Staidrimh na hÉireann (Irish Statistical Bulletin).

## TÁILLÍ

Tá líon na socráithe creidmheasa seo ag titim ó 1980 nuair a bhí breis agus dhá chéad seachtó míle socráithe go dtí nóchá sé míle socráithe i 1980.

Ach is fíidir linn a fhéilcint go soláir an tál ina n-oibríonn na comhluchtaí áirithe seo má fhéilcint ar na figiúirí do 1979 agus 1980.

Bhí táillí de bhreis le caoga sé milliún punt gearrtha ar an ois chéad le seachtó milliún punt a bhí tugtha amach i 1979

ag na comhluchtaí creidmheasa. B'iannan sin agus ráta 37%. I 1980 nuair a thit an méid aird a bhí tugtha amach chuir siad suas an ráta go 43% chun an méid aird a bhí mar tháillí acu a choimeád suas.

Mar an geallana leis na comhluchtaí atá i mbun cíos chéannach. Bhí ráta 45% acu i 1979 agus chuir siad suas an ráta go 50% i 1980 chun a táillí a choimeád ar son leibhéal le 1979.

Bhuel, tá caocht anseo dúinn go léir. Caithimid sinn féin agus ár gcéann a chosaint. Troidimid, a chairde. Nág fáil na gearrchumannain é.



## Mayo arrests

TWO MEMBERS of the Sinn Féin and comhairle, Paddy Bolger and Pat Doherty, were arrested and held at Castlebar garda barracks for more than 34 hours last week and Sinn Féin's Mayo organiser, Mary McGing, was also arrested and held for 14 hours during the same period.

Bolger and Doherty were arrested early on Thursday morning at the home of Tommy Devereux, a member of Mayo Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair, Mary McGing was arrested an hour later at her home.

Although extension orders were served on the two and comhairle members to hold them longer than the initial 24 hour period, the actual period of interrogation lasted little more than five minutes, on Thursday evening after the two had made it clear that they were not prepared to discuss their political activities with members of the garda and refused to answer any questions.

Nevertheless the two were detained in a filthy cell at the barracks for a further 22 hours before being released without charge.

## Jobs march

THE People's March for Decent Jobs will be holding an organising conference in Dublin this Saturday, February 26th, to review the 1982 People's March and discuss the need for an unemployment march this year.

Amongst the items to be discussed at the conference will be the demands to be raised by this year's march, timing and route, how best to use the march to build unemployment activities, gaining trade union support, fund-raising, election of a new organising committee, and building local committees.

Resolutions on these and any other matters people wish to raise will be taken from the floor.

The conference takes place at the AGEMOU office, 22 North Frederick Street, Dublin 1, and will start at 2pm sharp.

## Section 31

AN attempt to tame a motion condemning Section 31 in Listowel Urban District Council by Sinn Féin councillor John Holly was defeated by the casting vote of the chairperson.

Proposing the suspension of standing orders — in order to allow a 'political' motion — Holly said:

"There are 30 Sinn Féin councillors in the country, five assembly members, one MP and there were two TDs. And they are all lock-jawed. And every time you put on the television Mr Paisley is on it on RTE 1 and 2."

## Shannon advice centres

TWO WEEKLY advice centres have been opened in Shannon, County Clare, by the local Terence MacSwiney cumann.

The centres will operate on Tuesday each week, from 2pm to 4pm and from 7pm to 9pm at 95 Finian Park; and on Thursday each week from 7pm to 9pm at 130 Cluain Airne.

Cumann members will be in attendance to offer advice on matters related to social welfare entitlements, grant-related benefits, tax claims, health facilities and rent and housing problems.

Anyone wishing to join the Terence MacSwiney Sinn Féin cumann, Shannon, County Clare, should contact any of the following addresses: 44 Cronan Gardens, 95 Finian Park, or 130 Cluain Airne, Shannon town.

## Sinn Féin AGMs

AT the recent AGMs of the following branches of Sinn Féin new officer boards were elected:

## KERRY

South Kerry comhairle ceantair: chairperson: Richard Behal (Killarney); secretary: Brian Haran (Killoglin); treasurer: Dermot O'Sullivan (Beaufort); PRO: Bridget Clifford (Milltown); education: Eamonn Breen (Castlesland); organiser: Tim Herlihy (Castlesland); delegates to comhairle aulge: Tim Garvey (Cahirceivne) and Mick Gillian (Killoglin).

