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A second 'No' to Lisbon



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IT is becoming clear that the 26-County administration is intent on subverting the democratic decision of the people of the 26 Counties in rejecting the Lisbon Treaty/EU Constitution.

Already the ground is being prepared for a re-run of the Lisbon referendum. The poll carried in *The Irish Times* on November 17 was based on a misleading and slanted question.

The lead question gave the impression that the Lisbon Treaty would be "modified" in order to address concerns about neutrality, the number of commissioners, taxation and abortion. The reality is that Lisbon will not be modified or changed in any way. If the text of the treaty was changed in any way it would have to be returned to all 27 member states for ratification.

The Brussels political establishment will not allow that to happen. Instead a declaration or declarations will accompany a second Lisbon vote. It is important to understand that a declaration unlike a protocol is not legally binding and in no way amends or changes the treaty in any way. Anthony Coughlan of the National Platform points out what is being discussed by the

Dublin administration with its political masters in Brussels is not the modification of Lisbon but rather modifying its presentation for a Lisbon 2.

What is happening here is a con-trick – the impression is being given that the treaty will be changed to address the concerns of the Irish people – the fact is that if people are fooled into believing they would be voting 'Yes' to exactly the same treaty they voted 'No' to last June.

As Anthony Coughlan says: "If Irish society falls for spoofery of this kind, we would justifiably become the laughing stock of Europe. Future generations would surely wonder at the gullibility of the political class and media that could connive at such a thing."

The glorification of foreign imperialist wars evidenced by the rash of so-called 'Remembrance' ceremonies and a concerted and widespread promotion of the British poppy, marking the 90th anniversary of

the ending of the First World War is part of the process of conditioning people to accept both British imperialism in Ireland and the new imperialism of the EU.

In the past veterans and relatives of those killed in the WWI organised and participated in such events. Today the 26-County state and its political leaders have taken a leading role in them, paving the way of course for a visit by the Queen of England to the 26-Counties in the near future.

The funeral in Westport, Co Mayo of a local man killed while serving with the British army of occupation in Afghanistan was another occasion used to glamourise foreign imperialist wars and normalise British rule in Ireland.

Ed Horgan, international secretary of the Peace and Neutrality Alliance (PANA), described as "foolish" any young Irish person who involves themselves in such imperialist wars of conquest. Referring to media reports which described the dead British soldier as a "peacekeeper" he said: "Clearly he wasn't peacekeeping in

Afghanistan. He shouldn't have been there in the first place."

We must prepare ourselves to once more do battle in defence of Irish neutrality – sovereignty and democracy.

The chairman of PANA Roger Cole pointed out at PANA's AGM that in any second referendum the 'Yes' side would fight "the dirtiest, most vicious" campaign ever seen in Ireland.

Those campaigning for a 'No' vote must not allow themselves to be distracted by side issues such as the content of declarations or so-called opt-outs. The message must be simple and stick to the basic points.

Three times in three years the people of three States – France and Holland in 2005 and the 26 Counties in 2008 – have said no to the creation of a militarised and undemocratic United States of Europe.

A second 'No' to Lisbon would represent a significant defeat for the Euro bullies in Dublin and Brussels. It would be a resounding victory not just for the Irish people but for the millions in Europe denied the right to vote on this issue.



**SEÁN SABHAT
COMMEMORATION**

**Sunday, January 4
2009**

Mount St Lawrence
Cemetery
Assemble Bedford Row
Limerick, 1.45pm

**Vol Fergal O'Hanlon
50th Anniversary
Commemoration**

**Sunday, January 11
2009, 2pm**

Assemble: The Cathedral,
Monaghan
for march to Latlurgan
Cemetery



**DÁITHÍ
Ó CONAILL
COMMEMORATION
January 1, 2009
New Year's Day**

**Assemble:
Gates of Glasnevin
Cemetery, Dublin
12.45pm**



Resistance in Six Counties

MEMBERS of the RUC came under attack in Lurgan, Co Armagh on November 23 in the Cornakinnegar Road. An RUC car was extensively damaged, but there were no reports of any injuries.

While British army explosive experts carried out a number of controlled explosions on a suspicious object, stones, fireworks and petrol bombs were thrown at the British colonial police.

The following night, November 24, British army bomb experts

were called out to a suspicious object in the Ardenlee estate in Downpatrick, Co Down.

On November 15 it was reported that the British colonial police had been attacked in Strabane, Co Tyrone by youths who threw petrol bombs and other missiles at them. The trouble

continued on November 16 when RUC/PSNI patrols were again attacked.

On November 16 and 17 residents of St Colman's Drive, Strabane were evacuated from their homes after reports that a suspicious device had been left in the area. The British police were accused by local people of reverting to the worst excesses of the RUC during the 1980s and early 1990s in their approach to policing the town.

On November 23 three masked men, one carrying a shotgun, held up a licensed gun dealer in his shop at Main Street in Garrison, Co Fermanagh as he was about to close his shop and robbed him of a number of weapons.

The haul included two Gloch 9mm pistols; a Sig Saur 9mm pistol; a Walther .22 pistol and five Hammerli .22 target pistols. A quantity of both 9mm and .22 ammunition was also taken.

Security stepped up at GAA clubs

Gaelic football clubs in rural parts of Co Tyrone stepped up their security in the wake of the arson attacks which saw the club houses destroyed.

Clubhouses at Cookstown and Edendork were attacked within 24 hours and Fr Rocks GAC club chairperson John Ward said all clubs in the area will be reviewing their security.

Damien McConville, secretary of Stewartstown GFC, said they had already asked members for

increased vigilance in light of the attack in Edendork on Saturday.

Gerard McSloy, secretary of the latest club to be attacked, said the youngest members of Fr Rocks GAC would be the most affected. "The store room is absolutely gutted and this would contain footballs and kit bags for

the underage teams and everything that we use for training," he said. "Every window and every door has steel grills and they had to remove the grill off a fire exit in order to get in".

A fire also destroyed a GAA clubhouse at St Malachy's GAC, Edendork, outside Dungannon, Co Tyrone on November 8.

Club chairman Peter O'Connor said: "The building has been completely destroyed. When I got

there at 6am the whole place was on fire. The roof was off and the first floor had completely collapsed in," he said. The walls of the clubhouse have been judged unsafe and the building will have to be demolished.

A caller claiming to represent the Orange Volunteers contacted the UTV newsroom on November 8 and said the organisation was responsible for the blaze.

PANA holds its AGM

The Peace And Neutrality Alliance (PANA) held its AGM in the Pearse Institute in Pearse Street, Dublin on Saturday, November 29.

In his chairman's address Roger Cole said that it was likely that the 26-County administration would once again — as with the re-run of the Nice Treaty referendum in 2002 — subvert the democratic decision of the Irish people and force a second Lisbon referendum.

He called for strong international solidarity against the forces of imperialism saying: "Our fight is your fight". He said the Yes side would fight "the dirtiest, most vicious" campaign ever seen in Ireland.

Roger Cole said PANA would organise a conference near Shannon airport in March, inviting anti-war movements in cities with direct flights to Shannon to attend. He

said the advocates of the Lisbon Treaty wanted "Home Rule within a centralised, militarised, neo-liberal Superstate called the European Union".

Edward Horgan, PANA's International secretary criticised the wide media coverage given recently to the funeral of British soldier Robert McKibben, the Co Mayo man who was killed while serving with British forces in Afghanistan last month.

He said it was "foolish" for Irish people to participate in such conflicts. He claimed media outlets which described Robert McKibben as a peacekeeper were wrong. "Clearly he wasn't peacekeeping in Afghanistan. He shouldn't have

been there in the first place.

"It is foolish for Irish people to join foreign armies at a time when they are doing their fighting in places like Afghanistan," he said.

Republican Sinn Féin Vice President Des Dalton and General Secretary Josephine Hayden attended the AGM. During a discussion on the growth of imperialist militarism Des Dalton pointed out that the promotion of the British poppy in Ireland and so-called 'Remembrance' commemorations marking the anniversary of the ending of the First World War served a dual purpose. "Not only are they intended to glorify involvement by Irish people in foreign imperialist wars but they are also intended to normalise British occupation and imperialism in Ireland," he said.

During a discussion in the afternoon Des Dalton warned that the 'No' side must not fall into the

trap of concentrating on the issue of declarations or protocols to the Lisbon Treaty. "We must not be distracted or diverted from the real issue which is at the heart of the Lisbon Treaty. That is the construction of an undemocratic militarised United States of Europe. Three times in three years the people of three states have said no to the creation of an EU superstate. The campaign against Lisbon must stick to basics."

The Dutch Socialist Party's general secretary, Hans van Heijningen, said his party had adopted a strategy of regarding European Parliament elections as an opportunity for voters to express their opposition to the treaty.

In his closing remarks PANA chairperson Roger Cole said that the Irish people with their long history of resisting imperialism would not surrender their right to national independence.

Gearrscóalta

Republican Sinn Féin

protest in Lurgan

OVER 40 members and supporters of the Thomas Harte Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Lurgan, mounted a picket at the British District Policing Partnership, Mount Zion House, Lurgan, Co Armagh on November 6.

The protesters gathered on the steps of Mount Zion as those attending the meeting entered the building. They held placards and banners opposing British rule in Ireland and proclaiming support for Republican prisoners.

The meeting was opened by chairperson Samuel Gardiner, who invited District Commander, RUC/PSNI Chief Inspector Jason Murphy to present his six-month report.

Shortly after the presentation began the protesters entered the meeting room and a spokesperson for the group declared the protesters would hold a peaceful demonstration. He said: "The RUC/PSNI is an illegal police force and we will not recognise it, we will only recognise a police force that serves the 32 counties of Ireland."

The protesters then chanted Republican slogans. The RUC/PSNI chief inspector was urged by the chairperson to continue his presentation but he was drowned out by the protesters. As the protesters left one of the group called some of those attending the meeting "traitors". The protest lasted for just over five minutes.

Reject MI6 recruitment drive — RSF

MOVES by the British Military Intelligence agency MI6 to enlist spies from minority ethnic communities will do nothing to reduce the sinister nature of the organisation, Republican Sinn Féin said on November 19.

"Over the course of the past number of months we have seen MI5 and MI6 advertise positions in local newspapers and on social networking websites such as Facebook. Despite such feeble attempts to soften their image, it is clear that applicants representing ethnic minorities are still reluctant to join in their campaign of murder throughout much of the world.

"Indeed, MI6 agents have been discovered operating within the 26-Counties on a number of occasions. It is also widely accepted that British intelligence agencies were responsible for masterminding the murder of Irish civilians in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings.

"There is a duty on all people — whether they represent a minority ethnic community or not — to reject the activities of organisations like MI6."

More new powers for Gardaí

THE 26-County police are to be given new powers allowing them to break into the homes of those whom they believe are involved in "criminal activity".

They can plant audio and visual bugging devices in houses and any other premises as well as vehicles, vessels and aircraft and then use the material gathered to prosecute people in court. Devices can be used in the investigation of arrestable offences carrying jail terms of five years or more.

A spokesperson for Republican Sinn Féin said on November 19 that the new legislation within the 26-Counties allowing surveillance evidence to be used in court against an accused person, coupled with the ability of the 26-County police to request that such evidence not be disclosed to the accused is a further draconian move on the part of the Dublin Administration.

Results of National Draw

Iú Duais: Ticket no 16268, Two All-Ireland Tickets and €500, J Crossan, Co Derry

2ú Duais: Ticket no 16279, €500, J Mullan, Co Derry

3ú Duais: Ticket no 3217, €300, H Owens, Roscommon

4ú Duais: Ticket no 4263, N O'Keeffe, Cork

5ú Duais: Ticket no 17319, J Begley, Co Derry

Results of Dublin raffle

NOVEMBER Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 145; 2nd prize 505; 3rd prize 538; 4th prize 532; 5th prize 493; 6th prize 590; 7th prize 009; 8th prize 281.

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Ainm

Seoladh

Tel: Age (if under 21)

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Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill

223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Tel: 01-872 9747; Faxes: 01-872

9757. email: saoirse@iol.ie

or 229 Falls Road, Belfast

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JOIN REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN



For a full British withdrawal from Ireland

OUR AIMS

For a full British withdrawal from Ireland . . . The establishment of a true 32-County FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC . . . The establishment of a new all-Ireland parliament, completely outside the present partitionist set-up, to oversee the running of the new neutral non-aligned Ireland . . .

OUR HISTORY

Formed in 1905 . . . We are the oldest political organisation in the country . . . Organised throughout the 32 Counties . . . We have continuously rejected the failed political entities of the Six and 26 Counties in existence since the British partitioned our country . . .

Gearrsc alta Fr Griffin remembered in Bearna

ON November 16 Republicans remembered Fr Griffin at a ceremony in Bearna, Co na Gaillimhe. More than 60 people formed up at Bearna National School and led by a piper marched to the memorial to Fr Griffin. He was shot dead by British Crown Forces in November 1920.

Proceedings were chaired by Tomás Ó Curraoin, Bearna and a decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge was recited by Seán Mac an Iomaire. A wreath was laid by Uachtarán Ruairí Ó Brádaigh on behalf of the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of Galway Comhairle Ceantair and on behalf of Republican people in the Six Occupied Counties.

The oration was delivered by Des Long, Vice-president, Sinn Féin Poblachtach during the course of which he said: "Many of the clergy throughout Ireland are playing a political role in attempts to normalise British rule in the entire island by promoting the wearing of the Poppy.

"While most clergy are fully prepared to hold ceremonies to promote the Poppy, not many are willing to honour the Easter Lily. In fact they condemn the symbol of 1916 as they fear a new and united Ireland.

"What a difference between the clergy in 1920 when British Crown Forces murdered Father Griffin: his fellow clerics described him as a martyr for Ireland and now today when the clergy is doing all in its power to have the Irish people accept and wear the British Poppy. At the same time the symbol of 1916, the Easter Lily is being condemned from many quarters.

"This move by politicians to have the Irish people wear the Poppy as some sort of symbol of peace is grotesque and must be opposed. Irish people should boycott any attempt to foist it upon them.

"This acceptance of wearing the Poppy is the latest attempt by the Free State politicians to bend the will of the Irish people. It comes at a time when Irish men and women are under the threat of imprisonment for selling the Easter Lily.

"It is surely a grotesque situation whereby the symbol of Empire is supposed to be accepted while wearing an Easter Lily is to be frowned upon and denounced".

Wexford remembers the Edentubber Martyrs

ON Sunday, November 2, to coincide with the Edentubber commemoration in Co Louth, wreath-laying ceremonies were held in Co Wexford.

At St Mary's Cemetery, Enniscorthy, Kevin Kavanagh laid a wreath on behalf of the Mellows/Rafter Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin on the grave of George Keegan. In St Ibar's Cemetery, Crosstown, Wexford, Tom Malone laid a wreath on behalf of the Pádraig Ó Pearaill Cumann on the grave of Paddy Parle.

In the Garden of Remembrance at the Old Jail in Wexford town, Jimmy Kavanagh laid a wreath on behalf of the Wexford Republican Graves Association at the Edentubber Martyrs Monument. The Tricolour was held at each ceremony by a lone guard of honour.

Lisbon pressure 'unpatriotic'

THE findings of the sub-committee charged with reviewing the future of the 26-County State within the EU is clearly designed to pave the way for a second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, Richard Walsh, National PRO of Republican Sinn Féin said on November 27.

"Claims that a second referendum being held, without modification, does not appear to violate the 1937 Constitution opens the way for the Dublin Administration to pressurise voters in the 26-Counties into accepting something which they have already rejected. Attempts to circumvent the wishes expressed by the people can correctly be described as treasonous.

"Voters within the 26-Counties protected the rights of the disenfranchised throughout the EU who were denied a voice on the imposition of an EU Constitution. Now every effort is being made to deny them their voice also.

"In Leinster House of late we regularly hear lectures about what actions are considered to be 'patriotic', and yet these politicians at the same time are scheming to allow other countries have further control over the State's affairs. It is also interesting to note that their concept of 'patriotism' does not appear to extend beyond the British-imposed border.

Where did this financial crisis come from?

THE current financial crisis can be traced back to the decisions taken by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher when they led their respective Governments in the early 1980s. In the preceding decades there had been rapid economic growth driven by the reconstruction of Europe and East Asia that had been devastated by the war.

In that period the world's economies were regulated through strong state controls over market activity and strong state intervention to minimise inflation and recession (through control of monetary policy for example).

These were accompanied by relatively high wages which were seen as essential to stimulate and maintain demand for what was being produced. It was the era of the Keynesian state.

However as the reconstruction of Germany and Japan reached completion and the capacity of other economies began to grow also (eg Brazil, Taiwan and South Korea) a new problem emerged. The world's capacity for economic growth was increasing dramatically. A major problem of over-production was emerging.

As production capacity exceeded demand two kinds of responses were encouraged - the first was to create huge competition between the various producers and the second was to increase the demand people had for products. The former led to a process of driving down costs which in turn led to reduction in many people's wages. This had the effect of increasing inequality both within countries and between countries. It had the added effect of driving down demand as people could not afford the products being produced which, in turn, led to the erosion of profitability among companies. The huge increases in the price of oil in 1973 and 1979 also impacted on this situation in a negative way.

Since the late 1970s capitalism has tried three approaches to solving the problem of overproduction i.e. neo-liberal restructuring, globalisation and financialisation. The first of

these was the route chosen by Reagan and Thatcher. This has been followed by globalisation which in turn was followed by financialisation. The problems produced by financialisation are the immediate cause of what has been happening to the financial system in recent times.

Neo-Liberal Restructuring Reagan and Thatcher agreed that the way to save capitalism was to promote capital accumulation and they did this by:

- Removing state constraints on the growth, use and flow of capital and wealth; and
- Redistributing income from the poor and middle classes to the rich on the understanding that the rich would then be motivated to invest their new profits and reignite economic growth.

This theory proved false in that it saw global growth averaging 1.4% in the 1980s and 1.1% a year in the 1990s. This compared with an average of 3.5% in the 1960s and 2.4% in the 1970s when state interventionist policies were the accepted norm.

This approach redistributed income to the rich and seriously damaged the incomes of the poor and the middle classes. It did not increase the demand for products on the scale required since those whose incomes were being damaged didn't have the resources to spend and the rich did not invest a great deal of their new gains as expected.

GLOBALISATION

The second approach used to try to save capitalism was globalisation. Great effort has gone into the creation of a global market. Countries that had been outside the market or had been non-capitalist were integrated into the global market. This was accompanied by trade liberalisation, the

removal of barriers to the mobility of global capital and the abolition of barriers to foreign investment. This was seen as the solution to overproduction. China was the largest non-capitalist country to move into this system.

This process, however, worsened the problem of overproduction. While the world's consumption grew this was surpassed by growing production capacity. The profits of major corporations were not growing as fast as had been the case in preceding decades. In the 1960s the annual profit margin of the Fortune 500 companies was

7.15%. This went down to 5.3% in the 1980s and 2.29% in the 1990s. They continued to fall in the early years of this century.

FINANCIALISATION

In order to increase profitability the capitalist world turned to 'financialisation' as the means of increasing profitability. In the past the financial sector made the funds of savers available to entrepreneurs to finance their production capacity. With the continued reality of overproduction the financial world began to invest surplus funds in the financial world itself and in property. A whole range of new financial 'products' were created that could be bought and sold. Interest rates were lowered to facilitate this process.

The increasing resources available for purchasing property led to huge increases in the price of property. Mortgage companies became more aggressive in marketing their products introducing innovations such as 100% mortgages, 'interest only' mortgages and 40-year mortgages. House prices soared. Lending standards were lowered. Many of these mortgages were held by people who could not afford to repay on the agreed terms i.e. these were 'subprime' mortgages.

A further problem was created as these mortgages, were included with other assets in new derivative products called 'collateralised debt

obligations' (CDOs). These products were sold to banks and financial institutions that were not aware of what these products really contained. As interest rates rose it became apparent that many of these products were not worth their face value. The total value of these products is not known but is estimated to run into trillions of dollars. Companies such as Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Bear Stearns in the USA and others across the world were simply overwhelmed by these products as their reserves could not meet the losses being faced. They were bought out. The Manchester United sponsor AIG (American International Group) - an insurance company - was brought down by its huge exposure in the area of 'credit default swaps' which are derivatives that make it possible for investors to bet on the possibility that companies will default on repaying loans. Soros the well-known investor estimates that €45 trillion are invested in a market on these swaps - a market that is totally unregulated.

What we have been witnessing in recent weeks and months is the collapse of financialisation - the third strategy to rescue capitalism from its core problem of overproduction. The other two were neo-liberal restructuring and globalisation.

KEY QUESTIONS

Many questions present themselves. We highlight a few:

- What is needed to ensure effective and efficient regulation at both national and international level of the world's financial systems?
- Does the world need to recognise that there is a fundamental flaw in capitalism that needs to be addressed?
- What needs to be done to ensure that economic development and social development are given equal priority in countries across the world?

(Published by CORI: Contact, issue 46, October 2008)

Shell to Sea refute minister's statements

ON November 21 Shell to Sea issued the following statement:

"Shell to Sea would like to refute some recent media statements made by the Minister for Energy, Eamon Ryan.

"Recently Minister Ryan stated Corrib Gas would bring gas prices down, however both Bord Gáis and the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) have stated that this would not be the case. Indeed in September the CER stated that the coming on stream of gas from Corrib could lead to higher prices for consumers because of the

increased use of the gas infrastructure.

"Minister Ryan has also recently claimed that the tax take from the project will be 40% which is also untrue. The current tax take from the Corrib is 25% percent corporation tax after all exploration, development and decommissioning costs have been written off.

"Shell to Sea agree with the words spoken by Eamon Ryan in 2002 when he stated: 'We need to change the current policy of

letting the exploration companies have their own way in Irish waters and start setting the same standards which other sovereign governments seem able to enforce.'

"Shell to Sea spokesperson Maura Harrington stated 'Given all the recent talk regarding how to save the Irish Exchequer money, an immediate start would be to stop Shell from being allowed to write off all the costs that they have accrued on this ill-conceived project. Then Minister Ryan should introduce royalties on Corrib Gas. Royalty payments on oil & gas production

are the only sure method to get a fair return to the state from its resources.'

