

SAOIRSE

IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT



UIMH 238 FEABHRA — FEBRUARY 2007 <http://saoirse.info> 1.50 (£1stg, USA \$30 p.a.)

BRITISH policing in Ireland is an instrument of the British state. It is paid, trained, motivated and armed by the British government, consequently its primary function is to protect and uphold British interests and British rule in Ireland.

To give legitimacy to the RUC/PSNI is to *de facto* extend that legitimacy to the British occupation of Ireland. This is the irrefutable truth from which the Provisionals cannot escape: they are now an instrument of British policy in Ireland.

The British Police Ombudsman's report into collusion between British State forces and loyalist death squads, released on January 22, illustrates the true nature of British policing in Ireland. The report covers ten loyalist murders between 1991 and 2000 by a loyalist death squad operating out of the Mount Vernon estate in north Belfast led by RUC agent Mark Haddock. In a statement on January 22 Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President of Republican Sinn Féin asked: "The police ombudsman's report deals almost entirely with post-Provo and loyalist ceasefire killings in one small area of north Belfast. What of the previous 25 years and the rest of the Six

Counties?"

This is a point taken up by Brian Feeney, writing in *The Irish News* on January 24: "Does anyone imagine that the RUC-protected murder gang operating out of Mount Vernon was anything other than one tiny fraction of the total British administration's conspiracy operation across Belfast, let alone across the north (sic) and the Republic (sic)? Does anyone think you wouldn't uncover exactly the same stomach-turning sights if you knew which stone to turn over in say, Portadown or Lisburn or Armagh?"

Feeney says that the British government will never allow a full investigation and disclosure of the evidence of collusion between the RUC and loyalist death squads. He points to why this is the case:

"We know that after the Security Services Act of 1989 the director and coordinator of intelligence (DCI) at Stormont was responsible to the secretary of state. We know

that intelligence provided by top agents was read by British cabinet members of the Joint Intelligence Committee.

"Are we seriously expected to believe that successive secretaries of state did not know of their agent's unsavoury misdemeanours?" He goes on: "Does anyone believe senior intelligence officers did not ask for such behaviour to be sanctioned at cabinet level? If the proconsuls from 1997-2003 did not know what Special Branch was up to or ask the DCI for reports, why not?"

What must be drawn from all of this is the reality that whatever the religious or racial composition of the RUC/PSNI it will still be a British police force, tasked with physically suppressing those who would resist British rule in Ireland.

There is no middle ground on the question of accepting British police, British laws and British courts in Ireland. Those who sign up the institutions of the British state in Ireland must do so in the knowledge that they will be forced by their English masters to confront that section of the Irish people who will never accept British rule.

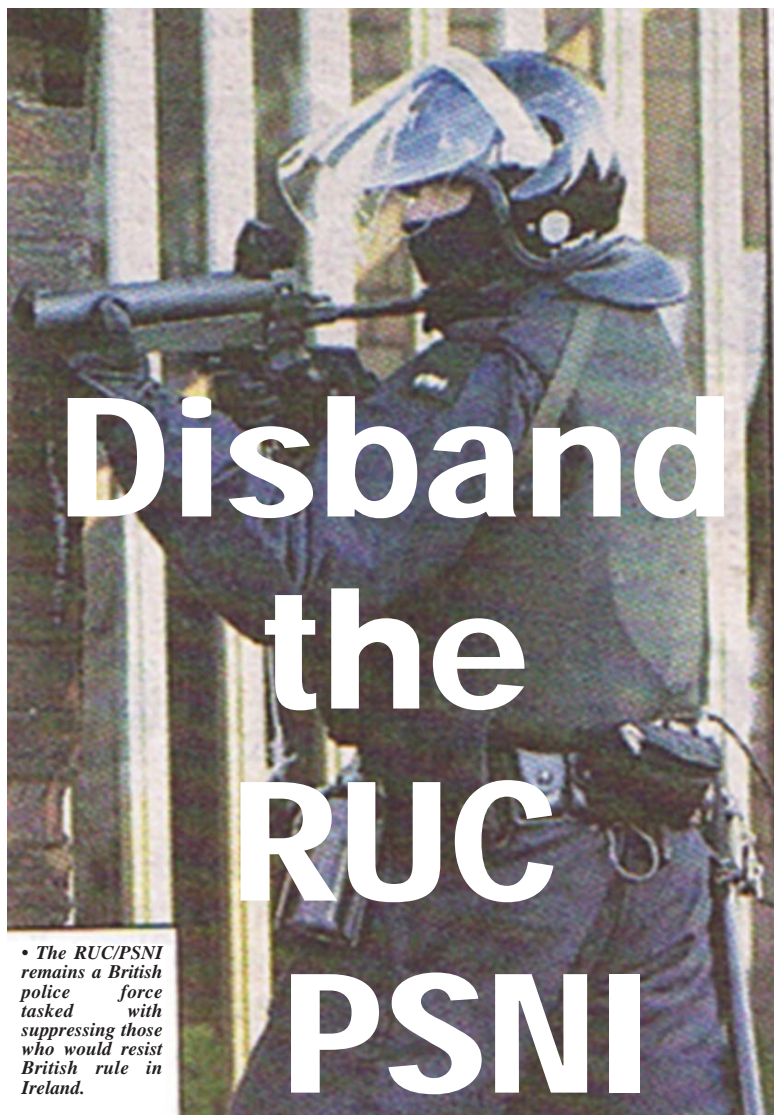
"Steeping their hands in the blood of Irish Republican activists" as Ruairí Ó Brádaigh makes plain in his statement of January 28.

To create the space necessary for a just and lasting settlement, based on the principles of All-Ireland democracy, the institutions of British rule including the RUC/PSNI must be dismantled, disbanded and removed.

RSF to contest elections

At a special meeting of the Comhairle Uladh (Ulster Executive) body of Republican Sinn Féin a decision was taken to field candidates on an abstentionist basis in at least eleven of the eighteen constituencies for the forthcoming Stormont elections.

Selection Conventions will take place in these constituencies within the next seven days, and details of candidates selected, our electoral strategy and policy will be revealed at a Press Conference in Belfast upon the completion of the selection process.



Disband the RUC PSNI

• The RUC/PSNI remains a British police force tasked with suppressing those who would resist British rule in Ireland.

With British withdrawal from Ireland

Féilire Poblachtach Republican Resistance Calendar 2007

REPUBLICAN RESISTANCE



CONTINUITY NOT COMPROMISE! 2007 Féilire Poblachtach



€5/£5stg each, plus p&p

Order now from 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1,
Telephone: 872 9747; e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie

'Total collaboration with British rule'

IN A statement on January 28 Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President of Republican Sinn Féin, said that the Provisionals had now completed a 360 degree turn with their acceptance of British law, British courts and British police in Ireland.

"In 1969/70 they vehemently opposed the acceptance of British institutions here by the Officials, later the Worker's Party. Now they have swallowed the English establishment in its entirety. Having put the Irish people

through tremendous sacrifice in the meantime.

"Of course Messrs Adams and McGuinness remained with the Officials for a number of months in 1970 until they both found that the Provos were in the majority, whereupon they

neatly switched sides. The lack of ideological conviction in such matters was already evident.

"Realistically, having gone so far down the constitutional road, there was no where else for them to go except further into that cul-de-sac.

"But their English masters will require more of them. They will demand that the Provos physically protect British institutions in Ireland from

those who would continue the struggle.

"The British will seek to have them complete the work of collaboration by steeping their hands in the blood of Irish Republican activists.

"That is the lesson of history which has been borne out step by step since 1886. Ultimately the Provos will be indistinguishable from the Unionists in their support for British Rule in Ireland."

POW picket in Enniscorthy

A PICKET in support of the POWs in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim was held in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford on Saturday, February 3.

SAOIRSE sold extremely well and hundreds of POW leaflets were handed out. There was very positive feedback from the public, especially the youth. Numerous banners were on display including the Bloody Sunday banner; Political Status and the Liam Lynch/Bobby Sands Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Mooncoin. Members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin came from Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford and Dublin.

The Special Branch were also out in force taking names,



• Members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin at the picket for political status in Enniscorthy on February 3.

photographs and recording speeches. When they saw that the public were very interested in what the speaker had to say they tried to put him off and Branchman Broderick

cautioned him under the Public Order Act. Undaunted the picket continued and was very successful. "Republican Sinn Féin members will not be intimidated by the bully boy

tactics of the Special Branch. We will continue to campaign for the Republican prisoners and a United Ireland," said one member. The next picket will be held in Wexford town.



- is committed to supporting prisoners for which CABHAIR is responsible
- is generating publicity in support of Irish national independence.

We need your support. Our website address is:

<http://irishfreedom.net>

I would like to join Republican Sinn Féin

Ba mhaith liom bheith i mo bhall de Sinn Féin Poblachtach

Ainm

Seoladh

Tel: Age (if under 21)

Send to:

Teach Daithí Ó Conaill
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01-872 9747; Facs: 01-872 9757.

or 229 Falls Road, Belfast
e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie
<http://rsf.ie>
or contact your local paper seller for details

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 CIRA says no to Adams invitation

IT was reported on January 27 that the Continuity IRA had rejected an invitation to talks from Provo president Gerry Adams. The group has also denied involvement in any plot to kill senior members of the party.

'Who is Mr Adams' addressing?'

ON January 18 Gerry Adams, leader of the Provisionals' political organisation, said he was prepared to meet with Republican groups opposed to the so-called peace process. On the same date Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President, Republican Sinn Féin, said in a statement:

"Who is Mr Adams' addressing? Is it the people who have resigned recently from his party? For our part we are not dissidents.

"Mr Adams knows well our core values. He knows that no reconciliation is possible. Republican Sinn Féin's values once his own, before he and the Provos decided to accept the institutions of British rule in Ireland. The discussions he proposes do not refer to us."

Provos refuse to debate with RSF

THE Radio One programme Tonight with Vincent Browne was forced to change its programme content on January 29 when the Provisionals failed to provide a representative to debate their decision to sign up to British policing in Ireland with Republican Sinn Féin Vice President Des Dalton.

The programme which was to have been a discussion between Vincent Browne a number of journalists as well as Des Dalton and a Provo representative had to be canned when the Provos refused the opportunity to debate.

The Provisionals also failed to provide a speaker to debate with RSF National Treasurer Joe O'Neill on Ocean FM on January 30.

Also an invitation to Vice-President Des Dalton take part in a debate in UCD on February 1 was withdrawn by the Law Society.

RSF to picket Croke Park for Ireland-England match

IN A statement on February 2 Republican Sinn Féin Vice President Des Dalton said that the organisation is to protest at the Ireland v England Rugby match on February 24.

"This game and the decision to play it in Croke Park on February 24 is all part of the continued efforts to normalise the British occupation of Ireland. British occupation and rule in Ireland will never be either normal or acceptable; consequently the political symbolism of inviting the national team of a country which forcibly occupies part of Ireland to Croke Park is something which Irish Republicans are determined to publicly protest against.

"This game, just as any proposed visit by the Queen of England to any part of Ireland, visits by the British military to the 26-Counties or the playing of GAA matches between 26-County military or police teams against British Crown forces are part of this menu of normalisation.

"It is our intention to provide a political focus to those wishing to protest at the symbolism involved in the flying of the English flag and the playing of God Save the Queen in Croke Park, the scene of a massacre of Irish people by British forces in 1920. Sadly this event is not simply a matter of history as the political situation which gave rise to it, namely British rule in Ireland remains a political reality. We are determined to ensure that this illegal occupation is never considered acceptable."

RUC/PSNI member arrested over missing files

ON January 17 a member of the RUC/PSNI was arrested as part of a probe into dozens of missing files.

The RUC/PSNI detained their colleague after searches at a house in Newtownabbey in December and took away several documents. Sources said that the inquiry was launched after intelligence files and other police dossiers went missing from an RUC barracks.

Results of Dublin raffle

JANUARY results: 1st prize ticket no 553.; 2nd prize no 298; 3rd prize no 399; 4th prize no 097.; 5th prize no 432; 6th prize no 182; 7th prize no 302; 8th prize no 390.

**SAOIRSE March edition
published 7/3/2007**

Gearrsc alta

RUC/PSNI raid homes and make arrests in Lurgan

SEVERAL homes were raided by the British colonial police on the evening of Wednesday, January 17 in the Shankill and Carrigart area of Lurgan, Co Armagh.

The RUC/PSNI using very heavy-handed tactics raided houses and searched them. The only items taken were children's play stations and copies of the Republican monthly paper SAOIRSE. Two people were arrested, one a member of Republican Sinn F  in. Both men were later released.

Gerry Adams addressed a meeting in Lurgan on January 21 calling for people to support the British police in Ireland. He should be asked to explain the actions of his new friends in the RUC in harassing the nationalist people of Lurgan.

Polish mercenaries not welcome

IN A statement on January 24 Richard Walsh, Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn F  in and PRO Comhairle Uladh (Ulster Executive) said:

"Republican Sinn F  in condemns all Irish people who have either enlisted in or applied to join the British Colonial Police (RUC/PSNI). The RUC is the first line of defence for English rule in Ireland, and work in conjunction with other sections of the British Crown Forces.

"At a recent meeting of Comhairle Uladh (Ulster Executive) concern was expressed over recent reports in the media concerning foreign recruitment to the RUC. Whilst Republican Sinn F  in welcomes migrant workers of every race and creed who play an important role within the Irish workforce, the revelation that almost 1,000 Poles have applied to join the RUC in an apparent effort to fulfil their sectarian headcount in relation to recruits from a Catholic background is deeply disturbing.

"We wish to state categorically that the Polish people should not allow themselves to become involved in a dispute which is not their own. As representatives of a Nation which has suffered occupation under successive malign powers, and was partitioned out of existence, members of the Polish community should know better than to collaborate with an occupying power. The actions of those who seek enlistment in the RUC can only be judged as those of mercenaries.

"Our position on the current issue is very clear: the only attitude of true Republicans to the British Colonial Police is one of eternal hostility."

RUC/PSNI — new powers to seize documents

IT was reported on January 8 that the British colonial police in the Six Occupied Counties were to receive new powers to seize documents and files.

The provision allows the RUC/PSNI to confiscate material without having an explicit reason to suspect that a crime may have been committed. SDLP Alex Atwood asked British Security Minister Paul Goggins: "Why is it that when you have outlined that there is a changing situation to the point that you are getting rid of [anti-terrorism powers] ... you are taking on to yourself even greater powers? That seems to me to be inconsistent both in your analysis of what is happening within the north and in your analysis as to how it works."

Death squads use same two guns in 14 deaths

TWO of the guns used by loyalist death squads to murder Provisional councillor Eddie Fullerton in Donegal in 1991 were used in 13 other murders according to his daughter Amanda Fullerton, who said the family were recently given that information.

Nuala O'Loan is investigating Eddie Fullerton's murder after claims were made of collusion between loyalist death squads and members of the RUC.

Eddie Fullerton was shot six times at his home in Cockhill, Buncrana by the UFF who it is believed came from Belfast and made their escape through Culmore in Derry.

NIFC statement

THE National Irish Freedom Committee in the United States in a statement on January 28 condemned the decision of the Provisionals to encourage Republicans to join the British police force in Ireland.

"The British police force has and will use violence, terror, intimidation and assassination to control Republicans and maintain a British state in Ireland. Former Irish Republicans Adams and McGuinness are now no more than Members of the British Parliament and recruiting sergeants for the British police force in Ireland.

'Collusion claims vindicated' —    Br  daigh

IN a report issued on January 22 Nuala O'Loan, British Police Ombudsman in the Six Occupied Counties identified RUC, CID and Special Branch collusion with loyalist death squads in her report on the murder of Raymond McCord and other matters.

Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan said in her conclusions that there was no reason to believe that the findings of the investigation were isolated.

She said there was evidence that information was withheld by handlers, and instructions were given that matters should not be recorded. She also stated that many senior and retired officers declined or refused to assist the inquiry.

Raymond McCord jnr died on November 9, 1997. His father, also Raymond, pursued the matter of his son's death ever since, and it was his complaint to Nuala O'Loan's office in 2002 that set the inquiry in train.

The report covers that murder, and nine others: Peter McTasney (February 24, 1991), Sharon McKenna (January 17, 1993), Se  n McParland (attacked February 17, 1994, died February 25, 1994), Gary Convie and   amon Fox (May 17, 1994), Gerald Brady (June 17, 1994), Thomas Sheppard (March 21, 1996), John Harbinson (May 18, 1997) and Thomas English (October 31, 2000).

The inquiry further discovered evidence linking Informant 1 (Mark Haddock) and his associates with ten punishment shootings, 13 punishment attacks, a bomb attack in Monaghan, 17 instances of drug dealing and additional criminality including extortion and intimidation.

In a statement Ruair      Br  daigh, President, Republican Sinn F  in said the police Ombudsman's report deals almost entirely with post-Provo and loyalist ceasefire killings in one small area of north Belfast. "What of the previous 25 years and the rest of the Six Counties?"

"This report bears out what Republican Sinn F  in has been saying for decades. It is only in the recent past that Leinster House politicians through the Joint-Oireachtas Committee have investigated such collusion and have agreed with



• Sharon McKenna (27), a nationalist taxi driver, was shot dead by British Special Branch agent Mark Haddock, who operated with "the knowledge and support at the highest levels of the RUC and PSNI".

the Republican accounts of British forces collusion with loyalist death squads.

"The O'Loan Report admits that the collusion went right to the top of the RUC/PSNI. Three Assistant Chief Constables and a number of Chief Superintendents have been involved.

"It is also admitted that Special Branch officers who ran British government licensed assassins are still in the PSNI/RUC. Yet the British supremo, Peter Hain, has dismissed such murder and mayhem as 'in the past'.

"With regard to the future, it has been officially stated that the MI5 will be responsible for intelligence gathering on Republicans and will, presumably, be employing informers.

"The MI5 will not, we have been told, be subject to investigation by the Ombudsman's office. Accordingly, the way is open for a recurrence of collusion, murder and related crimes.

"In addition it must be remembered that this office is a British government created institution and therefore under British control, which was no restraint in the past.

"Raymond McCord is to be congratulated on his persistence in seeking the publication of the facts of his son's murder.