## MONAGHAN

Seamus Harvey cumann, Iniskeen (new cumann): chairperson: Dermot Muhlolland; vice-chair: Pat Daly; secretary: Patricia McArdle; joint-treasurers: Colm O'Reilly and Paddy Rodgers; PRO: Máire Uí Cheallacháin.

## TV &amp; RADIO

## Ireland of the welcomes

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

RTE IS currently in a state of excitement over its new series 'Roses from Dublin' — so excited in fact that it is showing each episode twice, on RTE1 on Thursdays and on RTE2 on Mondays.

This new 'comedy romance' was made by French television, with the help of Bord Fáilte, according to the credits, and seems to be aimed at luring romantic Frenchmen to Ireland. No doubt it is being shown in France for that purpose.

The hero is a handsome French photographer who comes to Ireland for reasons relevant only to the silly plot. The Ireland he comes to is very much a Bord Fáilte one.

All the pubs are delightful old-fashioned places, full of traditional musicians, good cheer, colourful characters and, apparently, free drink.

The scenery is beautiful. Children all wear Aran jumpers and hats and play with horses and rowing-boats. The hotels are luxurious. The homes are well-appointed, and have elderly uncles making traditional Irish harps in the corners of the living-rooms.

Paddy Irishman is big and rather stupid, and has a tendency to push cars over cliffs by mistake, eat whole chickens, and arm-wrestle all night. But, of course, is scared stiff of his caricature Irish mammy.

And gorgeous Irish colleens

are totally innocent — protected by Irish brothers — but are a push-over to suave Frenchmen on the first date.

If this stage-Irish image is still what Bord Fáilte believes is attracting the tourists, it is probably best to watch this series so as to be forewarned and forearmed when the French tourists begin arriving this summer.

## CONVERSION

The theme of 'happy natives' was strangely echoed in 'The Nun's Story' which was shown on RTE on Sunday night.

This time it is Africans in the Congo, always singing, always cheerful, always fat, but always stupid. The only unhappy ones are those who have resisted conversion by the 'white mammas'.

The 'mammas' are the nuns, of which Audrey Hepburn is the prettiest.

It is difficult to completely assess the message of this film, made more than 20 years ago, and certainly some of the Congo scenes seem to be very offensive in today's terms, whilst making only a superficial point or two.

The struggle of the nun



◆ The stage-Irish image, such as the bar scene above, is faithfully reproduced, with Bord Fáilte's help, in 'Roses from Dublin'. Is there no hope for some?

whose story it is, to face the fact that she has to leave the order, is fairly tame stuff in comparison to films like 'Monsignor', which currently pull in the crowds with religious hell-raising. But somehow the Church does not seem to have changed much in its attitudes over the last 20 years.

Thou shalt not disturb the status quo is still very much the premier commandment.

## RELIGION

Earlier on Sunday, BBC1 went for a touch of religion with another old film, 'Heaven's Above'.

Peter Sellers is a working-class Church of England vicar, mistakenly sent to a very

middle-class parish.

He causes havoc by taking an evicted family into the vicarage and exhorting his parishioners to true Christianity by giving away their worldly goods.

It all backfires on him, of course, because, as Margaret Thatcher so often declaims, the working class turn out to be an ungrateful shiftless lot, only out for what they can get for nothing.

He ends up being sent into orbit, as the first Bishop of Space, a handy way for the Church to silence him and equivalent to a real-life posting as chaplain to an old folks' home or theological research work at a university.

Perhaps the best religious tale of the week was recounted on 'Jimmy Greal's Drive Time' last Friday on RTE Radio1. A guest on the programme recalled the making of 'The Greatest Story Ever Told'.

Apparently John Wayne was playing a centurion in the film and one of his lines, as he gazed up at the cross, was: "Truly, he was the son of God."

The director asked him could he not put more awe into his delivery of the line. "Aw," drawled Wayne, "truly, he was the son of God."

And by that yardstick we should judge all such purported religious movies, I suppose.

## A dream turned to nightmare

BY JACK MADDEN



◆ Gandhi at Buckingham Palace; he had no quarrel with the British monarchy — only with colonial mismanagement

IN A WEEK that has witnessed a massacre in Assam, in northern India, it is strange to review a film which deals with India's struggle for independence from British rule.