"Maura Harrington continued 'This remains an unsafe and environmentally damaging project which given the current gas and oil terms has very little return to the State. In these hard economic times, we will all rue the giveaway deal signed into place by Bertie Ahern and Ray Burke.'

"Meanwhile Shell's third-quarter profits rose by 71% from last year to €8.4 billion for the 3 month period up to September."

For The Record

MON. NOVEMBER 3: Orders for possession of several homes were granted in the High Court in Dublin as proceedings got under way in 69 cases.

Deportations of Irish people from the United States is on the increase.

Martin McAleese, husband of the 26-County president, fast-tracked an Irish passport for Jackie McDonald, a well-known UDA 'brigadier' so he could attend a Ranger's soccer game in 2003.

Ian Paisley jnr told 700 delegates at a DUP conference at the weekend that he would like to see his fellow policing board member Martina Anderson "Tasered". Taser guns are an electroshock weapon which discharges 50,000 volts and incapacitates a person.

Gerry Adams denied allegations by DUP Nelson McCausland that he [Adams] was leader of the IRA in Belfast in the 1970s. Adams has consistently denied he was ever a member of the IRA.

A witness to the murder of Jean Charles de Menezes, Anna Dunwoodie who sat two seats to the left of him on the train, said that while de Menezes remained calm and closed his eyes, police panicked, were "out of control" and did not shout any warnings before shooting him dead on July 22, 2005.

TUES. NOVEMBER 4: Barack Obama became the first African-American president of the United States.

WED. NOVEMBER 6: The cost of 'policing' the British army parade through Belfast was well in excess of £300,000 (€369,000).

The numbers out of work in the 26 Counties continued to rise. The number on the [State] Live Register for October was 260,300.

Kilkeel-based RG Coulter construction firm is to lay off 35 workers.

Shannon-based pharmaceutical firm Schwarz Pharma is to lay off 55 workers.

The 26-County administration set up a 'community forum' on the Corrib gas project.

FRI. NOVEMBER 7: A Derry businessman placed a portable shelter in a car park at Foyle Road Derry, beside a closed hostel, for the homeless.

John Hermon, former Chief Constable of the RUC, died aged 79.

Cecelia Keaveney, a Senator in the 26 Counties, called for the former internment camp at Ballykinnar British army base to be turned into an interpretative centre. She also called for Frongoch in Wales and the Curragh camp in Kildare to be tourist attractions.

SAT. NOVEMBER 8: St Malachy's GAA club in Edendork, Co Tyrone was completely destroyed in an arson attack.

Galway Engineering Firm APW Galway Ltd, is to close with the loss of 138 jobs. Workers were told they may have to wait up to three months for their redundancy as the money will have to come from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment fund.

A further delay for a year in the publication of the Saville Report into the murder of 13 civilians in Derry on Bloody Sunday, January 30, 1972 has angered the relatives.

SUN. NOVEMBER 9: Over £12,000 worth of damage was done to Fr Rock's GAA club in Cookstown, Co Tyrone in an arson attack. Two rooms were gutted and equipment destroyed in the blaze.

The International Monitoring Commission (IMC) said the vacuum left by the ongoing stalemate at Stormont is being filled with "distasteful republicanism".

The UDA addressed its supporters and issued a statement saying that it is "ready for battle" because "Republicanism and nationalism has not abated" and is threatening "our very existence at every level".

Remains unearthed in the Wicklow Mountains were believed to be that of Danny McIlhenny, abducted and killed by the IRA in 1981.

MON. NOVEMBER 10: Mary Harney, Minister for health in the 26 Counties, will remain as Minister after the PDs disband as a political party. The membership of the PDs decided to wind up the party after 23 years in existence.

TUES. NOVEMBER 11: Czech president Vaclav Klaus met with and publicly endorsed Libertas Chairman Declan Ganley while on a



• Fr Rocks GAA club, Cookstown, Co Tyrone which was one of several GAA clubs targeted in arson attacks in November.

'state' visit to the 26 Counties. A shift towards 'supranationalism' in Europe is suppressing freedom and democracy Klaus claimed.

WED. NOVEMBER 12: In the civil trial in which five men are being sued by six Omagh families, Terence Morgan, who was summoned to be cross-examined, denied lending his mobile phone to Colm Murphy, Dundalk, on the day of the Omagh bombing in August 1998. Colm Murphy is one of the five being sued.

The mother of a Holy Cross schoolgirl lost a legal bid against the RUC claiming the policing of the protest in 2001 led to her daughter being subjected to degrading and inhuman treatment. Loyalist protesters terrorised the schoolchildren for three months in 2001 on their way to and from school. In a unanimous judgement, five law lords dismissed the woman's appeal. The case is now going to the European Court of Human Rights and has the backing of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.

Up to 3,000 students marched in Sligo in protest that the re-introduction of third-level fees.

THURS. NOVEMBER 13: A Nigerian mother, Pamela Izevbekhai, who is appealing against deportation of herself and her two daughters on the grounds that her daughters are at risk of genital mutilation, appealed to the High Court to prevent their deportation until their latest legal challenge has been determined.

Margaret Ward who emigrated from Galway in 1963 to Salford, England, was buried as all of her 172 grandchildren turned up for the funeral. Mrs Ward had 15 children, 172 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and 18 great-great-grandchildren. The horse-drawn hearse was draped in the Tricolour.

FRI. NOVEMBER 14: The Bawn Orange Hall near Pomeroy, Co Tyrone was badly damaged by an explosive device. A fire was also started in the front porch after the doors were broken open with a sledgehammer. Two other Orange halls were damaged over the last few weeks. In Pomeroy chainsaws were used to cut through the doors of Mulnagore Hall while a fire caused extensive damage to Ballinderry Orange Hall near Coagh, Co Tyrone.

New figures just released show that the number of repossession orders issued against people who have fallen behind with their mortgage payments rose by 93% in the last year in the occupied Six Counties. This is almost double the number for the same period the previous year. And the situation looks set to get worse as the recession bites.

Lawyers for the victims in a civil case against five men accused in relation to the Omagh bombing in 1998 asked Justice Morgan to allow IRA informer Seán Callaghan to testify in court. Callaghan claims in a statement, submitted to the prosecution, that Michael McKevitt, one of those being sued, was at one stage a high-ranking member of the Northern Command of the Provisional IRA. He further claims that McKevitt attended a meeting in the mid-1990s to discuss the purchase of deer-hunting rifles and was linked to shipment of arms from Libya. **MON. NOVEMBER 17:** Cardinal Seán Brady called on Republicans opposed to the Stormont

Agreement to cease attacks on the RUC/PSNI and called on those with information to give that information to the RUC. In an 11-page spread entitled "Dissident violence has to stop" in the *Irish News*, Cardinal Brady is among several journalists and politician and the editorial from the pro-Stormont side writing in the paper. No space was given for an article by opposed to the Agreement. However a statement released by Richard Walsh, National PRO, Republican Sinn Féin pointed out that Republican Sinn Féin have a 'viable alternative' in ÉIRE NUA and a CIRA spokesperson stated that: "...we have no interest in sectarianism and the Stormont system and Stormont Assembly institutionalises sectarianism. Our position has always been that the Irish people have the right to use controlled and disciplined force to drive the British from Ireland. That right is inalienable and will remain so while the loyalty of the people is to an all-Ireland Republic."

A minibus belonging to the Newcastle Presbyterian Church was burned out in a sectarian arson attack at the weekend. The minibus caught fire after a wheelie bin was set alight and pushed against the vehicle. The Fullerton Church was not damaged.

A 20-year-old man appeared in court in Derry charged in relation to an arson attack on the Apprentice Boys hall in the city. The hall sustained scorch damage in the attack on November 16.

Two women had a lucky escape when their home was set on fire in an arson attack in the Cornagrade area of Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh. Material was pushed through the letterbox and set on fire.

Liam Phillips told the trial of Michael McIlveen that he [Michael] and two of his friends were attacked because they were Catholics.

According to the *Irish Times* TNS/MRBI Opinion Poll 'there is no public support for any attempt to re-run the failed Lisbon referendum' according to Libertas Chairman Declan Ganley.

TUES. NOVEMBER 18: Richard Moore, founder of Children in Crossfire, was awarded the Beacon special prize in London for his work with children suffering from 'hunger, disease and physical and mental abuse because of poverty'.

Garikoitz Aspiroz Rubina, allegedly a leading member of ETA, was arrested in France.

THURS. NOVEMBER 20: The Stormont Executive met again after months of stalemate.

David Wright, father of murdered LVF leader Billy Wright, said he had no confidence in Angus Stewart QC, the lead counsel of the inquiry into the death of his son.

Teachers, parents, schoolchildren and residents continued their pickets on Fianna Fáil 26-County government whip, Pat Carey's clinic in Finglas village, Dublin every Thursday.

The 26 Counties had the highest share of migrants from countries that joined the EU in 2004 than any other EU state. EU immigrants comprise 5% of the working-age population.

Gordon Brown, British prime minister, is to fund the Stormont executive to the tune of £900million.

A US judge Richard Leon in Washington DC ruled that five Algerians detained in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, must be freed on the grounds that there is no legal basis for their continued detention.

Israeli settlers clashed with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank City of Hebron over their takeover of a Palestinian building last year. Ten Jewish families were ordered by the Israeli High Court to vacate a building but they are refusing to do so.

FRI. NOVEMBER 21: British bookmakers Ladbrookes are to sponsor the Derry senior football and hurling teams.

SAT. NOVEMBER 22: The number at work in the 26 Counties fell by 25,200 in the last year.

Hillary Clinton accepted the post of US Secretary of State from Barack Obama.

The Swedish parliament ratified the Lisbon Treaty.

Hundreds of jobs will be lost at CIÉ as services will be cut in the coming months.

SUN. NOVEMBER 23: A stone harp was unveiled by the family of Phelim McNally, murdered 20 years ago by the UVF in Derrychryn, Co Tyrone.

Up to 30,000 people took part in a march in Cork against the education cuts in the budget.

The RUC came under attack in Cornakinnegar Road, Lurgan, Co Armagh when examining a suspect device. Stones, fireworks, petrol bombs and other missiles were thrown.

A former driver for Conor Murphy, MLA, was arrested for questioning in connection with the murder of Paul Quinn in October 2007.

MON. NOVEMBER 24: The trial of Michael McIlveen, murdered in a sectarian attack in Ballymena in May 2006, continued, with evidence from his family and ambulance staff who attempted to revive him. Michael died from head injuries the day after he was attacked by loyalist youths. He was kicked and punched up to 60 times and bludgeoned with a baseball bat.

Women protesting against domestic violence held a protest outside Leinster House in Dublin. They claim one in five women experience domestic violence.

Calcast engineering works in Derry is to close with a loss of 90 workers. 12 other workers will be relocated. Workers claim that as a result of the layoff being under 99, the company only have to give them and pay them one month's notice instead of three and commenced a sit-in.

Czech President Vaclav Klaus indicated that he will not sign the Lisbon Treaty while the 26 Counties has not ratified it.

Christian Klar of Baader-Meinhof/Red Army Faction, will be released on parole in January after spending 26 years in jail in Germany.

TUES. NOVEMBER 25: Roddy Molloy, FÁS chief executive, resigned his position after days of controversy over the spending of over €640,000 over a four-year period on transatlantic travel.

Guns and ammunition were stolen from a weapons dealer in Garrison, Co Fermanagh.

THURS. NOVEMBER 28: The DuPont factory in Maydown, Derry told its 185 workers that they will close the plant from December 3 until January 1.

SUN. NOVEMBER 30: A bookmaker and his family were held hostage in Moat, Co Westmeath in an apparent tiger kidnap bid. The bookmaker was taken to his shop and forced to hand over around €10,000 before he was freed. Over 7,000 members of the Irish Farming Association (IFA) from Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Cork, Kerry, Galway, Offaly, Roscommon and Wexford gathered in Ennis for a mass demonstration to protest at the budget cuts. The IFA warned the 26-County Administration that farmers won't go away quietly and accept the Budget cuts and said the cutbacks will mean a €20m loss to farmers in the region every year.

Coca-Cola is to open a new factory in Wexford which will create 100 new jobs.

A man was attacked with a hatchet in the John Street area of Downpatrick in Co Down shortly after midnight. He is being treated in hospital today for ear injuries.

MON. DECEMBER 1: Aer Lingus rejected Michael O'Leary of Ryanair bid to takeover the airline. This is O'Leary's second attempt to buy Aer Lingus.

A US internet retailer, CSN, is to create 200 jobs in Galway with the opening of a customer support centre over the next three years.

The Presentation primary School in Portadown, Co Armagh was badly damaged in a suspected arson attack over the weekend.

Pól Brennan, one of the 1983 IRA prisoners to escape from the H-Blocks along with 37 others, lost his fight against deportation from the United States. He will appeal the decision against his extradition.

LÉIRMHEAS

High Noon on High Street, by Stephen Coyle, Clydeside Press, €10.95, available from Irish Freedom Press, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
THIS long-awaited book *High Noon on High Street* by Stephen Coyle centres on a sensational daylight attempt by IRA Volunteers to rescue their comrade Brigadier Frank Carty from a prison van on High Street, Glasgow on May 4, 1921.

The prisoner was being taken from the Courthouse to Duke Street prison under armed escort. Officers of the Crown accompanying the prisoner had been given orders prior to departure not to shoot unless under attack. To this day it remains unclear as to who fired the first shot but a gun-battle ensued and the citizens of Glasgow scattered for cover, unaware of what was happening.

Within minutes Inspector Robert Johnson lay dead and Detective Sergeant George Stirton had suffered an injury to his wrist, incapacitating him. In the event Johnson's killing was accidental when one of the Volunteers shot into the lock because it would not be forced open. As revolver fire continued the Volunteers were

forced to disperse.

A wide net was cast in the search for those responsible and a wave of arrests followed shortly which included a Catholic priest Fr Patrick McRory. His arrest outraged the citizens of Glasgow and there was much rioting in the city. Two Volunteers, Éamonn and Seaghan Mooney, eluded capture until much later when they were arrested in Edinburgh before the IRB could get them out of Scotland and into the United States.

The ambush of the prison van was a huge story at the time as to how an event such as this could happen on the main street of Glasgow in the middle of the day. The *Glasgow Herald* editorial the following day gives an insight into the thinking of 'Empire' when it

reported at length that the IRA ambush was a 'Sinn Féin atrocity'. There are parallels with the Manchester Martyrs and the Fenian attempt to carry out a similar rescue with unfortunate tragic consequences fifty-four years earlier. Three men, Allen, Larkin and O'Brien paid with their lives on very dubious evidence.

The May, 1921 rescue attempt in Glasgow became known as the 'Smashing of the Van' and a song about the event is recorded in this book along with many other ballads. The book contains the transcript of the trial of those involved, or allegedly involved, in the ambush, the historic background, the arrests, trial and aftermath.

Many photographs, not seen before, newspaper articles and biographies of some of the Volunteers are included in this extremely well-researched book. We catch a glimpse too of the political and social movements that were in vogue in Scotland [James Connolly's socialism had a huge following] and elsewhere in the early twentieth century. There

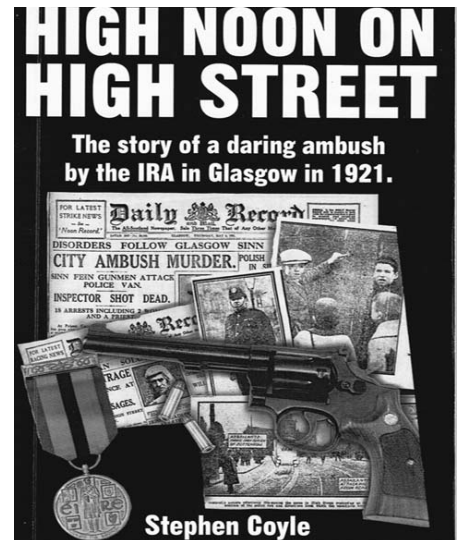
are ties that have always bound Ireland and Scotland and this connectedness is obvious when reading *High Noon on High Street*.

While much has been written about Irish Republicanism in Scotland it has been of a general, and sometimes academic, nature. This book is a page from the history of Ireland's War of Independence, the IRB and IRA in Scotland before the Truce of July 1921.

It is the first true and compelling account of the dramatic attempt to affect a rescue in broad daylight by a selected group of Volunteers. Undoubtedly it will appeal to a wide audience. Stephen Coyle has done history a service with the publication of this book about an event that occurred at the very apex of the War of Independence.

Step by step he brings us through the planning and the event itself. He lifts the lid on an almost forgotten story and brings it to life again, allowing us to hear forgotten voices.

This is a balanced and sympathetic account of an



episode which took place 87 years ago, three years after the end of the First World War and a mere five years after the Rising.

It deserves a central place among the array of books on Irish Republicanism in

Scotland and the Irish-Scots who answered the call to arms. It has been well worth the wait, Stephen.

— Cathleen Knowles McGuirk

A Confraternity of Goms

“THE thought of being ruled by a confraternity of goms, the majority of whom should never have been ‘let out’, is a sobering one; the fact that they are freely elected by people vastly more intelligent than themselves is shattering.”

— Breandán Ó hEithir, writer and journalist, in 1986.

DEFENCE, WHAT DEFENCE?

“Four Irish Defence Forces helicopters sold to a US

company for just over €300,000 were later sold on to the Chilean navy for nearly €19m, the *Sunday Tribune* has

learned.

“The deal represents a potential loss of €18m to the Irish taxpayer and comes on the heels of the revelation that Irish army Nissan patrol jeeps had been sold for just one cent.

“According to documents on the sale, supplied by the Department of Defence, the four AS365 Dauphin Helicopters, together with tools and spare parts, were sold in October, 2006 for €11,000.

“The purchaser, Rotor Leasing in Las Vegas, USA, transported them back to the US where they were refitted and repainted before undergoing a series of tests.”

— *The Sunday Tribune*, 9 November, 2008.

The Department of Defence said they had been sold to the highest bidder. In October it was revealed to a Public Accounts Committee hearing that the same Department had leased two helicopters in Chad for 10 months at a cost to the Irish taxpayer of €2.5m, only to discover that they were not licensed to carry troops and so could not be used.

MEDICAL CARDS AGAIN

“One caller told RTÉ's Liveline programme that a medical card was issued to her father four years after he died and that her mother was

distressed about it. When she called the HSE, she was told her father's GP would have been paid for treating him for each of the previous four years, despite the fact that he was dead and she claimed the HSE said it had no way of getting the money back from the doctor.

“Last week Minister for Health Mary Harney also told the Seanad that there were 10,000 fewer over-70s in the population than the number of those which had the medical card. That was probably because people who had died were still factored in she indicated.

“Age Action Ireland said it would be better for the Government to stop payments to GPs for dead patients rather than trying to take medical cards off some older people following the recent Budget decision.

“The HSE has said it carries out monthly checks on all deaths registered to ensure patients who have died are deleted from its database of medical card holders.”

— *The Irish Times*, 12 November, 2008.

Yes, but can they count? The annual sum of €600 paid to doctors, multiplied by 10,000 comes to €6m, in one year. Now that would provide quite a few doses of the cervical cancer vaccine.

EIRCOM DISASTER

In the *Irish Times* of 11 November, 2008, Fintan O'Toole called for Eircom to be taken back into public ownership. Telecom Éireann was privatised in 1999 and has changed hands three times

since. Now it is in the process of being bought out again, the fifth change of ownership in less than 10 years.

“The privatisation of this vital national asset was based on the belief that private ownership is innately more productive, more efficient and more dynamic than public ownership. This article of faith is demonstrably wrong and in the case of Eircom utterly disastrous. The effects of privatisation have been almost entirely negative, not just for the company itself, but for the Irish economy.”

O'Toole comments that we have poor quality infrastructure, especially high-quality broadband.

“South Korea has 93 per cent household broadband penetration and the leading countries are moving rapidly towards 80 per cent. We're on 23 per cent. And these raw figures do not take account of the quality of service.

“The main reason for this potentially catastrophic failure is the incredibly stupid decision of the Fianna Fáil/PD government to privatise Eircom in 1999... Instead of the genius-level private-sector management that was going to make Eircom a dynamic national champion, the company has been passed around like a joint at a student party... it currently has debts of €4.26 billion.

“Even now, as the entire model of vulture capitalism is collapsing, another fund is queuing up for its spin on the Eircom merry-go-round — an Isle of Man-based company-LIT plc.

O'Toole concludes his

article by declaring:

“This farce has to stop... the Government must show a bit of leadership and take Eircom back into public ownership. It would show that the Government is grasping, at last, that the economic model that created such disastrous decisions has run its course.”

Yes, of course. The speculators have been interested only in short-term profit and there has been no long-term investment in infrastructure. Poor Ireland!

ENOUGH OR TOO MUCH

That's enough for this month, and it is too much really.

We haven't mentioned the €100m. the HSE lost on the PPARs computer system that never worked, or the €50m. spent on voting machines that never worked either, and that are still costing €500,000 per year to store. Nor have we alluded to the stink (20 times the legal limit) from the new Ringsend Sewage Treatment Plant in Dublin.

Nor indeed have we referred to the 700 speeding summonses which had to be struck out in Dublin due to an “administrative error”.

“A fool and his money are easily parted.” But what if the confraternity of fools get their hands on OUR money?

More next month... probably... and unfortunately. If any heads roll between now and then, we'll be the first to let you know. But don't hold your breath, except maybe if you live in Ringsend.

— AN FEAR FAIRE

TEACH DÁITHÍ Ó CONAILL RENOVATION FUND

THE Trustees and Ard Chomhairle have decided to set up a fund to renovate the Republican Sinn Féin Ard-Oifig, Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

Donations will be gratefully received from members and supporters of the true Republican cause. All moneys received will be acknowledged and receipted.

Donations should be sent to: The Dáithí Ó Conaill Memorial Fund, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

An Oidhreacht Phoblachtach Dhaonlathach

Cuid a Ceathair

An rud ar ceart cuimhneamh air i gcónaí, mar sin, nuair a bhíonn forás an daonlathais in Éirinn á mheas ná nár bhain tástáil mhian an phobail, tríd an gcóras parlaiminteach a bhí againn de bharr an cheangail le Sasana, leis an scéal ar chor ar bith go dtí le gairid.