"But what of the deaths in a similar fashion of over 1,000

Haddock. The follow-up probe is centering on suspected links between Haddock and two UVF murder bids on John Flynn, from the Bawnmore estate, north Belfast in the 1990s.

The O'Loan report stated that the victim grappled with an attacker who tried to shoot him in 1992. He gave the British colonial police a description of the gunman and the photomontage resembled Haddock. It is "clear" that Haddock was a "potential suspect" in the case but he was not arrested, the report said. Five years later, close UVF associates of Haddock were arrested for placing a bomb under John Flynn's car.

John Flynn has alleged that RUC investigations into attempts to kill him were stymied to protect informers. A probe into his complaint by Nuala O'Loan's office is still ongoing.

In a separate development Nuala O'Loan claims that three ex-Special Branch officers (named in the house of Commons under privilege as Chris Albiston, Raymond White and Freddy Hall) refused to assist the inquiry despite their protestations to the contrary. In a strongly-worded statement, Nuala O'Loan said it was "important that the record is put right". She said former RUC Special Branch members refused requests by her investigators to speak to them over a six month period and instead sent regular correspondence through a solicitor.

"We put a series of questions about some of the murders I referred to earlier this week. Again they refused to answer them. Their solicitor said it would be 'completely impractical' to do so.

"These people were police officers. They know well that no investigator would view such a response as cooperation. One of the reasons the solicitor gave was that they had 'no real desire' to raise their media profile.

"I have noted that almost within 24 hours of my report being published they had begun a series of television, radio and newspaper interviews."

Special Branch raid on Na Fianna member's home

ON January 18 last the Special Branch raided the homes of a member of Na Fianna   ireann and of his girlfriend. The first raid took place at 7.30am when 10 policemen banged on the door, showed a warrant to the fian's girlfriend face but did not allow her to hold or get a copy of it.

The member of Na Fianna, his girlfriend and their kids were put in the kitchen and told they couldn't move from there till the search was over. They were also not even allowed to use the toilet. The house was turned upside down and personal items

were put into bags including their phones was taken away.

When the search was over the branch had filled five bags of items plus they took about six full Fianna uniforms and the flag of Na Fianna   ireann. The fian demanded to get proof of what

was taken and it took a while for the Special Branch to write it all down. The hard drive of their computer was also taken.

About 30 minutes after the search the fian got a phone call on the house phone to say that the Special Branch had arrived at his parent's house. The fian went straight to his parent's home to find the same Branchmen going through the house. Again personal items were taken, ie pay slips and bank details. About six bags were taken from his parent's house filled with copies

of Young Republican and the Fianna stickers.

In a statement Na Fianna   ireann said they saw this as an attack on the movement itself by trying to stop Fianna from marching in parades.

"But we state to the Special Branch that new uniforms have already been ordered plus a new flag and we will be marching when needed. Fianna   ireann also warn fellow Republicans to know their rights in cases like this and to report any raids to Na Fianna   ireann."

For The Record

MONDAY, JANUARY 8: David Irvine, Leader of the DUP died in Belfast after suffering a heart attack.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9: The family of Majella O'Hare, shot dead by a plastic bullet, fired by a British soldier in August 1976, wrote to that British soldier asking for a face-to-face meeting.

Taser International launched a new Taser gun for the "fashion conscious" in Las Vegas within the last few days. Amnesty international said the move to sell the guns to the public was "reckless".

Over 3,000 laws, passed between 1066 and 1922, are to be repealed according to the Dublin administration. Among them is the Government of Ireland Act 1920; another is the Irish Free State (Agreement) Act 1922, which made the 1921 Treaty [of Surrender] lawful.

A gun and a quantity of ammunition was found in Derrylatinee Road, Aughnacloy, Co Tyrone.

The RUC/PSNI are the first police force to get new powers to seize documents and files without having an explicit reason for doing so.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10: According to Tony Blair, the intelligence agency MI5 and the RUC/PSNI will be "completely distinct and entirely separate".

Two trawlers sank off the south-west coast of Ireland with the loss of seven fishermen.

Údarár na Gaeltachta defended its decision to offer premises in north Mayo to the Gardá Síochána and Shell E&P Ireland for the Corrib Gas project. The Shell-to-Sea campaign intends to picket the agency.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11: A report in the front page of the *Irish News*, Belfast, stated that "One in eight PSNI applicants is Polish". Almost 1,000 poles applied to join the RUC/PSNI which pays four times the salary of the Polish police. The RUC starting salary is £22,000 sterling while in Poland it is £5,000.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12: Commemorations to mark the 400th anniversary of the Flight of the Earls are being planned. A new website was launched: www.flightoftheearls.ie which gives the details of the commemorations.

Hugh Orde, chief constable of the RUC/PSNI admitted that innocent people had been killed by plastic and rubber bullets.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15: A statement from FBI agent Dave Rupert was read in Omagh Courthouse at the trial of Seán Hoey. Rupert said that he had not mentioned Hoey's name to the FBI or to the British security services.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16: The RUC/PSNI claim they found two bundles of bullets and photographs in Glenock and Killyclogher graveyards in Co Tyrone.

It emerged in the High Court in Dublin that Shell E&P Ireland allowed five Rosport men to languish in prison for several weeks after the company agreed to cease work on its controversial pipeline pending the outcome of a safety review.

For the first time prisoners in 26-County jails will be allowed to vote in elections subject to their completion of the relevant forms.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17: It emerged this week that the Historical Enquiries Team apologised to the mother of Brian, John and Anthony Reavey for 'the security force treatment of the family' in the aftermath of the shooting dead of her three sons in Whitecross on January 4, 1976. David Cox, head of the team also confirmed that the men 'were innocent victims of senseless sectarian violence'. The same gang murdered three members of the O'Dowd family 15 miles away in Gilford later that night.

The Court of Appeal ruled that RUC/PSNI detectives investigating the murder of Michael McIlveen were not entitled to see school records of a 15-year-old boy, overturning a previous decision by the court that they could access his records "to see if he had a history of sectarian behaviour".

The Historical Enquiries Team investigating the murder of Sharon McKenna by loyalists in 1993 appealed for information on the killing just days before the Ombudsman's report into collusion between the loyalists and members of the security forces in the Occupied Six Counties. The family of Sharon McKenna claim that "this is a PR exercise".

Lawyers for the families of Pearse Jordan and Martin McCaughey challenged, in the British House of Lords, the way the inquest into their deaths will proceed. Pearse Jordan was shot dead by the RUC as the car, which he was driving, was in collision with an RUC car on the Falls Road, Belfast in 1992. Martin McCaughey was shot dead near Loughgall, Co Armagh by the SAS in 1991. Hugh Jordan, who successfully took the British government to the European Court of Human Rights in 2001 for a breach of its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, is seeking to secure changes to the inquests system to permit a jury in the

A European Parliament report said that CIA flights should be banned from stopping off in Ireland in the absence of random searches. Shannon ranks third in the most used airports in Europe by CIA planes involved in rendition flights (illegally transporting kidnapped prisoners.)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23: Former chief constable Ronnie Flanagan received a one-off payment of £431,405 and a pension £86,000 a year for life for his time as head of the RUC.

The trial opened at the Special non-jury Court in Dublin of Don Bullman, Cork on charges of membership of the IRA. It is alleged that he was



• "A true Republican cannot serve the Crown" — newly-painted slogan on a derelict cottage on the Border outside Newry, Co Down.

Occupied Six Counties to return a verdict of unlawful killing. Owen McCaughey is seeking to compel the chief constable to produce documents relevant to his son's death and the report of the RUC's investigating officer.

After a 56-day trial, judgement was reserved in the trial of Seán Hoey, accused of the Omagh bombing along with 25 other charges include causing the explosion [in Omagh] and the possession of explosives.

At least 75 famous battlefields, in the 26-Counties, which were key moments in Irish history, are to be given enhanced protection under proposals from the Department of the Environment. A committee was appointed to examine the sites.

Séan MacRámoinn, poet and Irish language activist, and broadcaster, died in Dublin.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19: A senior aide to Tony Blair, British Prime Minister, was arrested in the investigation into the "cash for honours" scandal.

Three Shell-to-Sea demonstrators were taken to hospital for treatment after gardai drew their batons in a confrontation with the demonstrators at Bellinaboy, Co Mayo at the site of the Shell oil terminal. The incident was filmed by an American TV crew.

Number 16 Moore Street, Dublin was officially listed as a preserved building – it now has full national monument status and the full protection of the national monument code. The preservation order also extends to the adjoining buildings numbers 14, 15 and 17 Moore Street. Number 16 Moore Street was the last stand of the 1916 leaders in the retreat from the GPO.

The introduction of 'Super Asbos' in the Occupied Six Counties is being discussed in Westminster and if introduced will allow the RUC/PSNI to impose restrictions on people without taking them to a criminal trial.

The US Special envoy to the Occupied Six Counties, Mitchell Reiss, will be replaced by Paula Dobriansky, current undersecretary of state for democracy and global affairs, when he retires at the end of the month.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22: The report from the office of the British Police Ombudsman in the Occupied Six Counties revealed the extent of collusion with loyalist death squads and the RUC in the 15 murders it investigated. It further revealed that the RUC Special Branch has a 'serial killer' on their books and that much of the 'collusion' evidence was either missing or destroyed. Mark Haddock was named as one of the Special Branch agents.

The 26-County administration were asked to explain the circumstances in which they gave Irish Ferries €4.3 million towards the cost of statutory redundancy payments to Irish staff who were then replaced by Eastern European workers on lower pay.

Shell E&P Ireland hired consultancy firm RPS to look into the possibility of finding an alternative route for the onshore Corrib gas pipeline – but it does not include refining the gas off-shore.

found to have €94,000 in cash when arrested.

Two hundred and forty jobs are to be lost in Fermoy Co Cork as components manufacturer FCI announced it is to close.

Willie Frazer, organiser of the loyalist march in Dublin last February is planning another march in Dublin along with pickets on Government buildings and Leinster House.

Public opinion indicates that the Provisional Ard-Fheis will carry the resolution that the party support the RUC/PSNI.

According to the National Development Plan (NDP) the 26-County administration is to spend €50bn over the next seven years to promote social inclusion. Overall €184bn is to be spent during 2007-2013 under the National Development Plan (NDP) including €800 million in the Occupied Six Counties.

Joseph Clarke, charged with membership of an illegal organisation, was freed on bail by the Special non-jury Court in Dublin.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24: Mark Durkan SDLP, named three former heads of Special Branch who allegedly refused to co-operate with Nuala O'Loan into loyalist collusion.

John Reid, British Home Secretary, said he had full confidence in former chief constable Ronnie Flanagan despite Nuala O'Loan's findings that RUC officers colluded with loyalists while he was in charge.

Two loyalists, in court on charges relating to a 'show of strength' by the UDA/UVF in March 2006, were given three weeks to leave the Occupied Six Counties by a judge when he heard their lives were in danger.

Former Republican prisoners in Derry formed a new group to oppose the Provos in the upcoming Stormont elections. Danny McBreaty said almost 70 former prisoners have joined the Ex-POWs and Concerned Republicans Against RUC/PSNI.

Dominic Darcy, Tattyreagh Road, Omagh who received severe facial injuries while being arrested by the RUC/PSNI, including a broken nose, in April last year was found guilty of assaulting a member of the RUC and resisting arrest. During the arrest SC gas was sprayed at Dominic Darcy and two of his sons. During the court case the Magistrate McCourt said "that while there was inconsistencies in police officers' accounts and mistakes made in their notebooks regarding the debriefing....the suggestion that there was a police conspiracy between eight officers defied belief".

Legislation providing for the creation of a DNA database is currently being finalised by the 26-County administration. Also included under the new measures is hearsay evidence from a Garda chief superintendent which was only admissible in the Special non-jury Court up to now. A new statutory advisory committee is to be established which will codify criminal law into a single Crimes Act – existing Acts which set down the law in relation to the same crime categories would be brought together under the Crimes Act.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25: A Museum of

Free Derry was opened at Glenfada park in the Bogside in Derry by former Guantanamo Bay detainee Moazzam Begg.

The US military unveiled a new ray gun which makes people feel as if they are on fire.

The GAA appointed their first female referee. Hanna Doherty from Bundoran will oversee underage games in the county's southern division.

Justice Weatherup ruled that the city of Derry remain known as Londonderry. The name can only be changed by British Royal prerogative or through legislation.

The remains of five unidentified Stardust victims are to be exhumed next week for DNA testing. 48 people died and 214 were injured in the Stardust fire in Dublin on Valentines night 1981.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gave the green light to Shell to develop the Corrib Gas refinery. Objectors have 28 days in which to lodge an appeal.

Irene Dignam, mother of Johnny Dignam who was killed as an informer along with Aidan Starrs and Gregory Burns in 1992, called on Nuala O'Loan to investigate what role Freddy Scappaticci played in their murder.

At least one of the four serving members of the RUC implicated in Nuala O'Loan's report on collusion has been promoted within the PSNI.

Jim Fulton, Portadown was convicted of the murder of Elizabeth O'Neill in 1999 and sentenced to 25 years. He was also convicted on 47 other charges.

Martin McAleese, husband of the 26-County President, visited the HQ of the Orange Order to discuss plans for the Battle of the Boyne site at Drogheda, Co Louth where the 26-County administration is spending €20 million on redevelopment of the site.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27: Sinn Féin Poblachtach held a combined Bloody Sunday commemoration/POW picket in Dublin.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28: The Provisionals voted at a special Ard Fheis in Dublin to support the RUC/PSNI. Members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin picketed the Ard Fheis.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29: Barrister Séamus Treacy was appointed a High Court Judge in the Occupied Six Counties. Seven years ago he successfully challenged the declaration which barristers were required to make before they could join the ranks of senior barristers known as Queen's Counsel (QC). He took exception to the declaration that he "would well and truly serve Queen Elizabeth II".

Martin Connolly, Provo deputy mayor of Newry, resigned from the Provisional Movement after their decision to support the RUC.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30: Bertie Aherne agreed with the decision to hold the Stormont elections on March 7 provided they produce a power-sharing executive by March 26.

Child asylum seekers are at risk of poverty because their parents are denied child benefit according to the End Child Poverty Coalition.

Gerry Adams called on Republicans and nationalists to join the RUC/PSNI. It is 'a natural consequence of the decision that we took' he said.

The International Monitoring Commission welcomed the Provos decision to support the RUC and says that they [the Provos] are no longer 'engaged in violence or targeting'.

March 7 was confirmed as the date of the Stormont Elections.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31: A row erupted within the RUC/PSNI over a letter by Mark Durkan in the *Irish News* in which he stated that the SDLP 'ensured the appointed of Hugh Orde as Chief Constable against the wishes of Tony Blair and John Reid.

Gerry Adams called on Republicans to provide information to the RUC/PSNI in relation to the murder of Robert McCartney.

A new survey found that one male prisoner in four and one female in three in the 26 Counties is homeless on committal and that 90% of homeless committals are drug users.

There is a massive shortage of ICU beds for critically-ill patients across the 26 Counties.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1: Figures released by the Department of Justice in Dublin showed that €3.14 million was spent on pay to gardai policing the Shell gas terminal in Mayo from October 3, 2006 to January 25, 2007 – a period of four months.

Superintendent John Kerin of Ennis Garda Station in Co Clare said there is to be no reduction in the level of gardai in Shannon airport and the Irish army (*sic*) will continue to provide back-up support. Michael McDowell, 26 County Minister said that the cost of maintaining security at Shannon in 2006 excluding salaries, to the end of September, was €1.31 million.

Republican Sinn Féin picket Portlaoise prison

THE Republican Sinn Féin POW Department placed a picket on Portlaoise prison on Saturday, January 20 to coincide with a 24-hour fast by the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise.

The fast by the Republican prisoners was in solidarity with the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry prison, outside Belfast, where the prisoners have been engaged in a protest campaign since June 2006 to secure their right to political status. More than 30 people from Wexford, Kilkenny, Kildare, Limerick and Dublin were in attendance.

From the beginning of the protest in Maghaberry prison the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise have been holding one 24-hour fast on a weekly basis, alternating the days each week. The purpose of the picket by the Republican Sinn Féin POW Department was twofold, to publicly thank the Portlaoise POWs for their act of solidarity with the POWs in Maghaberry and to bring to public attention the ongoing struggle by the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry prison for their right to political status, a right which was established due to the sacrifice of Bobby Sands and his nine fellow hunger strikers in the H Blocks of Long Kesh in 1981.

In 1998 the Provisionals in signing up to the Stormont Agreement signed that right

away and lent their support to the British government's criminalisation of Republican prisoners and by extension the ongoing struggle for Irish freedom. The Portlaoise picket was part of a nationwide campaign in support of the Maghaberry Republican POWs in rejecting this latest attempt by the British government to label "Ireland's fight 800 years of crime."

On Saturday, January 13 the Republican Prisoners' Action Group (RPAG) held a very successful white-line picket on the Falls Road in Belfast.

A very successful picket was held at the GPO, Dublin on Saturday January 27 to remember the terrible events of Bloody Sunday in Derry in 1972 and also to highlight the conditions of the Republican POWs in Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim.

Members and supporters of Sinn Féin Poblachtach from Dublin, Kilkenny, Limerick, Wexford, Kildare, and even Scotland and Derry, turned out in what turned out to be one of the most successful pickets held at the GPO for a long time. Younger people in particular were not fully aware



• Republican Sinn Féin POW Department picket at Portlaoise jail on January 20.



• A section of the crowd at the RPAG picket on the Falls Road, Belfast on January 13.

of the events surrounding Bloody Sunday but were willing to listen and learn.

Ger Foran, Mooncoin, used his loudhailer to good effect and informed the passing public of the conditions endured by the POWs and many people stopped to speak to members and offer their support and solidarity.

Three banners stretched along the island in O'Connell Street and the one which read British Royals not Welcome while Britain holds Six Counties received particular attention and Republican Sinn Féin were very pleased with the response.