The film 'Gandhi' chronicles this struggle and the major part played in it by Mahatma Gandhi. It is not a film about liberation, however, but the undermining of liberation by British imperialism, the Indian middle class and, strangely enough, by Gandhi himself.

The film is dedicated to the late Earl Mountbatten of Burma and is similar to Robert Kee's 'History of Ireland' in that the director and producer, Richard Attenborough, has attempted to save the collective conscience of the British people by admitting that British imperialism has been a malign influence in this former colony.

Like Kee, he tempers his criticism by implying that atrocities and such were not the fault of a general British superiority complex, but of eccentric individuals like General Dyer, who ordered the massacre at Amritsar (India's Bloody Sunday), or at worst the colonial mentality of the Foreign Office.

The campaign for national independence in India was inspired to a great extent by the struggle in Ireland and although it was a campaign of civil disobedience rather than of armed resistance it brought the same reaction from our common colonial masters.

The British mentality is summed up in the film by one official who comments: "India is British. We are hardly an alien power."

## PACIFIST

"If we obtain our freedom

## FILM

by murder and bloodshed I want no part of it," comments Gandhi, who was a convinced pacifist and believed in 'active and provocative', rather than violent, resistance to British rule.

His campaign became a quest with liberation as the Holy Grail, a spiritual rather than a temporal struggle. In his innocence he gathered around him a group of self-seeking middle-class Indians who used Gandhi to win power.

The British also realised the potential of using Gandhi because they feared armed resistance more than they feared him.

His distinctive figure, peculiar dress and Charlie Chaplin walk endeared him to the British public, while the British government saw him as the lesser evil when compared with someone who detested them.

Gandhi was always British at heart and had no quarrel with the British monarchy; his fight was against colonial mismanagement.

His comment that, 'We have come a long way with the British and when they leave we want to see them off as friends,' was a good bargain when compared with losing a corner of the British empire altogether.

The parallels with Ireland are again shown by the imposition of partition in India.



◆ GANDHI

As in Ireland, religious differences were highlighted and doubts sown in the minds of the Moslem minority. Perhaps the most revealing moment in the entire film was during the negotiations between Zia (Moslem) and Nehru (Hindu) when a heated discussion arose about partition, while in the background the camera caught Mountbatten, governor-general of India, standing there with a 'we told you so' smirk on his face at the antics of the natives.

## FAILURE

Gandhi's dream of a united and independent India, based on a spiritual brotherhood of Hindu and Moslem, ended in failure.

To maintain peace he was prepared to sacrifice free freedom and for the same reason he was prepared to pamper self-seekers such as Zia and Nehru.

While he lived, an uneasy peace could be guaranteed but with his death the only unifying force was gone and the dream turned to nightmare.

In Assam we are witnessing that nightmare, because, as Zia points out in the film: "The world is not made of Mahatma Gandhis."



# Death of John McGowan

THE DEATH took place on Tuesday 15th February of 26-year-old John 'Goosey' McGowan who had served over five years in the Cages of Long Kesh and was released in January 1980.

Known affectionately to his comrades and friends as 'Goosey', he went to the United States to work as a steel-erector, but last year he was diagnosed as suffering from cancer.

His remains were brought home from the US to Belfast on Friday last by his brother Liam, via Heathrow Airport, but there was a delay of six hours when Special Branch detectives,

on the orders of the Home Office, insisted on searching the coffin, interfering with the remains, reading Mass offerings and accusing Liam of having handled explosives.

Eventually, after several hours of questioning, he was permitted to accompany the coffin on its remaining journey.

After Requiem Mass in St Theresa's Chapel on Saturday morning, the funeral cortege, followed by around one hundred mourners, many of them former friends and comrades from his Long Kesh days, went to Milltown Cemetery where a brief graveside ceremony took place.

## Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta - REPUBLICAN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

Applications for speakers at Easter commemorations should be made as soon as possible to:

An Rúnal,  
Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta,  
44 Cearnóg Pharnell,  
BAC1.

## EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies available from:  
Mrs P. King,  
29 All Saints Park,  
Raheny,  
Dublin 5.  
Price: £12.50 per 1,000

Honour Ireland's dead - wear an Easter Lily

## Irish Lesson

18

Ar an (err un), meaning 'on the' puts an 'm' before a word beginning with 'b'; and a 'g' before 'c'.  
Bus (bus) - A bus  
Baine (bonyeh) - Milk  
Bóirne (boohur) - A road  
Bórd (board) - A table  
Tae (they) - Tea  
Cann (kown) - A tree  
Craobh (kroave) - A branch  
Crúscín (krooskeen) A jug  
Sráid (sraw-ld) - A street  
Blas (blos) - Taste

Tá páiste ar an mbus (thaw pawsh-tyeh err un muss) - There is a child on the bus  
An bhfuil an tae ar an mbórd? (un will un thay err un moard) - Is the tea on the table?

**PRONUNCIATION:** The pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the sound.

CH is sounded as in LOCH ERNE.  
D and T before A, O and U are thick, spoken with the tongue pressed against the upper front teeth.

DH and GH are like a G far back in the throat - almost a gargle.

Níl blas ar an mbaine (neel blos err un monyeh) - There isn't a taste on the milk  
Cá bhfuil an bhó (caw will un voh) - Where is the cow?  
Tá sí ar an mbóthar (thaw shee err un moe-hur) - She is on the road  
Níl sí ar an sráid (neel shee err un sraw-ld) - She is not on the street

Tá éan ar an gerrán (thaw ayun ar un grown) - There is a bird in the tree  
Tá aó ar an gcráobh (thaw shay err un groo) - It is on the branch  
Tá bliath ar an gcrúscín (thaw blaw err un grooskeen) - There is a flower in the jug

### PHRASES

1-Baine m'á's do thoil é (bonyeh maw shay do hull ay) - Milk please  
2-Tá an crúscín ar an mbórd (thaw un krooskeen err un moard) - The jug is on the table  
3-Tá cupán tae ann (thaw kupawn thay ushain) - There is a cup of tea there  
4-Tá sí ar fheabhas (thaw shay err ow-s) - It's great

## REMEMBERING THE PAST Prisoners' Champion

BY PETER O'ROURKE

IN 1868, Fenians in Ireland, who had remained at liberty following the Rising began an amnesty campaign on behalf of their comrades in English jails.

John 'Amnesty' Nolan was the founder of the Amnesty Association, and its inspiration. A Carlowman, he had been a close associate of James Stephens and John Devoy and, before 1867, had been chief organiser of the Irish Republican Brotherhood for Ulster.

With Nolan as secretary and Isaac Butt - a nationalist Dublin lawyer who had defended many Fenians - as president, the movement campaigned vigorously for a general amnesty for all political prisoners. It also highlighted the appalling conditions suffered by the Fenian prisoners in Portland, Millbank, Chatham and other English jails.

Particularly publicised were the conditions of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, who, on one occasion, had spent 35 days with his hands manacled behind his back throughout the day except at mealtimes, when they were manacled in front.

An extraordinary propaganda success of Nolan's - which was to be repeated in similar circumstances in the Irish struggle - was to put up Rossa as a candidate for the Westminster by-election in

Tipperary in 1870, while he was still in prison. Rossa was elected, but subsequently unseated as a convicted felon.

### RELEASE

The amnesty agitations, which were disapproved of by the Catholic hierarchy, continued until 1872, by which time it had secured the release of most of the Fenians, including O'Donovan Rossa and John Devoy.

John Nolan emigrated to the United States in 1877 and settled in New York, where he died impoverished. A fund was raised by Patrick Ford to aid him in his last months, but it was too late and he was eventually employed to raise a monument to him in Calvary Cemetery.

Michael Davitt, one of the Fenian prisoners he had helped release, later paid for a monument to be erected to Nolan's memory in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

John 'Amnesty' Nolan, republican Fenian, but above all, prisoners' champion, died in St Vincent's Hospital, New York, on February 25th 1887.



● Monument to John 'Amnesty' Nolan in Glasnevin Cemetery

## REPORT

**BURNS, James.** (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol James Burns, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was murdered by loyalist assassins on February 23rd 1981. I neasc laoch na nGael go raib a nam. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

**BURNS, Jim.** (2nd Anniversary). Precious memories of our dear father who died on February 23rd 1981 and our dear mother who died on February 23rd 1980. Mary, Queen of the Gael; pray for them. We will always love and remember you. Never forgotten by their loving daughters Maria, Kathleen and Paula.