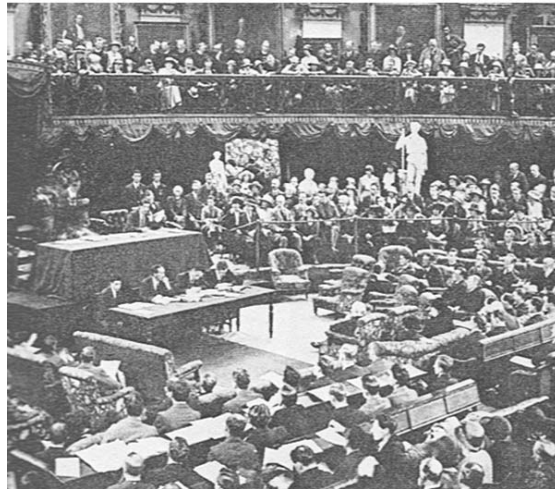
Oidhreacht córais an rud is tábhachtaí a bhaineann léi mar oidhreacht, mar níor iompaigh córas parlaiminteach Westminster féin amach ina "guth an phobail" go dtí dhá ghluín ó shin. Níor briseadh ar chumhacht Theach na dTiarnaí go dtí 1910, tar éis an tsaoil – agus ba de bharr na ndeacrachtaí a bhain le deontú Home Rule d'Éirinn a tháinig an scéal chun cinn go práinneach ag an am sin. Is deacair dúinn anois, b'fhéidir, a thuiscint nach raibh vóta ag gach aon fhear a raibh 21 bliain slánaithe aige in olltoghcháin "Mháthair na bParlaimint" go dtí an bhliain 1918. Tugadh vóta do mhnaí a bhí os cionn 30 bliain d'aois sa toghchán sin, ach b'éigean dóibh fanacht go ceann deich mbliana eile sula raibh vóta ag an aois chéanna leis na fir acu i Sasana – cé gur thug muidne vóta do gach duine os cionn 21 bliain chomh luath agus a bunaíodh Saorstát Éireann i 1922. Leid bheag eile, b'fhéidir, gur mó an lé le daonlathas ionadaíoch fírinneach a bhí ag muintir na hÉireann san am, d'ainneoin na cainte seo ar fad faoin oidhreacht a fuair muid ó Westminster? Is cinnte nach raibh aon cháil ar Chumann na nGaedheal, páirtí an rialtais nua sa Saorstát, mar dhream radacach sóisialach. Mar sin féin, caithfear a mheabhrú go raibh ár gcóras ionadaíochta, sa tslí seo, níos cothroime, níos daonlathaí, ná ceann na Sasanach, agus go bhfuair na mná abhus guth cothrom i gceapadh an rialtais níos luaithe ná mná na Breataine, d'ainneoin a bhfuil de chaint ar siúl acu faoi chomhchearta faoi láthair, agus faoin gceannródaíocht a rinne Westminster, más fíor, maidir le rialú ionadaíoch sa chéad seo.

Níor cheart neamhshuim a dhéanamh den oidhreacht dhaonlathach a d'fhág an Bhreatain le huacht againn go léir, agus go háirithe den oidhreacht a fágadh againn in Éirinn de bharr na páirte a d'imir muid in imeachtaí Westminster sa 19ú haois agus isteach san 20ú haois. Ach is

ceart a bheith críciúil faoi cad iad na nithe, go díreach, a fágadh le huacht againn, cé na feabhais – más ann dóibh – a chuir muid ar an gcóras ó shin, agus cén dul chun cinn, nó a mhalairt, a rinneadh nó nach ndearnadh ó scar an chuid is mó den tír le Westminster thart ar 60 bliain ó shin. Tá tábhacht ar leith leis an gceist dheireanach seo, ó tharla guth a bheith ag pobal vótála na Sé Chontae ag Westminster i gcónaí, agus a n-ionadaíocht a bheith ina dlúthchuid de na scrúitthe a rinneadh nuair a roinneadh an tír i 1920-22. Baineann na scrúitthe sin, agus an córas atá i bhfeidhm ó shin, go dlúth le ceist mhór olltoghcháin na bliana 1918 – an rud ba ghairde d'olltoghcháin lánionadaíoch dá raibh riamh ann go dtí sin.

I bhfianaise an fhreagra réabhlóidigh a thug formhór mór mhuintir na hÉireann ag an am sin maidir le ceart na Breataine ar an tír seo, ní mór ceisteanna eile a chur chomh maith. Cé chomh hionadaíoch is a bhí an bua mór sin ag Sinn Féin, agus tosca aisteacha na linne a chur san áireamh? An bhfuil aon fhianaise le fáil i stair na toghchánaíochta roimhe sin go raibh bonn réasúnta ar bith leis an toradh? Cad a d'imigh ar ghuth an phobail trí chéile in Éirinn ó shin? Cá bhfuil léargas ar thoil an mhóiraimh le fáil inniu? An bhfuil ciall ar bith leis an argóint gurbh é an toradh céanna, mórán mór, a bheadh ar olltoghcháin nó ar phobalbhreith uile-Éireannach dá dtionólaí a leithéid aon uair ó shin i leith? An bhfuil aon bhealach ann inniu le toil mhóiraimh mhuintir na hÉireann a mheas, agus mura bhfuil, cad iad na bealaí is féidir a úsáid faoi láthair le buille faoi thuairim a fháil i dtaobh an scéil? Mura féidir a rá le cinnteacht cad é toil an mhóiraimh in Éirinn inniu, cén fáth nach féidir? Cé dó a dtéann sé chun leasa mura mbíonn an t-eolas sin le fáil?

Roimh thabhairt faoi na ceisteanna sin is ceart a rá, ar ndóigh, nár oir córas daonlathach ionadaíoch na



• Cruinniú den Dara Dáil Uile-Éireannach i Mí Lúnasa 1921. An mbeadh an toradh céanna dá mbeadh olltoghcháin nó pobalbhreith uile-Éireannach ann inniu maidir le ceart na Breataine ar an tír seo?

Breataine agus oidhreacht pharlaiminteach Westminster – dá fheabhas iad – do chás na hÉireann riamh. Bhí deacrachtaí le réiteach i gcónaí, deacrachtaí a bhain leis an gceist náisiúnta, nach raibh córas Westminster in ann a "thuiscint" i gceart. Ná réiteach daonlathach a fháil orthu, mar is léir, ó d'fhan pobal foighneach na tíre ar feadh na mblianta le Home Rule a fháil ar bhealach na síochána, agus gur theip ar an gcóras é a chur ar fáil sa deireadh. Bhain deacrachtaí eile i gcónaí leis an seanscéal stairiúil faoin gcaidreamh idir an dá oileán. Agus de réir mar a tugadh céimeanna breise i dtreo an phrionsabail, "vóta amháin ag duine amháin," ba mhóide an tábhacht a bhain le scéal "an mhionlaigh". Bíodh an mionlach sin ina mionlach Caitliceach sa "Ríocht Aontaithe", ina mionlach náisiúnta Éireannach ag freastal ar Westminster in aghaidh a dtola, nó ina mionlach Protastúnach/Oráisteach in oirthuaisceart na hÉireann a raibh rún daingean acu fanacht sa "Ríocht Aontaithe" ón uair a thug siad faoi deara nach n-éireodh leis an iarracht leanúnach a bhí ar siúl acu ar feadh na

mblianta chun Home Rule de chineál ar bith d'Éirinn a stopadh.

Ceisteanna iad sin go léir a bhfuil a dtábhacht staire féin ag baint leo, ní amháin i gcás na hÉireann agus na Breataine ach freisin i gcásanna ina bhfuil fadhbanna den chineál céanna ar fud an domhain. Go háirithe i gcás ar bith inar tharraing cumhacht impiriúil Eorpach amach as coilíneacht, agus a raibh faitíos a gceist ar an gcuid den phobal coilíneach a d'fhan go gcaillfidís a gcuid cumhacht ó tharla an bunphobal dúchasach a bheith níos líonmháire agus é a bheith mar pholasáí ag Rialras na Breataine go gcaithfí córas daonlathach ionadaíoch den chineál atá aici féin a chleachtadh fiú amháin nuair ba léir nach raibh an córas sin oiriúnach d'fhíricí na beatha sa choilíneacht agus nach raibh fonn ar go leor dreamanna sa tír nua é a oibriú, gan leasuithe móra a dhéanamh air ar aon chaoi.

Is gá gearrchuntas a thabhairt ar fhás agus ar fhorbairt chóras parlaiminteach Westminster, ag cur san áireamh go raibh páirtíocht ag Éirinn ann ó 1800 anuas. Sin rud nach raibh i gceist sna tíortha eile go léir a

bhí faoi smacht Londen tráth – ach amháin Albain agus an Bhreatain Bheag, ar ndóigh, nár éirigh leo cineál ar bith féinrialtais a bhaint amach, sna 1970í féin, tar éis a raibh le chaint faoi Devolution le linn an ama. Is gá freisin iarracht a dhéanamh ar bhuntréithe an chórais dhaonlathach ionadaigh, mar a fheiceann muintir na Breataine agus pobal níos fairsinge iad, a phiocadh amach agus a phlé agus an córas sin a chur i gcomparáid le cibé forbairt a rinneadh ar an gcóras ginearálta céanna in Éirinn ó bunaíodh an stát.

Tá sé i gceist agam scrúdú ar leith a dhéanamh ar scéal na Sé Chontae, mar shampla de réigiún a bhfuil deacrachtaí ar leith ag baint leis ó thaobh an daonlathais ionadaigh de – áit ar theip ar chineál áirithe féinrialtais tar éis caoga bliain de chóras nár theastaigh ó éinne lá den saol ach ar cosúil anois go bhfuil sé iontach deacair aon rud eile a chur ina áit a mbeadh glacadh air.

Fillfidh mé, ar deireadh thiar, ar an gceist faoi ghuth na hÉireann trí chéile, cén aird a thugtar air faoin gcóras ionadaíochta atá againn, thuaidh agus theas, faoi láthair, cé na lochtanna atá ar an gcóras seo, agus conas is féidir na lochtanna sin a leigheas, más é sin atá uainn? Driodimid go háirithe ar cibé athruithe struchtúir nár mhiste a bheith ag machnamh orthu sa ghearrthéarma, fiú amháin, má tá i ndán is go mbeidh aon suaimhneas ó thuaidh go luath agus más dóigh linn, i bhfianaise na staire agus an scrúdaithe seo, gur cheart iarracht a dhéanamh ar phleanáil don teacht le chéile ar bhonn teicniúil na struchtúir fiú amháin, mura féidir a bheith ag súil le mórán níos mó faoi láthair.

Dar leis an mac seo, is féidir agus is ceart – ach sin scéal eile. Is é fírinne an scéil, 60 éigin bliain tar éis na críochdheighilte foirmiúla, nach bhfuil na céimeanna is simplí tugtha go dtí seo, i gcúrsaí struchtúir polaitiúil fiú, chun córas a mholadh a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ar bhonn amach anseo le teacht le chéile na n-ionadaithe tofa daonlathacha ó gach páirt d'Éirinn. Mura ndéanfaidís ach a rá lena chéile go soiléir cén fáth nárbh fhéidir leo tabhairt faoi rud éigin níos dearfa a phlé nó a thionscnamh...

— Nollaig Ó Gadhra

IMEACHTAÍ

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1.45pm, GPO, DUBLIN

SONGS OF STRUGGLE FUNDRAISING NIGHT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

IN AID OF BELFAST BASQUE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

RODEYS MCCORLY'S
GLEN ROAD, BELFAST, 8pm

Admission: £5

RACE NIGHT

FORD'S PUBLIC HOUSE
HARROW WEALDSTONE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 9PM

Organised by the Roger Casement/James Stephens Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, London. All welcome.

ROSCOMMON COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR

SOCIAL FUNCTION
BOTHAR RUA, ELPHIN
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

In aid of Prisoners' Dependents Fund

CHARLIE KERINS COMMEMORATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Assemble: Denny Street, Tralee, Co Kerry, 7pm

ANNUAL LIAM MELLOWS COMMEMORATION

CASTLETOWN CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 10.30am
CASTLETOWN CHURCH GRAVEYARD
NEAR GOREY, CO. WEXFORD

TOMÁS Ó CURRAOIN 2009 LOCAL ELECTION

FUNDRAISING TABLE QUIZ
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 8.30PM
BEARNA GOLF CLUB

€10 per person, Four per table — All welcome

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET

NAAS TOWN HALL, CO KILDARE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 3pm

REPUBLICAN SINN FEIN SOCIAL FUNCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15
STAG'S HEAD PUB, DROGHEDA, CO LOUTH
Music by the Rap-Skalions
Tickets €5 or pay at the door.

WHITE LINE PICKET

IN SUPPORT OF REPUBLICAN POWS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2PM
BRIDGE STREET, NEWRY

FEARGHAL Ó HANLUAIN COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13
Assemble 12.45 at the Cathedral for parade to cemetery

TEAGMHÁLACHA

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin should contact:

Kerry: <http://www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinkerry/>
O'Sullivan/Enright Cumann, Listowel: 086-1204592

Cork: Mac Curtáin/Mac Swiney Cumann: 086-3352006 or visit www.rsfcork.com

Limerick city: Brugh/Sabbath, Hurson/Sands Cumainn: www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinlimerick/index.htm

County Limerick: Smith O'Brien/Colbert Cumann: 086-8153657

Dublin: www.freewebs.com/rsfdublin
Roger Casement/Francis Hughes Cumann, Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown: 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Meath: Thomas Allen Cumann: 087 914 7537 or <http://www.freewebs.com/meathrsf/>

Wexford: contact Mick at 0876150484
Ulster: republicansinnfein@googlemail.com

Belfast: rsfbelfast@googlemail.com
Tyrone: 07511047896 or email: rsfdng@yahoo.co.uk

Dan Keating Cumann, Coalisland: rsfcoalisland@googlemail.com

Donegal: rsfdonegal@googlemail.com
Roscommon: Kevin Coen Cumann: Joe Murphy, 086 1281 861

Mayo: McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann: 087 9232 096
Galway: Cumann an hAthair Ó Griofa: Tomás at 087 2933 782 or Seán at 091 525 977

Leitrim: Micheál at 071 9641 804 or John at 086 4061454
England: James McDaid Cumann, Midlands: Ard Ofig, 223 Parnell St, Dublin 1, Ireland, Dublin 8729747 or saoirse@iol.ie

Roger Casement/James Stephens Cumann, London: 00447928357676

NATIONALISTS TAXIS TARGETTED BY LOYALIST GANGS

A Belfast Chronology

Friday, November 7, 2008. A controlled explosion was carried out on a device in Skegoneill Avenue, Belfast.

Friday, November 14, 2008. Loyalist Michael Stone was found guilty of attempting to murder Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness in Stormont in November 2006.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) refused to give reason why the case against Danny Morrison and five others on charges of kidnapping and false imprisonment in 1991 had been overturned on appeal. "National Security" would be jeopardised if the reasons were made public, it was said.

Monday, November 17, 2008. The home of District Policing Partnership member Gerry O'Reilly in Belfast was attacked for the second time in six weeks. Fourteen panes of glass were broken in his house.

Wednesday, November 19, 2008. A woman's jaw was broken when a brick was thrown through the windscreen of a nationalist taxi as it drove through Glenmarchen Street, in the direction of loyalist Tate's Avenue

in Belfast. Peter Pan Taxis, Gransha Taxis, The Eagle Taxi Company and Broadway Taxis said that their cars had been targeted in the same area in the past few weeks with up to 20 taxis attacked.

Liam James Hannaway, Belfast was sentenced to 10 years at Belfast's Crown Court after pleading guilty to possession of explosives and ammunition in September 2004. He also pleaded guilty to possession of a Webley revolver and ammunition in suspicious circumstances in December 2007.

Thursday, November 20, 2008. The Stormont Executive, Belfast met again after months of stalemate and announced some new planning guidelines, ie some restrictions on building will be lifted and it also announced the establishment of the Education and Skill Authority. Meantime the British government announced that it will foot the £900 million bill covering water and sewerage expenditure and will make £100 million available to the Stormont executive "to address a range of issues".



• **ETA activist Inaki de Juana Chaos (53), who undertook two hunger strikes in Spanish jails in 2006 and 2007, appeared in a Belfast court on November 25 on foot of an extradition warrant issued by the Spanish authorities.**

Saturday, November 22, 2008. Ihab Shoukri, a leading member of the UDA, died at his home in Belfast. He was sentenced in June for membership of the UDA.

Sunday, November 23, 2008. A memorial to two men, shot dead in a gun battle between the IRA and loyalists, in the grounds of at St Matthew's Church in east Belfast was daubed with sectarian graffiti and had

paint thrown over it.

Tuesday, November 25, 2008. According to a report in the *Irish News* the Continuity IRA threatened to kill any nationalist community worker who co-operates with the RUC/PSNI in north Belfast.

Inaki de Juana Chaos, member of ETA, appeared in Lagan-side Court, Belfast foot of an extradition warrant issued by the Spanish authorities.

Inaki de Juana Chaos served 18 years of a 3,000-year sentence but was released August 2008. He travelled to Dublin on his release and from there to Belfast where he has remained. He is wanted in Spain on charges "of glorifying terrorism". He is represented by Kevin Winters.

A 'viable pipebomb' was found at a bathroom suppliers off the Apollo Road, south Belfast.

The trial continued at Belfast Crown Court of Stephen Leslie Brown, accused of the murder of David McIlwaine and Andrew Robb, two teenage friend murdered in Tandragee, Co Armagh in 2000. Mark Burcombe was also initially charged with the murders but he turned supergrass and will give evidence against Brown in the trial.

Friday, November 28, 2008: Gerard Mackin, Belfast, who became the first person to be convicted by the Special non-jury Court in Dublin under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act, was jailed for life after being found guilty of the murder of a man in Belfast last year. He was also convicted of attempted murder, possession of a revolver and causing serious harm and will be sentenced next week for those offences.

Guth na Mumhan: Inniu is Inné

Butcher's Apron removed in Clare

ON November 18 Clare Republican Sinn removed a Union Jack flag from a flag-pole in front of Ennis Cathedral Co Clare, during a ceremony to honour the soldiers who fought for the British and other armies during WWI.

"We hosted a protest of about 20 people outside the cathedral on Tuesday and at the protest we lowered the Union Jack and then cut it off the flag post," Paddy Kennealy, chairperson of Republican Sinn Féin in Clare, said.

"It is disappointing that an event like this took place in Clare when the British army that was being commemorated was at the time an army of occupation. Our protest was peaceful, the Special Branch came and took the names and addresses of the people who were involved but that was all that happened."

He said that the Clare men who fought and died in the British army during WWI were mere cannon-fodder for the Imperial interests of the British Crown. He said that the celebration of Mass in the Cathedral in Ennis was a misguided gesture.

"At present there is a campaign to normalise British rule in Ireland as a direct result of the failing Stormont Agreement and the reality is that such things are part of this process. However, people tend to forget the real purpose of the British army, that is to protect

the imperial interests of the British Crown, be it in Ireland, Iraq or Afghanistan.

"The fact is that many of these men who died fighting for the British army did so in the belief of obtaining Home Rule but they were conned by British political leaders.

"Today when the British forces praise young Irish people for joining their ranks we must remember that the British army had a bloody record not only in Ireland but in many nations striving for national self-determination.

"While an event to recall those who died should be held, it must not be forgotten that many men died at the hands of the British army not only in 1916 and the Tan War but also during the current struggle for Irish freedom."

Fenians honoured at Limerick ceremony

THE grave of the Unknown Fenian in Limerick has been identified and a wreath-laying ceremony took place there on November 30 when local Republicans gathered to honour the Manchester Martyrs.

Des Long, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin, from Corbally, Limerick, spoke at the ceremony which included wreaths being laid at the memorial and at the grave of Fenian James Stenson from Thomondgate in Mount St Laurence Cemetery. He died as a result of his treatment in Limerick County jail.

A Fenian organiser in



• **Joe Lynch laid a wreath at the Eddie Carmody commemoration in Ballylongford, Co Kerry on November 23.**

Limerick, he worked as a compositor and was jailed in 1867 because of his political activity. Des Long told those present. He was released from jail and died at the early age of 34 years in June 1868. A large headstone was erected over his grave and inscribed: "A man of unblemished life and a martyr to his love of country.

Joe Lynch, Beechgrove Avenue, Ballinacurra Weston, chaired the event and called on Republican Sinn Féin local election candidates in the city, Seán O'Neill from Prospect and Mick 'The Quill' Ryan from Ballynanty to lay wreaths in memory of the Fenians.

God Save Ireland is engraved on the headstone to James Stenson as these were words said by the Manchester Martyrs — Allen, Larkin and O'Brien — just as they were to be hanged by the British hangman and they became then war-cry of the Fenians.

Limerick loss has knock-on effect in Kerry

THE layoffs and restricted working hours at the Kostal manufacturing plant in

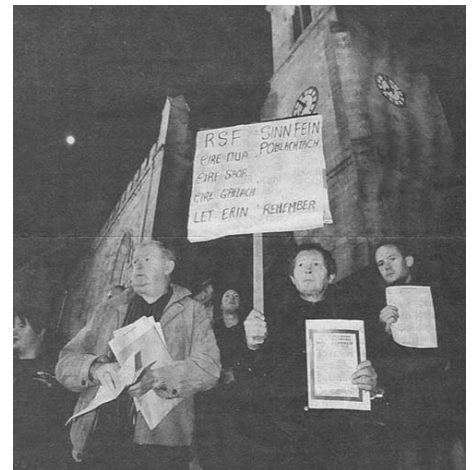
Abbeyfeale will have knock on effects on the North Kerry area in the run up to the festive season chairperson of Republican Sinn Féin in North Kerry said on November 20.

John Sheehy, Listowel, said that any job losses are bad news in the current difficult economic situation. Much of the workforce in North Kerry depends on multi-national companies and plants like Kostal who draw workers across county boundaries.