The Republican newspaper SAOIRSE was on sale as was the new calendar published by RSF. Media queries were dealt with by Des Dalton, Vice-President, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

The 26-County Special Branch presence was, as usual, heavy handed as up to nine of them watched the picket and took the names and addresses of everyone. They also questioned people who had stopped and spoken to the members of Republican Sinn Féin. After the picket they attempted to isolate and question members (and indeed supporters) but the members remained unfazed.

Wife slams Maghaberry visiting conditions

VISITING a prison is never easy, all the more so when the prison regime put structures in place to make visiting as difficult as possible. The men in Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim know all about the difficulties encountered by their families as they weekly endure the system at the jail. Ann Crossan took us on a 'step-by-step' procedure of a visit.

Unlike a 'normal' jail, the families of the men in Maghaberry have to ring the jail, a week in advance, to book a visit. Often the day that suits the family will be fully booked, so work, school, child minders etc have to be juggled to go on another day for the one-hour visit. Sentenced POWs are entitled to one one-hour visit per week, remand POWs to two one-hour visits.

Three adults and three children are allowed on a visit at any one time and you are not allowed to bring anything in with you except 10 coins. No nappies even if you have young children, you have to bring them out to change them if they dirty their nappy.

Getting into the jail is a complicated business. Firstly you give the name of the prisoner you are visiting and then you give your name and address. At all times you must have photographic ID in the form of a passport or driving licence. These are the only acceptable forms of ID. You

then place your index finger on a machine which shows your photograph. On a first visit you will be photographed and this is obviously kept in the data base, so by scanning your index finger your image automatically shows up.

(When Ann changed the colour of her hair, she had to have a fresh photograph taken.)

You then walk through a metal-detector type barrier and get a rub-down search and are taken to a room to await the bus to transport you to another waiting room.

The bus driver calls the POW's name and gives the visitor a pass with the POWs name and photo on it along with a table number — you are to sit at that table in the waiting room [though Ann said that she has always been moved to another table when she gets in there].

As you leave the room to board the bus you go through another door into a type of hallway, and once again the index finger is placed on a



• Republican Sinn Féin picket at GPO, Dublin on January 27 for political status and in memory of Bloody Sunday.

machine; you again walk through a metal-detector and are rubbed down.

Five people stand in line, one in front of the other and the drugs dog walks in and out between the visitors making sure he fully walks all around each person. If the dog sits down you are asked to leave.

Up to a few weeks ago if the dog sat down in front of a person, all the visitors for that POW were asked if they wanted a closed visit. If they

refused a closed visit then the visit was cancelled. Now if the dog sits down beside a person, then only that person is asked to leave and the others continue to the visit.

At the end of last year one mother missed four visits in a row to her son when the dog sat down beside her every week for a month. There was nothing she could do about it but just go home. Such inhuman treatment to a mother after travelling a long distance to see

her son.

In another door, through another room, down stairs, through another door, index finger scanned again and finally through to the visiting box. (All doors must be locked behind you before the next door can be opened!)

You sit on a bench, the POW with his back to the wall. You can have a cup of tea or coffee and there is a small crèche for the children.

If a child dirties their nappy you are asked to take them out to change them. You have to go through the same procedure all over again — through doors, searched, index finger scanned on the way out and on the way back in — this can take anything up to 30 minutes which is taken out of your visiting time.

This is really frustrating and causes anger and tension. On Ann's first visit to Tommy she was wearing all new clothes, even new runners as she 'knew the score'. The dog sat down beside her so there was no visit (neither Tommy or Ann would agree to a closed visit), it was two weeks before she finally got a visit.

On another occasion as she was leaving the visit with her sister-in-law and mother-in-law the three of them were locked into a room for almost an hour. The riot squad came into the room and left again. The three women received no satisfactory explanation other than 'it was for their own safety'. Tommy was stripped searched on his way back from the visit on the same day.

Ann says if you stand up for your rights you are 'escorted off the premises' and a letter is sent to you informing you that you are barred from visiting for periods of up to six months.

MRSA

COMHThÁSTÁIL den trú huair le ceithre mhí agus fós féin táim i ngreim ag an MRSA! Anuraidh, b'amhlaidh a chaith mo chéile tréimhe fhada san otharlann agus rinneas gach iarracht, dar ndóigh, le cuairt a thabhairt uirthi gach lá.

Ar fhilleadh abhaile di rinneadh tástáil agus, go deimhin, bhí sí ina cime ag an MRSA. Agus mise? Rinneadh a raibh de dhíth agus tharla go rabhas-sa féin chomh gafa céanna. Ó am go chéile ó shin rinne an dochtúir tástáil i ndiaidh tástála ach, faraíon, ní thig liom fáil réidh leis. Ach tá mo chéile slán anois, a bhúí le Dia, maidir le MRSA, cé gur sa mbaile atá sí, agus í fós breoite.

Cé mhéad daoine atá comhpháirteach liomsa sa mhallacht seo? Cén fáth nach bhfuil an tsuibhéireacht déanta? Caitheadh go bhfuil bliain ar a laghad imithe ó nochtadh an scéal gur ag fás go bíogach atá an MRSA sa tír seo i ngach otharlann di. Agus cén fáth nach bhfuil feachtas in éadan an MRSA bunaithe agus faoi lánaíocht?

DÚISÍGÍ

Ar ndóigh, níl sé ró-dhéanach dúinn uilig dúiseacht agus ár gcearta daonna a lorg

ón rialtas atá ar nós cuma linn faoi na staitisticí a chuireann in iúl don domhan mór go bhfuil Éire ar na tíortha is measa maidir leis na cúrsaí seo, d'eile ach sláinteas.

Toisc mise a bheith im chuiarteoir laethúil ar bhorda mo chéile, agus í ina hothar in otharlann, mar a dúras anois beag, tharla go raibh deis agam na rialacha maidir le sláinteas a léamh arís agus arís eile go dtí rabhadar de ghlanmheabhair agam, agus an chaoi a rabhadar i bhfeidhm ... nó a mhalairt.

Leis an gceart a thabhairt do na gnáthoibrithe, idir bhanaltraí agus eile, bhodad gan locht. Ach na dochtúirí, iad ag dul thart ina ngrúpaí, ba chuma sa diabhal faoi rialacha, iad ag dul ó bhorda go barda, agus ó leaba go leaba, gan na lámha a níochnaigh, gan na miteoga a chaitheamh, agus iad á gcaiteamh uathu roimh a ndul go dtí an chéad othar eile.

Agus maidir le cuid mhaith

de na cuairteoirí, seans nár bhac siad riamh ar chor ar bith faoi na rialacha, ná bhacadar len iad a léamh, fiú, len iad a chleachtadh, ar aon chuma.

FAIRTHEOIR DE DHÍTH

Cén fáth, arsa mise liom féin lá amháin, agus mé ar mo bhealach amach ón otharlann, tar éis dom mo lámha a níochnaigh, cén fáth nach bhfuil sé de dualgas ar dhuine éigin fanacht ag an doras lena chinntiú go gcuirfí na rialacha riachtanacha úd i bhfeidhm i gcónaí?

Ach níl a leithéid de fhairtheoir ann. Agus mise ag cloí leis na rialacha céanna, chonaic mé an oiread sin cuairteoirí ag sciúrdadh tharam, cuid díobh ag magadh fúm agus faoi mo ghéatí.

Ní le fonn a scríobhaim an méid sin, ach le haifeála. Níl an t-oideachas is bunúsaí ar ár móramh, mar atá an t-sláinteolaíocht, *inter alia*. Amach leat, a chara, le seal a chaitheamh ag spasteoireacht agus féach timpeall ort, an oiread sin bruscair caite ar an dá thaobh den bhóithrín! Ar ndóigh, ní mórán a ndéanann an scolaíocht leis na droch-nósanna úd a mhíniú is a athrú. Drochmheas orainn thar lear a chruithaíonn a leithéid d'aíneolas.

Ar airigh sibh mórán faoin

ábhar scoile a dtugtar 'cathróireacht' air? Is ea, mhais, tá a leithéid ann. Mura dtosaítear ar chúrsaí sa mbaile, mar ba chóir, seo é an buachaill a dhéanfas an tasc.

Ach ró-dhóchasach atáir, bail ó Dhia ort, mar níl fiacra ag an chathróireacht, ná crúba. Ní ábhar éigeantach é. Ní bhronntar *pointí* ar an té a n-éiríonn go maith leis sa scrúdú. Agus ní théann an t-ábhar ar aghaidh tríd an gcóras ar fad.

Dáiríre, agus cúrsaí scoile nó oideachais sa tír seo mar atá, níl san ábhar céanna ach mugadh magadh. Cén tionchar atá ag an ábhar ar iompar na hóige? Nach bhfeiceann muid fós na gasúir ag caitheamh bruscair sin aer agus iad ag dul tharainn, gan náire dá laghad? 'Tuige?

GAN LOIGHIC

Ar an gcuid sin den rialtas a dtugtar An Roinn Oideachais a chaitheamh féin an locht agus, go deimhin, ar chuid eile, mar atá An Roinn Sláinte. Nach den ghloire an ghlaíneacht? Nach gné riachtanach é dár sláinte, dár maireachtáil?

B'fhéidir gurb é an t-easnamh loighice inár gcóras "oideachais" an eochair. Mura bhfuil sé ar chumas ár móraimh machnamh domhain a dhéanamh níl ionann ach sclábhaite na mothúcháin, nó liathróidí i ngnó an fhaisin, nó

giollaí ar bhóthar na galántachta, Dia linn. Sa tír seo i láthair na huair, agus le tamall, tá Éire mar a bhíodh ag imeacht linn, de réir a chéile ach, faraíon, go cinnte dearfa.

Bhí saibheas as cuimse sna traisisiúin, sna nósanna, sa bhfilíocht, sa gceol, san amhránaíocht. Iad bailithe le chéile go snoite inár deanga ársaCheilteach. Shílfi, is dóigh liom, go ndéanfadh córas oideachas na tíre a leithéid a chosaint is a thabhairt chun blátha in athuair. Ach ní mar sin atá ag tarlú ach i gcorráit.

Ar an teilifís is minic an chuirtear an milleán, meán cumhachtach, brú mór aici ar na mothúcháin, ach go ró-mhinic í ag dalladh na hintinne. Tá "ár gcuid féin" againn, a déarfás tusa. Ach an amhlaidh atá? Tá córas nua i bhfeidhm anois, an córas *digiteach* (más é sin an focal cruinn), agus cheana féin tá sé ag teip ar an nGaeilge, mar a mheabhraigh an nuachtan *Lá* dúinn ar na mallaihbh (Eanáir 31, 2007).

Tá an-chaint agus cúiteamh go deo faoi "dhaonlathas" ar na saolta seo, ar na meáin agus eile, ach an amhlaidh a thuigeann ár móramh céard é go baileach a chiallaíonn an téarma?

An daonlathas é nuair a roinneann tír eile, údaráis eile, ní hamháin tír ach cúige chomh

maith, sa chaoi go ndéanann an t-údarás céanna (údarás daonlathach ab ea?) móramh beag áitiúil den ghiota atá gearrtha amach ón oileán, sa dóigh go bhfuil a fho-rialtas féin, a dhílseacht féin do chumhacht eachtrannach, ag an ngiota sin a dtugtar na Sé Chontae air? Daonlathas agus mo thóin ríoga, mar a dúirt an ceann eile.

Agus féach an chaoi a bhfuil formhór na ndaoine sa tír seo ag glacadh go fonnmhór leis an *réaltí* gránna céanna. Daoine iad a bhfuil bua an mhachnaimh acu? Daoine a thuigeann céard é is réasún ann? Agus féach an rialtas i mBaile Átha Cliath ag obair go dlúth leis an gcumhacht is cúis leis an gcríchdeighilt!

Tá cosúlacht ar chúrsaí go gcaithfidh muid fillteach ar na seachas le hoideachas a thabhairt do mhuintir na hÉireann. *Hedge schools*, d'eile?

Creidim fós go bhfuil daoine inár measc i gcónaí atá thar a bheith mí-shásta faoin dtreo ina bhfuil an tír seo ag dul, idir thréigean Dé, thréigean na Gaeilge, thréigean na saoirse, agus eile. Ní mór dóibh cruinniú, teacht ar phlean oibre, agus tosú. B'fhéidir gur leis an loighic a thosós an dul chun cinn, le cúnamh Dé.

— Deasún Breatnach

Irish Books and Media to close

IRISH Books and Media of Minneapolis, USA, announced during January that they are closing down at the end of February, 2007.

This enterprise was founded 40 years ago by the late Dr. Eoin McKiernan as an offshoot of the Irish American Cultural Institute which he had already founded in the early 1960s. The business was carried on in recent years by his daughter Ethna. It was the largest U.S. source for Irish published and Irish interest books and provided an extensive mail order service in the U.S. and Canada.

It is interesting to read the list of factors cited for the

closure of the company: the declining dollar; an uphill battle against the tripling of freight costs; and pressure from corporate giants swallowing up smaller publishers or raising order minimums to 100 copies. Three of the five staff have become redundant and the other two will follow them at the end of February.

Cló Saoirse has had a healthy working relationship with Irish Books and Media for

many years. This closure is unfortunately the closure of a valuable outlet for Republican publications.

They have already launched a huge sale with substantial discounts and can be contacted at www.irishbook.com and e-mail at irishbook@aol.com or by post to Irish Books and Media Inc., 1433 Franklin Avenue East., Minneapolis MN 55404-2101, USA.

This company deserves thanks for the excellent service they provided over the years. Maith sibh. Tá buíochas Chlanna Gael tuille agaih. Go dté gach duine agaih slán.

Worker critical after M3 tree-felling incident

A WORKER engaged in tree-felling along the proposed route of the controversial M3 motorway in Co Meath suffered serious injuries after he was struck by a falling tree on January 9.

The incident happened at about 4.30pm at a site in Lismullen Wood, opposite the Hill of Tara.

He was brought by ambulance to Our Lady's Hospital in Navan, where a police source said he was "serious but stable".

Earlier, a local man involved in protests against the tree-felling was injured after being knocked to the ground. He was also removed by ambulance to hospital,

for the tree-felling, but work carried on.

According to the Save Tara group, the M3 "cannot be considered to be legally approved" until after an oral hearing on objections to the tolling scheme for the route. The owner of the tree-felling company declined to comment.

Lismullen Wood, covering some eight acres, had been in the ownership of Coillte Teoranta, the 26-County State forestry company, until it was acquired by Meath County Council in April 2005, under the compulsory purchase order for land on the M3 route.

although it is believed that the injury he sustained was not serious. Up to 10 people took part in the protests.

Workers with chainsaws and heavy machinery moved in to begin felling pine trees in Lismullen Wood shortly before noon. They were confronted by the small group of protesters, some of whom stood in front of workers' cars.

In a statement, the protesters claimed there was a "lack of safety procedures"

IMEACHTAÍ

FUNCTION FOR NA FIANNA ÉIREANN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10
SAINTS AND SINNERS
NTH KING STREET, DUBLIN
8.30pm; Táille: €10; Music by Gael Force

PICKET IN SUPPORT OF

MAIRE NIC AN BHÁIRD

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2pm
LAGANSIDE COURT, BELFAST
Bus leaving Dublin at 8.30am

From Conradh na Gaeilge, 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin.
Contact 01-4757401 for confirmation. Cost €5

ANNUAL CLONMILT MARTYRS COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18
MIDDLETON, CO CORK
Assembly: Courthouse 3pm.

Wreath-laying ceremony at St John the Baptist

Church, 3.15pm

Oration and wreath-laying ceremony at the Republican Plot, Holy Rosary Churchyard 4pm. All welcome.

PICKET ON IRELAND/ENGLAND RUGBY MATCH

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24
Details available from Ard-Oifig, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, phone: 872 9747

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET

SATURDAY, MARCH 3
GPO, DUBLIN, 12.45-1.45pm

PARLE, CREAN AND HOGAN COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 3pm
Assemble: Old Goal, Hill Street, Wexford.

O'SULLIVAN/ENRIGHT CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-1204592

KERRY COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN

can be contacted at:

<http://www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinkerry/>

ROGER CASEMENT/FRANCIS HUGHES CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown
Anyone wishing to join should contact Ard-Oifig, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Mac CURTÁIN / Mac SWINEY CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Cork
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-3352006 or visit our website www.rsfcork.com

BRUGHA/SABHAT - HURSON/SANDS CUMAINN

Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick
Anyone wishing to join should contact Ken at 087-9531249

<http://www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinlimerick/index.htm>

COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR ÁTHA CLIATH REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN

Anyone wishing to join should visit our website: www.freewebs.com/rsfdublin

'SAY NO TO RUC/PSNI/UVF'

A Belfast Chronology

Monday, January 9, 2007. The family of Gerard Lawlor, Belfast met senior investigators from the Ombudsman's office to discuss their concerns regarding the investigation into Gerard's murder by loyalists as he walked home along the Antrim Road, Belfast in July 2002.

The Occupied Six Counties Department of Health has been strongly criticised for cutting funding to Belfast's Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre amid fears that it will be forced to close.

Ihad Shoukri was refused bail by the High Court in Belfast.

Thursday, January 11, 2007. Brendan 'Bic' McFarlane, Belfast, is to appeal to the Supreme Court in Dublin in a bid to prevent his trial going ahead on charges connected to the 1983 kidnapping of supermarket boss Don Tidy. He was remanded on continuing bail until February 20.

Supporters of Amnesty International marched to the US Consulate in Belfast on the fifth anniversary of the opening of Guantanamo Bay detention centre in Cuba.

Friday, January 12, 2007. Christie Walsh from the Broadway area of Belfast (but who now lives in Cork) was convicted in 1992 of possessing a coffee jar bomb and was jailed for 14 years, was granted applied for a third appeal in an effort to clear his name. He always denied the charges and is conducting his own case. Judgement will be delivered within the next two

weeks.

Hugh Orde, Chief Constable in the Occupied Six Counties, admitted that 'innocent people including children' had been killed by plastic bullets. Relatives of those killed by plastic bullets called for investigations into each of the 17 deaths following the Chief Constable's statement.

Thursday, January 19, 2007. Judgment was reserved in the case of leading loyalist Mo Courtney in the first ever case in which the Crown appealed against a persons acquittal for murder.