**BURNS, Jim.** (2nd Anniversary). Precious memories of my dear son, Vol Jim 'Skipper' Burns, who died on February 23rd 1981 and my dear daughter-in-law, Maura, who died on February 23rd 1980. Mary, Queen of the Gael; pray for them. Quietly thought of every day, missed much more than words can say. Never forgotten by his brother Joe, Betty and family; brother Kevin, Evelyn and family; brother Pat and Sandra; brother Kevin and Jerry; sister Clara, Joe and family; sister Bridgid, Harry and family; sister Maura, John, and family; sister Bernadette, Joe and family; sister Louise, Pete and family; and sister Veronica, Paddy and family.

**BURNS, Jim.** (2nd Anniversary). Precious memories of our dear brother, Vol Jim 'Skipper' Burns, who died on February 23rd 1981. RIP. Dad, you were so much to lose you and time just slips away, this year has passed so quickly, it seems like yesterday. They said that time would heal the pain, Jim, that's just not so, for

each day that I think of you, my tears still sadly flow. Always remembered and sadly missed by Bernice and sons Paul and Jim Junior.

**BURNS, Jim.** (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Jim Burns who was shot dead on February 23rd 1981. RIP. The roll of honour bears your name, with other soldiers dead and gone, though life is not the same without you within us. Your memory will always live on. Always remembered by aunt Lily, uncle Joe, Paddy, Lillian, Harry, Damien, Joan and Paul.

**BURNS, Jim.** (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Jim Burns, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was murdered on February 23rd 1981. RIP. We stand with Emmet, Pearse and Tone, and the boys from the Old Brigade, and my true revenge will be to see Ireland united, God and man. Always remembered by his loving sons Bernadette and Kate Reid.

**DUFFY, Paul.** (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Paul Duffy, Ogligh na hEireann, County Tyrone, who was shot dead in a British army stake-out operation on February 26th 1978. Thug a raib, aigis go tríd ar son saoirse mhuintir na hEireann. Always remembered by his comrades in Tyrone Ogligh na hEireann.

**MAGEE, Joseph.** (11th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear brother, Vol Joseph Magee, who died in action on February 21st 1972. RIP. Mass offered. St Gerard, pray for him. Time may hide the sadness, like the smile that hides the tears, but the memories hold you close despite the passing years. Never forgotten by his loving brother Patsy, Maureen and family.

**MAGEE, Joseph.** (11th Anniversary). In loving memory of our dear brother, Vol Joseph Magee, who died in active service on February 21st 1972. Also in memory of our dear friends, Rab Dorian and Gerard Bell. RIP. Mass offered. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for them. Always remembered by Hannah, Paddy and family.

## SYMPATHY

**BOLAND.** The Jackie Griffith Sinn Féin cumann, Ringsend/Donnybrook Dublin, extend their sympathy to Pat Boland and his father on the untimely death of Katherine Boland. Ar Hughes Dó go raib a nam.

**DUGHESS.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Joe Hughes who died recently, a man who dedicated his life helping people worse off than himself. Sweetest, honest, kind, and true in his soul. Sadly missed by the Terence MacSwiney Sinn Féin cumann, Shannon, County Clare.

**LIDDO, O'DONNELL.** Comhairle cídige na Mumhan, Sinn Féin, extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Liam Liddy of Cork, O/C of the Curragh Internment in the 1940s, and also to the family of the late Phil O'Donnell of Derry.

**McERLEAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Richard 'Oatsy' McErlean who died suddenly on Tuesday

15th February. A Mhuire na nGael deán idir du' ar a nam usal. From the Republican Movement, Short Strand, Belfast.

**McERLEAN.** The republican POWs from the Short Strand area, Belfast, in the Caper and H-Blocks/Donnybrook, Crumlin Road, Portlaoise, Magilligan and In Jail in England, deeply regret the death of our friend 'Oatsy' McErlean, who died recently. To his family and friends we extend our most heartfelt condolences.

**McERLEAN.** Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Richard 'Oatsy' McErlean, who died on Tuesday 15th February. Go nGara na nGael ar a nam. Sadly missed by all his friends in the Short Strand.

**O'NEILL.** The Republican Movement County Fermanagh extend their deepest sympathy to the O'Neill family, Donagh, on the recent death of Pat.