"The immediate reduction in hours will affect workers over the upcoming Christmas but far more worrying is the plan to cut hours by twenty percent in the New Year.

"These cutbacks may be necessary to ensure the long term survival of the plant but the agencies charged with responsibility for industrial development in North Kerry and West Limerick must do more to ensure that new jobs are brought into the region.

"The fact is there has been no significant new development in either county for some years. A strategic plan to attract new jobs for Kerry



• **Members of Clare Republican Sinn Féin protesting at the holding of a Remembrance Day ceremony and the flying of the Union Jack in Ennis Cathedral on November 18.**

and Limerick must be drawn up right away to compensate for the job losses forecast in the New Year."

Call for suicide watch nurses in A&E

THE fact that leading experts are forecasting a rise in the suicide rate as the economic recession takes hold is a serious cause for concern and steps must be taken now to ensure that there is an emergency service available at weekends, Des Long, Limerick, Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin said on November 21.

"All the historical evidence is that in a time of recession suicide rates rise and this information has already been given to a sub committee of politicians by Dr. John Connolly of the Irish Association of Suicidology.

"Therefore it is now public

knowledge yet in many parts of the country there is no emergency HSE service at weekends for those in distress. Suicide or attempted suicide is not confined to a five day week or to civil service office hours. Very often it is a cry for help and the act can be prevented with the right political will and prevention services.

"At a time of increased hardship there is also need for a specialised approach to many of the problems now being presented at hospital Accident and Emergency Departments. More and more incidents of self-harm are being recorded and this trend demands that staffing takes account of the development.

"Therefore the appointment of dual qualified nurses in the general and psychiatric disciplines must now be seriously considered by the HSE."

Niall Fagan

REPUBLICANS throughout Ireland and abroad were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Niall Fagan of Co Meath on November 18 last after a short illness.

He was born on November 9, 1924. His family had a long Republican tradition with ties going back to 1798 when his great-grandmother lost four uncles at the Battle of Tara and her baby sister in a Yeoman raid following the battle. Her father surrendered with Elmer to Lord Cornwallis in Kildare and was interned in Fort St George in Scotland for 12 years.

In assisting Parnell, MP for Meath, they were again involved in a riot at the races of Kells with the Healyites. They also took part in cattle-driving and big house raiding in the Land War. During the War of Independence the Black-and-Tans in reprisals burned down Emmett Street, Trim, including his uncle's tailor shop.

In 1943 Niall joined the Irish-speaking battalion of the Free State army at Renmore barracks, in the Galway Gaeltacht. Among those he met during his period in the Free State army was Joe Keohane of Kerry. They were training for a fight which never came and were demobilised without firing a shot while Ireland was still occupied by British Forces.

Following his demobilisation from the Free State army he was involved in an organisation which recruited fellow ex-Free State army men with the object of organising them against the Partition of Ireland. However he was too militant and began working with some disaffected Republicans who were struggling to launch the United Irishman. This was soon commandeered by the IRA. The group Niall was associated with did not want to be

associated with the unproductive baggage of the Hayes affair and wished to start something new. They formed a group named Arm na Saoirse and started by assessing the problems of resistance.

They did some useful work in communications to counteract the media clampdown and built high-frequency walkie-talkies which were outside the range of the Free State police and army. They also altered the frequencies of smuggled in army surplus stores. They came across a formula for War Flour, an old IRA explosive, and tested it out successfully and tested and fired a small mortar with hilarious repercussions.

Tony Magan was an old neighbour of Niall's family and to prevent unwanted activity Niall's group decided to have a chat with him and Margaret Buckley. They explained their work and the reason for their position and promised to cooperate in due course.

Niall's group was involved in various activities, including an attempt to launch a new monthly newspaper called An Rosc Catha.

By this time the IRA was reorganising and some of the members of the group moved over to them, including Seán Sabhat. He took part in Sinn Féin activities in Meath with Seán Guiney. The first Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis he was at was on the invitation of Seán Ó Tuama. He was teaching in Bolton Street where Niall was doing a teacher course in 1947-59. It was held in an opera room in Harcourt Street. Niall's group had also been in



• Niall Fagan

the Anti-Partition Movement in Pearse Street.

Arising from his activities in Meath Niall was elected Treasurer of Sinn Féin in Gardiner Street. He remained in that position until 1968 when he did not allow his name to go forward as he was not satisfied with the direction the Ard Chomhairle was taking. They had attempted to censor his speeches after an oration he gave at the Easter commemoration in Milltown Cemetery, Belfast in 1966. The great Belfast Republican Jimmy Steele warned of their views and he was right.

The Mac Giolla/de Búrca faction that had driven all over the country at Niall's expense abandoned the Republican agenda. He was not allowed into the Ard-Fheis of 1969. A resolution put to the floor finally allowed him and Matt Larkin of the Housing Action Committee into the Ard-Fheis.

They were not there long when the break-up occurred and the Ard-Fheis reconvened in the Kevin Barry Hall and Niall was back as National Treasurer and Chairperson of

the Ard Chomhairle, a position he held until 1981, the year of the H-Block hunger strike.

In 1986 Niall was back at an Ard-Fheis to witness an event he never thought to see again. Once again true Republicans had to start all over again and this time it was harder. Niall had enjoyed speaking at meetings all over Ireland and abroad.

Public meetings no longer as popular in the digital age. Niall had been first encouraged to speak at meetings by Brian O'Higgins and was proud to have been associated with such people as John Joe Sheehy, Joe Keohane, Joe Clarke, Tom Barry, Dáithí Ó Conaill and countless others who worked and fought for Irish freedom.

He saw some exciting moments such as when the platform he was speaking from was wrecked by B-Specials in Dungannon in 1964. He witnessed a riot in Belfast when the Sinn Féin election headquarters was attacked by the RUC in Divis Street while Paisley and his mob cheered from across the street. He was knocked unconscious by a

stone thrown by a Special Branchman at a protest outside Portlaoise jail and again had his head fractured by another Special Branchman in Glasnevin Cemetery at the funeral of Tom Smith on St Patrick's Day in 1976.

A founder member of the Kevin Barry Cumann of Sinn Féin in Dublin in the late 1950s he went on to become a member of the Cabra Cumann in Dublin and later of the Thomas Allen Cumann in Meath. He was also a founder member of the canoe Union of Ireland. Niall was an active trade unionist and was a delegate to the Teachers' Union of Ireland congress for many years.

He also represented the TUI in the Retired Workers' Council of Unions and on the Retired teachers Association founding executive. In Summerhill where he lived he was on the committee that runs the local Community Centre and was also on the FÁS committee which runs Meals on Wheels. He was also a member of the Rotorcraft Association based in the USA with a special interest in Gyrocopters since 1951.

Niall Fagan had a long association with the GAA, and captained a minor football team at the age of 17 in 1942. They won the minor football championship of Meath, a feat not repeated again until he was President of the Club 52 years later. He was a member of the Junior team that won the Championship again in 1953 and played senior football for some time.

As a committee man he worked to build up one of the finest playing fields, pavilion and dressing rooms in Co Meath. For many years he was delegate to the County Board and received a Meath Sean Gael Award for his services to the GAA. He developed a unique finger-jointed hurley stick which can be made from

straight ashwood and applied for a patent. Niall formed a company to manufacture it and supplied Croke Park, Connolly's of Galway and many others. Before retirement he sold the process to Peter Curran of Westmeath who has continued the work.

He was buried on November 20 with full Republican honours. A large crowd attended the funeral mass at Summerhill and his Tricolour-draped coffin was escorted from the church door to the church gates by a guard of honour from the local GAA club.

The hearse was flanked by a uniformed Republican guard of honour and a furled National Flag was carried in front. The cortege was led by a piper who played laments as the funeral marched the two miles to the cemetery.

At the graveside proceedings were chaired by Des Dalton, Kildare, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin. The National Flag was removed from Niall's coffin, folded and handed to Niall's widow Frances by Josephine Hayden and Peig King. Wreaths were laid by Des Long,

Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin on behalf of the Ard Chomhairle, by Róisín Hayden on behalf of Comhairle Laighean and by Liam Quail on behalf of the local Thomas Allen Cumann.

The oration was delivered by Uachtarán, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, in the course of which he outlined the career of Niall Fagan during a long and eventful life. He said that Niall had been steadfast and true to the All-Ireland Republic throughout his life and that he would be sorely missed. He extended sympathy to Niall's wife, Frances, to his daughter Emer and sons Fergus, Ciarán and Eoghan and to his grandchildren and all his relatives and friends.

'Dotie' Redmond

THE death took place during November in her native Castlebar, Co Mayo of Dotie Redmond, fervent Republican and promoter of Irish culture. She was 88 years.

The widow of local Republican leader, Andy Redmond, she was Connacht honoree at the annual Testimonial Dinner of

CABHAIR in 2003.

While her husband was interned without trial in the Curragh Concentration Camp in the 1940s, Dotie developed

her life-long interest in Irish dancing. She went on to qualify as an Irish dancing teacher, obtaining her TCRG (Teastas Choimisiúna na Rinci Gaelacha).

She then set up the famous Redmond School of Irish Dancing which has flourished from the early 1940s to the present day. Her daughters

Mavourneen, Patricia and Noreen continue the work of the school and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren take part.

The Redmond School has gone on tour to France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Spain, even to the USA for St Patrick's weekend. As well as her love of Irish dancing she

learned to play the fiddle while at the convent school and was devoted to Irish music.

During the three-day siege of Derry's Bogside in 1969 Dotie arranged humanitarian assistance.

After the funeral Mass in the local Church, the head of Comhaltas na Rinci Gaelacha (Federation of Irish Dancing)

gave the eulogy in which he praised her life's work for Irish culture.

Then Dotie was laid to rest beside her beloved Andy who had supervised the construction of an escape tunnel out of the Curragh in the 1940s.

Ar dheis Dé go rabhadar beirt.

Wexford POWs welcomed home

A LARGE crowd gathered on November 14 for a most enjoyable night in Jack Bailey's bar, Wexford to welcome home Republican POWs PJ Kelly and Mark McMahon.

Among the crowd of over 100 were former POWs from the H-Blocks, Portlaoise and Limerick prisons, showing their support for the continued sacrifice being made by Irish Republicans for the cause of Irish freedom.

Chairing the proceedings Frank McManus called on Richie Brierney and Harry Kelly to make presentations to the two lads on behalf of the Republican Movement, Wexford. Bouquets of flowers were presented to the men's partners, Shelley and Siobhán. These were presented by

Jimmy and Mag Kavanagh, also on behalf of the Republican Movement. Rodney Roche and Declan Bennet also had a presentation for the women from Republican Sinn Féin. Wexford Republican Graves sent best wishes to the lads.

The chairperson then called on Des Long, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin to say a few words. Des spoke of how he felt when he heard that the lads had been captured and praised the men's partners for standing shoulder to shoulder with them

during this tough time.

He reminded people that December was prisoners' month and to keep them in their thought during the festive season. He reminded those present that another Wexford Republican Billy Philips was still imprisoned to a loud cheer from the crowd.

He went on: "Attempts to extend British rule arise as a result of the failing of the Stormont Agreement supported by former Republicans who sold out and surrendered."

"We have seen this process in many areas of our society from the GAA to remembering the dead of WWI but we as Republicans must voice our opposition."

"At a time when the politicians, the media and the churches are

promoting and urging the Irish people to wear the British Poppy, the wearing of the Easter Lily is subject to police harassment, condemnation and imprisonment."

"If the wearing of the Poppy is simply a gesture of remembrance, then it is logical that the very same politicians, media and churches must also encourage the wearing of the Easter Lily."

Jazzier Kinsella thanked everyone for making the night a huge success, made even more enjoyable by the rousing rebel band Celtic Warrior. Special thanks goes out to the three Branch men complete with infrared goggles for providing free security on the night ... not.



• PJ Kelly and Mark McMahon, newly released POWs from Portlaoise jail, at their welcome home function in Wexford on November 14.

104ú Ard-Fheis of Republican Sinn Féin held in Dublin

THE 104th Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis was held in Dublin on the weekend of November 8 and 9. There was a large and enthusiastic attendance which included visitors from Austria, Germany and Corsica. The over-all Cathaoirleach of the Ard-Fheis was Ard-Rúnaí Josephine Hayden, standing in for Joe O'Neill, Donegal who is in hospital.

Over a busy weekend Ard-Fheis delegates debated a variety of motions dealing with issues such as electoral policy, social and economic issues, including worker's rights, health and education as well as the Irish language and opposition to the proposed EU constitution.

On Sunday, November 9 Ruairí Ó Brádaigh delivered his Presidential Address to an enthusiastic reception.

On Saturday the Ard-Fheis was addressed by representatives from CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund) and Cumann na mBan.

Political policy was debated on Saturday, chaired by Des Dalton, Kildare and resolutions "reasserting our determination as defined in ÉIRE NUA and SAOL NUA to establish a Worker's Democracy in Ireland, free of foreign control" (Ard Chomhairle and Comhairle Laighean) and calling for a "total British disengagement from Ireland, the release of all political prisoners and the future of Ireland to be decided by the people of Ireland acting as a unit – 32 Counties" (Joe Conway Cumann, Newry) were passed unanimously.

A motion from Kerry Comhairle Ceantair and the John Mitchell Cumann, Co Derry reaffirming our support for and recognising "the authority of the All-Ireland Republic proclaimed in 1916, established in 1919, defended in arms 1919-21, sold out by traitors in 1921-22 and suppressed brutally to this day" as well as condemning the ongoing British occupation of our country was also passed unanimously as were motions "commending the Continuity leadership of the Republican Movement and the Ard Chomhairle and Officer Board of Sinn Féin Poblachtach past and present for their principled leadership in defence of the All-Ireland Republic, especially since 1986 (from Cumann Séamus Ó Dálaigh and the Seán Costello/Martin Hurson, both Co Westmeath and the Bobby Sands/Liam Lynch Cumann, Co Kilkenny, also supported by the Frank Driver Cumann, North Kildare).

Motions calling for a British withdrawal from Ireland and pledging unremitting hostility against the British forces of occupation in Ireland and calling for British withdrawal came from several Cumann were passed. A motion asking the Ard-Fheis to "reaffirm its belief that only unity based on the principles of the 1916 Proclamation can build a cohesive

and coherent Republican Movement capable of ending British rule in Ireland" (Kilcullen Cumann, Co Kildare) was passed and a motion reiterating our opposition to political broad fronts from Kerry Comhairle Ceantair received overwhelming support.



• Tomás Ó Curraoin, Gaillimh.



• Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Dublin.



• Dieter Reinisch, Austria.

The Ard-Fheis pledged to actively challenge the Provisionals to drop "the historic name Sinn Féin" and called on the media to stop calling the Provos by that name (Joe Conway Cumann, Newry and the Rafter/Mellows Cumann, Enniscorthy).

Motions rejecting the RUC/PSNI and those who collaborate with them in the District Policing Partnerships (Joe Conway Cumann, Newry and McKelvey/Steele Cumann, Belfast) were passed as were resolutions condemning the harassment of Republicans, north and south of Britain's Border (Liam Mellow Cumann, Dublin; Liam Lynch/Armagh martyrs Cumann, Armagh City and Frank Driver Cumann, Kildare).

Motion 15 was amended and passed: "That this Ard-Fheis states



• (Left to right) Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Josephine Hayden, Peig King and Des Dalton during the debate on Prisoners on November 8.

that the only acceptable police force is a 32-County police force as part of an all-Ireland settlement ending British rule in Ireland. We further

Dublin.

The section on International Affairs, chaired by Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Dublin was also



• Des Dalton congratulating Ruairí Ó Brádaigh on his Address to the Ard-Fheis on November 9.

reject the employment of potentially lethal Taser guns and other offensive weapons against the nationalist population in the Occupied Six Counties." (McKelvey/Steele Cumann, Belfast and Thomas Harte Cumann, Lurgan)

Delegates were strongly opposed to the open recruiting by the British Crown Forces throughout Ireland and to the flying of the Butcher's Apron (the Union Flag) and called for a greater effort to remove all symbols of former British occupation in the 26 Counties.

The Ard-Fheis unanimously supported a motion calling on all areas to prepare for active involvement in the 2009 26-County local elections, "making an all-out effort" but rejected a motion calling on RSF not to participate in Stormont elections as long as our name did not appear on the ballot paper. It was pointed out that this would tie the Ard Chomhairle's hands as it might be thought advisable in the future to participate on an abstentionist basis.

The Ard-Fheis also vowed to oppose any rerunning of the Lisbon Treaty referendum.

Resolutions supporting the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise and advocating more effort on their behalf were supported by many Cumann and passed unanimously. The session on the POWs was chaired by Peig King,

debated on Saturday afternoon and an address was made to the Ard-Fheis by Dieter Reinisch of Vienna who has established an RSF support group there. He reported on his activities and said he had established contacts with revolutionary and left-wing groups in Austria and Germany and in Italy. He told the Ard-Fheis of the Austrian Social Forum held in the Austrian town of St Peter which had been attended by Des Dalton, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin from October 23 to 26. The Ard-Fheis applauded his efforts and looked forward to further developments in this area.

Des Dalton read messages of support from EMGANN in Brittany; the Anti-Imperialist Campaign, Austria and Irish Republican Enlightenment Movement, Germany.

Resolution 99 proposed by the Ard Chomhairle sent greetings to Fidel Castro and the Cuban people as they prepared to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their revolution was passed unanimously. A resolution also from the Ard Chomhairle condemned the partition of Cyprus and supporting the campaign for its reunification said that "Any reunification settlement must also include the full disclosure by the Turkish government of the whereabouts of over 1,600 men, women and

children who disappeared following Turkey's invasion and partition of Cyprus in 1974." The resolution was passed unanimously as was an Ard Chomhairle motion reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to freedom and control of their homeland.

A motion from the Francis Hughes Cumann, Glasgow condemning the "aggressive imperialist policies of the USA and its allies in the ongoing conflicts they control and participate in" was adopted. The Joe Conway Cumann, Newry, Co Down motion calling for the American cargo blockade on Cuba to be lifted with immediate effect was also adopted and the Ard-Fheis sent revolutionary greetings to all revolutionary movements around the world fighting foreign occupation of their countries (also from the Joe Conway Cumann, Newry).

On Saturday night a most enjoyable social evening took place and delegates enjoyed the opportunity to meet each other and catch up with old friends.

On Sunday morning resolutions on Organisations & Activities were discussed, chaired by Ruairí White, Newry. A motion calling for all members of the Ard Chomhairle to be elected at the Ard-Fheis other than Comhairle Chúige appointees and substitutes was defeated as delegates felt that the Ard Chomhairle should have the option of co-opting three people for specific purposes. Resolution 74 was amended to read: "That Republican Sinn Féin refers to itself as a national revolutionary organisation" and was passed.

It was decided to set up a committee to organise a series of commemorative events to celebrate 100 years of Fianna Éireann in 2009, when a motion proposed by the Liam Mellows Cumann, Dublin was passed. Motion from the Thomas Allen Cumann, Meath, calling on every Cumann to hold a social evening in their local area to gain support was passed. Motion 81 proposing that the Republican Movement set up a national committee to protect and maintain Republican monuments and to

No short cut, only the har

We publish here an edited version of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's Presidential Address to the 2008 Ard-Fheis. The full text may be read on the internet at rsf.ie.

A Chathaoirleach, a Theachtaí is a chárde ar fad.

FEARAIM Céad Míle Fáilte romhaibh go léir ag an Ard-Fheis seo, an ceathrú ceann is céad de chuid Shinn Féin. You are all very welcome to this, the 104th Ard-Fheis of Sinn Féin.

One of the most notable events of the past year has been the emergence of the so-called PSNI before the people, as the RUC and before that the RIC. Their function today is what it always was – to maintain, with as much force as necessary, British rule in Ireland.

The catalogue of raids on homes and arrests in recent years ranging from Belfast and Derry to Tyrone and Fermanagh, Craigavon, Armagh city and Newry has been extensive. The Western Allies in the 1940's boasted of fighting for "freedom from fear of the policeman's knock", but in our Six Occupied Counties the policeman's knock on the door, whether polite or impolite, has often been replaced by the battering ram, a stern reminder of English rule in the past.

In keeping with their desire for modernisation and "normalisation", so-called, these paramilitary police dislike being called "the RUC". But we know them for what they are – the direct agents and enforcers of British rule here.

Then when the acts of resistance – inevitable in Irish history – occur the Provo leaders publicly urge people to become informers and pass information to the enemy. They have also urged people to go into British courts and give evidence against those accused of resistance. Irish history contains many examples of such renegades and today's turncoats will in the future be remembered with Carey and the others who paid the price for their despicable actions.

In the 26 Counties we have witnessed the growing Anglicisation of Irish life. Where once it was forbidden to wear British military uniform in public we now see its re-appearance on the streets for the first time since 1922. A young man killed fighting with the British Army in Iraq in recent years was given a British military funeral through Dublin.

However, an even more brazen display took place in the county town of Mayo, Castlebar, on October 6&7 last. The band of the Irish Guards Regiment of the British Army took part in a concert. Next day they paraded the main streets while the 26-County police cordoned off the town centre and barred entry to it. No protest was going to be allowed there.

"Security was tight" the Irish Times of October 8 noted in its report on the official opening of an incongruously named "Mayo Peace Park". A memorial had been erected bearing the names of "more than a1000 men and women from Co Mayo who died in all wars and conflicts of the past century while serving with Allied and Commonwealth forces", mainly those who took part in the 1914-18 war.

A bugler from the British Army's Irish Guards Regiment sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

Today in a refurbished British military barracks at Boyle in the neighbouring Co Roscommon, a

Poppy Day ceremony is being held. In recent years a plaque was placed there in the presence of the OC Western Command of the 26-County State Army and the GOC British troops in the Six Occupied Counties both in full uniform.

All of this is a build up to an official visit to Dublin by the Queen of England who also claims to be Queen of Six Irish Counties.

Republican Sinn Féin contests the claim of the British Crown to rule in any part of Ireland. We have given notice that we will oppose any such visit for political reasons. We do not accept that the national question of Irish Independence has been settled.