Saturday January 20, 2007. Two oil tanks, each with a capacity of 1,500 litre, were set alight at a medical centre in the Cliftonville Road, Belfast.

Tuesday, January 23, 2007. A number of businesses were evacuated in Belfast city centre due to a hoax security alert. A suspect device was found in on a Citybus in Donegall Square North. There was also a hoax alert in Woodstock Road in east Belfast.

A prisoner in Maghaberry is to seek a judicial review of the ban which prevents Republican prisoners from wearing Easter Lilies in the prison, except in their cells. Terence McCafferty from west Belfast said that many prison officers wore a poppy on Remembrance Day and he wished to honour those who had fought and died in 1916 and 1921. Barrister Peter Coll for prison service said the restrictions on emblems was



• This slogan appeared on the Falls Road following the Provos' decision to accept the British police.

imposed for the effective running of prisons and the maintenance of good order.

McCafferty's lawyer, Christopher O'Rawe, disputed this and said that the men were separated from the loyalists. Judge Girvan reserved his judgement.

Wednesday, January 24, 2007. Graffiti appeared on the walls in Belfast "SAY NO TO RUC/PSNI/UVF".

Christie Walsh from west Belfast made legal history having won a third appeal in his bid to overturn a bomb conviction. In 1992 he was jailed for 14 years for possession of a coffee-jar

bomb. He has always maintained his innocence.

Thursday, January 25, 2007. The US House of Representatives called for a full public inquiry into the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane following Nuala O'Loan's report into collusion.

A racist attack took place on the home of a Lithuanian woman in Ardarn Drive, east Belfast in which the front window was smashed and paint was thrown at the house. A bottle was also thrown at the back door.

A member of the Short Strand

(Belfast) Residents Association called on the Orange Order grand master Robert Saulters to explain why he refuses to speak with them on the contentious parade to commemorate UDA men which passes St Matthew's Catholic Church in east Belfast and sectarian tunes played. Over the last three years the Orange Order has refused to speak to the Residents Association.

The widow of Paddy Devlin, Belfast politician and trade unionist, donated his archive to the Linen Hall Library in Belfast.

Development Fund Special Appeal

Republican Sinn Féin

We are embarking on a development and modernisation programme for our organisation. This will include recruitment, publicity, upgrading our technology, and office accommodation. This will cost a considerable amount of money.

However, we know we can call on you for your support and we will contact all who support our aims and objectives with details of our plans and how they can help to attain our goals, in due course.

All subscriptions, large or small, can be sent to the treasurer of the Republican Sinn Féin Development Fund at Head Office or made payable to:

**Republican Sinn Féin
Development Fund, AIB, Capel
Street, Dublin 1.**

Account number: 15411-097.

All donations will be appreciated and acknowledged.



Three injured in Shell-to-Sea protest

THREE people sought hospital treatment following scuffles between gardaí and protesters outside Shell's Corrib gas site in north Mayo on January 19.

Between 50 and 60 protesters from the Shell to Sea campaign gathered at Bellanaboy bridge when workers at the Shell site were being driven past to the refinery site's entrance gates.

Protesters said batons had been used by gardaí and also claimed that some gardaí were not wearing mandatory identity numbers on their shoulders.

An American television crew filming in north Mayo yesterday captured the incidents on camera.

PJ Moran from the Shell to Sea campaign said: "A Garda sergeant recognised one of the men in the group and ordered another garda to pull out the man. That is how it all started. That is when the scuffles broke out. We categorically deny that Shell to Sea initiated the incident."

PJ Moran also rejected the Garda claim that no baton was used. "One man was injured by a baton today. He was struck on the back of the head and a family member drove him to hospital for treatment."

On January 30 a protester climbed on to the 26-County Embassy in London supporting handed out leaflets highlighting opposition to Shells controversial gas pipeline in

Irish and refused requests by embassy staff to leave. The British Police talked him down before arresting him on suspicion of causing 'criminal

damage'.



• Martin and Pat O'Donnell who were injured by 26-County police at Bellanaboy Bridge on January 19 last.

Mayo.

The protest over the Corrib gas project extended to London when a man climbed on to the 26-County Embassy building and unfurled a banner.

The man, who has been named as Gareth Hallam, was arrested and later released by British police with a caution. Up to 15 supporters handed out leaflets to passers-by during the incident, highlighting opposition to the controversial gas pipeline in north Mayo.

Gareth Hallam, in his mid-twenties, unfurled a banner in

damage'.

Jenny Rose, who was involved in the protest, said that the action was taken to mark the day before Royal Dutch Shell announced its profits, and was intended to express solidarity with the people of north Mayo.

The English protesters are not affiliated to any group. The Shell to Sea campaign and solidarity camp in Rosport were not aware of the incident until after it occurred, she said.

The Shell to Sea Dublin

company's success", according to the campaign.

The campaign maintains that the cost of constructing a terminal offshore to process gas from the Corrib field would cost the equivalent of six-and-a-half days' global profits by the Shell group. This estimate is based on Shell's €20 billion profits in 2005 and the figure of €360 million given by Shell E&P Ireland's managing director, Andy Pyle, for the cost of an offshore platform.

Neither Ó hAnluain or Sabhat would follow ‘a path of deceit, duplicity and treachery over 20 years’

ON Sunday, January 14 the 50th anniversary of the death of Volunteer Fearghal Ó'Hanlon, killed at Brookeborough RUC barracks along with his friend and comrade Seán Sabhat from Limerick, was marked in his native Monaghan town by Republican Sinn Féin.

The parade, led by a piper and a large National Colour Party of Cumann na mBan and Republican Sinn Féin members as well as a contingent from Na Fianna Éireann, formed up at the Cathedral on the outskirts of the town and marched to Latluran Cemetery. Several hundred people took part in the commemoration.

At the graveside proceedings were chaired by Veteran Republican and well-known author Pádraig Ó Baoighill.

Wreaths were laid by Seán Scott, a member of the Pearse Column who took part in the Brookeborough raid along with Fearghal Ó hAnluain and Seán Sabhat and by Fearghal Moore, who laid a wreath on behalf of the local Dáithí Ó Conaill Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach in place of the Cumann Chairperson Larry McMahon. Two wreaths were laid on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin Cumainn in Wexford town and Enniscorthy.

A lament was played as the flags were dipped in memory of all those who died for the All-Ireland Republic.

Pádraig then introduced Maolíosa Ó hAnluain, brother of Fearghal, who began by reciting a very moving poem as Gaelige, *An Cropaí Bocht*, which he said he had recited at many commemorative ceremonies for his brother around the time he was killed.

He described the destruction of arms and acceptance of British police in Ireland as a “betrayal” of the goal of a free Ireland for which Fearghal Ó hAnluain died.

He noted the fact that General John de Chastelain had been honoured in the British ‘New Year’s Honour List’ for his role in the destruction of arms. “It saddens me to think that the Queen of England is in a position to honour someone for the destruction of arms obtained in order to secure the freedom of Ireland. This is something that did not happen in 800 years of Irish history.”

He said that Ireland’s right to freedom was not something to be bargained over or negotiated. “Irish freedom is a right, not something that a section of the Irish people can bargain or concede in the name of future generations.”

Maolíosa Ó hAnluain asked what British honours would in the future be conferred on those who were responsible for the betrayal of the Irish nation. “What honours will the



• *Maolíosa Ó hAnluain*

Queen of England confer in on those gathered in a certain hotel in Dublin, responsible for the greatest betrayal of the historic Irish nation?”

The main oration was delivered by Republican Sinn Féin President, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh who said that Fearghal Ó hAnluain and his comrade Seán Sabhat were exceptional persons. “Both were fluent Irish speakers. Fearghal was a Gaelic footballer who played for Co Monaghan at minor, junior and senior levels. He was also a handballer and a trackman of note. Seán spent all his spare money on books and by 1956 had amassed a library of more than 3,000 volumes.

“Fate brought them together in the Brookeborough attack by the Pearse column and their names are forever linked by the manner of their deaths for Irish freedom.

“It is impossible today to imagine Seán who was so assiduous in his care for weapons, actually destroying them at the behest of the enemy. Such he would have regarded as treachery with all the penalties that go with it.

“Similarly, one simply cannot visualise Fearghal crossing over and joining the ranks of the enemy – donning a peeler’s coat – and siding with them in the inevitable confrontation with his former comrades.

“As thoughtful, well read, deeply convinced and dedicated Irish Republicans, one clearly cannot see either of them following a path of deceit, duplicity and treachery over 20 years. This road led away from the All-Ireland Republic of 1916 and the



• *The Colour Party making its way to Latluran Cemetery at the Fearghal Ó hAnluain commemoration on January 14.*

First Dáil and into Leinster House, Stormont and heavily-financed offices in Westminster.

“It meant accepting the Unionist Veto on Irish national independence, the treacherous destruction of arms given for the freedom of Ireland and ultimately enrolling in the forces of the British Crown to impose English

continue to elude us.

“For this mission, tried, trusted and steady leadership is required. The people must know where they stand with such a direction in order to follow it. They will not accept the uncertainties of will-o’-the-wisps who would lead them astray and result in further disillusionment.

sacrifice of Sabhat and Ó hAnluain. Two months later Fearghal’s brother Éineachán was elected TD to an All-Ireland parliament. Song and ballads were composed about them. Football teams were named in their honour.

“Veteran of 1916 and TD of the First (32-County) Dáil, Brian O’Higgins in the 1957 edition of his



• *A section of the crowd including Veteran Republican Larry McMahon at the commemoration on January 14.*

rule in Ireland.

“On the other hand, the task of Republican Sinn Féin and of all true Republicans remains to oppose English rule at every opportunity and to mobilise the people of Ireland for the ultimate showdown with the British government here. With the support of the people all things are possible; without it success will

“An immediate task is the support of the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry, Co Antrim and in Portlaoise and their families. The Maghaberry prisoners have been on protest since June 19 last. They seek political status which was signed away under the Stormont Agreement of 1998.

“The people responded to the noble

Wolfe Tone *Annual* wrote “The Living Embers Blaze Again, Sabhat and Ó hAnluain’s memory will confound the native slaves and yet bring about the defeat and expulsion of the invader,” he concluded.

The piper closed the commemoration by playing Amhráin na bhFiann.

Annual Michael Flannery Testimonial Awards Dinner

THE 12th Annual Michael Flannery Testimonial Dinner took place in New York on January 26. The theme for the Testimonial was the significance of the Ruairí Ó Brádaigh autobiography *The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary* by Robert W White of Indiana University.

Despite the bitter cold, people from the Tri-State area, Pennsylvania and the Midwest were present. The attendance was up from previous years.

Brian Mór Ó Baoighill and John McDonagh, co-hosts of the New York based Radio Free Éireann (RFE) a weekly show on WBAI, served as masters of ceremonies.

Brian started the evening's program by informing those who are asking 'what is the alternative to joining the British police in the Six Counties' that there is and has been an answer and it is the ÉIRE NUA program coupled with a British withdrawal from Ireland.

He continued by paying tribute to Fergal Ó hAnluain of Co Mhuinneachá'n agus Seán Sabhat as Co Luimnigh on the 50th anniversary of their death in 1957 while attacking a British colonial police (RUC) barracks in occupied six Irish counties. Brian spoke of the high regard that the people of the time had for these two heroes and how their memory lives on through legend and song.

The band played the two anthems from that period that refuses to die, *The Patriot Games* and *Sean Sabhat of Garryowen*.

The Awards presentation followed. The three awards presented to the 2007 honorees consisted of a copy of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh autobiography. Each copy featured a fitted leather cover embossed with different silver and gold lettering and artwork by Brian Mór Ó Baoighill. The inside title page of each copy was adorned with an intricate full color Celtic design that Brian personalised for each honoree. Each copy was signed by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, and included a personal note of congratulations to each honoree.

Liam Murphy, a long Irish Republican activist introduced Michael Skeahan the recipient of the *Michael Flannery Spirit of Freedom Award*. It was only fitting that Liam should introduce Mike Skeahan, as he is a long time friend of Mike's. Liam was also the person responsible for Mike's biography. That was no mean task as the Testimonial Committee spent a long time looking for material before Liam took over and completed the task.

In his introduction Liam gave a good account of Mike's role in support of the Irish freedom struggle in the US. Not surprisingly, Liam said that Mike was always the quiet man who did very little talk but was there when the heavy lifting had to be done. He said that Mike had an uncanny ability to avoid the media especially photographers. Naturally, this made it difficult to acquire a photo for his biography. He said that Mike's was always supportive of the struggle to end the evil of the partition in Ireland. Liam said that around 1986, when it was evident that another departure in the Republican leadership was in the making he went to work with Mike

Flannery and others who remained faithful and formed Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta. Liam went on to say that Mike Skeahan was very wary of a changing political climate and insisted that Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta become an independent American organisation with no foreign principal.

In his acceptance Mike Skeahan who was genuinely moved, thanked the committee and proceeded to tell the audience about his youth and why he joined the Irish Republican struggle. He said that at times it was difficult to explain, being a native-born New Yorker, why he became involved in a foreign cause. If anything, it would have been more of a surprise if he remained indifferent to the stories told to him his father, mother, uncle and others had told him about their earlier experiences in British occupied Ireland.

Mike, who still possesses a keen intellect and a good memory, seldom referred to his notes as he moved on from one story to the next. Later in the evening Mike said that he would have to devote more time to these short stories, which he considers to be more like the way the Seanachie did to keep the truth alive in the old days.

Maggie Trainor, a former honoree, was the program manager for the evening. She introduced Karen Lewis, last Year's recipient of the Sr Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award. Karen who is deeply involved with programs that help the disenfranchised in New York is the wife of the late great human rights activist and prison reformist Al Lewis.

Karen introduced Kathleen Montague, this year's recipient of the *Sr Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award*. Karen said that Kathleen Montague had the same determination and drive that kept Sr. Sarah Clarke going despite the incredible odds she faced while dealing with hostile British prison regimes. She said that Kathleen, who is by nature very modest of her past work on behalf of political prisoners, has the same qualities that Sr Sarah relied on when a particular task had to be done.

Karen obviously felt a kinship with Kathleen Montague's work, especially as Kathleen was the person that Sr Sarah relied upon most in the US when she needed assistance on any number of issues including assistance for a family that might be traveling to a British prison for the first time.

Upon accepting the Sr Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award, Kathleen Montague said that she very honoured to receive the Award. She was most gracious and thanked Cumann Na Saoirse for making the award possible. Kathleen's large family of supporters led the cheering as she returned to her table displaying her well-deserved award.

Veteran Irish Republican Séamus Ó Dubhda and a former honoree, introduced Patsy Ó Brádaigh, the recipient of the *Pearl Flannery*



• Kathleen Montague, Michael Skeahan and Patsy Ó Brádaigh at the Michael Flannery Testimonial Award Dinner in New York on January 26.



• Patsy Ó Brádaigh speaking at the Dinner.

Humanities Award. Séamus, who is a native of Co Ch'arraí, spoke in Gaelic and said that it was a privilege for him to welcome Padraigin, Bean Chéile Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán Sinn Féin Poblachtach, and to introduce her to the audience.

Séamus presented Patsy with a personalised copy of *'Ruairí Ó Brádaigh — The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary'*, which is her husband's autobiography.

Not surprisingly, it was from the pages of this book that the Awards Committee learned of extraordinary role Patsy played in the life of her Irish Republican husband. The feeling was that her role was much more than mere support and to a degree explained why her husband remained such an incorruptible force in the struggle for Irish freedom for half century.

Upon receiving the Pearl Flannery Humanities Award, Patsy made the following speech

"Is mór an onóir dom a bheith annseo chun ghlacadh leis an duais seo. Gabhim búiochas om' chroí do Chumann na Saoirse. Táim fíor bhródúil ar mo shonsa agus ar son mo chlaíne ar fad.

"It is a great honour for me to be here to accept the Pearl Flannery Humanities Award. I wish to thank Cumann Na Saoirse for selecting me

to be the recipient. I am proud on my own and on my family's behalf to receive such an honour.

"I accept this award on behalf of the ordinary person who do no make headlines, but quietly through their caring and attention to small things bring about a difference to the life and ambitions of others.

"I think that I have fulfilled that role while at the same time not neglecting my own personal interests which gives me satisfaction and enables me to fulfill my potential as a person, who cares for all human nature thus understanding other people's problems and beliefs.

"Women who work quietly behind the scenes in movements such as the Republican movement are sometimes asked to give of themselves over and above the norm. This I don't deny but I feel that commitment to others and a firm belief in the cause or causes compensates somewhat for what follows

"Why pick me for this honour? I would believe that it is not for myself but for what I represent which is the many other women who do more important work in the movement such as ours. All the support, assistance, comfort and cooperation given by Irish women in these times, however small, are always appreciated, though sometimes, unsung.

"I have great admiration for such women as Pearl Flannery and Dr Kathleen Lynn and others who use their skills and education for humanitarian purposes. Dr Lynn was one of the first women in Ireland to achieve a degree in medicine. While she fought in 1916 she also found time to set up a hospital in Dublin for children in deprived areas.

"I sincerely hope that I will continue to live up to this honour that you have bestowed on me".

John Mc Donagh then addressed those present and spoke of the forthcoming Provo Ard-Fheis to discuss joining the British police force. He went said that he was reasonably sure that Fergal Ó hAnluain and Seán Sabhat were not going to join the police when they visited the RUC police barracks in 1957.

Brian Wardlow the NIFC's Coordinator addressed the attendees and informed them of the progress and the many accomplishments made over the last year. Brian described the Irish-formulated ÉIRE NUA federal proposals as a viable alternative to British partition in Ireland and to the many British schemes put forward as 'peace solutions'. Brian went on to tell the attendees of the many ways to support the ÉIRE NUA /Visa Denial Repeal Campaign. In closing he thanked the many Irish Republicans who remained faithful over the years, and through their dedication allowed succeeding generations to carry on uninterrupted the struggle for true Irish freedom.