**RUSSELL.** The republican POWs in the H-Blocks, Long Kesh, extend their deepest sympathy to our comrade, Robert, on the death of his father, Joseph.

## GREETINGS

**MEPEAKE, Sean.** (H-Block). Birthday greetings for March 1st, Sean. Hoping your next will be spent in freedom. From the Belfast Republican POW Welfare Association, UTP.

**McVEIGH, Sean.** (H-Block). Happy birthday to you, son, for your 25th birthday on the 25th February. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. From mum, dad, Katherine, Jim and Michael.

**CAIRNS, Pól.** (H1-Block). Happy 21st birthday, Pól. Always thinking of you, especially at this time. When I'm old enough you have your freedom. All our love from Jean, Patsy and all the family.

**CAIRNS, Pól.** (H1-Block). Happy 21st birthday, Pól. They may imprison your body but never your spirit. Hope to see you soon. All our love from Sheena, Sean and Caoilín. xxx

**CAIRNS, Pól.** (H1-Block). Happy birthday, Pól. Not long to go now. Thinking of you. From Stephen and Michelle.

**CAIRNS, Pól.** (H1-Block). Happy 21st birthday, Pól. Hope your next one is spent in freedom. Thinking of you always. Love, Rosemary. xxx

**CAIRNS, Pól.** (H1-Block). Members of the Brian Smyth Sinn Féin cumann, Craigeven, send special 21st birthday greetings to you, Pól. "The lesson of Irish history is that England never yields to right, reason or force, only to force. Consequently, armed rebellion is an essential element in any attempt to win Irish independence."

**McGRATH, Jim** Joe. (Cape 11). Happy birthday, Jim Joe. From Jackie. xxxo

**MEPEAKE, Sean.** (H-Block). Birthday greetings for March 1st, Sean. Hoping your next will be spent in freedom. From the Belfast Republican POW Welfare Association, UTP.

**McVEIGH, Sean.** (H-Block). Happy birthday to you, son, for your 25th birthday on the 25th February. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. From mum, dad, Katherine, Jim and Michael.

**McVEIGH, Sean.** (H-Block). All the best for your birthday on the 26th, Sean. From Rita, Maria and Gerry.

**McVEIGH, Sean.** (H-Block). Greetings to you on your birthday, Sean. They have you in their keeping but we have you in our hearts. From Ann, Paddy and your nephews Sean and Padraic.

**TUITE, Gerry.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes on your birthday, Gerry. Thinking of you always. UTP. Lots of love from Monica. xxx

**TUITE, Gerry.** (Portlaoise). Thinking of you on your birthday, Gerry. Love from mum, dad and all the family. xxx

**TUITE, Gerry.** (Portlaoise). Missing you on your birthday, Gerry. You're never forgotten. From 'Super' Peter Duffy, Brighton.

**TUITE, Gerry.** (Young, Gerry). (Portlaoise, Long Lartin). Happy birthday, Gerry. From the Sinn Féin POW Dept., Dublin.

**YOUNG, Gerry.** (Long Lartin). All the very best on your birthday, Gerry. From Raymond, Mary and young Patrick.

## Funeral of Lurgan republican

THE FUNERAL of veteran republican Edward Thompson took place in Lurgan, County Armagh, last Thursday, February 17th. His Tricolour-draped coffin, preceded by a lone pipe and flanked by a guard of honour of veteran comrades and Lurgan Sinn Féin members, was brought to St Peter's Church for Requiem Mass and afterwards to St Coleman's Cemetery.

The graveside oration was given by the Sinn Féin elected representative for Armagh, Jim McAllister. Paying tribute to Edward Thompson's long involvement in the republican struggle he said:

"The Eddie Thompsons of Ireland played a large part in educating this generation and in instilling their own ideals in the youth of today. "Eddie did not let falling health cause him to falter in his work for Ireland, nor cause him to stay at home when his heart told him to take to the streets. We must ensure that we are doing what we can, and that we are on the streets when necessary, or anywhere else where we are needed. "Eddie was as good a husband and father as he was a republican. To his wife, family and friends, I extend sympathy from myself, Lurgan Sinn Féin, and indeed the whole Republican Movement."

played a large part in educating this generation and in instilling their own ideals in the youth of today.