• Ruairí Ó Brádaigh delivering the Presidential Address.

The present situation in Ireland is essentially the same as that forced on us by the Treaty of Surrender in 1922 and 23: a country divided and weak and under England's influence. We will not accept that Treaty and its Boundary Agreement of 1925 which ceded or handed over the Six Counties to the British Government. Neither will we accept the Stormont Agreement of 1998, which copperfastened Partition and English rule here, nor the St Andrews Agreement of two years ago.

Republican Sinn Féin, standing in direct lineal succession to the United Irishmen of 1798, the Young Irelanders of 1848, the Fenians of 1867, the 1916 Rising and the First (All Ireland) Dáil, will not "just put up with" English rule here.

The 1916 Proclamation states: "In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty". This generation will not be an exception to that rule... On the contrary we will assert that right.

During the year Ian Paisley retired with his mission accomplished. He had strengthened British rule in Ireland.

Mr Ahern also quit the scene in the past year. For his part he put the position quite blatantly on RTE Radio One on Sunday, April 6, when he said that Stormont was in place for the foreseeable future; that English rule would remain so long as the unionists desired it...

The journalist Vincent Browne surely spoke for the Establishment the following week when he said in his "Nightly News" on TV3 that in effect the nationalist view had been rejected

and the unionist position had been accepted. "The Unionist position was that the majority in the Six Counties should decide the future. We have all become unionists", he added.

But not all, Mr Browne. The IRB were a very small minority a hundred years ago but they were a nucleus which eight years later delivered the 1916 Rising.

Shortly after our last Ard-Fheis, on December 1 Republican Sinn Féin placed a picket on the RTE radio and television stations at Donnybrook, Dublin. We were protesting against the total news blackout on the organisation during 2007, especially the lack of any coverage of our annual Ard-Fheis and of our participation with six candidates in the Stormont election earlier in the year. We also delivered a letter of protest to the



• A section of the crowd during the Presidential Address on November 1

Speisialta ar an Satharn, an 12ú Aibreán san Óstán seo, Wynn's, glacadh le bunreacht nua don eagraíocht. Leis an mbunreacht nua seo h-athraíodh aidhmeanna na h-eagraíochta, aidhmeanna ar glacadh leo le breis agus 90 bliain.

An Piarasach féin agus a lucht leanúna a chuir isteach sa mbunreacht iad i mbliain 1915. Ní raibh fáth ar bith leis na h-aidhmeanna seo a bhaint amach nó éinne ag gearáin fútha. Mar a dúirt tráchtair amháin: "Ní raibh sé mar chuid d'aon mhargadh, ar nós Cumann Lúthchleas Gael a fuair na milliúin in airgead chun fáil réidh le Riall 21", (sé sin le saighdiúirí agus póilíní Shasana a ligint isteach san eagraíocht aca siúd).

Siad seo na h-altanna go bhfuair said réidh leo: "Bunreacht 1 – Ginearálta: 2. Is é cuspóir na h-eagraíochta pobal náisiúnta saor Gaelach a chosú; 3. Is é mian mhuintir na h-Éireann chun fúascailte agus saoirse bunfhoinsne Chonradh na Gaeilge agus ní shásófar an mian sin go dtí go mbainfeadh amach saoirse pholaitiúil, eacnamaíúil, shóisialta agus chultúir sa chaoi go mbeith cothrom na Féinne ag cách".

Nach ionmholt na h-aidhmeanna seo a chuir an Piarasach agus a chomrádaithe chun cinn. Agus sa mbliain seo Ár dTiarna 2008 caitheadh ar lár iad le 50 vóta in-aghaidh a 18. Poblachtach ar bith a bhí i lathair, léirigh sé/sí a mí-shásamh tré vótáil in-aghaidh na dréacht-bhuneachta.

Scaipeadh bileoga ar an lá ag léiriú na fáthanna ar chóir altanna 2 agus 4 a choinneáil. I measc na pointí a luadh bhíodar seo: "Impiríulachas an príomh-fáth le creimeadh teangan agus cultúir sa domhan faoi láthair; Níl saoirse pholaitiúil, eacnamaíúil, shóisialta ná chultúir ag an tír seo; Trí bheith ag obair ar son na Gaeilge, tá muid ag obair ar son saoirse an náisiúin – nílmid ach á léiriú sin sa mbunreacht; Tá 5000 saighdiúirí Shasana sna Sé Chondae, éileamh ag Sasana ar chuid d'Éirinn, de bharr seo an Stát ansin náimhdeach don Ghaeilge (cás Mháire Nic a'Bháird agus diúltú Stormont Acht Teanga a thabhairt isteach)."

In 1915 Pearse and his comrades inserted into the constitution of Conradh na Gaeilge that its objective was to promote a free and Gaelic

community and that the wish of the people of Ireland for emancipation and freedom was the mainspring of the Conradh. At a special Ard-Fheis last April a new constitution was adopted which omitted these objectives.

This move was another chapter in the "normalisation" which began formally with the perversion of a majority of the Republican Movement to constitutionalism in 1986. One commentator said it was not sought for and that unlike the GAA no millions in money were received as a bargain to drop its Rule 21. The undoing of Pádraic Pearse's work got scant coverage in the media. The Irish language paper *Lá Nua* seems to have been the only news outlet which noted it.

These Gaeilgeoirí chose 2008, the centenary of the founding of Scoil Éanna, the most important educational development of the time, by Pearse himself to attempt to undo his work.

Bhunaigh an Piarasach Scoil Éanna le hoideachas dátheangach a chur ar fáil. Ba é a shocrú ar mhana agus ar mhisean na scoile le scoláocht a chur ar fáil a chuir béim ar fhorbairt an duine. Ó tá an Ghaelscolaíocht faoi bhláth, tá an t-am oiriúnach chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar bhunú na scoile arís agus áird a dhíriú ar an obair agus iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an scéal.

Is cinnte go mbéadh a leithéid níos feiliúnaí in ionad gearradh siar ar chuspóir an Phiarasigh agus bheith ag cabhrú leis and gcur i gcéill go bhfuil ceist na saoirse pholaitiúla socraithe anois. Surely re-visiting the foundation of Scoil Éanna in its centenary year is more appropriate than assisting in the pretence that the national liberation of Ireland has been achieved.

Two months ago, the head of the 26-County government told us in a public statement that "the fundamentals of the economy are sound". This was in spite of the fact that indebtedness in the State at personal and at business level was never as high. This was particularly so in the case of the building industry which is cyclical in nature and unsustainable.

What was developing in this case was a gigantic bubble which was sure to burst. On the international scene the reckless sub-prime mortgage

And road of people's struggle



9.

lending in the United States burst the bubble and the exporting of the resulting bad debt spread the crisis globally.

The *Irish Times* of October 7 quoted Fr Godfrey O'Donnell at the Church of Ireland service for the new law term. He said: "We seem to be living through the death throes of raw capitalism (please God) with its appalling greed, recklessness, lack of accountability and complete disregard for any ethical behaviour."

Remarking that the greedy suffer less during a recession, he said there was "an obvious need" to prioritise spending on health and education, for tighter regulation of the banks and for fair and just immigration procedures.

But what did we get, one week later, from the 26-County State: a budget which targeted those who profited least from the so-called Celtic Tiger of the past number of years, while those who profited most went largely unscathed.

Apart from depriving older people of medical cards, how can it be justified to fire more than 1,000 teachers from the primary system and another 1000 from secondary level? The one per cent levy on income will hit hardest those on the average industrial wage or lower and will wipe out the minimal pay increases contained within the proposed 26-County pay deal.

The social welfare provisions exceed the generally projected inflation rate, but for poorer people, the inflation rate is higher as prices of essentials rise at a faster rate. The actual changes made since the budget have been due to the anger of people on the streets rather than to any speeches in Leinster House, it should be noted.

The State has been running tribunals of inquiry for years now and at great cost but nobody has been sent to prison.

Why should not the public service pay 10% of salary into the pension fund? After all they have security of employment and guarantee of pensions. The half of one per cent made available to the lower paid was wiped out on the double by the one per cent levy. Why not a levy of up to 4% on those receiving more than €200,000 per annum. Is for an sean-fhocal "Ní thuigean an sáthach an

seang!" (The well-off do not understand the poor).

In his recent to a Church of Ireland service Fr O'Donnell concluded: "If the capitalist system survives, it will need to show a strong appreciation of equality, responsibility, ethics and more open accessibility and accountability to redress its previous greed and lack of thrust".

Republican Sinn Féin would go farther. Its Social and Economic Programme, SAOL NUA, A New Way of Life, states:

"Finance, Banking and all key industries must be brought under public, democratic or social control, and the scope and extent of local community banking, like the Credit Unions, should be extended, so as to serve the needs of local people."

It goes on: "Social control of capital is essential, to ensure that capital serves people, rather than people being the slaves of capital; to achieve wider capital ownership; to promote balanced development and an equitable distribution of wealth. Money must be regarded, not as a commodity, but as an accounting system in which all participate."

There must be participation at all levels; federal, provincial and local. The sovereignty of the people must be supreme; no financiers, no people of wealth or of property must be allowed to dictate terms to the people.

Likewise, the multi-national oil companies Shell and Statoil, with the collaboration of the Dublin Government, have been attempting to dictate to the people of Mayo and of Ireland generally. Having secured a give away deal they seek to implement it without regard to the safety, security and welfare of the local people in the Ros Dumhach Gaeltacht.

Of course, the local people have fought back, defending their interests and the rights of the Irish people to their own natural resources. Our members have taken part in the campaign on the ground and their spokespersons, including Máire Harrington herself, have addressed successive Ard-Fheiseanna of this organisation.

Most recently, in September, Máire Harrington showed what she was made of when she began a hunger strike in protest against the presence

in Broadhaven Bay of the giant pipe-laying ship *Solitaire*.

On the 11th day of her fast the *Solitaire* withdrew from Irish territorial waters and Máire announced the end of her hunger strike. At this Ard-Fheis today, Republican Sinn Féin salutes her brave and principled stand. We pledge our continued support for the "Shell to Sea" campaign — "Shell chun Sáile".

Not alone are our resources, our fish and our natural gas being filched from us and our cultural organisations the GAA and Conradh na Gaeilge, being undermined but community bodies are under attack. The worthy Credit Union movement, which all of us have supported since the early 1960s and with which many of us gave service has been targeted.

If the credit unions are lost to us it will be the end of the local voluntary service and the "common bond", with the loan-sharks and the moneylenders free to ply their nefarious trade again. The disadvantaged in our society will suffer as mutual support ends.

In particular, the Gaelic Athletic Association — arguably the strongest community organisation in Ireland — has been subjected to attempts to make it a vehicle for the normalisation of English rule here. A representative of the British Crown — Anne Windsor — was present at a GAA match in Croke Park on February 23 but Republican Sinn Féin actively protested outside. She was not there as a private individual but as a symbol of the British claim to rule Six Irish Counties.

Earlier in February an armed member of the British colonial police was escorted into Healy Park, Omagh by a GAA official before the Kildare/Tyrone National Football game. He was in the press box for the duration of the match. It is relevant to ask if it is now official GAA policy to escort the armed forces of the Crown into GAA grounds? Was this person there to spy on members of the nationalist community; and is the GAA now collaborating with British Crown forces in such spying and surveillance?

On February 1, our Vice-President, Des Dalton wrote an open letter — as a member of Cumann Lúthcleas Gael — to the GAA President, Nicky Brennan, protesting at the presence and behaviour of a Stormont Unionist Minister in Páirc Esler, Newry, on January 16 at the Donegal v Down Dr McKenna football match. Edwin Poots used the occasion to make a public protest at the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann, the Irish National Anthem, and also to object to the naming of GAA grounds in honour of Irish patriots, such as Casement Park in Belfast.

While Nicky Brennan was willing to welcome the Stormont Minister to Páirc Esler, he refused to meet the President of Republican Sinn Féin at Páirc an Chrócaigh the previous year when a letter protesting at the presence of an England rugby team and the playing of the English National Anthem in Páirc an Chrócaigh was handed in.

We opposed the 26-County State's funding of the Orange Order to the amount of €50,000 during 2008 in order to maintain and refurbish Orange halls in Border areas. We said

in a press statement that we were "philosophically opposed to any religious group or organisation being subsidised from public moneys. Republican Sinn Féin believes in the complete separation of church and state and views the financing of an institutionally sectarian organisation like the Orange Order as an abuse of public funds.

"Both the Orange Order and Maynooth College were founded in 1795 with British government support



• Pat Quirke, Kerry.



• Donal Varian, Cork.

to oppose the radical and progressive Republican ideas of the Enlightenment within the Protestant and Catholic communities respectively."

We also came out publicly on the streets in Galway to lead a demonstration against a misguided plan by an anti-war body to drape the statue of Liam Mellows in an orange suit. With members of the Liam Mellows Hurling Club and Galway citizens we formed a cordon around the statue and physically prevented what we considered an insult to Mellows' memory.

At the same time our local spokesperson Tomás Ó Curraoin, made it clear that our members taken part in anti-war demos, that we had opposed the war in Iraq from the start and that we deplored the treatment of the prisoners in Guantanamo.

Meanwhile the so-called Independent Monitoring Commission in its latest report on September 3 said that the "Provos' military departments have ceased to function and have been disbanded".

In section 2.8 of the IMC report to its British masters it made this reference to faithful Republicans: "In so far as gathering information or intelligence [by the Provisionals] may continue in any limited way — not in itself improper if it does not involve illegal methods or intent — we (the IMC) believe that it is mainly for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of

any threat from dissident republicans".

South of the Border we are faced with local council elections next June and a possible re-run of the failed Lisbon referendum. We must stand up to both whether they come together or separately.

During the year conventions were held and candidates selected in Limerick (two in city and one in county), Kildare, Galway and Clare, with the possibility of contests in Longford, Cork and Kerry.

In the wake of the Lisbon Treaty, the worsening economic situation and the ongoing normalisation of British rule in Ireland, it is critical that a Republican, radical and progressive alternative is put before the people.

At a time like this our thoughts are with the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry Prison, Co Antrim and in Portlaoise Jail. We send them our warmest greetings and assure them of our unstinting support. The Maghaberry prisoners continue with their demand for full political status: they are still denied free association and are subjected to petty rules and restrictions; numbers of non-political prisoners are being put on to the landings which is a cause for worry as to where this leads. The fund-raising activities for the prisoners dependants needs to be intensified at this time.

English rule here, which aims to keep Ireland divided and weak, has not been fully bedded down as was intended with the Stormont and St Andrews agreement. Raids on homes by British forces, arrests and interrogations continue. In the 26 Counties English influence is being spread daily and Ireland is now called "the island", with the southern fragment to be known as "Ireland" and the northern remnant as "Northern Ireland" — a separate country.

The last few weeks have seen cutbacks in services for ordinary people while the wealthy, and those who profited immensely from the boom period in particular, escape almost unscathed from increased taxes or levies. United States involvement in imperialist wars has seen neutrality violated, with Shannon Airport used as a staging post and our airspace transgressed.

We must deliver a clear and coherent message to the Irish people, to our exiles and to the world. The people's struggle here in our time was never so close to ending British rule as it was in 1921. The English regime in Ireland never had as close a call as it had in the 1970s and '80s. As in 1921 the resistance collapsed due to a failure of leadership.

Accordingly the rebuilding of our movement must continue on the firm and sure basis of the principles of Irish Republicanism. There is no short cut, only the hard road of people's struggle. These alleged short cuts lead only to division in the ranks and to disaster, as we have seen to our cost.

Let us renew our pledges, then, and bend ourselves to our hard task in the sure and certain knowledge that this is the only road to success. In the words of our first President, Pádraic Pearse: "History records no other reason and experience suggests no other."

Victory to the Irish people!
An Phoblacht Abú!

104ú Ard-Fheis of Republican Sinn Féin held in Dublin

oversee the construction of any new monuments was defeated as delegates felt that the National Graves Association was filling that role. Motion 82 from Kerry Comhairle Ceantair calling on members of the Organisation in each county to maintain and clean Republican monuments and the graves of our Republican dead was adopted.

A motion from Limerick Comhairle Ceantair calling on every Cumann to take an advertisement in the **CABHAIR** Testimonial Brochure was adopted.

Des Long, Limerick chaired the session on Social & Economic. Because of time restraints Resolutions 52-71 had to be referred to the incoming Ard Chomhairle. Resolution 42, proposed by the Ard Chomhairle and the Kilcullen Cumann, Co Kildare reaffirmed RSF's support for the campaign against the Shell Corrib gas pipeline and applauded Maura Harrington for "her brave defence of the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of the natural resources of Ireland in the face of the combined forces of the 26-County State and international capitalism" and was passed unanimously. The Ard-Fheis pledged to give all possible assistance to the residents of Rosport, Co Mayo and the Shell to Sea campaign "in their struggle against Shell and Free State collaborators" in support of a motion proposed by the Liam Mellows Cumann, Dublin, Comhairle Ceantair Átha Cliath, Comhairle Ceantair, Roscommon and the Kilcullen Cumann, Co Kildare. The Ard-Fheis also supported a motion from the Liam Mellows Cumann, Dublin calling on the Republican Movement to give "all possible support to the ongoing campaign to save the Tara-Syrone Valley, our most valuable heritage site".

No 45 from the Ard Chomhairle, was passed and viewed with concern the attitude of multinational companies to the Irish people and economy. No 46 from the Ard Chomhairle and the Kilcullen Cumann, Co Kildare opposed the use of agency workers and outsourcing, "viewing it as an attack on the pay and conditions of all workers. The rights of all workers must be central to any progressive campaign opposing the use of employment agencies. The focus of such a campaign must be on those responsible for this attack on workers' rights, ie the employers and the State rather than the agency workers themselves" and was passed. No 47 from the Kilcullen Cumann, Co Kildare called on Sinn Féin to recognise the present economic downturn "as an opportunity to promote our social and economic policy **SAOL NUA** which provides for true and economic democracy for all of the Irish people, providing the basis for a Federal Democratic Socialist Republic" was passed unanimously.



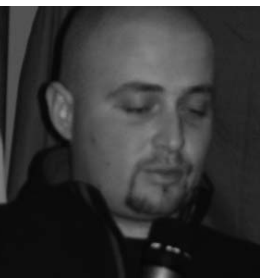
• Andy Connolly, Dublin.



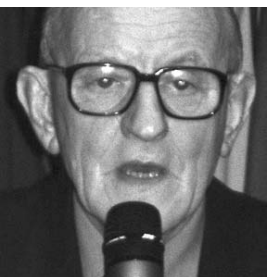
• Richard Walsh, Derry.



• Seán Ó Brádaigh



• Peter Fitzsimons, Meath.



• Des Long, Limerick.



• John Joe McCusker, Fermanagh.

The Ard-Fheis also called for an end to privatisation and support for State and semi-State industry supporting a motion from the Smith O'Brien/Colbert Cumann, West Limerick and also passed motions from the Liam Mellows Cumann, Dublin calling on young people not to immigrate but to stay at home and campaign and work for a better Ireland and asking Republicans to assist local unemployment groups and to encourage the opening of local co-operatives.

On Sunday afternoon, the Constitution & Rule sections debated several important motions. A change to rule 42, re the naming of Cumann was proposed by the Ard Chomhairle and many other branches of the organisations, following recent problems in the Tyrone area in this regard. Rule 42 read: "No Cumann shall be named after any living person." The change added: (b) Cumann shall be named solely after persons who have been faithful to the All-Ireland Republic until death." An amendment from Limerick Comhairle Ceantair proposed that if passed this change should not be retrospective.

A long and passionate debate ensued during which it was pointed out that the Constitution should be

Loughall Martyrs who were murdered by the British we cannot call our Cumann after them as they were members of an organisation which had accepted the partitionist

Resolution 97 purposed that each item of literature for public distribution by Sinn Féin Poblachtach "contain a short definitive statement of what RSF is.



• Joan Kennedy, Cork and Margaret Walsh, Dublin at the Ard-Fheis.



• Delegates and visitors at the Ard-Fheis on November 9.

assembly at Leinster House. Many other contributions were made to the debate. The amendment was very heavily defeated and the motion was passed overwhelmingly.

Motion 40, which "instructs all new Cumann to submit the name of the said Cumann to be approved by the Ard Chomhairle whose decision will be final, this to be added to Rule 42" was also passed.

The final session was on Culture/Education and Publicity and was chaired by Tomás Ó Cléirigh, Dublin. The Ard Chomhairle motion recommending the adoption of the Youth Policy document put forward by the Education Department was passed and the Ard-Fheis adopted Motion 91 from the O'Sullivan/Enright Cumann, Listowel, Co Kerry calling for the promotion of the Irish language and condemning the destruction of the language and the rewriting of Irish history by the Free State. A resolution from the Joe McDonnell Cumann, Dublin calling on members to use more Irish at RSF functions and with the general public was also passed. A Liam Mellows Cumann, Dublin motion calling for free Irish language conversation classed to be set up where feasible, open to all was passed.

This should be possible in about 50-60 words and an Irish language version should be available". A possible text was suggested: "Republican Sinn Féin is the original Sinn Féin organisation founded in 1905 which established the 32-County Dáil Éireann in 1919 and which seeks to re-establish that sovereign All-Ireland parliament in a free, united and democratic Ireland. Republican Sinn Féin does not accept the partition of Ireland and does not accept the legitimacy of English rule in any form, in any part of Ireland." The resolution was passed.

The National Draw was then held and the Ard-Fheis concluded with the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

Elected to the Officer Board

Uachtarán: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh;
Leas Uachtarán:
Des Dalton,
Des Long;
Rúnaí Oinigh: Josephine Hayden,
Líta Ní Chathmhaoil;
Cisteoir Oinigh: Joe O'Neill,
John O'Connor;
Oifigeach Poiblíochta:
Richard Walsh..

Beannachtaí na Nollag

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From **CABHAIR** (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund).

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From the Executive, Cumann na mBan.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From Lita Ní Chathmhaoil, BÁC.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From Josephine and Róisín Hayden.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From Des Dalton.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons and to all their relatives. From Peig and Paddy King, Dublin.