After Brian's speech Patrick Williams gave the audience a brief history of the current fight for political status in Maghaberry prison in the six counties. Pat, who is coordinator of the NIFC's IRPAS campaign, told of some of the conditions faced by the prisoners and explained the important work being done by the Republican Prisoners Action Group (RPAG) and *CABHAIR* in Ireland on behalf on the Republican political prisoners. He then out-lined the IRPAS campaign, telling those to use the NIFC website to make themselves more aware of what is actually going on, and finished claiming it was important to get behind the prisoners now, before conditions get worse and a situation resembling 1981 occurs.

In concluding a most enjoyable evening, Maggie Trainor and Brian Mór thanked the honorees and all those who attended the event and everyone who subscribed to the successful Ad Journal.

They also thanked Bob Loughman, the ticket Chairperson, and all the other members of the Committee including the webmaster who kept the event up-front and Radio Free Éireann for its regular coverage.

They asked for a moment of cheering as opposed to a moment of silence in memory of all of those who had passed away and were in some way involved in support of Irish freedom.

They thanked the Astoria World Manor for their excellent service and great food and noted that the band and piper had excelled as usual.

Thirty-one years of injustice

THE Leonard Peltier Defence Committee said on January 9 that February 2, 2007 marked the 31st anniversary of his incarceration.

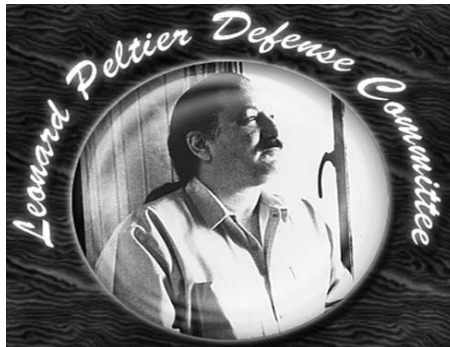
"This was the beginning of his odyssey that resulted in his false conviction for the June 1975 murder of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Fargo, North Dakota 1977. During the 1977 court hearing, presiding Judge Benson ruled all evidence must be tightly limited to events of the day of the shootout: June 26, 1975. No mention is allowed of the Reign of Terror preceding the shootout at Pine Ridge, nor of Myrtle Poor Bear's false affidavits; nor of the FBI intimidation and coercion of witnesses, or of most of the evidence that had led to the acquittal by reason of self-defence of Robideau & Butler.

"The judge declared: 'The FBI is not on trial here'. Judge Benson, ruled that Leonard could not present the same evidence Robideau and Butler had been permitted to show Leonard too had acted in 'self defence'. In a shocking and flagrant display of American Injustice, virtually all-exculpatory evidence was hidden from the defence or ruled inadmissible.

"Thirty-one years later, Leonard Peltier remains in prison, even though the Eight Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 'There is a possibility that the jury would have acquitted Leonard Peltier had the record and data improperly withheld from the defence been available to him in order to better exploit and reinforce the inconsistencies casting strong doubts upon the governments case.' Yet the Court denied him a new trial. Leonard Peltier remains in prison.

"Thirty-one years later, later, the FBI has over 140,000 pages of material evidence that have never been made available to Leonard Peltier or his attorneys. Documents are supposed to be automatically declassified after 25 years under Executive Order 12958. The FBI is arguing that this material should not be subject to automatic declassification because it could damage or cause serious damage to national security and the so-called war on

WORLD NEWS



transnational terrorism. The FBI also claims that the release of the withheld documents would reveal the identities of confidential sources. Leonard Peltier's lawyers have argued that these are nothing more than pretence to prevent the release of further evidence of the continuing violation of Mr. Peltier's constitutional rights and further drives home the fact that Mr. Peltier never

received a fair trial.

"Contact the Leonard Peltier Defence Committee and join us in Solidarity and Unity to Bring Leonard Peltier home. Contact us and let us know your plans, ideas, and support for Leonard Peltier. FREEDOM NOW!

Contact information for Leonard Peltier Defence Committee:
Email: info@leonardpeltier.net; Phone: 915- 533-6655; Website: <http://www.leonardpeltier.net/>; Freedomwalk: <http://www.freedomwalk.com/>.

RSF opposes moves to bring US warplanes to Knock

THE reported suggestion by businessman Ulick McEvaddy, a member of the board of Knock Airport, to allow US warplanes to use the airport is a shameful act.

Just as we have opposed the continued use of Shannon as well as Irish airspace by US warplanes Republican Sinn Féin will actively oppose the extension of such facilities to Knock.

As a nation which itself continues to suffer foreign occupation it is shameful that these attempts to associate Ireland with the US sponsored slaughter of the Iraqi people continue despite the overwhelming opposition of the Irish public opinion to this illegal war.

In a statement on January 21 the board of Knock Airport said it believed firmly that any military operation ... was "not compatible with the mission and aims of the airport" as agreed in 2005. "The board is conscious of its connectedness, not just with the region, but also with people outside the region and in other countries and continents ... its culture and values will reflect its interdependence with the world and its duty to act responsibly as a member of a local and wider global community."

Ulick McEvaddy's refuelling company, Omega Air, has links with the US military.

The hidden role of the SAS

ONE theme that emerged from the 1976 26-County state papers, is the extent to which Britain went to conceal the scale of the SAS role in the Six-Counties, not just from the public, but from the 26-County administration, with which it was seeking closer co-operation in securing the border.

This had already become apparent in the papers from 1944, when press reports emerged of an SAS presence in Co Armagh. The British told the Dublin government that a small number of former SAS men were serving in plain-clothes patrols in the Six-Counties., but that in order to 'refute hostile propaganda' it was normal practice to avoid deploying British soldiers who had served in the SAS up to two years before.

However, the real scale of the SAS presence was concealed from the 26-County administration. The 1974 files reveal that the Special Reconnaissance Unit, a secret surveillance and agent-handling unit, included one officer and thirty men who were due to resume service with the SAS later that year. Former British Army intelligence officer Captain Fred Holroyd would later claim

that a unit of 'SAS by any other name' was involved in number of murders during this period.

The SAS was officially deployed to the Six Counties in 1976. The newly revealed files from that year show that the opportunity was taken to drop any residual concerns about the deployment of SAS personnel with the Special Reconnaissance Unit, but the concealment of

their role continued.

In a letter to the British Prime Minister, Defence Secretary Roy Mason proposed: "Soldiers with SAS experience in their previous two years' service should no longer be debared from volunteering for the SRU. Volunteers currently serving with the SAS would be re-capbadged and posted back to their parent unit."

"The SAS should

continue to train candidates for the SRU in Great Britain, but should be allowed to be attached temporarily to the unit in Northern Ireland in order to strengthen the link between operations and training.

"This might involve their participating in operations and for their period of attachment they also would be re-capbadged and posted back to their parent unit."

Kelly welcomes peer's review of MI5 in Six Counties

IT was reported on January 14 that the appointment of a British peer, who supported non-jury Diplock courts and the lengthy detention without trial of suspects, to a role in annually reviewing MI5 in the Occupied Six Counties, had been welcomed as 'progress' by the Provisionals.

They listed the appointment of Lord Carlile as one of the gains it made in negotiations with the British.

Lord Carlile's record makes

him an unlikely candidate for Sinn Féin to support in the MI5 role. Carlile supported Diplock courts in the Occupied Six Counties for each of the

last five years, and backed the 90-day detention without trial of suspects in Britain, which was vigorously opposed by civil liberties groups.

Carlile's annual review of MI5 will be in consultation with the Stormont First and Deputy First Ministers, and future Justice Minister. This development was one of seven 'advances' outlined by Provo policing spokesperson, Gerry Kelly.

Ex-hunger striker complains over MI5

A FORMAL complaint against MI5 officers who detained a Republican ex-prisoner at Belfast International Airport was made on January 29 to a tribunal set up to monitor the activities of the Intelligence Services.

Solicitors acting for IRA H-Blocks hunger striker Bernard Fox lodged the complaint over his treatment with the Investigatory Powers Tribunal.

Madden & Finucane said Bernard Fox was detained at the airport by customs officials

while returning from a family holiday on January 26 before being questioned by two individuals who identified themselves as being members of MI5.

"Our client instructs us that whilst being held in an

interview room he repeatedly enquired if he was under arrest and that he wanted his solicitor notified and present with him," said Madden & Finucane.

When Bernard Fox said he was leaving the interview room the MI5 officers attempted to give him a telephone number on which he could contact them and as he left the terminal the registration number of the car he was travelling in was noted by police.

Mother claims RUC know who killed son

ON January 26 Marie Moore, the mother of Gary Moore (30), murdered by loyalists in North Belfast in December 2000, claimed that the RUC/PSNI know the UDA members who carried out the killing.

Gary Moore died after being shot twice in the back while working on a Monkstown

building site. His mother made the claim after a report found that police officers colluded in up to

16 UVF murders in the area.

Marie Moore demanded to know if the RUC/PSNI also colluded with UDA/UFF assassins operating in the area at the time. She said she watched a TV programme detailing Nuala O'Loan's revelations with "disbelief".

"Gary was shot twice in the back and they know exactly who

did it. In my heart of hearts I know they know."

"My son had no involvement with any organisation - he was another innocent victim. I believe someone knows who killed my son and I would appeal to anyone who does to pass that on.

Meanwhile, a Donegal-based Peruvian man whose wife was

murdered by the UFF near Mount Vernon in Belfast admitted he suspects that the RUC colluded in the killing. Maxile Mongero has called on Nuala O'Loan to investigate his wife's murder.

"My wife answered a knock to the door and was shot twice to the face and neck, she died instantly. The UDA/UFF said that I was the

intended target - probably because I rent property to Catholics."

Maxile Mongero said he received a warning from police a month prior to the murder.

"I will now ask the Ombudsman's office to look into my wife's murder and expose the truth," he said.

WHAT THEY SAID

“He [British security minister Paul Goggins] confirmed that MI5 are taking over intelligence policing. He confirmed that it will include domestic terrorism (sic). He confirmed that Nuala O’Loan will not be able to investigate MI5.”

— Irish Times, January 12, 2007, report by Dan Keenan, Northern New Editor, quoting Mark Durkan, SDLP leader.

According to the police, 968 out of more than 7,700 applicants in the latest recruitment drive [to the RUC/PSNI] are from Poland. They are thought to be attracted by the PSNI starting salary of about £22,000 (€33,150) which is high by Polish standards.

The surge in applications follows a recruitment drive which included a press advertising campaign in Warsaw.

— Irish Times, January 12, 2007, news reports.

Those chosen to train for the police service will join officers on patrol in Northern Ireland with Brazilian, Canadian, Iranian, French, South African and New Zealand roots. Others come from the US, Australia, Britain, Singapore and Germany. A number also come from the Republic (sic).

— Irish Times, At the Saville Tribunal [the Bloody Sunday Inquiry] — MI5 was allowed to dictate what evidence it would provide.

— Village magazine, January 18-24, 2007, article by Éamon McCann.

No scheme for making MI5 accountable was ever going to be accepted by the British authorities. Having, inevitably, achieved nothing of substance in negotiations on the issue, neither [Provisional] Sinn Féin nor the SDLP has had any option but to fudge and flannel so as to try to convince supporters that they had won a better bargain than their rivals.

— Éamon McCann. The real aim behind the push for police recognition is the final destruction of the Republican cause and movement.

That was, and always has been the objective of the British occupier and the political establishment north and south of the undemocratic instituted border ...

“The crisis within Republicanism derives from the Provos acceptance of continuing partition via the Belfast Agreement. The dogs in the street knew that the latter agreement would only lead to the acceptance and support of the RUC/PSNI auxiliary of the British army. It was obvious in black and white the dissenting Provos of today must have been asleep since its inception.

— Liam Ó Comáin, Derry, in a letter to the Irish News (Belfast), January 22, 2007.

The constitutional position

is set in stone.

— 26-County minister Dermot Ahern quoting Bertie Ahern. BBC TV Spotlight, January 23, 2007.

Rev Ian Paisley has his pulpit: Gerry Adams on Wednesday had Clonard Monastery. The [Provisional] Sinn Féin leader milked every facet of the monastery’s reputation, and remembered to omit Mr Hume when listing those associated with the place who “deserve great credit for the peace process”.

— Irish Times, January 26, 2007, Fionnuala O’Connor column.

On air, and in the meetings organised ostensibly to debate policing but geared to steady supporters, leading [Provisional] Sinn Féin figures argued that the O’Loan revelations proved republicans should be inside of the police to ward off collusion.

Mostly, they have been heard attentively. Counter arguments have made no headway. Faces in the crowd have looked wary above all.

— Fionnuala O’Connor.

As people left, another elderly man confided that he saw the logic of the argument, but “you’re dealing with very devious people here. I thought myself another couple of canary Wharfs might do the trick.” He whispered it, grinning at his own audacity.

— Fionnuala O’Connor.

One way or another the [Provisional] IRA was always easier to control and, apart from one short-lived rebellious bout in 1996, was invariably amenable to the will of Adams’s leadership.

— Irish Times, January 27, 2007, article by Ed Moloney.

A startling example of this [unconventional methods] came with the passing of a key 1986 Ard-Fheis decision to drop abstentionism in the 26 Counties, a vote that forced O’Brádaigh’s departure and gave the infant peace process credibility in government circles.

— Ed Moloney.

None of us in the media noticed at the time, but mysteriously the number of delegates suddenly doubled for that one meeting.

The previous year the Ard-Fheis had defeated a motion saying abstentionism was not a principle but a tactic, by 181 votes to 161, a total of 342 votes. Any attempt to change party policy on the issue seemed doomed.

— Ed Moloney.

But the next year, 1986, the vote went dramatically the other way [from the defeat in 1985]. A leadership motion to drop abstentionism in Dáil (sic) elections was won by 429 to 161 with some 38 abstaining, shading the required two-thirds majority by just 11 votes. That was a total of 628 votes, nearly twice the number voting 12 months before.

— Ed Moloney.

The following year, however, the number of delegates voting settled back to its normal 350 mark and even in 1998, when the Good Friday (sic) agreement was endorsed it was the same total, with 331 for and 19 against.

— Ed Moloney.

So where had the extra 300



• ‘In that 1986 Ard-Fheis – the one that abandoned abstentionism – Ruairí Ó Brádaigh (above) said the then leadership of the republican movement would lead it, the IRA and Sinn Féin into the same cul-de-sac (as he saw it) as the Cathal Goulding-Seán Garland leadership which led Sinn Féin – the Workers’ Party.’ — see quote January 28 below.

or so votes come from in 1986? The passage of time eventually loosened enough republican tongues for the truth to emerge.

The IRA had arranged for the creation of over 100 ghost Cumainn that were all duly registered at Sinn Féin’s headquarters, whose bureaucracy was by then safely under the army council’s control.

Although none of the new branches had any members, they were entitled to send two delegates each to the 1986 conference, which they duly did.

— Ed Moloney.

It would be surprising if the [Provisional] Sinn Féin leadership resorted to such Tammany Hall-style tactics tomorrow [at their Extraordinary Ard-Fheis on policing].

For one thing, they are probably unnecessary. After all, the Sinn Féin of 2007 is the party of Mary Lou McDonald, not Ruairí Ó Brádaigh.

— Ed Moloney.

The former RUC can thumb its nose at the Police Ombudsman, safe in the knowledge that the establishment will never let police officers stand trial for fear of what may come out.

— Sunday Business Post, January 28, 2007, columnist Tom McGurk.

Even so, many will quietly walk away from [Provisional] Sinn Féin, unable to support any police in the North because that would entail supporting the state.

— Sunday Business Post, January 28, 2007, article by Brian Feeney.

The legacy of O’Loan’s report, coming as it does as a historic juncture in the peace process, may be to change the context in which the Troubles are viewed in the future.

Well worn clichés that the conflict involved two warring “tribes” held apart by a neutral British government, may no longer ring so true.

— Sunday Business Post, January 28, 2007, article by Colm Heatley, in Belfast.

RUC Special Branch was widely suspected of causing the blaze [at the Stevens Inquiry headquarters in Belfast]. Forty files on 23 British soldiers and RUC members were sent to the DPP.

Because of the possibility

of future prosecutions, only a fraction of the report was made public [in 2003]. Almost four years later the DPP is still “considering” whether to prosecute.

— Colm Heatley.

At least one of the four serving policemen implicated in the Police Ombudsman’s report into collusion between the RUC and loyalists has been promoted within the Police Service of Northern Ireland [PSNI].

— Colm Heatley.

The British presence is as much here now as it ever was. Partition remains. There is no entitlement on the part of the Irish people as a whole to determine their own destiny.

Indeed the Provos, along with the SDLP, the republican party in the south (Fianna Fáil), the United Ireland party in the south (Fine Gael), have all abandoned not just republicanism but nationalism.

— Sunday Business Post, January 28, 2007, Vincent Browne column.

The central tenet of Irish nationalism for decades was that the Irish people as a whole had a right to exercise sovereignty. That’s gone ... gone in the Good Friday (sic) Agreement.

Now the constitutional position can be changed, not by the sovereign will of the Irish people, but by the will of a majority in the partitioned north.

I suppose that, having abandoned the central element of republicanism and what it was the Provos were supposed to be about, capitulation on policing is relatively trivial.

Any claim that the PSNI is an entirely different outfit, far different from the old RUC, is a sham.

— Vincent Browne.

In that 1986 Ard-Fheis – the one that abandoned abstentionism – Ruairí Ó Brádaigh said the then leadership of the republican movement would lead it, the IRA and Sinn Féin into the same cul-de-sac (as he saw it) as the Cathal Goulding-Seán Garland leadership which led Sinn Féin – the Workers’ Party.

— Vincent Browne.

The process of near-canonisation of the [Provisional] Sinn Féin president among nationalists

was evident at a meeting in Clonard monastery, west Belfast. It was amazing theatre.

Surrounded by statues of the Blessed Virgin and Jesus, the stations of the cross at his side, the tabernacle behind him, Adams preached a new belief in policing to the faithful.

— Sunday Tribune, January 28, 2007, Suzanne Breen, Northern Editor.

Surprisingly, unlike the Tyrone and Toome meetings, more anti- than pro-PSNI sentiments were expressed in west Belfast. But trust in the leadership carried the day. Mark Durkan, making the exact same arguments as Adams, would have been chased.

— Suzanne Breen.