"Eddie did not let falling health cause him to falter in his work for Ireland, nor cause him to stay at home when his heart told him to take to the streets. We must ensure that we are doing what we can, and that we are on the streets when necessary, or anywhere else where we are needed.

"Eddie was as good a husband and father as he was a republican. To his wife, family and friends, I extend sympathy from myself, Lurgan Sinn Féin, and indeed the whole Republican Movement."





● Mullan's scrapyard in Dromad, County Louth, from where Kevin Burns was abducted by British soldiers

# Brits pay up for Dundalk kidnapping

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE BRITISH Ministry of Defence agreed to an out of court settlement last Thursday, February 17th, at Belfast High Court, in the case of 38-year-old Dundalk man Kevin Burns who was illegally abducted by armed and plainclothes undercover British soldiers from a scrapyard in Dromad, County Louth, on the Southern side of the border on July 12th 1976.

Kevin Burns, a married man with two young daughters, who lives in Dundalk's Muirheavenmore estate, received damages amounting to a five-figure sum for his wrongful arrest, subsequent abduction, and detention in Bessbrook Barracks in South Armagh.

## ORDEAL

Kevin Burns' nightmarish ordeal began at around 10pm in Mullan's scrapyard.

He recalls the events:

"I'd gone to see Mullan about getting a job. I'd just finished talking to him and was tidying up bits of iron lying in the corner when a man from Newry came in and asked me about renting sheds.

"We were standing talking in the middle of the yard when I heard this screech of brakes, and with that this guy in plainclothes, carrying a revolver, went past us with another one behind him carrying a sub-machine gun.

"He raised it to my head and said: 'Don't move and don't talk or I'll blow your fucking head off'.

"Mullan at this stage ran towards Dromad Garda Barracks about 50 yards away and in the same field as the scrapyard, and the Brit with the revolver ran after him. The Newry man just froze on the spot and like myself didn't know what was going on.

"By this stage uniformed Paras, with their faces blackened, had come down from the mountain which overlooks the scrapyard, and came into the yard. There were about 15 of them."

The undercover British soldiers ordered the Paras to take Kevin Burns and the Newry man away and they then sped off as quickly as they had arrived.

Both men were marched up to the top of the mountain to where the Paras had their camp and a helicopter landing pad. Burns was made to lie on the landing pad with his hands above his head while he was verbally abused by the Paras. He was told he was going to Bessbrook.

## HELICOPTER

When the helicopter arrived both men were thrown inside, across the legs of two plainclothes British soldiers sitting in the back. There were no doors on the helicopter and while in flight Burns was beaten and hit around the head with a machine gun and pushed head-first out of the side of the 'copter, hanging on for his life while the pilot lurched and swerved from side to side.

The third time that he was forced out of the helicopter, one of the undercover soldiers rapped his knuckles with a revolver, in an attempt to free Burns' hand from a piece of metal he was clutching on to to avoid falling.

At Bessbrook Barracks he was again physically and verbally assaulted by the Paras, being kicked in the testicles, spreadeagled against a wall and pushed and prodded with a machine gun.

He was questioned for several hours but at no stage was he handed over to the RUC.

## COURT

Frightened and badly shaken by his ordeal, Burns was again put into the 'copter for his return flight to the landing pad near Dromad. Here, they hovered about 12 feet in the air and Burns was forcibly shoved out into complete darkness, landing on a pile of stones, but, as he says himself:

"At least I was alive, not shot dead like Peter Cleary only a year before. I suppose I was in the wrong place at the wrong time, like many other innocent people.

"I was glad to get away though for those boys would nut you and that's it; two lines in the next week's paper."

Typically, at last Thursday's hearing, not one of the British soldiers appeared in court, crown counsel excusing their absence on the grounds that they are now 'scattered around the world'.

In any event, the Ministry of Defence conceded their guilt by settling out of court.

## Undercover activity in Mid-Ulster

A 46-YEAR-OLD married man from Rock, County Tyrone, has reported being threatened and insulted by two gunmen, who he believes were part of an undercover unit of the crown forces.

And the disclosure is the second reported incident of undercover activity in a week by Sinn Féin elected representative for Mid-Ulster Danny Morrison, who earlier publicised activity in Cookstown's Greenvale estate.