HAPPY Christmas and New Year to all Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons. From Cathleen Knowles McGuirk.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Republican Prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails, from the Wolfe Tone Cumann, Tallaght, Dublin; Carroll/O'Donovan Cumann, Inchicore and Clondalkin Dublin; Roger Casement/Francis Hughes Cumann, Dún Laoghaire/Ballybrack; Ó Conaill/Sands Cumann, Blanchardstown; Patrick Cannon Cumann, Raheny; Joe McDonnell Cumann, Crumlin, Dublin; Liam Mellows, Dublin Central; Comhairle Laighean and Comhairle Ceantair Atha Cliath.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons. From Comhairle Ceantair Chiarraí, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings are extended to **CABHAIR** and thank you for your continued assistance and support to our families and ourselves. From the Republican POWs, Portlaoise jail.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings are extended to the Republican Sinn Féin Staff. Thanks for all your support during the year. From the Republican POWs, Portlaoise jail.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings are extended to Matt and Cecilia. Thanks for all your assistance during the year. From the Republican POWs, Portlaoise jail.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Billy and Martin, Republican POWs, Portlaoise jail. From the Clarke family, Dublin.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Joe and Billy, Republican POWs, Portlaoise jail. From the O'Rourke family, Dublin.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Billy Philips, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From Ciarán and Benny, Wexford.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Billy Philips, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From Kathleen and Shannon.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Billy Philips, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. Love Huzely and Choellen.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Martin and Joe, Republican POWs, Portlaoise jail. From the Philips family, Wexford.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Joe Clarke, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From Denis and family, Derry.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Laura and kids. Love, Joe, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Martin O'Rourke, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From Dad, Mam and family.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Joe Clarke, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From Drum and family, Belfast.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to our comrades, the Republican POWs, Maghaberry jail. From the Republican Prisoners, Portlaoise jail.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Des, Tine, Dean and RSF. From Billy, Joe and Martin, Portlaoise jail.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Joe Clarke, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From his wife Laura and children, Nathan, Karl, Jodie and Andrew. We miss you.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Joe Clarke, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From your friends in Dublin.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Joe Clarke, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From your friends in Coolock.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Billy Philips, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From the Republican Movement, Wexford.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Billy Philips, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From the Rafter/Mellows Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Eniscorthy, Co Wexford.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to Billy Philips, Republican POW, Portlaoise jail. From the Pádraig Ó Pearaill Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Wexford.

CHRISTMAS greetings and a big thank you to **CABHAIR** for their help and assistance through the year. From the Republican POWs, Maghaberry jail.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the RPAG and thanks for their hard work on our behalf. From the Republican POWs, Maghaberry jail.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the staff of SAOIRSE and to RSF. We appreciate your support over the years. From the Republican POWs, Maghaberry jail.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Continuity IRA prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons from Cumann Smith O'Brien/Colbert in West Limerick. Nollaig faoi shéan agus faoi shonas dhíobh go léir. An Poblacht Abú.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the Republican POWs, Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From the membership and supporters of the James Daly Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Kibbegan.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the Republican POWs, Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From the membership and supporters of the Seán Costello/Martin Hurson Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Athlone.

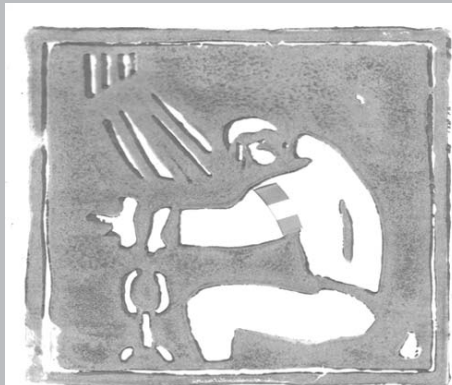
CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to all of our friends and comrades incarcerated in Maghaberry jail. We salute you in your fight for political status. From your friends and comrades in the McKelvey Steele Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to all the lads in Maghaberry jail. We salute you in your fight for political status. From your friends and comrades and supporters in the Ardoyne and the Bone. Victory to the POWs.

Christmas and New Year greetings to the Republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the Francis Hughes Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Glasgow.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to all the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons from your friends and supporters in Ligoniel, North Belfast.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to all the lads in Maghaberry Jail.



*Please Remember the Prisoners
and their Families this Xmas*

NOLLAIG Shona daoibh agus aith bhliain fé mhaise. O Ruairí agus Patsy Ó Brádaigh. We won't be sending cards. Donations instead to **CABHAIR**. Special greetings to the Republican Prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry.

We salute you in your struggle for political status from your friends and comrades in the Market's District, south Belfast.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to our friends and comrades incarcerated in Maghaberry jail. Your fight is our fight. Up the Republic! From the people of the New Lodge, north Belfast.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to all the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons. From your comrades in Republican Sinn Féin, north Belfast.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to all our friends and comrades incarcerated in Maghaberry Jail. From Republican Sinn Féin, south Belfast.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to all the lads in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From your friends in Ballymurphy.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to all our friends and comrades incarcerated in Maghaberry Jail. From Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to all our friends, comrades and supporters at home and abroad from the staff and members of the McKelvey/SteeleCumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Béal Feirste.

CHRISTMAS and New Year greetings to the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons. From the Moore Family, Monaghan.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta/National Irish Freedom Committee, USA.

CHRISTMAS greetings are extended to all the Republican Political Prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons. From the Kevin Coen, Frank O'Donoghue, Count Plunkett, Michael Mullooly, Seán Sabhat and Cull/Tymon Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Co Roscommon.

Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair; Comhairle Chúige Chonnacht; the Roscommon Commemoration Committee and; Tom Lavin and family; Pat McNama and family; Tommy Cull, Arigna, Co Roscommon; Micheál MacDonagh and family, John McGrath and family, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim; Frank O'Dowd and family, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim;

Seán Fitzmaurice, Mrs Fitzsimons, Kilmore, Co Roscommon; the Clarke family, Hillstreet, Co Roscommon; Patsy O'Connell and family, Elphin, Co Roscommon; Pádraig, Dick and Sam Cryan, Drumlin, Co Roscommon; Pádraig Cryan and family, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim; Dermot Mullooly and family, Henry Owens and family, Strokestown, Co Roscommon; Joe Kelly and family, Tom Flanagan, Kilglass, Co Roscommon; John Martin O'Connor, Lanesboro, Co Longford; Mary and Tom Coen, Rathcroghan, Co Roscommon; Michael and Bernadette Hanily and family, Ballinagare, Co Roscommon; Paddy Moffat, Tusk, Co Roscommon; Stephen French, Bernard Doherty, Tom Freeman, Seán Creighton, Frank Corrigan, Adrian Boyle, Tom McDermott, Damian McDermott, Lisacul, Co Roscommon; John Gaffney and all the Ballaghaderreen Handball Club; Michael Foley and family, Michael O'Flanagan, Cloonfower, Castlereagh, Co Roscommon; Seán Vaughan and family, Cloonsuck, Castlereagh, Co Roscommon; Paul Cunningham, James Cunningham and Gearóid Cunningham and Ned Regan, Ballinlough, Co Roscommon; Joe Murphy, Ballinlough, Co Roscommon; Seán Scott and family, Ballyforan, Co Roscommon; Frank Beattie and family, Edward J Beattie, Rahara, Co Roscommon; Tommy Morris and family, Kiltoom, Co Roscommon; Seán Lynch, Aghnaciliff, Co Longford; Frank Quinn, Ballinallea, Co Longford; Stephen Fulham, Mostrim, Co Longford; the Casey family, Killoe, Co Longford; Dyke Hayden, Denis Cooper, Séamus Coyle, Polly Gunning, Michael and PJ O'Brien, Bernard Barry, Seán Swanick, Bullhead Doyle, Michael Joyce, Caroline Revins and all at the Cosy Bar, Main Street, Castlereagh, Co Roscommon; Tom Lyons, Pat Curley, Michael Waldron, Stephen and Christy McCrudden, Brendan Jordan, Peter Meehan, Liam McGowan, Michael Naughton, Anthony Murphy, Des Flanagan, Martin Mongan, John Mongan, John O'Shaughnessy, Pete Feeney, Michael Nolan, Ann O'Dwyer, Séamus Caulfield and all Ballyhaunis Republicans.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From Martin Duffy, Lurgan, Co Armagh.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the Magill family, Lurgan, Co Armagh.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From Paddy McKenna, Lurgan, Co Armagh.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the Thomas Harte Cumann, RSF, Lurgan, Co Armagh.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the McKenna family, Lurgan, Co Armagh.

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CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. From the McKenna family, Lurgan, Co Armagh.

Portlaoise jails. From the Toman family, Lurgan, Co Armagh. **CHRISTMAS** greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From then Republican Movement and Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Des and Annette long, Limerick.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Mick Hanley, Limerick.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Joe, Denise, Rachel, Lynch, Limerick.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Christy Dunne and David Cleary, Limerick.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Joe Clarke and all the POWs in Portlaoise Jail. From Cian Lynch, West ham, Eddy, Quill, Seán O'Neill, Ken and Christy Moran, Limerick.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Joe Clarke Billy Philips, Martin O'Rourke, Portlaoise Jail and to the Continuity POWs in Maghaberry. From Joe and Nora Lynch, Limerick.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From the Kiely family, Limerick.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Republican Sinn Féin, Donegal.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Joe and Mary O'Neill, Bundoran, Donegal.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From Brendan Casey, Donegal.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From the Frank Driver Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Kildare.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From the Kilcullen Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Kildare.

SEASON'S greetings to all the Continuity POWs incarcerated in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails who pledge their allegiance to the All-Ireland Republic proclaimed in 1916. From the Republican Movement, Newry and South Down.

SEASON'S greetings to all the CIRA POWs incarcerated in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails who pledge their allegiance to the All-Ireland Republic proclaimed in 1916. From the Joe Conway Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Newry.

SEASON'S greetings to all the CIRA POWs and their dependants. From Paddy White, Newry, Co Down.

SEASON'S greetings to all the CIRA POWs and their dependants. From Nicola, Eddie and Big Marty, Newry.

SEASON'S greetings to all the CIRA POWs and their dependants. From Terry and Melly, Newry.

SEASON'S greetings to all the CIRA POWs and their dependants. From Aislinn and Larry, Newry.

SEASON'S greetings to all the Continuity POWs incarcerated in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails and your families. You are in our thoughts at this time. From the Newry RPAG.

SEASON'S greetings to Damien McKenna, mo chara. From Ollie, Newry.

SEASON'S greetings to Daire and Damien McKenna and all their comrades incarcerated in Maghaberry jail. From Ruairi and Naomh White, Newry.

SEASON'S greetings to all the Continuity POWs incarcerated in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jail. From the RPAG.

SEASON'S greetings to all the Republican POWs in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails and their dependants. From Malachy and Paula, Newry.

SEASON'S greetings to all the true Republican POWs incarcerated at this time. From Séamus and Jacqueline, Newry.

SEASON'S greetings to all the Continuity POWs and especially their families. From Ollie, Newry.

SEASON'S greetings to all the Continuity POWs incarcerated in Maghaberry and Portlaoise and especially their families. From Ruairi and Naomh White, Newry.

THE POW Department, Sinn Féin Poblachtach sends Christmas greetings to all Republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise Prisons.

THE Editor and staff of SAOIRSE extends Christmas greetings to Republican prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails.

Christmas Morning Swim

Inchicore, Dublin, 12 noon sharp (opposite Blackhorse Inn)

All proceeds in aid of **CABHAIR** (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants' Fund)

Sponsorship cards available from
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Remember the Prisoners at
Christmas
Send your donation to **CABHAIR**,
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Selective Victimisation

A chara

As a citizen of the 32-County Irish Republic I feel I have to let Republicans and the people at large know what is happening today in Ireland.

Thirty years ago I was sentenced to seven years penal servitude in the Special non-jury Court for my part in a post office robbery. I had worked for 16 years for the Department of Post and Telegraphs and had made contributions to my pension fund all that time.

When I reached 60 years of age I applied for the said pension. I received a letter from An Post stating the pension came to approximately €20,000 plus €170 a week but that the amount taken in the robbery plus compound interest which amounted to over €200,000 would have to be paid back first. The reason for this they said "was loss to the exchequer".

Now where would you start with "loss to the exchequer"? The gas off Mayo, the torture and victimisation of the McBrearty family in Donegal, the mutilation of the women in Drogheda, all the tribunals. Did anyone responsible for these lost their pensions?

I did seven years in Portlaoise jail because I stood against the occupation of my own country and also the sectarian apartheid that was applied to my fellow citizens in Antrim, Armagh, Down, Derry, Fermanagh and Tyrone and which I make no apology whatever.

MATT LEEN
Tralee, Co Kerry

British Must Leave Ireland

A chara

How dare any English person say that the island of Ireland is at peace. For Ireland to be at peace the British must depart. Since 1922 Free Staters have had their chance to say no to British rule but all they have done is sell out time after time.

The Free Staters have gone to London's well once too often and strengthened their master's hold on Ireland. People can say what they want, they can say that Republicans who want Ireland united are living in the past but if we don't pursue the struggle for the All-Ireland Republic Ireland will always be nothing but subject to British rule.

How do we change Ireland's fortune? Not in a financial sense but so that our country can stand on her own two feet and take her place amongst the nations of the earth. First things first, England has to go and the Six Counties had to be reunited with the rest of the country. Until this is achieved we are going around in circles with Downing Street holding us by the throat.

Young people need to be educated that their loyalty lies

with Ireland. Our children are the key to Ireland's future interests.

Let us not leave the Irish Question to be controlled by alien rule for another 1,000 years. We are up against it. The Provo renegades have helped England maintain their hold on Ireland. Their latest appeasement to the Brits, bowing to the RUC/PSNI, endorsing them as a legitimate police force is a kick in the teeth to all Irish men and women.

There will always be men and women who will see any form of British rule for what it is – a crime of occupation on our land. Recent military attacks by rebel Ireland in Craigavon and Armagh proves this.

GERARD FORAN
Bobby Sands/Liam Lynch
Cumann
Republican Sinn Féin
Mooncoun, Co Kilkenny

Orange Order Influence Far-reaching

A chara

News broke on November 17 that the DUP and Sinn Féin came to an agreement on the devolution of policing and justice which would bring a 152-day deadlock at Stormont to an end.

The Executive met on November 20 and will meet again on a weekly basis until business is up to date.

However, again the point is missed. The Six Counties, Mexico, Liberia and Sweden are alone in the democratic world in having spent more than half the 20th century and the 21st century under one-party rule. The influence of the Orange Order in the governance of North Ireland is far-reaching. And Gerry Adams is stupid to think that gaining scraps at the table of the Unionists and the British will change this.

All of the six prime ministers of the Six Counties were members of the Order, as were all but three cabinet ministers until 1969. Three of the ministers later left the Order, one because his daughter married a Catholic, one to become Minister of Community Relations in 1970, and the third was expelled for attending a Catholic religious ceremony. Of the 95 Stormont MPs who did not become cabinet ministers, 87 were Orangemen.

Every unionist senator, with one exception, between 1921 and 1969 was an Orangeman. One of these senators, James Gyle, was suspended from the Order for seven years for visiting nationalist MP Joe Devlin on his deathbed. And that is just the tip of the mountain.

The only people who have and will ever thrive on discord in the Six Counties are a select number of the politicians who have climbed to office and are today engaged in the old device of creating the lie that men of a



• The RUC British colonial police batoning nationalists off the Garvaghy Road, Portadown, Co Armagh to allow an Orange Order parade through in 1996.

certain religious persuasion are of a lesser status. And their power remains through the British and British policy and they will lie and cheat to make sure this power remains with them and no one else. Take note Gerry Adams.

As an English-based Cumann we have to fight here on British soil to get the view across that only a United Republic of Ireland can bring real equality to Ulster and bring true peace. While an Ulster under unionist rule can never prosper.

MAITIÚ AODH
LIONGARD
James McDade Cumann,
Republican Sinn Féin
Midlands, England

Wake up — Before It is Too late

A chara

It was enough to turn a true Republican's stomach. To watch the British army parading through the streets of Belfast on November 2 and a crowd singing at the top of their voices Rule Britannia, Britannia rules the waves. They want to rule the land and the seas but there's one thing for sure - it's still Irish soil no matter that. If that isn't intimidation, what is? They wanted peace and then go along and march through the heart of where the troubles are to cause mayhem amongst nationalists and unionists and to make things worse.

They interviewed a British soldier - an Irishman (?) from the 26 Counties. He stated that they have done their job in Iraq and deserved to be honoured. I wonder what his remarks would have been if he had been posted to the Six Counties during the height of the Troubles and the shooting and abusing of his own country people. His answer would be interesting. The Royal Irish regiment is hated for what they

have inflicted on the Irish people in collusion with loyalist death squads. Then try and tell the nationalists that the war is over! The war will never be over while the British Establishment remains on Irish soil.

The British propaganda machine is working overtime trying to infiltrate all the 32 Counties of Ireland. They could not beat Republicanism in the Six Counties by military force, so they now try the false friendly way. They have been to Cork, Mayo and Longford to honour their immortal achievements. The unionists were stopped in Dublin and the same needs to be done all over the 26 Counties, otherwise the cancer spreads.

So wake up, Republicans, before it is too late and they have infiltrated the whole of Ireland. By the way, wasn't it very sad to see the Poppy printed into the Celtic jersey as a logo. In other words, they were telling the players that there were given no choice but to wear the jersey.

SEÁN HOULIHAN
Roger Casement/James
Stephens Cumann
Republican Sinn Féin,
London

British Army Parade in Belfast

A chara

On Sunday, November 2 approximately 30,000 people turned out in Belfast for a British soldiers' 'homecoming parade' and counter-protests/parades.

The 250 British soldiers on parade were primarily members of the Royal Irish Regiment (RIR), formerly known as the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) of the British army. The RIR/UDR has one of the worst records for criminal behaviour in the entire British army. Hundreds of RIR soldiers have been discharged

or forced to resign for assault, rape, and theft - including alleged 'thefts' of weapons which end up in the hands of loyalist gangs and used against nationalists and republicans.

Among these 'stolen' weapons was the gun that was used to murder Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane. Remember the Miami Showband massacre? The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) gang responsible for those killings included UDR members who were also linked to the Dublin and Monaghan bombing that killed 33 people.

Today, the RIR remains 100% unionist and has a well-documented history of violent sectarianism including torture, murder, collusion with loyalist paramilitaries and harassment against nationalists and Republicans. The British have always used home-grown militias to enforce their power on occupied peoples. This is precisely what the RIR/UDR is.

Three thousand Provisional supporters mounted a counter parade supposedly to show their opposition to British military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, this is the party that now sits in Stormont and helps maintain continued British control in the north of Ireland. They oppose British military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan but support it in Ireland?

So, what was the point of this 'homecoming parade' if not to inflame sectarianism in Belfast? It does not surprise me that the MoD would sponsor a triumphalist parade through the centre of Belfast. They need to remind Irish nationalists and republicans who is in control and occasionally they have to throw a bone to their loyalist supporters who believe themselves to be British even though they live in Ireland. The Brits, however, have never viewed them as truly British but as some sort of poor relations.

I also find fault with the Provos who falsely claim the mantle of Republicans. They gave up the right to be called Republicans when they signed the Stormont Agreement in 1998 which, among other things, gave up Ireland's constitutional claim to the Six Counties and reinforced partition and British control of the north.

JANE ENRIGHT
Woodside, New York, USA

Letters to the Editor should be as short, as possible and written or typed in double-spacing on one side of the page. Name and address must be included, but on request will not be published.

Letters printed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of SAOIRSE.

Postal address: 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

Letters may also be faxed to

Dublin 872 9757 or sent by e-mail to saoirse@iol.ie

Please note that all material for publication, articles, features, news reports, comhbhróin, congratulations and good wishes greetings, etc must be accompanied by a name, address, signature and telephone number for verification.

Ireland And climate Change

A chara

So, just how green is Ireland? Just how far we have to go to do our fair share to prevent runaway climate change.

We are so far from green that, per person, we're the sixth most polluting country in the industrialised world. We're so far from green that if the rest of the world polluted like us, we would need three planet Earths to sustain us.

Ireland emits more climate-changing pollution per person than China, India and Sweden put together, and is not living up to its green image.

We're so far from green that while poor countries like Malawi suffer the worst effects of climate change, each of us produces 100 times more carbon emissions than the average African.

There is no way out of Ireland's emissions reductions. By 2050 each of us, globally, must emit no more than two tonnes of climate-changing pollution annually if we are to stop the climate becoming dangerously unstable.

Right now each person in Ireland emits 17 tonnes a year. The Swedes emit 7.4 tonnes per person per year. The Chinese emit 3.9 tonnes, the Indians 1.6. As for the Malawians? They do not even emit one tonne each a year.

The 26-County Administration has a clear moral responsibility to limit greenhouse gas emissions immediately and to ensure that the next international agreement gives the poor the means to cope with the effects of climate change.

The people of Ireland must start to believe that Ireland has yet to live up to this responsibility. To press for action each person must make sure that their views are addressed to the Taoiseach calling for legislation to enshrine his government's commitment to reduce Ireland's emissions by 3% a year in law. The next Budget puts a price on carbon across the whole economy and that developing countries receive sufficient, accessible and additional finance to enable them to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

MICHAEL ROONEY
Castlebar, Co Mayo

ON

CURRAGH MASS ESCAPE

50 Years Ago

December 2, 1958, a mass escape of prisoners took place from the Curragh Concentration Camp. About 30 men took part, a number were unsuccessful and two were recaptured on the Curragh plains.

Ultimately 14 got clean away and were never recaptured. Later in December the following authoritative statement was issued in leaflet form for public distribution.

THE CURRAGH ESCAPE

A statement from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau.

The following from the OC, Republican prisoners in the Curragh Concentration Camp is self-explanatory.

"All Republican prisoners here stand shoulder to shoulder in a united front against our jailers and knowing their scheme will ignore all provocative and aggressive behaviour on the part of the military.

"In this Camp the victory will not be achieved by those who can inflict most!"