However, Adams wouldn’t have won converts at the anti-PSNI Derry meeting. Ex H-Block hunger striker Brendan McLoughlin, now in a wheelchair, denounced “those telling the same lies as Michael Collins and Éamon de Valera”.

Former blanket-man, Seosamh Mac an Ultaigh, said: “Ten men starved to death to beat Thatcher. Now they’re asking us, who refused to wear the criminal uniform in jail, to wear the uniform of the British police. How Thatcher must be laughing into her gin and tonic!”

— Suzanne Breen.

Nuala O’Loan’s report didn’t cause a wobble [to “Adams’s commitment to selling the criminal justice system”]. Neither did the British government, currently putting legislation through the House of Commons to permanently guarantee no-jury Diplock courts and emergency powers in the North. Until now, annual parliamentary approval was required.

— Suzanne Breen.

The constitution [of Ogligh na hEireann] also obligates all to guard the honour and uphold the sovereignty and unity of the declared Republic.

Our patriot dead have done their duty – it is the living who continue to dishonour it by accepting all that is anathema to Republicans.

Maybe we have no right to speak on behalf of our patriot dead but equally we have no right to dishonour them by our actions.

— Irish News, January 29, 2007, part of a letter by Martin Brogan, South Down in reply to a statement by Gerry Adams that no one could claim to know that our patriot dead would be opposed to the current ‘peace process’.

They [Gerry Adams and John Hume] said in that statement [April 24, 1993]: “We accept that the Irish people as a whole have a right to national self-determination. This is a view shared by a majority of people of this island, though not by all its people.”

But it was the next sentence that was significant: “The exercise of self-determination is a matter for agreement between the people of Ireland.”

— Irish Times, January 31, 2007, Vincent Browne column.

From that evening onwards, for anybody with a wit to see and not blinded by prejudice, it was obvious that the Provos were headed in the direction at which they have now arrived: acceptance of the state of Northern Ireland underlined by acceptance of its police force.

— Vincent Browne, Irish Times.

Some [informers] were supposedly responsible for the loss of arms and explosives. In recent years the provisional IRA leadership said “Not a bullet, not an ounce” and then promptly gave away a complete arsenal. The loss of one gun is informing. The surrender of an arsenal is a brave step.

— Irish News, February 2, 2007, the Friday Column by Patrick Murphy.

Other alleged informers were accused of compromising the IRA’s membership. [Provisional] IRA leaders dismantled the entire organisation and told the British that they would never again take up arms against them.

The loss of one volunteer is informing. The disappearance of a whole army is inspired leadership.

— Patrick Murphy.

Some died because they allegedly gave information to the police. Now [Provisional] Sinn Féin urges us all to give that same type of information because, they say, the time is right.

— Patrick Murphy.

In return (for some hope for the tarnished political career of Tony Blair) he [the British Prime Minister] abolished the Assets Recovery Agency, the one organisation which represented a challenge to [Provisional] Sinn Féin’s vast financial resources for forthcoming elections.

— Patrick Murphy.

The second – and most important reason [why the time is right] – is that [Provisional] Sinn Féin now has the opportunity to share power with Ian Paisley. Thus the IRA struggle was not for the freedom of the Irish people or the principle of Irish Republicanism – it was for party political power.

— Patrick Murphy.

It is time for the Provisional IRA leadership to either apologise for killing them [informers] or apologise for being like them.

— Patrick Murphy.

Prisoners Supported by CABHAIR

A chara
It has come to our attention that our names are being used on websites by people not affiliated to our Movement.

We want to make it absolutely clear that our dependants and ourselves are being helped by CABHAIR and CABHAIR only.

We do not want our names admitted to other websites by those whose aims are to make it look like they are financially supporting us and also just to cause confusion with genuine contributors at home and abroad for their own financial gain.

If there was anything we needed or encouragement for people to send Christmas cards, birthday greetings etc it will be CABHAIR who will act on our behalf and it only CABHAIR we want to act on our behalf.

This shows the lengths that disgruntled elements will go to, as they see no boundaries in their actions.

We urge other Republicans being misrepresented in the same way to highlight and clarify such deplorable actions as these people executing such acts are doing a disservice to the genuine men and women seeking to help prisoners.

STÍOFÁN Ó DÁLAIGH
Maghaberry jail
MARK McMAHON
TIMMY KING
Portlaoise jail

Provos Recognise British Police, law And Courts

A chara
As an active Republican for over 50 years (non-aligned now) it would be remiss of me not to comment on, and indeed protest at, the latest and very dangerous experiment in dealing with British modern day colonialism and imperialism.

The proposal by the Provo leadership to embrace, recognise and work with British law and enforcement agencies is counter to everything that Irish patriots suffered and died for, especially since the clear enunciation of democratic Republicanism defined in the 1798 period and ever since.

To accept the PSNI/RUC/RIC, is to willingly, or unwillingly, collaborate with a primary political police force which has and continues to act as the 'eyes and ears' of the British government and imperial interests.

No rational person can dispute the need for the general public to feel a sense of security in daily life and for a purely civilian, totally non-sectarian, non-political service to guarantee that minimum requirement.

What with the public exposures of crime and collusion of the Northern police and loyalist killers, and having many elected representatives in the North, South and to Brussels, the Provo leadership surely have sufficient 'aces in their hands' to scrutinize and put manners on the whole police and law apparatus without getting into bed with them.

It is one of the very strict international laws, that the civilian population must be given full justice and security of person and property even when

under foreign occupation — this must apply equally to the North of Ireland.

Therefore the Provo electoral mandate should be positively utilised to ensure that the British government adhere to international law, pending the reunification of Ireland. Scrutinise, criticise and make suggestions for improvement in civilian policing but do not join them or their boards.

Under no circumstances can even a so-called reformed RUC/PSNI fall into the category of an impartial police force when it most certainly will act on the biased political agenda Information provided by M15, the British internal intelligence service.

It is sheer nonsense for the Provo leadership to claim that following talks with Prime Minister Blair that there will be no inter-relationship between the police and M15. By its very nature any intelligence agency, anywhere in the world, works in secretiveness, obfuscation and denial — Blair's assurances will only make M15 more effective in that regard.

When, rather than if, M15 acquire (or likely plant) information about any Irish anti-imperialist political activities it will be acted upon through house raids, harassment, jailings and even shootings, not by M15 operatives but by the very police service that the Provo leadership has signed up to and work with.

Do not forget the lessons of history. Fianna Fáil broke with the Republican Movement and tradition in 1926 amid erroneous claims that it was necessary to curb Free State police political abuses and prevent same in the future. However the outcome proved otherwise, once they became part of the partitionist system and within a few short years the Garda Special Branch were harassing and then shooting former Republican comrades. The arguments being put forward by the Provo leadership for their policing proposals are frighteningly similar to those of Fianna Fáil all those years ago and look at the tragic outcome of that to the present day.

It is not that I am privy to, or have any information on, or am herein advocating any physical force resistance again British occupation and Crown Forces, but again the lessons of historic reality would seem to indicate the strong possibility that there will be. Now that the Provo movement has capitulated to supporting and involving with British Crown police, laws and institutions they well may have the oppression of and even perhaps the blood of traditional Republicans on their hands.

The recent revelations about RUC/loyalist killers' collusion should not be used as a feeble excuse to support British law enforcement bodies on the blackmail grounds of "better being in the system to prevent such collusion in the future". Were that a valid argument then why did not the patriots in former days not advocate joining the Redcoats, RIC, Black-and-Tans etc in order to prevent such abuses?

Police in any country are there primarily to maintain the status quo and in Ireland's case that means continued interference and denial of freedom.

RICHARD BEHAL
Killarney, Co Kerry

Ed: Richard Behal was involved with the Republican Movement for over 50 years. He was Director of Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs from 1973-1983 and served many terms of imprisonment. During one such imprisonment he escaped from Limerick prison — the only man to ever do so.



British Rule Enforced by Provos

A chara
The policing issue in the Occupied Counties continues to fester concern and anger within the Republican Movement here in America. There is a news blackout basically with any dissenting opinions as to whether the Provos are sellouts or not.

The British Police Service will always be the enforcement arm of British colonial rule as long as they occupy and control the political and economic landscape of Ireland. There is no way you can spin the facts. It is what it is! By the Provos giving their blessing to the British Police Service they accept and surrender any claim as to Revolutionary Republicanism and the Freedom struggle that will continue. The British rule of Ireland will not be changed from the inside.

We have seen it before in the past that once you sit and rule among the illegitimate Governments you become one of the same and by accepting their authority you accept the British rule over which you legislate control over the people.

This is why not adhering to abstentionism is a slippery slope once you start sliding. Here in America, Irish Republicans who adhere to the core principles of Tone, Emmet, Mellows and all who have giving their lives to freedom, we will continue to use ink, coin or whatever means we have at are disposal to assist those who seek truth, justice and freedom for the Irish the world over.

SEÁN Ó LÚBAIGH
USA

Puppets and Agents of British Crown

A chara
Below are some lines quoted from Ernie O'Malley, *The Singing Flame*:

May the gates of hell never screech for want of grease whilst there is marrow in the bones of a traitor.

But whilst there are puppets and agents for the Crown of England, such as Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, those gates will never screech for want of grease.

MICHAEL GERAGHTY
Chicago, USA

True Republicans Vindicated

A chara
As the Provisionals complete their journey to full partnership with the British Establishment, I could not help but to think of the 1986 Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis. If one takes the time to examine Gerry Adams' address, several points seem to stand out.

He claimed that by taking seats in Leinster House "... a struggle such as ours can be advanced by opening up another

front ..." he later went on to say, "As the political conditions change so must Republican strategy change."

Initial reactions to such statements are benign. However, when looked at within the context of where the Provisionals' philosophy has moved to, one must draw other conclusions.

Leinster House was not, is not, and will never be a front. It is an institution of partition. Its very existence is to maintain and preserve the status quo. As for the comment concerning Republican strategy; yes, strategy should be flexible. Notwithstanding, strategy and principles are not one and the same. A principle is a fundamental truth. A strategy is a means to see that truth fulfilled.

Abstentionism is part and parcel with the Easter Proclamation and the Second Dáil Éireann in recognition of the Republic. That being said, abstentionism is a principle just like any other principle that should not be compromised or tampered with by any honest Republican.

Unfortunately, the Provisionals appear to have no principles other than to be power brokers in the British government. If you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything. This is exactly what has happened with Gerry Adams and his followers.

Ironically, we currently see Gerry Adams rolling out the same slogans, catch phrases and rhetoric that he used in 1986. He claims that joining the RUC is another "phase" in the struggle. Nonsense! I'm waiting for the time when he might use de Valera's "empty formula" excuse to take seats in the British House of Commons. This all goes to vindicate Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Dáithí Ó Conaill and others who warned Republicans long ago of this wolf in sheep's clothing. Too bad not more of us had listened.

THOMAS J MCCORMACK
New Jersey, USA

Price of Stormont Agreement

A chara
I believe I can speak on the behalf of a large percentage of the people of Ardoyne in fully supporting the affirmative direct action that as been carried out over the past number of months to counter the wholesale bedlam on the streets of our community.

This unbridled social anarchy has for too long been allowed to become the daily diet of local residents, and dismissed as part of the price that has to be paid in order that some people can sit in Stormont.

In the past number of years since the so-called "Good Friday Agreement" large areas of this district have turned into the fiefdom of the very worse elements in our society. So thank God there are still those who say: "so far and no further".

An Phoblacht Abú!
ARDOYNE RESIDENT
Belfast

Easter Week Building Saved

A chara
The National Graves Association welcomes the Preservation Order under the National Monuments Acts placed on 14, 15, 16 and 17 Moore Street by [26-County] minister Dick Roche on January 19, 2007.

The campaign to save 16 Moore Street was initiated by the National Graves Association back in 2002; the committee are indebted to the many members of the general public throughout the 32 Counties and abroad who assisted and lent support at different stages.

The association now calls on the government to commence work on the buildings immediately. The saving of the last headquarters of the Provisional Government of 1916 is a fitting tribute to the men and women of Easter Week. We hope that whatever decision is made regarding the future of the buildings that it will reflect the aspirations and ideals of the Volunteers of Easter Week.

MATT DOYLE
National Graves Association
74 Dame Street
Dublin 2

RSF Foward-Looking and Faithful

A chara
I find it ironic that the RUC (now styling themselves the "PSNI") — who would presumably claim to be apolitical — have issued a statement labelling Republican Sinn Féin as being comprised of "backward-looking individuals who have nothing useful to contribute to society here". Indeed, they have also sought to imply that Republicans have no desire to bring about a "safer and better" society here in Ireland.

On the contrary we are forward-looking — although, unlike others, we seek to retain faith with the best aspects of the past, and indeed those of the present — and more people are recognising the validity of our analysis every day in seeking to resolve the supreme issue facing the Irish people. It is indeed ironic that the RUC, who are guilty of murdering many innocent and uninvolved nationalists, and have acted in collusion with loyalist death squads to this end, would mention making the Six Occupied Counties a "safer and better place". Clearly we would all be living in a much safer society without the presence of the RUC and the British Crown Forces generally, and British-backed loyalist death squads.

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.

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

I would also like to take this opportunity to address the comments made by the DUP Member of the British Imperial Parliament for East Derry, Gregory Campbell. Mr. Campbell claims that the statement condemning Polish mercenaries who have sought enlistment in the RUC (and indeed condemned all Irish people who have followed the same path) was, in effect, "saying to them that you may at some point see that they suffer the fate that other such people described as this have suffered, i.e., to be murdered (sic)". At no point did the statement call for the execution of anyone. Mr Campbell is also reported to have stated that the comments were "outrageous" and should be withdrawn immediately. SDLP and Provo mouthpieces — some of whom, I have since discovered, had not even read the statement before rushing to condemn it — have also called for its withdrawal. I wish to make it clear that I will not be withdrawing my comments either now or at any time in the future.

Finally, I would like to respond to the claim that Republican Sinn Féin is "linked to the Continuity IRA." Republican Sinn Féin is on record as stating that we "do not have a military wing, nor are we the political wing of any other organisation".

RICHARD WALSH
Derry

Brits Cover All the Angles

A chara
The mirage was set in motion, "Cooley" Ahern called for an all-island soccer team, 300 million Dinney flew into give his "two-pence" worth, a level tax for all the island. "Dye"hard Doherty went to Carrickmore to advise Mary how to "con"vince the natives, see you on the Twelfth at the Aráis.

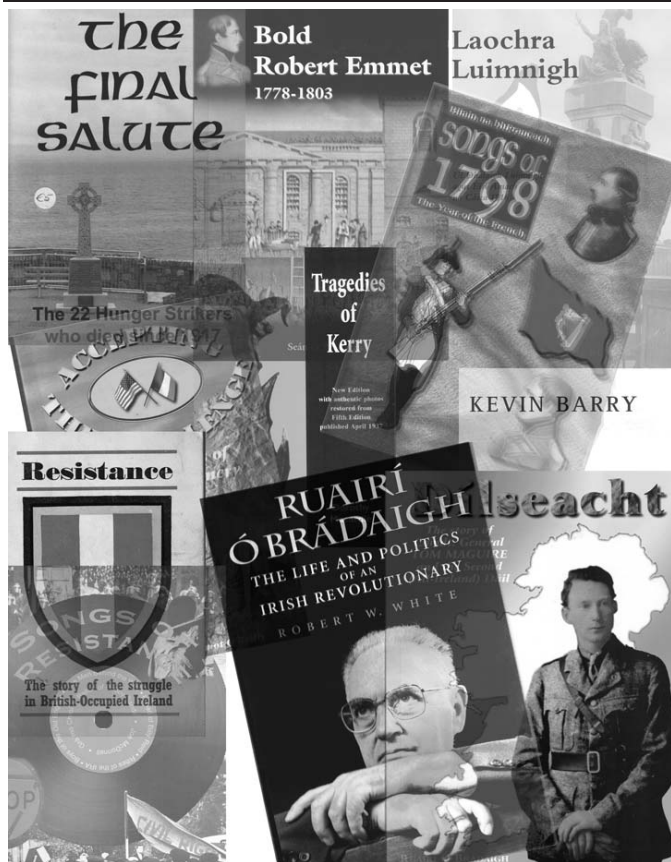
In the end it was no contest, the Brits had all the angles covered. Senator Martin laughed so loud in Tipperary he went into convulsions, before he clocked into Whitehall.

The BBC came to Kerry. Dan Keating as he has done down through his long and healthy lifetime remained true to the All-Ireland Republic. I was also interviewed but was advised that political status was not on the agenda. I got 10 seconds airtime out of a 10 minute interview but I did manage to get the word "treachery" in.

Now for the OBEs and MBEs. Betty Windsor flicks back the pages, "Gerry — I thought I honoured him already".

God Save Ireland.
MATT LEEN
Co Kerry

Gifts from Irish Freedom Press



The Final Salute, A short history of the 22 hunger strikers who died since 1917, €5.
Robert Emmet 1778-1803, by Seán Ó Brádaigh, €7.50.
Laochra Luimnigh, Nóra de hÓir, €2.54.
Songs of 1798, The Year of the French, edited by Seán Ó Brádaigh, €3.17.
Tragedies of Kerry, by Dorothy Macardle, €7.50.
Accepting the Challenge. Memoirs of Michael Flannery, Edited by Dermot O'Reilly, €9.52/€12.70.
Resistance. The story of the struggle in British Occupied Ireland, by J McGarrity €6.
Songs of Resistance, €6.35
Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary, by Robert W White, €27.
Dílseacht, the story of Comdt. General Tom Maguire and the Second (All-Ireland) Dáil, by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, PB €6.25; HB €10.79.
Kevin Barry, by Séan Cronin, €3.75.



• Whirlwind, Traditional music CD by Brian Hughes, Athy, Co Kildare, €20.