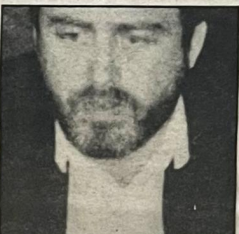
Peter Toner, from Skenehergney, Rock, was stopped by two men in plainclothes at around 5.30pm on Saturday, February 12th. He was shown some identification but was not allowed to examine it.

"One of them produced a handgun and he loaded bullets into it in front of me," says Toner.

"He asked me my name and I gave him it. He said: 'You're a Catholic'."

Whilst they were detaining Toner, the two men stopped and checked two vehicles on the road, before eventually allowing him to go. They then got into a red Ford Fiesta with Derry number plates and drove away.

Danny Morrison has described Peter Toner's encounter as sinister and says it was obvious that the two men worked for the British government and that Toner may well have been shot dead if, believing he was being confronted by loyalist paramilitaries, he had run off when challenged.



● DANNY MORRISON

## British race track

DOZENS of children narrowly missed death or serious injury when a British army armoured personnel carrier overturned in the Turf Lodge area of West Belfast, on Saturday, February 19th.

At around 12.30pm, the APC, driving recklessly through the narrow crowded streets of Turf Lodge approached Norglen Grove at high speed, braked, skidded and turned over.

Sean Keenan of West Belfast Sinn Féin, after the incident, commented:

"Residents are justifiably very angry as the area is used day and night as a race track by the Brits and they believe that it was only sheer luck which prevented local children from being killed or seriously injured.

"It is clear that these forces have absolutely no regard for the people of West Belfast or any area in the six counties. The killing of nationalists, whether 'accidentally' or intentionally is of no consequence to them as they are assured protection under British law in Ireland."



● The overturned APC in Turf Lodge

# ATTACK ON DIVIS SCHOOL

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE PREMISES of Divis Flats Community Education Project, which is situated in the heart of the Divis complex and was formally known locally as 'Crazy Joe's School', was raided by British soldiers last Thursday morning, February 17th, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage to equipment and property.

Three Saracen-loads of members of the Black Watch Regiment swooped on the school premises in Cullingtree Walk at around 7am, bursting their way through the front door, and spent over two hours on the premises.

Water pipes were broken, flooding the classrooms; floorboards on the stairs were pulled up and some of them broken; holes were punched in walls; several electrical fittings were smashed; and, in a petty vindictive act, books used in the school were thrown about the wet floors and destroyed.

## INDEPENDENT

The Divis school, which operates as a totally independent project from both church and state, was established over two years ago by various community workers in the area who were alarmed at the high level of expulsions of pupils from secondary schools in West Belfast.

Pupils range in age from 12 to

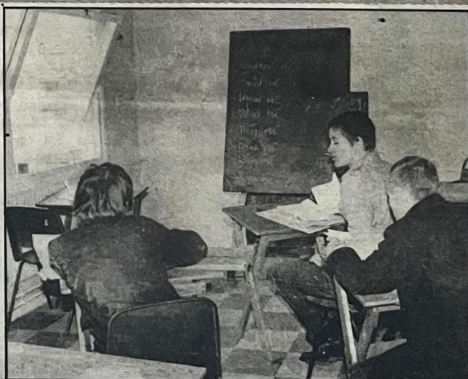
16, and the school is staffed by two full-time teachers and a voluntary instructor in handicrafts. Subjects include sociology, politics and Irish culture, taught in a commonsense manner, intelligible to the pupils.

All the pupils have been expelled from their former schools either for truancy or for what the schools describe as being 'disruptive' or 'maladjusted'. Both are terms which teachers at the Divis project totally reject.

## OPPOSITION

From the beginning, the school has met with strong opposition from church and state authorities, who see the project as intruding on their hitherto exclusive preserve. But one of the teachers involved rejects this:

"We have not set ourselves up to replace the existing school system, that is an impossibility. The kids who go to this school were rejected and expelled, no



● The Divis Community Education Project, attacked by Brits

other school would take them so they were running about the flats all day long with nothing to do.

"We provide them with a formal education to deal with their immediate education needs."

Not surprisingly, last Thursday's early morning raid has been shrugged

off as yet one more attempt to disrupt the school, this time by a different arm of authority.

Although classes were suspended for two days because of the amount of damage, the dedication of the teachers and the enthusiasm of the pupils resulted in a speedy resumption of studies by Monday morning of this week.