THE TRUE STORY

The military Governor of the Curragh Concentration Camp could not be seen by the O/C Republican Prisoners, Tomás Mac Curtain for three days after the escape of December 2, 1958 when 16 prisoners cut their way through the barbed wire defences of the Camp, two received gunshot wounds and others were gassed or wounded by shrapnel. After repeated attempts the O/C had an interview with Commandant MacElligott who, in the meantime, had replaced the former Governor.

On the fourth day after the escape the O/C had a further short interview with the military Governor. During these talks the O/C was informed by Comdt MacElligott that he (Comdt MacElligott) was the Camp Commandant and that under certain circumstances he had the authority to "fire ball ammunition". And he would have no hesitation in doing so.

The O/C's reply to this was that he needed an assurance on that score since two unarmed prisoners had already been shot down in the playing field on December 2.

The Governor then stated that in addition to the restrictions already imposed he was stopping all newspapers, impounding all wireless sets and closing the "hobby-room" which the prisoners used for handicraft and woodwork. Asked why he was depriving all the prisoners of these facilities the Governor's reply was: "I don't have to give any reasons."

'PRISONERS HAVE RIGHTS'

At the second short interview the Governor informed the O/C Republican Prisoners that the restrictions imposed "had been confirmed by the Adjutant-General". Again it was pointed out to him that although he had the power – having about 3,000 troops around him – Republican prisoners also had certain rights. Comdt MacElligott's reply was that if there were any complaints they should be put in writing.

These complaints were listed in a letter (December 8) protesting against:

The shooting of two unarmed prisoners by one of the PAs.

The burning of the furze over an area of about one mile in breadth so that men who might have taken refuge there following the escape could be driven out.

The stopping of all visits and newspapers and the removal of all wireless sets and the closing of the hobby-room.

The stopping by the Camp authorities of a letter to the International Red Cross detailing prisoners' complaints on the fire-hazards in the Camp following a decision to erect steel grilles on the hut-windows and asking for the intervention of the International Red Cross.

The practice of putting restrictive regulations into force without first informing the prisoners. In this connection it was pointed out that such methods had the result during the last interment of providing the State forces with an excuse for the shooting of prisoners – on the plea that an order had been given but had not been transmitted to the internees.

The false and misleading statements issued by the 26-County authorities about occurrences in the Concentration Camp following the December 2, 1958 escape. The fact that the 26-County Government Information Bureau stated twice that two prisoners had not been shot but had suffered what it called



• Free State army checking cars at a roadblock in Kildare on December 2, 1958.

"minor injuries" from shrapnel caused by the metal casings of the gas-grenades. A scare story stating that the internees had burned the huts had no basis in fact.

Finally this letter from the O/C Prisoners requested that the burnt-out furze bushes surrounding the Camp be searched for the bodies of wounded or gassed prisoners who might have been burned to death in the fire started by the authorities following the escape.

WOUNDED PRISONER'S STORY

In connection with this final point it is fitting to quote here the statement of one prisoner who escaped but was recaptured later. The prisoner did not return to the Camp until three days after the O/C's letter. He took refuge among the bushes after being wounded. Here is what he has to say:

"At about 3.40pm I heard several rifle shots being fired from the sentry box in the South-West corner of the field as a group of internees went through the first barbed wire fence about 30 yards from this entry box. I heard revolver shots coming from my right front. Objects were exploding between the wire fences and in the trench in front of me.

"I went towards the trench. Grenades continued to explode around about and my breathing was affected. I climbed to the far side of the trench and went forward. When I got as far as the furze bushes (between three to five hundred yards from the field) I was unable to carry on because of the condition of my left knee. I lay down amongst the bushes.

MILITARY SEARCH PARTIES

"I heard military search parties on the plains around me. I could hear orders being given to the soldiers: 'Work the ——— bayonets on the whins!' after about 15 or 20 minutes I heard further orders to drive vehicles through the whins and ten minutes or so later orders to burn the whins.

"I saw fires starting several hundred yards to the south-east of the point where I was lying. The fires moved closer.

"Search parties came in and prodded bushes nearby, and set them alight. A soldier with a flaming branch in his hand lit the bush next to the one I was lying in and then proceeded to light the bush I was hiding in. I got up and told him to wait. I was ordered to come out and immediately was surrounded with soldiers with rifles and bayonets.

"An officer asked me was I wounded and I replied that I thought I was. He looked at the wound but made no comment. A lorry arrived and I was removed to the Detention Barracks (the Glasshouse). I waited about 20 minutes in a cell before the medical orderly arrived. After examining the wound he immediately sent for the doctor. Captain _____ examined the wound and ordered my removal to the Base Hospital where my leg was X-rayed and then operated on.

"Five stitches were inserted in the wound. I was not told what caused the wound. The surgeon in the hospital said he had to take a piece of metal from the knee. He told me the gristle had been pierced and if it had gone a fraction further he would have had to open up the knee-joint. He also remarked that 'if it was prepenicillin days you would be pushing up the daisies'. I remained in hospital until December 11 – a period of nine days. I can now only walk with a limp."

PROVOCATION: AN OLD TACTIC

During his interviews with the military Governor following the escape the O/C Republican Prisoners emphasised again and again that since the opening of the Concentration Camp 19 months ago the Republican prisoners had avoided all conflict with 26-County personnel stationed in the Camp.

This is in pursuance of the declared policy of the Republican Movement. He said it was their (the prisoners) firm intention to avoid such conflict now and in the future as they had in the past. He said that if there was trouble the responsibility would definitely be the Governor's and he (the Governor) would have to bear it.

It was quite obvious to the prisoners that the authorities (either in the Camp or at higher level) were seriously disturbed by the blunders made by them and that they would attempt to provoke the prisoners into

some violent action which would then be used to confuse the issue.

When prisoners' rights are denied it is a well-known tactic on the part of their jailers to get them to do something which is apparently unjustifiable and thus – in retrospect, as it were, – attempt to "justify" the original misdeeds of the jailers! This tactic was doomed to failure in the Curragh Concentration Camp for – once the prisoners understood the situation clearly – their high standard of unity and discipline would be maintained.

It is also understood that a pretext could be provided for the shooting of unarmed prisoners since orders were now issued by the authorities stating that in the event of what might appear to be a break the nearest PA was to grapple with a prisoner and the sentry could then open fire. The sentry's orders allow him to use ball-ammunition (a) in defence of his own life; (b) in defence of his comrade's life and (c) in defence of Government property. Obviously in this instance clause (c) would cover the situation!

THE ESCAPE: 16 GETAWAY

The playing field (now closed) attached to the Curragh Concentration Camp was normally open for the use of the internees between 2pm and 4pm.

On weekdays between 30 and 40 prisoners played football and hurling there while others walked around the inner perimeter of the field.

On Tuesday, December 2, 1958, there were 38 prisoners playing in the field. Between 3.35 and 3.45pm a number of prisoners broke through the safety-wire of the inner perimeter, cut and hacked their way through the double rows of barbed-wire fences, crossed the 10 feet wide, eight feet deep, moat-like trench surrounding the entire camp, went through another barbed-wire fence, past the outer safety-wire and this to the open plains beyond.

Sixteen in all escaped. Two were subsequently recaptured – one in the furze where he lay after being wounded crossing the wire. His story we have told above. Not counting those who escaped, at least four prisoners were wounded in the break. All wounded men were shifted to the Base Hospital in the Curragh.

A number of prisoners suffered from the effects of gas to their eyes, throat, nose, chest and stomach. These were treated in the Camp.

Statements are available from all prisoners who were in the field at the time. From these it is possible to piece together the events as they occurred. There was no riot or anything approaching one. There was no attempt to molest the military guards or interfere with them in any way.

SENTRY FIRE

The breach in the barbed-wire fences was made a point some 25 to 30 yards from the elevated sentry box on the SW corner. A military policeman near that point, inside the field, blew his whistle continuously. The sentry fired four or five times in the air.

A military policeman outside the barbed-wire fences, and on the far side directly opposite the breach threw a number of shock-grenades at the men. These grenades, enclosed in metal cases, are filled with gases which affect the eyes, throat, nostrils and stomach. The military policeman has been identified by a number of the prisoners and his name is available.

After throwing a number of grenades the military policeman drew his .45 revolver and was seen by six internees to fire directly into the mass of prisoners at the wire.

TWO FALL WOUNDED

Brian Boylan (Cavan) fell, with a bullet-wound in the leg, between the first and second barbed-wire fences. The wound in his lower thigh has been identified as a bullet wound caused by a .45 slug.

James Columb (Cavan) stumbled and fell about the same time – or shortly afterwards. He had a wound behind the knee which could not be definitely established as that of a .45 bullet but all the evidence of the watching internees is that he went down as the military policeman fired round after round among the escaping prisoners.

One prisoner became entangled in the barbed-wire and was unable to move forward or backward.

The military policeman pointing his revolver directly at him, he said: Do not move or I will shoot you dead." To which the prisoner replied: "I can't move anyway. My foot is caught." The military policeman continued to threaten the prisoner who in the opinion of other internees would have been shot but for their intervention: they grabbed the prisoner, freed him, and hauled him back into the playing field.

The military policeman responsible for the shooting was at this time only about five to seven yards from the prisoners. Just at this moment the Camp Governor (Comdt McGurk) arrived and disarmed him. He also took the grenades from him.

All those present in the field are unanimous that there was no riot or aggressive action against the military or interference with them either inside or outside the field.

The internees rendered first aid to their wounded comrades and carried them for more than 400 yards to the Camp Infirmary. Two prisoners were wounded by shrapnel from the shock-grenades. Considerable blood was lost by the prisoners on their way to the Infirmary.

STATEMENTS BY PRISONERS

At the time of writing it is not possible to get statements from the wounded men but the following is the description of the scene by one prisoner who was in the field at the time.

"I was playing football in the playing field on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 2, 1958. Between 3.30pm and 4pm as a group of internees started cutting through the barbed wire I saw the sentry in the box at the South-West corner of the field firing into the air with his rifle and I heard a whistle being blown by the PA (military policeman) inside the field.

"A PA outside the trench threw several objects into the group of internees. These objects exploded. The same PA then drew his revolver and fired several shots into the group who were going through the wire fences. While the PA was firing, Brian Boylan who was immediately beside me fell to the ground. More grenades then exploded and the internees were driven back into the field where I saw Jim Columb stagger and fall.

"I went to the assistance of Brian Boylan. I saw blood oozing through the leg of his trousers and applied a tourniquet. I noticed the wound on Brian Boylan's leg which was circular and seemed deep. With several other internees I carried Brian Boylan to the Infirmary. I saw no interference with or attack on any of the military guards inside or outside the field.

AFTERMATH OF ESCAPE

The aftermath of this escape saw unprecedented activity on the part of the 26-County military authorities both inside and outside the Camp. Hundreds of troops stood-to and formed screens within screens around the Camp proper. This was outside the search proper for the escaped prisoners which embraced thousands of troops as well as hundreds of Civic Guards and Special Branch detectives.

Troops carried out a house-to-house search (according to the *Irish Times* of December 4), a breach of normal behaviour in a democratic State as long as martial law had not been proclaimed. Cars, buses, lorries were stopped and searched in the same indiscriminate manner.

The driver of an ESB diesel truck was fired on at Ballymann Cross near Newbridge. He had to run the gauntlet of fire to Newbridge where he sought police protection. No one stopped him or warned him, the driver said, before the shooting started. One bullet entered the cab of his truck an inch above his head.

Inside the Camp, squads of PAs with drawn batons checked the huts and counted the internees. That night all gorse on the Curragh plains surrounding the Camp was set alight.

The effect of the shock-bombs may be gauged by the following statement from a prisoner who broke through the gap cut in the wire but was later recaptured. He said:

"When I turned around and went towards the gap in the barbed-wire a grenade between three and four inches in length and approximately one-and-a-half inches in diameter, which appeared to have been fixed to the wire, exploded affecting my eyes and throat and head. I kept going and fell into the bottom of the trench when an object exploded within two feet of my face blinding and dazing me. I crashed through a barbed-wire fence and found myself outside but I still could not see.

"I continued on and tried to clear my eyes with my fingers but could only see very little. I continued running till I reached the road which I crossed. I went on some distance on the far side of the road where I lay down for about 20 minutes. I then got up and started to run again. I could only see hazily. I had gone from 50 to 100 yards when I lay down again as I became completely blind."

(More next month.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

GEORGE Bush is leaving office and not soon enough for most sane people who have realised that he is the worst president in US history. He is going to leave a legacy on January 20, 2009 that will not be a fond memory or one that deserves any respect.

He should be vilified by any right-thinking individual. He has made a practice of ignoring the United States Constitution when it served his interests.

What Bush has left behind is the remnant of a police state. He leaves a newly-created super intelligence agency that allows government spying agencies to conduct broad surveillance and reconnaissance within the United States for the first time.

Bush sees the victory of the Democrats and Barack Obama as a temporary setback to his long-range plan of a religious/Christian-driven nation on a crusade to convert the world to US-style democracy which as we know is not a true form of democracy.

While his Republican Grand Old party is out of power, Bush and his Christian soldiers will exercise their hold on what they perceive will be a rejuvenated party that will retake the US.

Bush will leave behind many people in key strategic positions in the government civil service who were placed not on merit but on politics. They are the shadow government that will coordinate policy at mid-level positions who many times recommends day-to-day decisions. They will cause some real damage.

One group is the new Bush-created agency previously cited which will coordinate how the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and state and local police and rescue agencies utilise imagery and communications intelligence picked up by American spy satellites.

The agency inspired by Bush is the National Applications Office (NAO). Under the plan the NAO will create the legal mechanism for an untold degree of domestic intelligence-

gathering that designates the US.

As one of the most closely monitored nations, America has studied the monitoring the British have used and have taken it a step further and have cameras on the street, but also from the air from sophisticated spy satellites.

America has agreed to share this technology with the British, who want their own streets monitored and to watch the north of Ireland as well, just in case the economic crisis might send recruits to the Republican Movement.

Up to now, domestic use of electronic surveillance from spy satellites was used for scientific agencies, but there was no use for national security or law enforcement purposes. Now shouts of the need for protection of the US requires that all technology be used in the interests of national security.

BIG BROTHER

This seems right of George Orwell's novel "1984" where the entire population was monitored by Big Brother. The spy satellites are so accurate they can zoom in on people's faces in a crowd and identify them.

This creates the potential for unbelievable abuse and harassment. The abuse is the target of Bush's internal agency spies he will leave behind.

If you recall the war over the Malvinas [Falklands] in 1982, the US used their satellites to help the British identify Argentine moves so they could hit them unexpectedly. They also used the same to help the British in the Six Counties. Think back on incidents you wondered how the Brits knew. America pinpointed situations for them.

This new intelligence-sharing system is to be managed by the NAO which will rely heavily on private contractors. This reliance gives the departing Bush people another form of control on the expanded domestic spy operation because they are all friends of Bush and his associates.

These contractors will be found on the list of significant contributors to Bush and his party. These contractors



are already heavily involved in providing intelligence personnel and technology to US spy agencies involved in foreign intelligence and this scope will be expanded now to domestic spying on US citizens.

It is bad enough that the government is spying on its own citizens, but to allow partisan political private contractors to do so under a contract with the government is an egregious injustice with the obvious potential for abuse.

Private entities that are in the spying business also are in the business world on a variety of interests and they can use spying to gain an unfair advantage over competitors.

Most of the domestic spying under Bush has been against those individuals and groups whom oppose his policies. Maybe by accident they will stumble over a real "bad guy" but intent for the most part is political.

Since his first day in office Bush has been on a crusade to have his right-wing Christian followers assume positions of power and to neutralise opponents.

Bush is guided by God in all his moves according to his own words. He has visions that direct him. His God seems to be a little off in his historical perspective.

Government representatives attended a recent intelligence conference in San Antonio, Texas, where the private spy industry lobbied government intelligence officials to buy products designed for domestic spying.

DURING this most recent election, Bush operatives monitored the massive crowds that attended rallies of candidate Barack Obama to gain knowledge of the type of people he attracted. This would be used in the future by Bush's successors. Remember that spy satellites can pick up details of every individual in the crowd.

This information was not released to his party's candidate, John McCain, because he and Bush do not get along

and Bush does not consider him one of his people. McCain is not an evangelical Christian.

The Bush people wanted McCain to lose so they could rebuild the party as they want it to be constructed in their narrow interests as they follow the direction of God.

During the next four years, Bush's people will know their opponents intimately so they can demonise them before the public. His party has brought American politics to a new low. They believe they have the right to define what is American and anti-American because they believe they are the true American patriots.

McCain did not have these tools which were held back, but the Bush faction has compiled intelligence on those who supported Obama and with the intelligence they are gathering, they believe they will mount a comeback.

Domestic spying has been sold to doubters by disguising its real purpose by claiming it was a weapon to fight terrorism in the interest of national security. When you think of spying on one's own citizens, you immediately think of the potential abuse.

Potential political opponents should not be classified along with terrorists when the two are distinct and the leak that political types might in any way be connected to terrorism is slander.

Terrorism has been used in too broad a way that it is an all-encompassing tactic to make otherwise law-abiding citizens exercising political rights look like they might be colluding with terrorists.

What does a rally about a political issue have to do with attacks on the United States? Bush has labelled massive crowds seen through the eye of spy satellites as criminal terrorism.

It has long been known about US foreign spying, but when these tactics were utilised abroad, they were never supposed to be used in the United States where privacy is protected under the fourth amendment of the United States Constitution.

The reality is that US spy agency monitors US citizens when they go to foreign countries and we are aware how Irish Americans involved with the Republican Movement in Ireland have files in the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The British have convinced the Americans that true Republicans are terrorists and their supporters in the US are as

well.

GLOBAL NETWORK

The National Security Agency (NSA) has set up a global network of listening posts, brilliance's planes, and satellites, captures signals from phone calls, email and Internet traffic and translates and analyses them for US military and national intelligence officials.

The spy satellites can get a facial close-up and imply through propaganda that id people are present then they are engaged in questionable activity and should be monitored.

Demonstrations and other events can be monitored from the skies and space by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). The NSA and the NGA have a close relationship with the "super-secret" National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) which constructs and maintains all US spy satellites. It also runs the ground stations in conjunction with the British where the NSA's signals and the NGA's imagery are sorted out and studied by a group of highly-trained analysts.

By law, these collection efforts are supposed to be confined to foreign countries and battlefields where the US is engaged. The National Applications Office was created in 2005 by the Director of National Intelligence as a central coordinator created by the Congress to oversee and monitor the 16 agencies that make up the US Intelligence community.

Some were concerned with the legal framework of US spy groups which has not been updated for the global war on terror. What was probably illegal was deemed necessary by Bush's executive orders so a general oversight plan was conceived to be run by NAO.

IN effect this merged foreign and domestic intelligence collection operations. No one has challenged the constitutionality of this new super agency.

Bush has never worried about the Constitution and issues executive orders claiming in emergencies he doesn't have to obey it, despite his oath. Bush has a theory of inherent authority with no boundaries. We can only hope Barack Obama will re-evaluate this whole process so we may operate unhindered. Time will tell.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

Comhbhrón

CLARKE, Deepest sympathy to Chris Clarke, Drogheda, on the untimely death of his grandfather. From the Thomas Allen Cumann, Co Meath; Comhairle Chúige Laighne, Republican Sinn Féin; and Peter Fitzsimons, County Meath.

FERRIN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Gerard Chapman, POW Maghaberry jail on the death of his nephew Martin. From Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast.

FAGAN, The Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, extends deepest sympathy to the family of Niall Fagan, Co Meath who died on November 18. I measc Laochra na Gael go raibh sé.

FAGAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Niall Fagan, Co Meath who died on November 18. From **CABHAR** (Irish Republican Prisoners' Dependants Fund).

FAGAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Niall Fagan, Co Meath who died on

November 18. From Cumann na mBan.

FAGAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Frances Fagan and family, The Moy, Summerhill, Co Meath on the death of Niall Fagan. He will be sadly missed. From the Thomas Allen Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Contae na Mí; Peter Fitzsimons and family; Liam Quail; Luke Kearney Snr; Luke Kearney Jnr; John Blanch; Comhairle Chúige Laighne; Comhairle Aith Claith; Cumann Padraig O Pearaill, Loch Garman; South East Comhairle Ceantair; Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast; the Bobby Sands/Liam Lynch Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny; the Rafter/Mellows RSF Cumann, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford; the Kevin Conn Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Co Roscommon; Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair; Comhairle Chúige Chonnacht; the Patrick Cannon Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Raheny, Dublin, the Wolfe Tone Cumann, Tallaght, Dublin; Coiste Cuimheacháin Náisiúnta; Róisín and Josephine Hayden; Peig and Paddy King; Lita Ní Chathmháil; Des Dalton; Oliver White, Newry;

the White family, Newry; Michael Logan, England.

KENNEDY, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Hazel Kennedy, Ardferd, Co Kerry on the death of her husband Tom. From From Seán O'Neill and Joe Lynch, Limerick; Mary O'Reilly, Limerick; and Sonia Griesser, SA.

McKEE: Deepest sympathy is extended to Billy McKee and the extended McKee family on the recent death of Frank. From Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast.

McNAMARA, Deepest sympathy is expressed to Stephen McNamara, Limerick on the death of his wife Josephine. From the Republican Movement and Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick; Mick Ryan; Joe and Nora Lynch; Ger Brommell and family; Christy Dunne; Mick Hanley; West Ham; Ken; Eddy; and Seán O'Neill, Limerick.

I gCuimhne

CASEY — 68th Anniversary. In loving memory of: Barney Casey, Oill, Drumlish, Co Longford who was shot in the Curragh Concentration Camp by Free Staters in cold blood in December 1940; Mattie Casey, brother of Barney

Casey, Co Longford who died on December 8, 2003; and James Mulranny, Ballingare, Co Roscommon whose 13th anniversary occurs in December.

O'DONOGHUE — 86th Anniversary. Frank O'Donoghue, Kilglass, Strokestown, Co Roscommon, who was a member of the anti-Treaty active service unit of North Roscommon during the Civil War. He was wounded at Roskey by the Free Staters and died in the Curragh Military Hospital on December 13, 1922.

86th Anniversary: Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows, Dick Barrett and Joe McKelvey, executed as a reprisal by the Free State junta in Mountjoy jail; Edward Kilroy, killed in action at Charlestown, Co Mayo on December 23, 1922 by Free State murderers;

McGOWAN — 88th Anniversary. Captain John McGowan, 4th Batt, East Mayo Brigade, IRA, shot by the Tans on December 20, 1920 and buried in Tibohine Cemetery. He was shot on the word of an informer. During his burial the cemetery was surrounded by a ring of Black-and-Tans and police but despite their presence a volley of three shots was fired over the grave;

KERINS — 64th Anniversary. Charlie Kerins, Tralee, Co Kerry, Chief-of-Staff of the IRA, hanged in Mountjoy jail on December 1, 1944. Always remembered by Cumann, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige

Chonnacht.

FAGAN — 20th Anniversary. In proud memory of Liam Fagan, Ravensdale, Dundalk, Co Louth, who died on December 1, 1988. Always remembered by Nuala and Seán Moore and family, Monaghan.

GARTLAND — 4th Anniversary. In fond memory of our dear friend Frank whose anniversary occurs on December 20. From Paddy and Patricia White, Newry.

GARTLAND — 4th Anniversary. In fond memory of our dear friend Frank who passed away on December 20, 2004. We will never forget you. Ruairi and Naomh White, Newry.

GARTLAND — 4th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Frank who died on December 20, 2004. Gone but not forgotten by your friends and comrades in the Joe Conway Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Newry, Co Down.

GARTLAND — 4th Anniversary. In

proud and loving memory of Frank whose anniversary occurs on December 20. Your friends Melly and Big Marty.

GARTLAND — 4th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of my dear friend and comrade Frank who died on December 20, 2004. Proudly remembered, Ollie.

KERINS — 64th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Charlie Kerins, Chief-of-Staff, Irish Republican Army, murdered by the Free State in Mountjoy jail on the First Friday in December 1944. Remember with pride. From Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

MELLOWS — 86th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Liam Mellows, Wexford and Galway, murdered in Mountjoy jail on December 8, 1922 by the Free State. From the Rafter/Mellows Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Co Wexford.

Buíochas

LARKIN, The husband and family of the late Ellen Larkin of Moyra Castle, Jonesborough, Co Armagh who died on October 14 wish to thank all those who attended her wake and funeral. To those who sent floral tributes and Mass cards and who sympathised with the family. We are indeed very grateful for their kindness and caring thoughts. The sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated for their intentions. Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

Beannachtaí

GET well wishes to Joe O'Neill. From the Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin.

Gaza: Power, water cuts and severe bread shortage

ON November 5, Israel closed the crossings into the Gaza Strip and blocked the entry of goods and supplies, including basic foodstuffs. Since 18 November, Israel has allowed the entry of goods, though much less than in October.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that, from 5-18 November, the Gaza power station received 24% of the industrial fuel needed to operate the station at full capacity. As a result power supply to Gaza City and the central Gaza Strip was interrupted for 16 hours a day, leaving some 650,000 residents without electricity at any given time.

The power breaks also affected water supply: 20% of all Gaza residents received running water once every five days, and then only for six hours; 40% received water once every four days; and the remaining residents received water once every three days.

Continuation of the fuel shortage is also liable to bring the sewage pumps to a halt, resulting in an uncontrolled flow of unpurified sewage into residential neighbourhoods. In recent weeks, the hospitals have relied on generators to maintain normal operations. However, continued reduction of fuel supply or breakdowns in the generators are liable to affect the ability of hospitals to function properly.

Medicines and essential medical equipment intended for Gaza remain stuck at Ben Gurion Airport because the crossings are closed. Also, bread is being rationed, due to the lack of cooking gas and the reduction in supply of wheat. As a result, 28 of the 47 bakeries in Gaza City and all bakeries in Rafah have been forced to stop work.

Since the disengagement in 2005, Israel has increased the restrictions placed on residents of the Gaza area, preventing entry of goods that are not considered "humanitarian," including raw materials for construction and manufacturing needs, and preventing almost completely exports from there. As a result of this policy, most Palestinian households live in deep poverty, and approximately half of them depend on humanitarian aid to survive.

Israel's control of the crossings and of so many aspects of life in Gaza requires it, inter alia, to enable the passage of medicines, foodstuffs, and necessary goods. Israel must immediately and completely reopen the crossings for the entry of supplies and goods into Gaza and refrain from collective punishment of the residents there.

Edited from: B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. November 27, 2008.

Bretons walk free as case collapses

THREE Breton political and cultural activists walked away from a Paris court on November 17 free men after the case against them was thrown out by the judge.

WORLD NEWS



• **Gaël Roblin** — on November 17 charges were dropped by a Paris court against him and two comrades, **Kristian Georgeault** and **Pascal Laize**, all three Breton activists.

As reported previously on Celtic news, Gaël Roblin, Kristian Georgeault and Pascal Laize were called to a special court in the Palais de Justice, Paris on November 17 for allegedly being implicated in the Breton Revolutionary Army (ARB) and taking part in the Quevert bombing of a MacDonald's restaurant.

All three defendants have been tried previously for the same allegations on different occasions in separate courts, but were summoned to court once again, because French police have not been able to find those people responsible for the bombing.

However, the judge ruled that the case against the three was inadmissible and that it should be immediately annulled, after only one day of deliberations in a planned 11 day trial.

Skoazell Vreizh, an organisation that campaigns on behalf of Breton prisoners and people that are under investigation said that they commended the courage of Roblin, Georgeault and Laize, all of whom have served time in jail previously on suspicion of being part of the Quevert bomb attack. Skoazell Vreizh has also called

for the dissolution of the Special Assize Court procedure that the three defendants faced, because they argued it is politically biased.

In a press statement, Skoazell Vreizh said about the special juryless courts:

"Celles-ci, aux ordres directs de l'Etat français ne sont que le témoin d'une justice politique contraire aux Droits de l'Homme, dénoncé à maintes reprises par bon nombre d'organisations internationales, notamment par la cour européenne des droits de l'Homme."

(It is the French Government that issues the political justice contrary to defendants' human rights and they [Special Assize Courts] have been repeatedly denounced by many international organisations, including the European Court of Human Rights.)

The Celtic League broadly welcomes the decision of the judge in this case, but views with concern the legal system that allowed Roblin, Georgeault and Laize to be put on trial, accused of the same crime once again, is still in place.

(Article prepared for Celtic News by Rhisiart Tal-e-bot)

US war planes continue through Shannon

THE use of war planes through Shannon by the United States military continues unabated, despite the continued denials of the US government and the 26 County Administration.

Ed Horgan, who along with others continuously monitors flights and hold a monthly vigil at Shannon has compiled a 128 page report on the aircraft passing through Shannon from the US.

Since March 20, 2003 over one million armed US troops have passed through Shannon airport while at the same time over one million people have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, while millions more are injured due to the unlawful wars waged by the US.

At least 12 CIA aircraft were refueled at Shannon Airport within 24 hours of being used for the transport of prisoners who were tortured.

The establishment and the gardai are on record as saying they don't have the powers to search these planes. That is not true. They have the powers but will not use them for fear of offending the US.

During the months of August, September and October 2008 the total count of troop-carriers that landed at Shannon was 195; the count for US air force military planes was 33; the count of all US air force military aircraft through Shannon or over Shannon excluding troop carriers was 584 while the count for all US troop carriers was 694 (chartered civilian type planes).

It is a well known fact that the CIA use civilian type planes for rendition flights – either or coming and going to places of torture. It is believed that up to 1,000 CIA related flights have indeed passed through Shannon (or within a 50 mile radius).

Over 8,000 aircraft associated with the US Middle East Wars have been refueled at Shannon airport and indeed more than 20,000 such aircraft have passed through Irish airspace. Up to 1,000 prisoners have been transported through Shannon to and from Guantanamo from the Middle East.

James Daly remembered in Tyrellspass

ON Sunday, November 30 Republicans gathered in Tyrellspass, Co Westmeath to commemorate James Joseph Daly, who in 1920, while serving with the Connaught Rangers regiment of the British army in India, led a rebellion when they heard of the atrocities carried out by the Black-and-Tans in Ireland. James Daly was murdered by firing squad in Dagshai prison on November 2, 1920.

The large crowd gathered outside the hotel in the village and marched behind a Republican Sinn Féin colour party carrying the National Flag through the village to the graveyard where James Daly is interred. Seosamh Ó Maoileoin chaired proceedings and began by welcoming the large crowd that had come from all over Ireland. He talked about the sacrifice James Daly made in India and gave a brief history of the Daly family in Tyrellspass.

He remembered the late Niall Fagan who recently passed away and thanked his brother and son for attending the commemoration. Niall, Seosamh said, was a lifelong Republican who stayed true

to the struggle.

He then called on Shane McCarthy, a great-grandnephew of James Daly to lay a wreath on behalf of the local James Daly Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Bearna, Co Galway laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement and Peter Fitzsimons on behalf of Meath Republican Sinn Féin. Seosamh recited a decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge.

Seosamh then called on Dan Hoban, Mayo to deliver the oration.

Dan started by remembering 1970 when James Daly's remains were brought back to Ireland and how it was Republicans who, working along with Daly's

sister Teresa Maher and family, eventually secured his remains and not the Free State government. He said James Daly did an honourable thing, difficult as he was far from home, by defending his nationality and people from the wrongdoings of the British.

He said that if James Daly had been imprisoned like the rest of the Rangers and eventually made it back to Ireland, he had no doubt which side he would have been on, like so many of his comrades when they returned home.

Dan said he remembered Mrs Maher's house was available to many men on the run over the years and her son Seán and his wife Moll were Republicans until the day they died. Down the years the family have remained true to the cause. He said that he could not be present at the unveiling of the memorial in 1974 by Máire Drumm because he could not secure a pass from Portlaoise prison which received great



• **The parade marched from the centre of Tyrellspass, Co Westmeath on November 30 to the memorial in the local cemetery where the commemoration was held.**

applause from the crowd.

He mentioned how only a few years later that Máire Drumm was gunned down by a loyalist death squad at the behest of the British in her hospital bed in Belfast. Dan concluded by saying how honoured he was to have been asked to speak at James Daly's grave and said he was

heartened to see so many young people turning out to remember the sacrifice James Daly made. He called on them to join the Republican Movement.

Seosamh Ó Maoileoin then called on the crowd to form up behind the colour party and thanked everyone for attending. They marched

back to the centre of the village where refreshments were served in the Spinning Wheel.

Republican Sinn Féin, Westmeath, would like to thank everyone who made the day such a success and the large crowd who turned up as weather conditions were not the best.

Peasants or serfs?

THE American writer F Scott Fitzgerald believed that Americans while proud to be peasants refused outright to be serfs no matter what financial benefit might accrue to them. He was describing a period in American social history which would become known as the Jazz Age.

Here in Ireland we have a period which may become known as the 'Peace Age'. Some might describe it as the Phoney War. Whatever one's

perspective it is clear that the Irish people like Scott Fitzgerald's Jazz Age Americans are being asked to become peasants or serfs. It is the opinion of this writer that while the Irish people like their American cousins relish land and work and fear not the tag of peasants they generally despise the term serf.

However, with the leadership of Limited Intelligence and their service to the Crown we may be

witnessing a phenomenon in modern Irish history. It is the contention of this writer that we are witnessing the emergence of a new social class... A class of Irishman who feel pride in serfdom.

First I suppose we need a definition of 'peasant' or 'serf'.

A 'peasant', according to the Oxford Dictionary, is a member of a class or persons as in Europe who are **small farmers or farm labourers**

of low social class. Now for some reason coming from peasants roots have never been a source of discomfort for me. As for low social rank... well, in my case that is a matter of some pride for me (having witnessed the price of acquiring social rank!). Overall the concept of peasantry where hard work and luck can allow a man to acquire a standard of life he wishes is one which I can identify with.

The concept of serfdom is

another thing entirely. The Oxford Dictionary defines a serf as a person who is in a condition of servitude, who is required to render service to a lord and is commonly attached to the lord's land **and transferred with it from one owner to another.** That definition is of course as close one may come to explaining the behaviour to Gerry Adams and his cohorts.

So food for thought. These people attend the funerals of young policemen. Grovel to

members of loyalist butcher gangs. Sit in chambers with DUP apologists for fascist fundamentalism.

Attend British army commemorations. Try to entice Iraq people to accept American rule... it seems the Provos, whether for England, the Free State or America will allow themselves to be **transferred from one owner to another ... SERFS?**

— Mac Cool

Frank Driver and Kevin Barry commemorated

ON November 16, Republicans from all over Leinster met firstly at the grave of Frank Driver in Ballymore Eustace, Co Kildare and later at the memorial to Kevin Barry in Rathvilly, Co Carlow to pay tribute to two Irish Republicans.

In Ballymore Eustace the parade formed up at Frank Driver's house and marched to his grave where a wreath was laid. Damian Dillon,

Rúnaí, Frank Driver Cumann, North Kildare, delivered a short oration giving a rundown on the life of a great Republican who

was a member of the Republican Movement for most of his long life.

Those present then went on to Rathvilly, Co Carlow where the proceedings were chaired by Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin, Des Dalton, Kildare. A decade of the Rosary was recited and the oration was delivered by Fergal Moore, Ard Chomhairle member from Monaghan.

In the course of his oration Fergal paid tribute to Kevin Barry and said that of all of those who were martyred for the Irish Republic Kevin Barry was among the most celebrated.

He went on: "The book *Kevin Barry and His Time* by Donal O'Donovan lists more than two dozen songs and poems in his honour. His young age, the dignity with which he held himself and the rightness of his cause struck a chord not just among the Irish people but around the world his death coming as it did one week after the death of Terence McSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork, on hunger strike [in Brixton prison, England] and the international headlines that generated.



• The Colour Party leading the parade from Frank Driver's house in Ballymore Eustace, Co Kildare on November 16.

"Kevin was taken before a military court on October 20 during which he stated 'As a soldier of the Irish Republic I refuse to recognise the court.' He was charged with the murder of Private Whitehead even though he was killed by a .45 round and Kevin was armed with a .38.

"The struggle then, as now, was between Ireland and Britain but the British, as they still do now, refused to recognise that a war existed and considered Kevin Barry a criminal. The Irish Bulletin, a newspaper produced by Dáil Éireann, published

Kevin's affidavit under the headline 'English Military Government Torture a Prisoner of War and are About to Hang Him.'

"On November 1 Kevin Barry with Canon Watters at his side walked with head held high to the scaffold. Kevin's final statement was 'The only message I have for anybody is to hold on and stick to the Republic.' And so we have. We faithful few have held on through all the years and the betrayals and we have stuck to the Republic.

"Unfortunately following all the betrayals the Republic is under threat. We are asked to take British occupation as normality and British police enforcing British law in Ireland as the natural order of things.

"Kevin Barry did not think that this was normal or natural. True Republicans do not think it normal or natural. Thankfully there are still some who hold to Connolly's high ideals as evidence by an increase in attacks against Crown Forces across the Six Counties most recently a bomb attack on Lurgan barracks in Co Armagh.

"While there are all too many willing to bend the knee to the Crown there are still some of us who are willing to stand on our feet.

"Every Irish man and woman must rally to the cause of the Irish Republic, with the shield of the Republic on one hand and the sword of light. An Claidheamh Soluis in the other we can meet the enemy in the field without fear. We shall march onwards to victory. Onwards to the Republic."

REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN, CO. DONEGAL

Special Appeal for Funds - To Pay off Our Loan of €2,000

The committee and trustees of the Republican Garden in Bundoran, Co Donegal are pleased to announce that plans are being drawn up for the next stage of development at the garden.

It is proposed that six commemorative plaques will be erected in the coming year. To date, the garden has had visitors from all over Ireland, America, Europe and beyond, and the response has been positive.

In the weeks running up to Easter, the gates and railings, seats and flagpoles were all painted. New flags were erected and additional flowers and shrubs were added. This in keeping with the continued development and is only fitting considering the Republicans who are remembered there.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way small or big and ask anyone who wishes to make further donations to forward them to any committee member, head office or Joe O'Neill directly. NB. DVDs and Videos of the opening ceremony are available, price €20.



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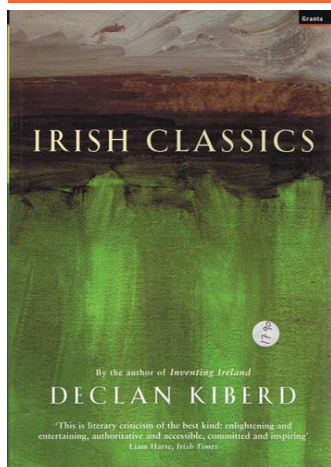
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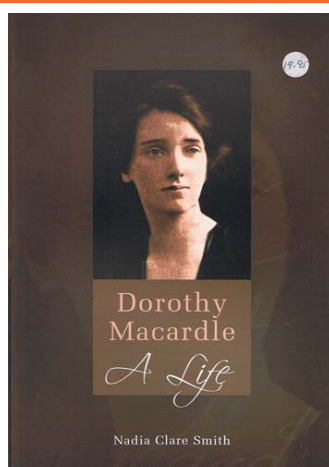
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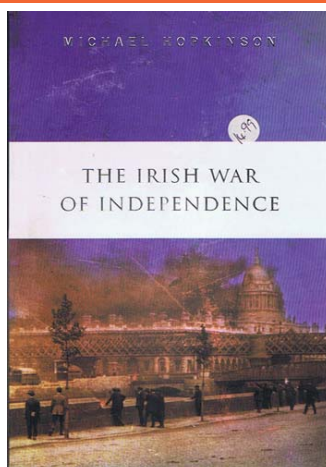
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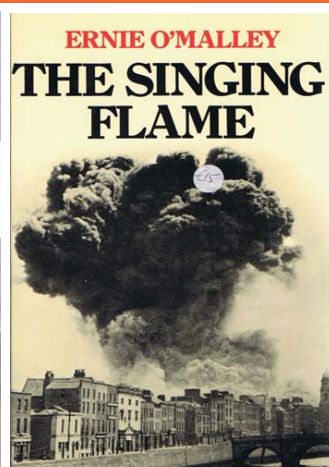
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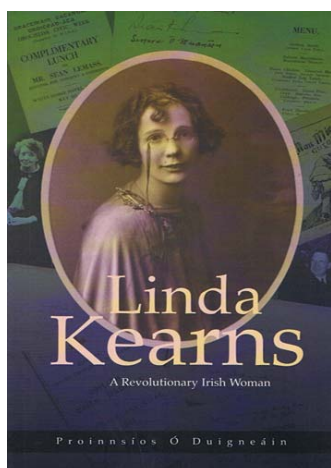
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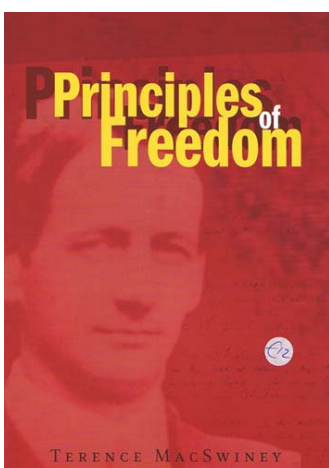
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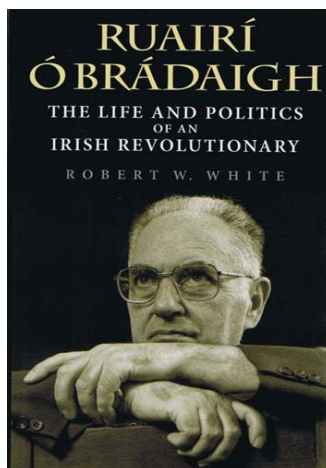
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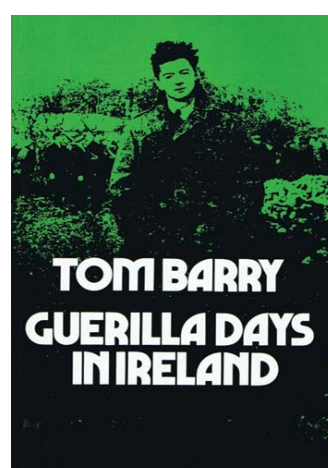
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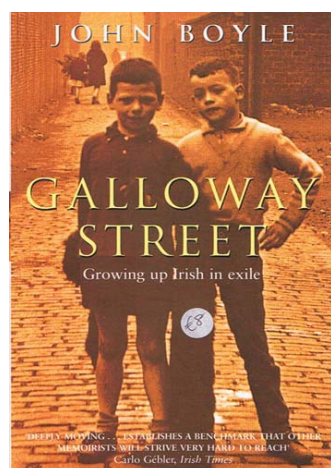
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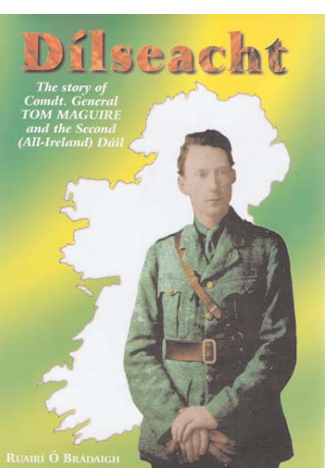
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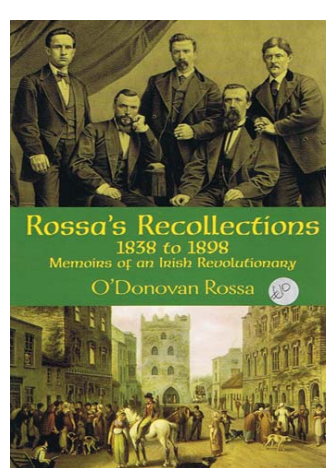
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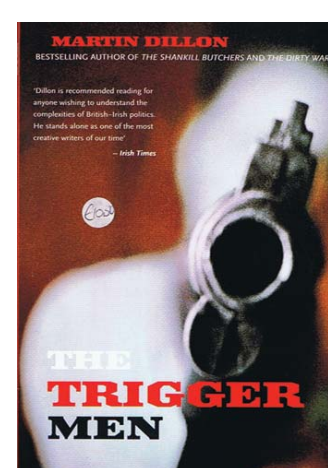
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