Séan South of Garryowen. By Des Fogarty €24
Vanishing Kingdoms. €18
Irish Phrase Book. €6.95
James Connolly, Nevid Nevin hb €29.99
Ten Men Dead. €11.90
History's Daughter. hb €27.95
Bloody Sunday: Trauma, Pain and Politics. €22.00
Alias Sean Forde. Tom Malone hb/pb €10.79/€6.29

A Walk through Rebel Dublin. Mick O'Farrell €11.95
Civil War in Connacht 1922-1923. Nollaig Ó Gadhra €12.70

Erskine Childers. Jim Ring €18.95
In Their Own Voice, Women and Irish Nationalism. Margaret Ward €10.15

Lagan Enclave. A History of Conflict in the Short Strand 1886-1997. Ballymacarrett Research Group €10

Sacred Ireland, a guide to the sacret places of Ireland, her legends, folklore and people. Cary Meehan. €27.70

Secret History of the IRA. Ed Moloney €15

The Easter Rebellion. Max Caulfield €18.99

The Easter Rising. A Guide to Dublin in 1916 Conor Kostick & Lorcan Collins €8.95

The Famine Decade 1841-1851. Ed. John Killen €16.05

The First Hunger Striker – Thomas Ashe 1917. Seán O'Mahony €2

The Irish Civil War, Illustrated History. Helen Litton €10.15

This Great Calamity. The Irish famine. Christine Kenealy €22.85

War and Words. The Northern Ireland Media Reader Eds. Bill Rolston & David Miller €16.90

Guantanamo. €13.10

Guerrilla Days in Ireland. Tom Barry €14

Songs of 1798 – Bliain na bhFrancach/The Year of the French. €3.17

Songs of Resistance. 1968-2001 €6.35

Badges
Robert Emmet, SAOIRSE, Eire Nua, Citizen Army, Easter Lily, Pike s/g, 1798 s/g, Spirit of Freedom, Ireland/Palestine Tricolour, Wolfe Tone; three types of RSF badge (one Centenary) all badges €5.

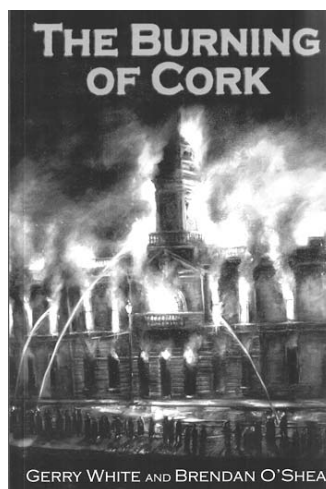
Sniper Key rings. €5

Selection of framed and unframed pictures.

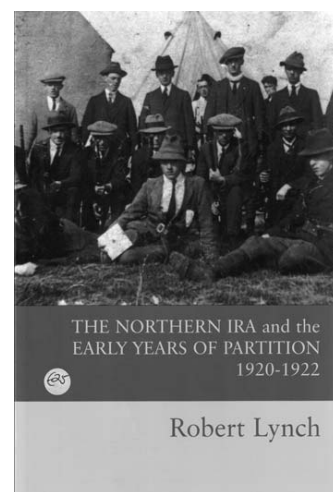
Selection of CDs/tapes by Derek Warfield all €15/€10:

Clear The Way, Liberte 98 1798-1998, Legacy of the Famine, Songs of Erin, Songs and Ballads of Irish History and Rebellion, Slán Abhaile. Other CDs and Tapes also on sale.

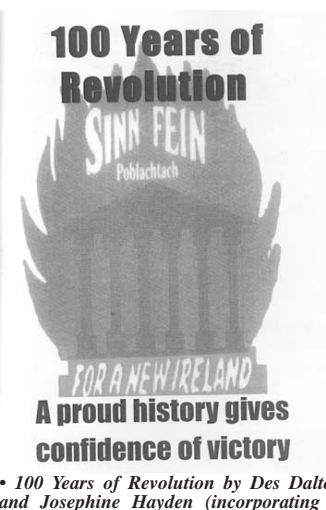
Selection of T-Shirts €12. RSF Polo Shirts €20



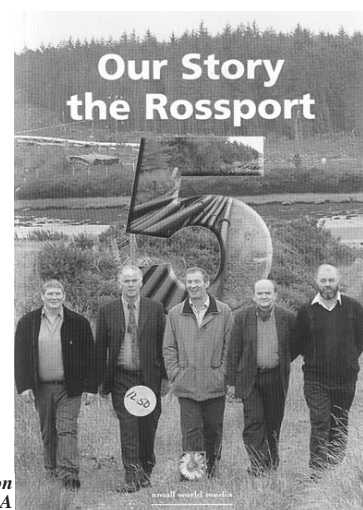
• *The Burning of Cork*, Gerry White and Brendan O'Shea, €14.99.



• *The Northern IRA and the Early Years of Partition*. €27.50.



• *100 Years of Revolution* by Des Dalton and Josephine Hayden (incorporating *A Proud History Gives Confidence of Victory* by Margaret Buckley, €7.50



• *Our Story in Rossport* by the Rossport Five, €12.50.

Post and packing extra. Send orders with cheques or postal orders only to Irish Freedom Press, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

'OPERATION HARVEST' PLANS PUBLISHED

**50
Years
Ago**

**DURING
January and
February 1957
support for Sinn
Fein and the
Republican
Movement in
general grew
and intensified.**

The Resistance Campaign, and the deaths in action of Sabhat and O h-Anluain in particular, had moved the Irish people at home and abroad.

The Plan of Campaign for Sinn Féin published in 1953 as part of the Overall Plan had outlined a programme appealing to "the reason, national instincts and popular imagination" of the Irish people.

An indication of this was a wreath laid at Seán Sabhat's burial in the Republican Plot, Limerick city from the local FCA Sabhat had been a 2nd Lieutenant in the FCA and the newspapers reported that the wreath was laid on behalf of "the officers and the men of the 49th Battalion, Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil". There were no repercussions.

In the kitchen in Dublin of Brendan Behan, poet, playwright and writer, as well as former IRA Volunteer and Republican prisoner, hung an old 1957 calendar with Irish national content. It was inscribed in handwriting: Do Bhreandán Ó Beacháin agus muid le chéile ag socraíod saighdiúra — Seán Sabhat".

It was signed "Liam Ó Flatharta", the famous writer and Republican Socialist. He and Behan had marched together in Seán Sabhat's funeral cortege. People were deeply affected by the sacrifice of two exceptional young Irishmen.

The Longford Leader of December 22 reported resolutions passed by Longford and Leitrim Co Councils calling for the release of all political prisoners held in the Six Counties. Longford Co Council also adopted a letter which called for "support in the fight against British Imperialism and tyranny in part of this country".

The Irish Press of December 20 reported another council asking for "political treatment for internees" in the Six Counties. Such resolutions from local bodies were to become frequent and familiar.

The trials of six men arrested in Co. Cavan and eight held in Co. Monaghan were given extensive coverage in the Irish Press of January 15. All appeared in uniform. Ruairí Ó Brádaigh gave commands in Irish to the six and asked for proceedings to be held in Irish. When an interpreter was sought he dropped the request.

Dáithí Ó Conaill was in charge of the eight and queried Justice Fitzpatrick if he was in fact an ex-officer of the British Army. Fitzpatrick did not reply. An obituary on his death some years later stated that he had indeed served in the British Army's RASC (Royal Army Service Corps) in WWI.

All 14 were sentenced to six months imprisonment for "refusing to account for their movements" and "failing to answer questions". These men were of the Pearse and Teeling Columns.

On January 8 four men were arrested when a car was stopped in Bellurbet, Co. Cavan. They were Seán Cronin and Robert Russell of Dublin, Noel Kavanagh also of Dublin and Paddy Duffy of Cavan who had escaped from hospital.

Duffy and Kavanagh later received six months sentences along with the other Teeling Column men. Cronin and Russell got three months each.

An interesting development in Cronin's case was the reading out in court of a lengthy document found in his house and for which he took responsibility. The prosecutor said he had instructions to read it from the 26 County Attorney General who was acting on orders of the 26 County Government.

Resistance says (p35): "it was a Cabinet decision to release the document. In this way the terms of (British Prime Minister) Sir Anthony Eden's declaration on the 'effective and successful' destruction of the Resistance were being carried out. This was co-operation indeed".

Resistance went on: "It named targets to be attacked and suggested the general lines of

organisation of the guerilla forces". The document said that operations would be in three phases. These were: Phase One — one month's period: destruction of listed targets; Phase Two — three months period when we build our forces and continue guerilla attacks, maintaining ourselves; Phase three — continuation of the struggle to higher level "when we can co-ordinate our tactics on a more perfect communications basis."

The document gave an "Analysis of the situation".

"The Resistance of the people (Nationalist) can be built up by clever propaganda on top of guerilla success. From the point of view of guerilla warfare, the co-operation of the people is essential. If this is lost — or never received — the guerilla's cannot win".

Much of this 15-page typewritten document, code-named "Operation Harvest" and defined as "A General Directive for a Guerilla Campaign" can be read in the Resistance booklet on sale in 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1. In fact it was an earlier outline on which the general plan of campaign was to be based.

A second document introduced at the trial was entitled "Outline of Operations to Date", all over (the Occupied area) we would be in a tremendously strong position in the Six Counties.

It went on: "The enemy is attempting to say that this Resistance is only trans-border raiding and his cry is taken up by the politicians here. For that reason, under no circumstances, will arms be carried in the 26 Counties and the area will only be used in cases of extreme necessity when a column has no other choice but to pull back. In such cases arms will first be dumped in the Six".

It finally said: "It was said that no column could survive in the Six Counties. We have proved otherwise. The people are behind us, and we must back up their trust".

One day after the publication of the General Directive, a target listed, Dunganon Territorial Army barracks, was seized by freedom fighters and blasted in two explosions. Publication of the document did not break the morale of the freedom fighters.

On the contrary, the people were singing a ballad composed locally celebrating the demolition, "Dunganon TA Camp". Morale was high in spite of the mass arrests by the 26 County Government which followed in January 1957.

The Sunday Press of January 13 reported "a large crowd" gathered at College Green, Dublin for "a meeting of Dublin Republicans in aid of the freedom fighters" the previous night. Cathal Ó Murchú (Charlie Murphy) presided and the speakers included Tomás Mac Curtáin of Cork, Tomás Ó Dubhghaill of Dublin, an anonymous Derryman and an Armagh man who was nameless.

Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell of Dublin who had carried Pádraic Pearse's military surrender order to the British Commander, General Lowe, in Easter Week 1916, was also on the platform — a direct link with the past.

Speakers said that an attempt had been made to cut the Republican Movement off from the people. "Our statements have been suppressed, our meetings ignored by the press and even our printing press for The United Irishman was smashed", the chairperson declared. Tomás Mac Curtáin, using all his moral authority as a veteran Republican, announced: "The freedom fighters, if they find themselves in the 26 Counties will not fire on 26-County forces. Even if they are fired upon, they will not return fire". Nothing could be clearer. The crowd was ecstatic.

But next morning, Sunday January 13, the blow fell. Special Branch men raided the home of Charlie Murphy at 116 Emmet Road, Inchicore, Dublin and arrested five men. Next day they were charged with "membership of an illegal organisation", "failing to account for their movements" and "possession of incriminating documents" and remanded in custody to Mountjoy Jail.

Tomás Mac Curtáin (41), Charlie Murphy (26), Lawrence Grogan (56) of Drogheda and Anthony Magan (40) were found in the front room downstairs. Seán Cronin (30) — a Dublin man not to be confused with "American" Seán Cronin — was arrested in the kitchen of the house.

When they appeared in court it was not before an ex-British Army officer. The Justice was Michael J. Lennon who had been an active

IRB man in the 1920s. He had just completed a series of 35 articles in the Irish Independent on the Fenian Brotherhood in the United States.

Lennon had earlier dismissed the charge of "failing to account for movements" against seven Volunteers of the Teeling Column but they were re-arrested leaving the court and charged again with the same offence.

The spirit of the Fenians was strong in Lennon. He claimed that Offences Against the State Act proclamation did not end with "God Save the King" and he ordered that a small box of .22 sporting ammunition found in Mangan's house be returned to him. "Property to owner", he declared.

Michael Lennon was removed from the case, and later deposed from the bench altogether! He never apologized for his conduct in the case of the political trials that came before him.

The state spread the rumour that he had been "intimidated" but that was nonsense. The Phoenix flame of the IRB from his youth burned brightly in him and he did not fail. A salute to your indomitable spirit, Mick Lennon!

The five Republican leaders were sentenced to three months by the next judge. And on January 18, a swoop took place on Republicans throughout the 26 Counties. D-Wing, Mountjoy, soon filed up.

Meanwhile, north of the Border D-Wing of Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast, was housing internees from all over the Six Counties. Eventually, up to 50 internees from Belfast alone were lodged there. The historic Mid-Ulster election organisation of Sinn Féin was an early target in the internment swoops. Those who organised and voted for Tom Mitchell in three consecutive elections were to be punished.

Paddy Doyle (34) of Belfast who was arrested in the local railway station on December 2 was sentenced to three months for possession of documents which were on public sale. He was interned without trial on expiration of sentence and was held until the last internees were released in April 1961.

Even though the OC of the Belfast Battalion had been arrested a time bomb was placed in the Belfast shipyards on December 12. The Irish Times December 14 reported that the bomb which failed to explode consisted of 200 sticks of gelignite, an alarm clock, a flash lamp, battery and two detonators. It was placed at Milewater Basin, near HMS Caroline, HQ ship of the Ulster Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve".

Swatragh and Dungiven RUC barracks in Co. Derry were sniped at on December 22. The sniper at Swatragh had the RUC station sergeant in his sights, but because he was engaged in fighting up a family Christmas tree, the Volunteer chose not to fire the fatal shot. He fired elsewhere.

A striking case resulting from the 26 County swoop on January 18 was that of Domhnall Ó Lúbhlaí, the Irish teacher under South Tipperary VEC. He refused to recognise the court on two grounds, because it was a partitionist in institution and because it did its business through English. He got two weeks in prison and lost his permanent and pensionable job.

Meanwhile, Co Councils, town councils and city councils were busy formally expressing sympathy with the relatives of Seán Sabhat and Fearghal Ó h-Anluain. Varying degrees of support were given to the Resistance of Occupied Ireland, but it was clear that the two Volunteers were highly regarded.

The indiscipline of the B-Specials on Six County roads was clearly in evidence. At Slushill, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh, they ambushed an RUC patrol, wounding a Catholic, shortly before Christmas. It was announced by the RUC that the IRA was responsible.

On December 26, Charles Hillard (38) of Brackley, Ederney in the same county, was wounded in the leg by a B-Special patrol while driving home early in the morning.

On January 1, 1957 five young Tyrone people were fired on by B-Specials as they drove home from a New Year's Party, near Caledon. Una Buchanan (12) lost the sight of an eye. Maurice Buchanan (19) was seriously wounded in the back. Florence Buchanan (14) and Ruby Buchanan (17) had hand injuries. Mervyn Mulligan was wounded in the arm.

Later in the month a B-Special shot his own son as the latter approached a road-block between Dunganon and Coalisland, Co. Tyrone.

The "Letter from Belfast" in the Irish Times on New Year's Day questioned the banning of

Sinn Féin and Fianna Uladh (Liam Kelly's organisation). "The wisdom of the decision, however is debatable and so perhaps is the morality of it", it said.

It went on: Both organisations have, in a sense, provided Nationalists with a safety valve. Every oppressive measure the government takes — and some are clearly necessary in present conditions — carries the danger of alienating further the nationalist minority. And, of course, Nationalists already have a sense of oppression".

Every measure of the Special Powers Act 1922-43 was activated, of course. The Six County statelet was born out of coercion, fed on coercion and remained alive on coercion, ie government by force.

Then there were political repercussions to all this. Seán Mac Bride, SC, TD, leader of Clann na Poblachta whose three TDs supported the Coalition Administration in Leinster House, wrote an open letter to John A. Costello, head of government on December 21.

Jack McQuillan and Paddy Finucane, Independent TD and Clann na Talún TD respectively, sent a Telegram to Costello on January 4 demanding the recall of the 26-County Dáil to discuss the situation in the Six Counties. Costello refused.

The two TDs had stated that they protested against "the use of the Army and Gardaí as instruments of British policy to maintain Partition". Well said, well phrased. Costello took exception to this.

Instead of recalling the Leinster House TDs, he requisitioned time on Radio Éireann and proceeded to attack the Resistance and as the Kerryman commented editorially, spoke for 18 minutes without once referring to the presence of British forces in the Six Counties or the fact that Stormont could not exist without British financial support.

Then matters must have come to a head. The Irish Press of January 5 reported that "the Thomas Street, Dublin Craobh of Clann na Poblachta has passed a resolution calling on the party's three Deputies in the Dáil (sic) to withdraw support from the Government because it has embarked on a policy of repression against Republicans". Mr Con Lehane presided at the meeting".

The three TD's were Seán Mac Bhride, (Dublin South West), Seán Tully (Cavan) and Kathleen O'Connor (Kerry North). Kathleen had replaced her father, the famous Johnny "Machine-gun" O'Connor.

During the following week and just before the leaders were arrested, the Ard Chomhairle of Clann na Poblachta sent a message to the Army Council asking what the Council wished them to do in the situation.

"Would they withdraw support from the Coalition Government in the sure knowledge that if Fianna Fáil came to power the repression of Republicans would be certain to be more severe?"

The Army Council's reply was that they expected the leadership of Clann na Poblachta "to do their duty as Irishmen and women".

However, on January 29, the Irish Press carried a statement from Clann na Poblachta in which they announced a "no confidence" motion (for Leinster House) in Mr Costello's government.

The statement was lengthy and criticised the Coalition administration on economic grounds as well as on its failure to adopt a "positive policy on the reunification of our country".

The absence of such a policy "created a dangerous internal situation in which the Government would assume responsibility for maintaining the status quo and would undertake the role of acting as Britain's policemen against a section of the Irish people", the statement said.

It also criticised the action taken against Justice Lennon as "a thinly disguised attempt to interfere with the independence of a member of the Judiciary in the exercise of his functions".

Next day Fianna Fáil put down its motion of no confidence and as a result Mr Costello was forced to call a general election. Leinster House never met in February 1957 and Sinn Féin had already announced its intention of contesting the general election in the 26 Counties.

(More next month. Refs: Resistance, The Story of the Struggle in British-Occupied Ireland, published 1957; Longford Leader, December 22; Irish Press, December 20, January 5, 15 and 29; Sunday Press, January 13 and Irish Times, December 14 and January 1.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

WHAT a difference real leadership and real dedicated leaders make in a cause and what a tragedy we have when leadership fails or is inadequate. Former President Gerald Ford passed away recently and the man had principles and a conscience even if we disagree with some of his ideas.

Compare that with George Bush who is without conscience or morals, which is quite devastating because he states he receives his orders directly from God with whom he has a direct and personal relationship. He said it was God's command to invade Iraq and he was following orders.

Bush should be careful with his claims it will only make his reservation in hell a lot hotter. Gerald Ford, a member of Bush's party, condemned Bush and his war.

Gerry Ford was born Leslie Lynch King, an Irish American, whose stepfather adopted the boy and gave him the name Gerald Ford Jr. He was an all-American football player whose team won national titles in 1932 and 1933.

By contrast, George Bush was fearful of physical contact sports and spent his time as a cheerleader, once actually putting on a skirt like other girls.

Gerald Ford served in WWII and Bush refused to serve in the Vietnam War. Ford ended the Vietnam War and Bush started the Iraq war.

Ford was a hero and Bush was a coward. The hero sought peace because he saw war; the coward sought war because he was never in harm's way.

Ford wanted to bring calm to the United States and end divisiveness so he did what he had to do and was castigated for it. First he pardoned former President Nixon because he believed that the United States would suffer under the glare of a long drawn out criminal prosecution of Nixon, which he deserved, but the country did not.

Ford's popularity went from 74% to 34% and guaranteed he would not be elected president in 1976 but he still did it knowing the consequences.

Today 80% of Americans now concede he did the right thing and sacrificed his own political career. I still would have paid to see Nixon in an orange jumpsuit.

Secondly, the United States was still divided by the Vietnam War and Ford decided to heal those wounds as

well. He appointed the President's Amnesty Commission in the White House.

It's brief was to forgive transgressions such as those who fled to Canada to avoid the draft and military deserters and others so they could re-enter the mainstream with minimal agreed sanctions.

A lot of community service was performed. George Bush was forgiven his own desertion under Ford's Amnesty Commission.

A close friend of mine who served in the military section of the White House Amnesty Commission said that Ford came around to each member and talked to them and the words of compassion and forgiveness were used many times.

He wanted to make things right and not make judgments even for military deserters, like Bush, who were considered the worst offenders. Bush's father later had his amnesty report sealed, which kept him from a court martial for desertion in wartime, a capital offence.

Influence and power brought Bush his freedom and the 'lost records' would be recalled when he ran for president, but it was not revealed his father as president has sealed the records from the public for 99 years.

Gerald Ford's approach was to get along in a civil way with friends and foe alike. His best friend during his 20 plus years in Congress was his chief adversary, Tip O'Neill.

DIVISIVE

Washington today is divisive and opponents really dislike one another to the point of hatred but in the Ford/O'Neill era politics was left on the floor of the House of Representatives and after hours were spent socializing by opponents.

The Fords and the O'Neills played golf and cards and did other social things as friends. When Tip O'Neill died, Gerry Ford wept openly and said he would miss his friend. That is the way good people act.

When vice-President Spiro Agnew resigned for crimes and misdemeanors against the United States, then President Richard Nixon had to nominate a replacement who could be confirmed by the Democratic controlled Congress.

Gerry Ford was nominated because he was well liked and respected and trusted by the Democrats and his friend and adversary, Tip O'Neill



would help him through the process of confirmation.

When he was sworn in, the ceremony was low key like Ford himself and private, but Tip O'Neill stood at his side as Ford took the oath. There was mutual trust.

As a point of trivia, the day Agnew resigned from office Sinn Féin President, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh was in the US Capitol testifying before the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives.

That testimony put the US Congress and the United States on notice that the Irish Free State were committing gross violations of human rights in Ireland in lock step with the violations by the British in the Six Counties.

That was the last time President Ó Brádaigh was in the United States. Ó Brádaigh shocked Congress who thought the Dublin regime was opposing the British along with the Republican Movement.

THIS was a natural assumption because the British were torturing Irish citizens and one would think Dublin would protect them not to turn their back and help the tyrant keep the status quo.

Ironically, Richard Nixon, at the request of the Irish Free State, revoked Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's visa. The closest we came to getting that revocation rescinded was under Gerry Ford when he became president at the resignation of Nixon.

At that time there was unity between the Irish American community and members of Congress on the visa issue. Tip O'Neill, the then majority leader of the House of Representatives said on the television news programme SIXTY MINUTES that he always supported the Irish republican Army and that is the way he was brought up.

He said the Irish had an inherent right to fight the British in Ireland just as the Americans had done in 1776. How right he was. Others followed his lead.

Another friend and colleague of President Ford was New York Congressman Mario Biaggi who had voted with Ford on some important legislation. He asked Ford if he could go to Ireland and investigate the

matter and Ford gave the OK. Ford first checked with O'Neill who had no objection.

Biaggi took Dr Fred Burns-O'Brien, a Ford aide, with him to Dublin. Burns-O'Brien was serving on the White House Amnesty Commission. He had been appointed by Ford with an OK from O'Neill, his Congressman.

The trip was going well when they were attacked by Dublin Minister, Dr Conor Cruise-O'Brien who said they were assisting terrorists, Cruise-O'Brien despised Irish Americans.

After Biaggi and party flew to Ireland, the Dublin government got wind of the trip and directed Dr Conor Cruise-O'Brien to attack them and demonise them. They feared that Ó Brádaigh's visa would be reinstated and he could do tremendous damage to them.

CONTRIVED INFORMATION

To stop this from happening, the messengers had to be trashed. John Hume, a politician without conscience was sent to meet with Senator Ted Kennedy and to persuade him to go to O'Neill and give him contrived information to block Ó Brádaigh from getting his visa.

Kennedy said that Ó Brádaigh was a terrorist according to Dublin and Biaggi was a friend and sympathiser. Burns-O'Brien, though a Ford aide, was loyal to O'Brádaigh.

Kennedy said this could hurt O'Neill and might block him from becoming Speaker of the House in the future if he were seen to be backing IRA sympathizers. O'Neill contacted Ford and said he no longer backed the Biaggi mission. O'Neill lost his balls.

Ford's basic fairness was overcome by the dirty deed of Dublin, Hume. Kennedy and now ex-IRA supporter O'Neill. This group were traitors to the cause of IRISH FREEDOM and UNITY and their efforts did immense damage and showed the British that they could attack and demonize Irish Americans and they would have support from those who should be prepared to fight the British.

O'Neill on his own knew the right thing but he was weak and wanted to advance himself. He put himself before the good of those who needed his help.

Biaggi went to see Ford when he returned and was told that although there was no valid reason to deny a visa to Ó Brádaigh, the Dublin and now the London government, both friendly nations, wanted him kept out.

In addition, he had Senators and Congressmen that included Senator Kennedy and Tip O'Neill supporting Dublin and London. If Biaggi could get Tip O'Neill to back a visa, Ford

would tell the State Department to grant one.

He said he did not understand the Irish situation well enough to move on his own and he could not oppose his friend Tip O'Neill. They said Tip had backed the effort and now did a 360-degree turn. Ford asked them to keep this confidential. Ford's death ended the silence.

Biaggi went straight to O'Neill and took Burns-O'Brien. They confronted the Majority Leader. O'Neill was timid because he had broken his word of support and he knew they knew it. Tip had the reputation that his word was good.

Biaggi told him that there was a vendetta, led by the Irish government, against the Republican Movement and some members of Congress and the Irish American Community who supported him.

He was told that what he was doing helped the British at the end of the day. He said he was now in an impossible position.

Biaggi was furious and the language in that room cannot be printed. They told him that Ford said he would give a visa if O'Neill said OK. O'Neill agreed that there was no reason to keep Ó Brádaigh out except Dublin's request.

Ford, O'Neill and Biaggi all agreed that it was an injustice to deny the visa because it was a pure free speech issue. O'Neill said that Dublin through Hume threatened to say he was a fellow traveler of terrorists unless he repudiated his prior endorsement of the IRA. He felt his career was at stake.

He would not budge. That day O'Neill had a yellow spine. He could have revealed the threat by the Free State and he would have had the support of the president of the United States, his congressional colleagues and the Irish American Community.

A foreign government had made a threat on the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives and he was afraid to go public. O'Neill admitted that all the allegations against Ó Brádaigh were a lie, but he would not help.

HE said he gave the meeting the promise of confidentiality as had Ford. Now both are dead and the truth must be told. Biaggi kept his word though O'Neill's was forever tainted.

Ford was not the bad guy. The Dublin Government, Conor Cruise-O'Brien, John Hume, Ted Kennedy and Tip O'Neill were the bad guys who feared the truth of Irish republicanism being told freely in the United States. The long road to the sellout of the Peace Process had begun.

— Peadar Mac Fhínnín

Comhbhrón

CONWAY, The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to Matt Conway and family. Kildare on the death of his brother Jackie.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Conway and family on the recent death of his brother, Jackie. From Lita Ni Chathmhaoil.

CONWAY, Sincere sympathy to Matt Conway, Kildare on the death of his brother Jackie. From Josephine and Róisín Hayden.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Conway and family on the recent death of his brother, Jackie. From Comhairle Laighean, Republican Sinn Féin.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Conway and family on the recent death of his brother, Jackie. From Republican Sinn Féin, Co Kildare.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is

extended to Matt Conway and family on the recent death of his brother, Jackie. From Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearaill, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Loch Garman.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Conway and family on the recent death of his brother, Jackie. From the Rafter-Mellows Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Conway and family on the recent death of his brother, Jackie. From the Wexford Republican Graves Association.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Conway and family on the recent death of his brother, Jackie. From Brendan Tobin, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Conway and family on the recent death of his brother, Jackie. From the Wolfe Tone Cumann, Tallaght, Dublin.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Conway family, Co

Kildare on the death of their brother Jackie. From Des, Annette and Niamh Long, Limerick.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Conway family, Co Kildare on the death of their brother Jackie. From the Republican Movement, Limerick.

CONWAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Conway family, Co

Kildare on the death of their brother Jackie. From Joe and Nora Lynch, Limerick.

FORTUNE, Deepest sympathy is extended to PJ Kelly, Wexford Republican prisoner, Portlaoise jail, on the recent death of his cousin, Terry Fortune. From the Rafter/Mellows Cumann, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.

Beannachtaí

BIRTHDAY greetings to my son Dean Coleman, POW, Portlaoise jail. Have a nice time, Dean, love always. From your Mam, Angela, Margaret, brothers Gooz and Seán, xxx.

BIRTHDAY greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Limerick jail. Give Maguire no cake. From your uncle Joe Lynch, Limerick.

BIRTHDAY greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Limerick jail from your aunt Sally and Rachel Lynch, Limerick.

BIRTHDAY greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Limerick jail. Have a good time from your uncle Noel, Joe, Annetta, Maggie and Michael, Limerick.

BIRTHDAY greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Limerick jail. Have a good time from all your friends in Weston, Limerick.

BIRTHDAY greetings to Dean Coleman, POW, Limerick jail. Have a nice birthday, thinking of you always from your aunt Theresa Coleman, Trevor and family, Limerick.

NÍ SHÚILLEABHÁIN, Sincere sympathy is extended to the Ó Shuilleabháin and Ó Dubhdha families, Co Chiarraí on the death of Treasa.

NÍ SHÚILLEABHÁIN, Sincere sympathy is extended to the Ó Shuilleabháin and Ó Dubhdha families, Co Chiarraí on the death of Treasa.

NÍ SHÚILLEABHÁIN, Sincere sympathy is extended to the Ó Shuilleabháin and Ó Dubhdha families, Co Chiarraí on the death of Treasa.

NÍ SHÚILLEABHÁIN, Sincere sympathy is extended to the Ó Shuilleabháin and Ó Dubhdha families, Co Chiarraí on the death of Treasa.

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to the families of the seven fishermen lost at sea in tragic accidents during January.

ROACHE, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Tom Roache, Bishopswater, Wexford, who died recently. From Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearaill, Loch Garman.

I gCuimhne

CONWAY — 16th Anniversary. In memory of Joe Conway who died in January 1991. Never forgotten by the Joe Conway Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Joe Conway Cumann Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down.

Ó HANLUAIN, SABHAT — 50th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Fergal Ó hAnluain and Seán Sabhat, Óglagha na hÉireann, killed in action at Brookeborough, Co Fermanagh on January 1, 1957. From the Joe Conway Cumann Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down.

STAGG, Poinisias — 31st Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Vol Poinisias Stagg, Óglagha na hÉireann, who died on hunger-strike in Wakefield Prison on February 12, 1976. "We are a risen people, this time we will not be driven into the gutter, even if this should mean dying for justice. The fight must go on. I want my memorial to be peace with justice." - Poinisias Stagg. Always remembered by the Francis Hughes Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Glasgow.

Global warming

GLOBAL warming has had a strange and very noticeable effect on political parties here in Ireland. The recent gathering of the Provo seals in Dublin at which they gave their support to the PSNI penguins is an example. Clapping vigorously at each utterance of *Der Leader* the loyal brethren passed by public vote a resolution to support the RUC/PSNI British police.

As hands were raised it was noticeable that the 'top table' of recipients of British money stood up to make sure there was no dissent. The vote was

passed as predicted and the voters went off home while the 'top table' went off for an expensive meal paid for by the British exchequer.

Next day Gerry Adams called for people to give information on the killing of Robert McCartney. Previously, one may remember, Gerry called on people to ignore the RUC and work with their local 'restorative justice' groups (Provo boot boys to you and me). McCartney fell foul of people he thought he could bully now that the 'war was over' who were part of that community based underground police

force.

I can make no defence of any of Gerry and Limited Intelligences 'heavy mobs'. Those people pose a bigger threat to Republicans than to hoods and drug pushers.

However, now that Gerry has joined up for policing RUC/PSNI style and is prepared to ask people to inform on those who once did his bidding, is it surprising that those of us who observe all ironies find it interesting that Gerry often called for information on RUC/loyalist collusion in the past.

Is it possible that like his present stance on his former comrades he was merely being expedient in short-term condemnation of his RUC handlers in the past?

Many of course would refuse to believe that. Is it possible that MI5/MI6 would allow one of their people to manage an organisation like the IRA. O'Loan recently made it clear that as late as the mid-1990s British intelligence did just that in relation to loyalist death squads.

POOOR old Gerry has a lot on his plate. Far be it from me to rub

salt in his wounds. Let's leave the LIGS to their own devices.

Back to global warming. What's it all about. It's about the last 10 years of dung being spouted by Gerry and friends and has resulted in more hothouse gases being expelled into the atmosphere than by any other group in history. Is there a way of reversing climate change?

Ask yourself if seals (LIGS) and penguins (RUC/PSNI) can survive at this latitude if removed from a hermetically sealed environment. One suspects

that Ian Paisley is chipping away at the walls of the glasshouse and reality is about to creep in, or that destiny remains in Irish hands in that out there the 'faithful found' exist and are re-grouping.

If not, then we are all destined to go quietly into the night. May the power go with you. Four legs good, two legs better. If my uncle was a member of Limited Intelligence he would be my aunt by now, even then she would have more *cajones* than the lot of them put together.

— Mac Cool

REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN CO DONEGAL

Special Appeal for Funds - to pay off our loan of €5,000

THE Committee & Trustees of the Republican Garden are very pleased to announce that the Republican Garden is now open. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who gave donations, big or small. Without you it would not have been possible, together we can do great things.

1973 - Volunteer Paddy Carty, Bundoran, Dungannon

1973 - Dermot Crowley, Cork City

1973 - Sean Loughran, Dungannon

1984 - Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, Magherafelt

1984 - Ciaran Fleming, Derry City

The Hunger Strikers who died 1974 - 1981

Those who are being remembered all had some connections with Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo areas.

We are asking you to give a donation please to any of the names listed below:

Chairperson: Joe O'Neill

Vice-Chairperson: Jimmy McElhinney

Treasurers: Mick Cullen & Joe Dillon

Joint Secretaries: Mary O'Neill & Phyllis Cullen

Trustees: Pat Barry, Ann Sheerin, Martin

McGrath, Declan Curneen,

Seamus McGovern, Thomas Kelly and Mary Ward.

NB. DVDs and Videos of the opening ceremony are available, price €20.



Republicans picket Provo Ard-Fheis

ON Sunday, January 28 Republicans gathered at the entrance to the Royal Dublin Society (RDS), Dublin to show their opposition to British policing in Ireland.

As Provo delegates and visitors gathered for the [Provo] Ard-Fheis, members of Republican Sinn Féin (who were joined by others opposed to British policing) handed out leaflets stating their political position and outlining the conditions for Republican political prisoners in Maghaberry prison, Co Antrim who are once again fighting to regain the political status signed away in the Stormont Agreement 1998.

Over 2,000 leaflets were handed out and members of Republican Sinn Féin spoke to many delegates on their stand on the upcoming resolution. Very few were opposed to supporting and joining the RUC/PSNI and some threw the



• Republican Sinn Féin picket at Provo Ard-Fheis on January 28

leaflets on the ground - Nuala O'Loan's report on collusion did little to prick the conscience of the Provo members. In a sickening twist they turned the report on its head and used it to justify their actions.

The Political Status banner was placed inside the gates at the entrance to the hall and

delegates and visitors listened as the Republican protestors were very vocal in their opposition to British policing in Ireland.

At the end of the day the delegates voted to copperfasten British rule and embrace the RUC/PSNI.

Des Dalton, Vice-President,

Sinn Féin Poblachtach gave several interviews to the media from Ireland, Britain, USA, Italy and Germany.

Coverage of the protest was given on BBC TV and Des Dalton explained the position of Republican Sinn Féin. Several other media outlets carried reports of the picket.



SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR

Ireland	24.00
Britain	Stg £25.00
Rest of Europe	27.00
World (airmail)	30.00

SAOIRSE
PO Box 1241
Laurence Harbor
New Jersey 08879

Don't sell at to
Stormont
or Leinster House ...

Buy **SAOIRSE**
every month!

Ainm

Seoladh

ISSN 0791 - 0002

SAOIRSE - Irish Freedom
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Teil: 872 9747; Facs: 872 9757
e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie