

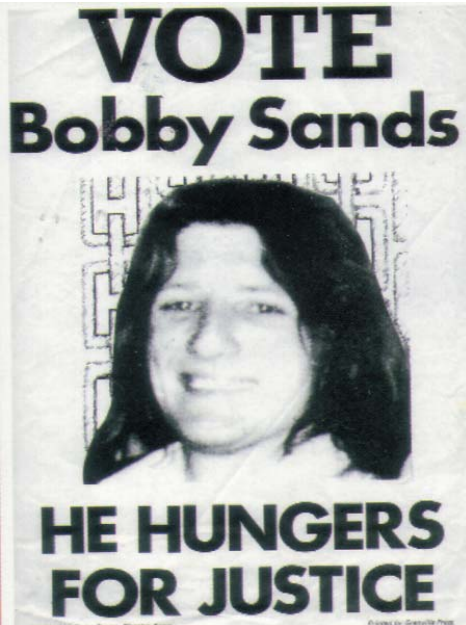
SAOIRSE

IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT



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IN A statement on May 5 Republican Sinn Féin President Ruairí Ó Brádaigh called on people within the Six Counties to boycott, or failing that to spoil their ballots, in the local and Westminster elections on May 5.

He continued: "We would remind people that Thursday, May 5 marks the 24th anniversary of the death on hunger strike of Bobby Sands, who contested and won the Fermanagh/South Tyrone, by-election in April 1981. Bobby Sands not only vindicated his right and that of his comrades to be treated

as political prisoners but he also represented the Irish people's resistance to British Rule in Ireland.

"In contrast to the candidates of the two constitutional nationalist parties which are contesting Thursday's elections, Bobby Sands did not seek to reform the Six County state, or the establishment of a new

Stormont, within which he could administer and police British Rule.

"Like all Republican candidates before and since he sought election to an All-Ireland parliament as a TD, his platform was unequivocally Republican and separatist, he sought a complete British withdrawal from Ireland, the dismantling of the entire partitionist system and the creation of a New Ireland north and south.

"The imposition of a political test oath, renouncing the Irish people's

right to resist British occupation, and publicly disowning the organisations of the Republican Movement, on candidates contesting the Six-County local elections excludes Republicans from the electoral process and denies people their right to vote for a Republican candidate.

"By boycotting or spoiling their ballot on Thursday people can register their protest at the undemocratic nature of the polls and their denial of an opportunity to vote for candidates committed to breaking the

connection with England."

Republican spokespersons down the years have said that the various defections from the Republican Movement into constitutionalism have served to strengthen the *status quo*.

The expected improvement in the support for the DUP obviously strengthens partition and British rule.

Equally, if the ex-Republicans and ex-freedom fighters of the Provisionals become more of a power

within the Establishment this strengthens British rule far more than the original constitutional nationalists.

A clear example of this is the use the Provisionals are being put to in repressing true Republicans.

As reported in April's **SAOIRSE**, Provisional members beat up Republican Sinn Féin Easter Lily sellers in Lurgan, Co Armagh.

What will they do when they finally don the British Crown Forces uniform in the RUC/PSNI under official British auspices?

Election strengthens partition

CABHAIR

Irish Republican
Prisoners Dependents
Fund

ANNUAL
TESTIMONIAL
DINNER
& REPUBLICAN
REUNION

West County Hotel
Chapelizod, Dublin
Friday, May 20, 2005
Buffet Supper, €25
Music: Freewheelers



Honorees:

Seán Murphy (Munster)
Niall Fagan (Leinster)
Danny Morgan (Ulster)
Ken Tierney (USA)

Amnesty urges judges to boycott Finucane inquiry

AMNESTY International have called on all judges in Britain to decline appointments to sit on any inquiry set up under the recently enacted Westminster Inquiries Act – including a planned inquiry into allegations of British state collusion in the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane. The campaigning organisation also called for the repeal of the act.

The Amnesty call came days after a similar request to judges from Pat Finucane's widow Geraldine who wrote individually to every senior judge in England, Scotland and Wales earlier this week.

Amnesty UK campaigns director Stephen Bowen said: "By holding an inquiry into the Finucane case under the

Inquiries Act 2005, the UK Government is trying to eliminate independent scrutiny of its agents."

He claimed: "Any judge sitting on such an inquiry would be presiding over a sham."

Members of the loyalist death squad the UDA/UFF shot Pat Finucane in front of his family in their North Belfast

home in 1989.

In the years since there have been repeated claims of security force collusion with the killers and retired Canadian judge Peter Cory told the British government in a report published last year there was enough suspicion of collusion to merit a public inquiry.

The Finucane murder was one of a series Judge Cory examined, and recommended public inquiries be held because of collusion suspicions.

The first inquiry to be set up, that into the murder of Co Armagh nationalist solicitor Rosemary Nelson by loyalist bombers in 1999, held its opening session on April 19.

Amnesty complains that the Inquiries Act means the British government would control any inquiry held under its terms and a final report would be published at the British government's discretion. They say also that crucial evidence could be omitted from publication at the British government's instigation – using the excuse it was in the public interest.

Stephen Bowen said the Act, rushed through Parliament on the last day before it was dissolved for the election, "undermines the rule of law, the separation of powers and human rights protection".

Continued harassment of Republicans

ON Thursday, April 8, Paddy Fox from Tyrone and Kevin Sutton from Dungannon were stopped and searched outside a pub on the main Armagh to Moy road by members of the RUC/PSNI.

They were allowed to go on but later that evening their houses were raided at 6pm. They found a piece of copper pipe in Kevin Sutton's mother's house and Kevin and his two brothers Dominic and Shane were arrested and taken to Antrim serious crime unit.

Paddy Fox's house was raided again at 1.30 am and he was arrested as well.

They were five hours in handcuffs and were not allowed to go to sleep until 6.30 in the morning. They were stripped and made wear paper boilersuits, they had run out of shoes so all the men were

barefoot as well. Those arrested were all questioned about a so-called explosive device.

At 10pm Paddy Fox and Shane and Dominic Sutton were released and Kevin Sutton was charged with possession of explosives. In the meantime Paddy Fox's house was raided for a third time in 24 hours. This time they were there six hours and still found nothing. During all the interrogations they were told this piece of pipe was a type of detonator that had been used before in attacks against British Crown Forces but they did not produce any forensics to back this up.

Kevin Sutton was charged even though he is not living at the house where this item was found nor is he a key holder. On April 22 the charges against Kevin were dropped after the forensic lab issued a report to say the item was in fact a thermostat for a home heating system! Kevin spent two weeks in Maghaberry jail and files were sent to the British DPP pending charges against the rest of the men.

Dominic Sutton is a student living in a loyalist part of Belfast. His house was raided when he was in Antrim barracks and he subsequently had to move out of his house in Belfast because of loyalist threats. It now costs him £70 a week to commute.

Both Paddy Fox and Kevin Sutton are members of

Republican Sinn Féin, in two newly-formed Cumann in Armagh and Coalisland and no doubt that is why they were arrested and Kevin was charged.

This case has implications for everyone. The British authorities in the Six Occupied Counties, as has already been seen in the arrest and internment by remand of the Lavelle family from Fermanagh are reverting to techniques used in the 1970s and '80s where whole families were arrested and charged on no evidence at all. The recent arrest and jailing of John Joe McCusker of Fermanagh on trumped-up charges is another example.

The RUC/PSNI may have a new name and uniform but the old anti-nationalist/Republican psyche is still inherent in their attitude.

RSF in Derry reject RUC call

ON April 9 Republican Sinn Féin in Derry city urged people not to go to the police with information about a loyalist attack on a memorial to veteran Derry Republican Seán Keenan.

The Fahan Street monument to Seán Keenan — who was RSF Life Vice-President before his death — was daubed in red, white and blue paint over the Easter weekend. And while a spokesperson for the organisation said they deplored the attack, he insisted anyone with information about it, should not go to the PSNI. He was reacting to an appeal

issued by RUC/PSNI detectives at Strand Road.

"We reject the recent calls of the British colonial police for people with information on this attack to come forward," the spokesperson said. "These are the selfsame people who interned Seán Keenan without charge or trial on several occasions throughout the course of his life. They are the first line of defence for

English rule in Ireland — an occupation Seán Keenan resisted all his life. No one should dishonour his memory by collaborating with these agents of the British Crown."

The spokesperson also revealed that the memorial would be fully restored in the near future.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Keenan family have offered to meet those behind the attack in a bid to end the ongoing vandalism of the monument. His grandson Colm Barton said: "As a

lifelong Republican, Seán was totally opposed to sectarianism. The only way to ensure that this vandalism fails is to ensure that it is not used to raise sectarian tensions in the area.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to offer to meet with unionist community leaders or elected representatives to see if there is anything we could do to bring these attacks to an end. The same offer applies to those who carried out this attack."

Gearrscéalta

Former RUC man not acceptable candidate

IN A statement on May 1 Michael McGonigle, Republican Sinn Féin, Dungiven, Co. Derry said that Francis Brolly of Provisional Sinn Féin has said that Billy Leonard is a most suitable candidate for the British parliament in Westminster.

He said: "Whilst I am not surprised by such comments being made by this man, it is a sad day indeed when the only person they can find to contest the East Derry constituency is a former RUC man. He may well be a 'most suitable' candidate for the Provisionals given the current direction of their movement, but he is in no way a fitting candidate for any Republican."

"No Republicans are standing for election in East Derry, and I call on all true Republicans in the constituency to either boycott the upcoming election or to spoil their vote. It is shameful for any so-called 'Republican' to vote for a former RUC man: once an RUC man, always an RUC man."

RPAG meeting constructive

IN A statement on May 1 Richard Walsh, PRO of the Republican Prisoners Action Group said that a public meeting held by the Republican Prisoners Action Group in Derry City on April 30 was attended by several organisations and individuals, including a significant number of former political prisoners (one of these a 1981 H-Block hunger striker).

He went on: "The current conditions affecting Republican POWs in Maghaberry were highlighted, and the legal situation was also outlined by our legal adviser."

"The floor was then opened to the public. Suggestions as to how the prisoners' campaign could be progressed were discussed in detail. The RPAG feels that the contributions of the various interested parties were constructive, and we intend to hold further public meetings in other areas in the near future."

Extraordinary Ard-Fheis

THE extraordinary Ard-Fheis met and discussed at length the situation arising out of the seizure by the 26-County Special Branch of €1,000 funds of Republican Sinn Féin after the 2004 Ard-Fheis in November last. The conclusions reached will be transmitted to the membership in due course.

RUC/PSNI notebook found in Waterside hotel

NATIONALISTS in Derry on April 19 demanded answers from the RUC/PSNI after a police notebook, complete with personal details of a number of former prisoners, was allegedly found in the toilets of a hotel in the Waterside area of the city.

The notebook, which the *Derry Journal* newspaper say they have seen a copy of, contained details of 13 nationalists, seven of whom are former prisoners. The details included their dates of birth, addresses and, in some cases, descriptions of their cars including vehicle registrations.

Derry solicitor Paddy MacDermott, who is acting on behalf on those named in the notebook, said that the matter would be reported to the [British] Police Ombudsman for investigation.

"A number of questions arise out of this. First of all; how did this notebook come to be where it was found? Was it negligence or something more sinister? Was this reported to the police authorities? If so, were any steps taken to warn the people whose details were in the book?"

Paddy MacDermott added: "We are considering launching legal action against the PSNI on behalf of the people named in this document."

British government approve new plastic bullet

BRITISH ministers have approved a new plastic bullet for use by the RUC/PSNI. The so-called Attenuating Energy Projectile or AEP will be available for use by police in England, and Wales from June 21.

However in the case of the Six Counties not only will the RUC/PSNI have use of them but also the British army. Seventeen people have been killed by rubber and plastic bullets in the Six Counties over the past 36 years.



- 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 Dáithí Ó Conaill
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01-872 9747; Faxes: 01-872 9757.

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

**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 ...

**SAOIRSE June edition
published 8/6/2005**

Union official threatened with court action

AN official of the Clare Plasterers' Union who was threatened with High Court action by a local building contractor if he set foot on a site at the Gort Road in Ennis has received the full backing of the union to take strike action.

Clare Plasterers Union secretary Paddy Kenneally from Crusheen said on April 12 that the threat was in response to his attempt to unionise workers from Eastern block countries but that the union has now accepted the foreign workers into membership.

"The fact is there are up to a dozen workers from Eastern countries working on the house building site at Gort Road and they do not speak English," he said. "A union meeting at the weekend has decided to organise them and take strike action if needed.

"We were in discussions with the building contractor and we made clear our intention of ensuring that the men were properly paid by the company. There are no Irish plasterers on the site and we are working to ensure that these men are paid in accordance with recognized rates and agreements in the industry.

"However when I raised the matter of taking the men into

the union, the company threatened me with High Court action. We view this threat as serious and we are meeting to formulate our response.

"These men are entitled to the protection of Irish labour law and we are concerned for these workers especially in the light of the situation at GAMA the Turkish company currently being investigated by the Department.

"Irish building contractors must not go down the road of trying to exploit Eastern block labour to the detriment of local workers in a cynical effort to maximise their profits."

FOREIGN WORKERS EXPLOITED

Paddy Kenneally warned on April 26 that Irish workers were being undercut in pay and conditions by men from East European countries.

He said that pay rates for Irish workers are being undermined by labour from East European countries who are now working for half the



• Paddy Kenneally

Irish rate.

"The simple truth is that Irish employers are paying less to foreign workers," he said. "In turn this development will affect Irish workers and their pay rates as greedy builders seek to employ only those workers who are prepared to work for the lower rates.

"On one site this week we came across workers from Eastern Europe and they said they were paid five euro for plastering (the rate for an Irish worker is ten euro) so many foreign men are working for half the Irish rate.

"This is a widespread factor

in the building industry today and in the long term it will have disastrous consequences for Irish workers unless we take determined action now.

"It is an implication that within a short time frame there will be less and less Irish workers on Irish building sites as the greedy employers hire only foreign workers.

"At the moment there are bitter disputes going on in Clare and the gates of one site have been locked by the employers to keep out union officials from meeting these workers who are being exploited."

On April 29 Paddy Kenneally warned that an official picket will be placed on Clare building sites that are in breach of labour/employer agreements.

Paddy Kenneally from Crusheen, the secretary of the Clare Plasterers Union said that the allegations of "rent a crowd" made on local radio were false and malicious and used simply to divert attention from the real issue in the dispute.

"The simple fact is the building contractor is in breach of existing labour/employer agreements," he said.

"No amount of throwing dirt or ignoring us will disguise the fact that workers are being exploited in Clare. We have also determined that the contractors are using non-union labour contrary to current industry agreements.

"It is no secret that foreign workers are being paid about half the agreed rate for the job. This situation has very serious implications for Irish workers and trade union members in the long term.

"Because of the abuse by employers in Clare we are now seeking the sanction of the National Executive of the union to place official pickets on Clare site.

"The media has a duty to report fairly on both sides of a story - those with wealth, power and influence cannot continue to exploit workers - the media must examine its conscience on the coverage of this issue."

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GAA bows to media pressure on Rule 42

AT its annual congress on Saturday, April 16 the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) eventually succumbed to a sustained media-driven campaign, which has been waged over the past number of years, to drop or amend Rule 42 of their constitution. Rule 42, which ensured their national stadium in Dublin, Croke Park, was for the use of Gaelic games only, was amended to allow it to be opened up to soccer and rugby for the period that the Irish Rugby Football Union's (IRFU) Lansdowne stadium is being redeveloped.

GAA members were faced with a campaign, which amounted to a form of moral blackmail over the past year. It was pointed out continually across all of the media that by failing to make Croke Park

available to soccer and rugby the GAA would be forcing both the Irish rugby and 26-County soccer teams to play their home games abroad.

However what was not pointed out was that whilst the

GAA, an amateur organisation, had the initiative, vision and ability to build one of the finest state of the art stadiums in Europe, the other two organisations, both of which are professional bodies, seemingly lacked the qualities displayed by the amateur sporting body.

In the case of soccer's Football Association of Ireland (FAI) no one questioned why a professional sporting organisation which has participated in three world cups in 15 years, with all the attendant media attention, corporate backing and sponsorship which this entails, was unable in that period to

build its own stadium or indeed what it has done with the huge finances which it must have raised during the last 15 to 20 years.

However despite the fact the GAA amended Rule 42, the IRFU and the FAI both said they are continuing to consider alternative venues abroad. This would seem to indicate that another agenda lay behind the entire debate.

In a statement Republican Sinn Féin Vice President, Des Dalton, who himself is a member of the GAA, said that once again the leadership of the GAA have allowed elements within the media and

elsewhere, who are some of the most hostile and vitriolic critics of the GAA and all that it stands for, set the agenda.

"Like the debate on Rule 21, which barred members of the British Crown Forces from membership of the GAA some years ago, the leadership of the association have allowed anti-national elements within the media and elsewhere to set the agenda.

"Those who have been most vocal in the calls on the GAA to drop Rule 42, and have driven this and previous campaigns, are actively hostile and amongst the most vitriolic critics of Cumann Lúthchleas

Gael and all that it represents.

"The fact that the GAA, an amateur sporting organisation had the courage and drive to build a world-class stadium whilst professional sporting bodies, particularly the FAI, has lacked similar vision or competence has been ignored in the whole debate.

"Indeed the most pertinent questions have not been asked of the FAI, firstly as to what they have done with the vast financial resources they must have accrued over the past 15 to 20 years and secondly why in that entire period they were not in a position like the GAA to build their own stadium."

In the shadow of NATO

WHEN we hear 26-County politicians bleating about their "sovereign parliament" and defending it against the "threat" of Republicanism, it behoves us to stand back and ask, "Who really holds power in modern Ireland?"

Fact: Our country remains partitioned by Britain with the acquiescence of Dublin.

Fact: Ireland is situated in the North Atlantic between NATO allies - Britain and the US.

Shannon and Baldonnel airports are used by US NATO troops on their way to suppress the Iraqi people.

Fact: The EU is governed by an unelected EU commission controlled by NATO members who issue dictates to the member states.

Note the debacle around the 26 Counties biggest employers: Intel, the Dublin government wanted to grant the multinational €170 million to expand its operations in the State.

They were severely admonished by the Eurocrats and cowed down to that pressure, yet last year the EU approved a €545 million grant to

Intel rival AMD to build a factory in Germany.

Meanwhile Intel is reviewing offers from Israel, China and the US to set up manufacturing plants.

In a few months the Leinster House politicians will be to the fore again trying to persuade Irish people to formalise their vassal status in the new EU constitution.

Who governs Ireland? Not a 'sovereign parliament' in Dublin. The NATO powers led by the US are quite happy to allow Britain to police partitioned Ireland on their behalf.

It is time for the Irish people to wake up to these facts and come out of the shadow of the NATO gunmen led by Blair and Bush. A start can be made by rejecting the EU constitution.

Toghchán Údarás na Gaeltachta

FÉ mar a gheall muid an mhí seo caite seo tuairim iomlán ar an gcomhairleamh i dtoghlaigh Chonamara d'Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Iomlán na Vótaí Baili: 13,114; Suíocháin 6; An Cúota 1,874.

An Chéad Chomhairleamh
Hanley Val (FF) 1,280

Tuairisg Seán Ó (FF) 1,239
Creaven Seán (PD) 1,174

Breathnach Séamus (FF) 990
Cuaig Seosamh Ó 881

Ní Flatharta Connie (FF) 862
CURRRAOIN TOMÁS Ó

(SFP) 848
Ciarragáin Áine (FG) 664

Ó Laoi Seosamh (FG) 659
Neachtáin Sínead Ní (FF) 569

Ó Clochartaigh Trevor (N-S) 567

Joyce Mossie (N-S) 542
Biadh Páidhraic Ó (FF) 495

Ceannbhaín Colm Ó (Seal) 457
Mac Siúrdáin Seágh (N-S) 426

Congaola Seán Ó (N-S) 414
Ó Lorcáin Jimí (PD) 322

Ó Maloid Éamonn (FG) 286
'Ac Coistealbh Seán (N-S)

231
Mulcahy Diarmaid (CG) 199

An 13ú Chomhairleamh
(6 shuíocháin le líonadh fós)

Tuairisg Seán Ó (FF) 1,929
Hanley Val (FF) 1,543

Ní Flatharta Connie (FF) 1,584
Cuaig Seosamh Ó (N-S) 1,780

Creaven Seán (PD) 1,501
Breathnach Séamus (FF) 1,490

Ó Laoi Seosamh (FG) 1,381
Curraoin Tomás Ó (SFP) 1,229

Toghadh Ó Tuairisg agus dí-chuireadh Tomás Ó Curraoin.

Toghadh Ó Cuaig ar an 14ú comhairleamh. Dí-chuireadh Ó Laoi ansin agus toghadh an



• Tomás Ó Curraoin

ceathrar a bhí fágtha gan an cúota a shroicint.

From this the final result was four Fianna Fáil, one Independent and one PD were elected. But half

the representation - two FF and one PD - live outside the Gaeltacht proper. The PD lives in Mionloch (Menlo), one FF lives in Uachtar Ard and another in Galway city.

The largely English-speaking areas were targeted by Fianna Fáil this time with six candidates for six seats.

Tomás Ó Curraoin's vote grew from 629 to 848 first preferences. He was first in Beama (2 boxes), in Na Forbacha and in Buaila Beag as well as in one of the Cnoc na Cathrach boxes.

Méadú de 35% ar vótaí den chéad rogha - taispeánann sin dlúthacht agus dul chun cinn. Tá an eagraíocht agus an t-iarthair buíoch don mhuintir ar fud na tíre a chuir airgead cucha agus dóibh siúd a tháinig ag obair an toghlach ó chontaetha eile. Beidh lá eile againn, le cúnach Dé.

For The Record

MON APRIL 4: British ministers approved a new type of plastic bullet for use by the British police in England, Wales and the Six Occupied Counties from June 21.

Two journalists with the *Sunday Telegraph*, Julian Maynon and Toby Harnden, were arrested in Zimbabwe for covering pre-election activities without accreditation.

UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan called for major UN reform.

It was announced that Minister for Foreign Affairs in the 26 Counties, Dermot Ahern, is to be appointed a Special Envoy for UN reform by Secretary General Kofi Annan.

TUES APRIL 5: Sean Oliver, Veteran Republican, Belfast died at the age of 84. He was one of the men sentenced to death along with Tom Williams but was reprieved.

Amnesty International launched its own 'election manifesto' to highlight human rights abuses and are furnishing candidates in the upcoming election with it.

The family of murdered Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane reacted angrily to the new laws restricting the scope of inquiries.

The General Consumer Council in the Six Occupied Counties claimed that the introduction of water charges will create extra poverty.

New research highlighted the immediate and harmful effects of the Border on the economic and social development of the towns based along it.

Workers employed by the construction firm Gama downed tools in Galway over pay and conditions.

WED APRIL 6: Adams issues statement calling on the [Provisional] IRA to end armed struggle and to engage in purely political and democratic activity.

A former Chairman of the Police Federation was picked to stand for the DUP in south Belfast in the forthcoming general election.

The International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers is to file a complaint with a UN agency (International Labour Organisation) accusing Britain of violating international labour standards because of its refusal to recognise the union at the US Embassy and consulate.

THURS APRIL 7: A number of human rights groups criticised the British Policing Board in the Six Counties for approving the introduction of the new plastic bullets.

Members of the European Parliament were discussing ways in which it could fund a civil case against those believed to be involved in the murder of Robert McCartney.

Two men who were being questioned about the murder of a nationalist 30 years ago were released. Patrick Kelly, a nationalist councillor on Omagh district council, was shot dead in July 1974.

The 26-County Environment minister, Dick Roche, says the Irish government wants to see the Cumbrian plant [Sellafield] 'closed completely in the long term'.

Kathleen Deery, the first woman to drive a black taxi in west Belfast, has died at the age of 62. She also spent time driving prisoners families to visits in the H-Blocks.

FRI APRIL 8: Spanish police arrested a woman they believed to be a member of the Basque

separatist group ETA.

SAT APRIL 9: Ex-UDA leader, Jim Gray, was remanded in custody for a week on charges of money-laundering.

SUN APRIL 10: Following a search in Hernani, Spanish police seized explosives allegedly belonging to the Basque separatist group ETA.

MON APRIL 11: The RUC/PSNI told John O'Dowd, Provo rep for Upper Bann, that he is under loyalist threat.

The RUC/PSNI said they came under attack from a group of youths during disturbances in Co Antrim. Up to 50 people were involved.

The murder of Kathleen Thompson, a mother-of-six from Derry, is to be investigated by a new RUC unit. Mrs Thompson was shot dead by a high-velocity bullet in the back garden of her home during a raid by the British Army.

The Irish Deaf Society is launching a campaign to make Irish sign language recognised in the state. Over 40,000 people use the sign language which is not officially recognized.

TUES APRIL 12: The trial of five men accused of membership of an illegal organisation continued in the non-jury Special Court in Dublin.

A Co Antrim teenager suffered a broken ankle and jaw in an attack during 'disturbances' in Ballymena.

The murder of Eddie Fullerton, a Sinn Féin councillor who was shot dead in his home in Buncrana in 1991, is to be raised with Free State Justice Minister Michael McDowell today. The UVF claimed responsibility for the murder but no one was ever charged.

WED APRIL 13: A 15 year-old from north Antrim has become the first person to be served with an anti-social behaviour order (ASbo). The order was granted on an interim basis, the court hearing will take place in June. ASBOs can be served on any person over 10 years of age.

Geraldine Finucane, widow of the murdered solicitor Pat Finucane, has urged the judiciary to reject the new Inquiries Act.

Julian Simmonds and Toby Harnden, two journalists with the *Sunday Telegraph*, were granted bail in Norton, Zimbabwe. They were arrested for not seeking accreditation to cover the Election in Zimbabwe.

Lech Walesa has announced he is to resign in August from the Polish Trade Union, Solidarity, which he founded 25 years ago.

THURS APRIL 14: The bank accounts of Jim Grey, the ousted UDA leader charged with money laundering and possessing and concealing criminal property, have been frozen.

Bomb making equipment was seized during house searches in Bushmills, Co Antrim as part of an investigation into loyalist activity.

About 70 Nigerians took part in a protest outside the Garda National Immigration Bureau in Dublin. The protest was organised by Residents Against Racism and was supported by the Union of Students in Ireland, Sport Against Racism and union officials.

FRI APRIL 15: The home and offices of a district policing partnership (DPP), Michael Copeland, Ulster Unionist assembly member, were raided as part of a major money laundering investigation.

A 'crude but viable' bomb was left outside the Lagan Valley Civic and Arts Centre.

William Doherty, an informer serving three years, told the Morris Tribunal that he had become the scapegoat for corruption in the police force in Donegal.

Nearly 1,000 work permits have been issued to Gama Construction since January last year despite a ban on the issuing of such permits for building workers.

About 250 Nigerian fathers of Irish-born children

are claiming to be on hunger strike in various hostels in Dublin, following orders that they report to gardai at their hostels twice daily – morning and evening.

SAT APRIL 16: A lone gunman fired indiscriminately just yards from Knockbrea primary school.

MON APRIL 18: The [British] Criminal Justice Act 2003 came into effect in the Six Counties. The 'double jeopardy' principle, which prevents the retrial of someone for the same offence after they have been acquitted, no longer applies to many offences.

Speaking at Free Derry corner said the upcoming election was about the peace process and its success or failure. Relatives for Justice are spearheading a new initiative called State Violence State the Truth. Families affected by state or state-sponsored violence are to take part in an event on April 30.

Gerry Adams said he expected no response from the Provos to his request that they 'fully embrace politics' before the May 5 elections.

Two of the Nigerian asylum seekers who are on hunger strike were taken to hospital in Dublin last night.

TUES APRIL 19: The public inquiry into the murder of Rosemary Nelson opened in Craigavon.

The family of Séamus Ludlow, a forestry worker who was abducted and murdered in Dundalk by a loyalist death squad in May 1976, accused the authorities in the Free State of treating the family 'like dirt' after it emerged that the report into the killing will not be released for several weeks.

Opposition TDs called for clarification of immigration law as 48 Nigerian nationals continued a five-day hunger strike in Dublin.

Waster charges are due to rise by at least 34% in the Dublin region over the next two to three years.

WED APRIL 20: Maura Phillips a daughter of Michael Mallin, Chief of Staff of the Irish Citizen Army 1916, has died aged 88 (she was born after her father was executed by the British).

Relatives of the 'disappeared' are to take their case to the United States.

Amnesty International has called on the judiciary to oppose the new legislation governing future public inquiries.

Bertie Ahern claims that the Provos are still recruiting and training new members as well as engaging in criminal activity.

Michael McDowell, Free State Minister of Justice, said the temporarily closure of Spike Island and the Curragh will become permanent.

The trial continues of three men from Cork and two from Limerick who are charged with membership of an illegal organisation. More than 200 academics from Ireland and abroad have made a plea to Dick Roche and Bertie Ahern to reverse a decision on the current route of the proposed M3 motorway through the Tara/Skrone valley.

THURS APRIL 21: Ken Livingstone, Lord Mayor of London, has backed the McBride family in its campaign to have the two soldiers convicted of the murder of their son, Peter, dismissed from the British Army.

Geoffrey Cooling of Clondalkin, Dublin was granted bail in Belfast. Cooling has to reside in Co Cavan and report twice a week to the RUC.

Garda Paul Tallon, based at Mountjoy Garda Station, Dublin, was found not guilty of striking a man attending the Reclaim The Streets protest in May 2002.

FRI APRIL 22: The National Graves Committee who are trying to save a building in Moore St, Dublin with links to the historic Easter Rising of 1916, asked Bertie Ahern to preserve the building.

The Fraud Squad, the DPP and the Revenue have been given limited access to a report on the Gama Construction Company.

SUN APRIL 24: The home of DUP councillor,

John Finlay, was attacked and windows broken.

MON APRIL 25: A draft plan for an incinerator in Ringsend, Dublin goes on display in council offices and libraries from today.

Turkish workers staged a protest at the Gama Construction headquarters in Santry accusing the company of 'starving them into submission'.

A nephew of Frank McBrearty, the Donegal publican who is a witness at the centre of the Morris Tribunal, was knocked down by a police car in Letterkenney at 1.30am. He was thrown into the air and landed on the windscreen of the squad car.

A new group within the RUC has been appointed to look into allegations that Special Branch informers murdered loyalist Raymond McCord jnr and nationalist Sharon McKenna.

An SDLP man has claimed that loyalists terrorised a nationalist housing estate in Coleraine while he and his colleagues were putting up election posters. He claimed they had been attacked by two van-loads of loyalists who were armed by batons and Stanley knives.

TUES APRIL 26: A former British Army soldier, Mike Norman, who it is claimed killed six members of the Provisional IRA, has been found shot dead in a hired car in London last week.

Two members of the Provos were expelled from the party over the murder of Robert McCartney.

A second inquest into the murder of Séamus Ludlow is to be held during the summer according to Louth County coroner Ronan Maguire.

The European Court of Justice found Ireland (sic) guilty of 'general and persistent' flouting of EU rules on waste disposal by ignoring illegal dumping throughout the Free State.

The resignation of two members of the independent commission investigating corruption in the UN Oil-for-Food programme has raised new questions about the credibility of the UN secretary general Kofi Annan.

WED APRIL 27: Fifty 26-County police are to face internal disciplinary proceedings arising out of their failure to wear ID badges at the May Day protest in 2003.

A number of senior British judges have expressed concerns about the new legislation introduced specifically to deal with the planned public inquiry.

Families of the victims of the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan bombings said they had no faith in the new 'Commission of Investigation' into the garda inquiry. The investigation, headed up by Patrick McEntee SC, will be private.

A Co Tyrone man who was arrested and charged with possession of explosives and who subsequently had the charges dropped, has said he will take a civil action against the RUC for malicious prosecution and will lodge a complaint with the RUC Ombudsman.

THURS APRIL 28: The family of Neil McConville, Bleary, Craigavon, who was shot dead after allegedly driving through a checkpoint in April, are to challenge the RUC's version of the shooting.

Claude Haignere, of the YES vote in France, warned that a NO vote would damage the EU and hurt France's status as a motor for closer integration in the 25-nation bloc.

The Ulster Unionists and the DUP have accused each other of vote-splitting in marginal constituencies which could enable nationalists to get elected.

FRI APRIL 29: Three Free State female politicians, Liz McManus, Mary O'Rourke and Sheila Terry, travelled to Belfast to appeal to women members of the Provos to assist in bringing Robert McCartney's killers to justice.

Adams predicted that the DUP will work with the Provos after the election on May 5.

IMEACHTAÍ

ANNUAL HUNGER STRIKE RALLY

GPO, DUBLIN, MAY 7, 2pm

Assemble at Garden of Remembrance at 1.45pm and march to GPO

Speakers Fergal Moore, Monaghan; Josephine Hayden, Dublin

NEIL 'PLUNKETT' O'BOYLE COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, MAY 8

KNOCKNADRUCE, CO WICKLOW,
Assemble: Hollywood, 2.30pm

ANNUAL BOBBY SANDS LECTURE DUBLIN, MAY 10

This year the theme of the lecture is 'Sinn Féin — 100

years of unbroken continuity'.
Speaker: Des Dalton, Vice-President, Republican
Sinn Féin

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO JOE COSTELLO

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 3.30pm

ST MICHAEL'S CEMETERY

TIPPERARY TOWN

Assemble at graveyard 3.15, all welcome

REPUBLICAN COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, MAY 15

KNOCKANURE, CO KERRY

Assemble 2.30pm and march to the spot where
Republicans were killed by the Black and Tans

PETER AND ELLEN FARLEY TESTIMONIAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2005

HILTON/ WOODBRIDGE IN ISELIN NJ, USA,
1.30pm

CUMANN NA SAOIRSE NÁISIÚNTA (NATIONAL
IRISH FREEDOM COMMITTEE) WILL HOST THE
THIRD ANNUAL PETER AND ELLEN FARLEY
TESTIMONIAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

O'SULLIVAN/ENRIGHT CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry
Anyone wishing to join should contact 087-2113130

REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN

ANYONE WISHING TO JOIN THE
ORGANISATION IN ENGLAND SHOULD WRITE
TO: BM 1798, LONDON WC1N 3XX

Sinn Féin 100 Committee — Sinn Féin Poblachtach programme of events for 2005

• **A Proud History Gives Confidence of Victory** by Margaret Buckley will be reprinted and an update added. It will be published for Bodestown.

• **Biography:** The launch of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's biography will take place towards the end of the year.

• **Handing over of personal papers to UCG:** Ruairí Ó Brádaigh will hand over some of his personal political papers to UCG towards end of year.

• **Bobby Sands Commemorative events:** A

rally will be held on May 7, 2005 at the GPO, Dublin, Assemble Garden of Remembrance, 1.45pm, speaker: Fergal Moore, Monaghan.

• **The Bobby Sands Memorial Lecture** will take place on May 10, in Wynn's Hotel, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin. Speaker: Des Dalton, theme: *100 Years of unbroken continuity*.

• **Bodestown, June 12, 2005:** An tUachtarán Ruairí Ó Brádaigh will this year give the oration at the grave of Wolfe Tone in Bodestown in honour of the centenary.

• **Public meeting:** A public meeting at the Ambassador Cinema, Dublin (the first meeting of Sinn Féin took place in the former Rotunda building) will be arranged for November. The meeting will cover the founding and continuance of Sinn Féin and will include the reading of a document from the first meeting in the Rotunda in 1905.

• **Video/DVD:** We hope to produce a video/DVD which would be a fantastic achievement if we could show the unbroken line between

1905-2005. We would be grateful if anyone who has footage of any Republican events, ie footage of Six-County repression by British Crown Forces, Ard-Fheiseanna, commem-orations, or other relevant material, could lend it to us as a matter of priority. Seán Ó Brádaigh will narrate.

• **Commemorative Calendar:** The calendar is a special one with dates and photographs of historical events/people. Will be collectors' item in years to come! available from Ard-Oifig.

• **Laminates:** Laminated pictures from the calendar are available in Irish Freedom Press Bookshop..

• **T Shirts/Badge:** Polo shirts with RSF Logo/Badge are available also, E20. A special commemorative metal badge is also available, E5.

• **Ard Fheis 2005:** This will be a very special occasion and all members should make plans to attend.

• **SAOIRSE** will carry a list of all events organised for the Centenary throughout 2005. Please ensure that your event is sent to the paper in

good time for publication.

• **Dan Keating is now the Patron of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.** He celebrated his 103rd birthday in January 2005.

If you would like a copy of our policy documents or any of our literature, please contact our offices at:

Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, Phone: Dublin 872 9747; email: saoirse@iol.ie or 229 Falls Road, Belfast, Phone: Belfast 90 319 004, email: RSFBELFAST2004@aol.com.

Gearrscéalta

Financial Appeal

THE Centenary Committee is appealing once again for funds to finance the various projects planned for the year.

We realise that there are many calls upon your finances, but as our enemy's attempt to erase the memory of true Republicanism, it is important at this time that we acknowledge the continuity of the true Sinn Féin organisation.

To do this we need to publicly show ourselves as the true standard bearers for the Republic. Finance is essential if we are to be seen as the inheritors and the educators of future generations. All donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Fascist targeting of Irish Americans

IN A statement on April 21 Cumann Na Saoirse Naisiunta (National Irish Freedom Committee) in the USA voiced its concern regarding the recent targeting of the Irish American community by the neo-nazi group styling itself the "National Alliance".

The statement said: "This has been noted by the Southern Poverty Law Center and reported in the *Irish Voice* newspaper (April 13, 2005).

"This group has held events under various guises across the country, including the "European Cultural Association". Some Irish music groups, pipe bands and dance companies have been duped into thinking these were to be legitimate cultural events.

"The Irish community in America itself, in times not long past, were met with racial prejudice and sectarian hatred themselves from the Ku Klux Klan, the Know-Nothing party, and other hate groups. As Irish Republicans we believe in the concepts of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity and that such ideals belong to all people.

Irish Republicans took part in the fight against fascism during the Spanish Civil War and fought the Blueshirts off the streets of Dublin in the 1930s.

"The NIFC, through its cultural program, engage in cultural related activities for the purpose of providing and promoting a medium to raise the cultural and historical level of consciousness amongst those of Irish heritage. The National Irish Freedom Committee voices the attempt to link our heritage with their hatred as despicable. We call on all Americans of Irish descent to speak out against such hate groups and intolerance. The NIFC can be contacted at: www.irishfreedom.net."

Results of Cumann na mBan raffle

WE wish, on behalf of Cumann na mBan, to extend our gratitude to everyone who has supported us in the past and for your generosity in this year, 2005. Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

1st Prize, Ticket No. 008; 2nd Prize, Ticket No. 1041; 3rd Prize, Ticket No. 1321; 4th Prize, Ticket No 900; 5th Prize Ticket No. 721.

Results of Dublin raffle

MARCH Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 487; 2nd prize 415; 3rd prize 417; 4th prize 421; 5th prize 159; 6th prize 198; 7th prize 037; 8th prize 213.

British intelligence unit to quit Belfast for Iraq

IT was reported on April 18 that the successor of the infamous and discredited FRU, which was part of the British State's war of terror on the nationalist community and which directed the loyalist death squads, the Joint Support Group is now to be posted to Iraq, most likely to inflict a similar campaign on the Iraqi people.

Brian Nelson, who was the UDA's chief intelligence officer when he was recruited to become one of the FRU's top agents, was jailed for ten years

in 1992 after admitting five counts of conspiracy to murder. He died of a brain haemorrhage in April 2003.

The FRU and its former

leader, Brigadier Gordon Kerr, who became military attaché in Beijing, is the subject of continuing inquiries by Lord Stevens of Kirkcubright, who retired as Metropolitan Police Commissioner in January. The JSG has continued the role performed by the FRU.

The Joint Support Group (JSG), which runs agents under the control of the British army's Intelligence Corps, is one of a number of units expected to

leave Belfast as part of the so-called "normalisation process" under which the British Government plans to cut its troop levels within the Six Counties by more than half to about 5,000.

Paul Murphy, the Six County Secretary, announced in February that MI5 would take over primacy for intelligence gathering in the Six Counties by 2007.

Wreaths laid to honour 1916

THE Co Westmeath Commemoration Committee marked the 89th anniversary of the Rising of Easter 1916 by wreath-laying ceremonies at three venues in the Athlone area.

On Easter Sunday morning a wreath was laid at the memorial to Comdt Toby Mannion, IRA on the main Athlone-Roscommon road at the Hill of Berries by Tommy Morris, Kiltloom.

At Athlone Brigade Memorial in Costume Place the wreath was laid by Ciarán Dolan, Baylinn.

In Drumraney Cemetery at the grave of life-long Republican Tom Sloan of Ballymahon the wreath was

laid by Pat McDermott, Drumraney.

Tom Sloan followed the ideals of his uncle James Sloan, Legan, Moate who was shot dead at Ballykinlar Camp, Co Down by a British army sentry in January 1921. The same bullet also killed his comrade Joe Tormey of Moate.

A decade of the Rosary for the repose of the souls of all who died for Ireland in every generation was recited on each occasion.

New law for Six Counties

IT was reported on April 18 that a new law has come into force in the Six Counties meaning people can be tried twice for the same crime, even if they have been acquitted.

It applies only in certain situations. There are also new rules relating to the type of evidence, which can be introduced into a trial by the prosecution.

The new criminal justice provisions have already come into force in England and Wales and have now been introduced to the Six-County courts. The biggest change concerns the law on retrials. Until now once a person had been found not guilty of a crime, they could not be re-tried under the rules of double jeopardy.

However now there is an exception, where there is new and compelling evidence and where it is a serious crime, which would carry a maximum sentence of life such as murder manslaughter or rape. Prosecutors will now have the right to appeal a judicial ruling which ends their case, such as a situation where a judge rules there is no case to answer.

A prosecution team can also introduce evidence of bad character if its value is thought to outweigh the risk of an unfair trial and evidence relating to previous convictions.

Memorial to the O'Rahilly

ON Thursday, April 28 a memorial was unveiled to The O'Rahilly, (Michael Joseph O'Rahilly from Kerry) in O'Rahilly Parade, Dublin the only leader of the Easter Rising of 1916 to die in action. He died on the last day of the Rising leading 12 volunteers from the GPO up Moore Street with the intention of setting up another garrison.

He was shot and wounded but managed to crawl into Moore Lane (now O'Rahilly Parade) where, before he bled to death, he wrote a short note to his wife. It is this note that is reproduced on the memorial which was unveiled by his daughter-in-law, Blathnaid Uí Rathaille.

The bronze and limestone memorial was sculpted by Shane Cullen. A great grandson of The O'Rahilly, Mark Price spoke with pride of his famous ancestor and said that while The O'Rahilly was not as well

known as Pearse and Connolly he had played a very significant part in the Rising and had been an early advocate of armed struggle. The O'Rahilly is credited with the saying "I helped to wind the clock, I came to hear it strike".

He was only 41 when he was murdered and left behind his wife Nancy and five children.

It was The O'Rahilly who convened the meeting which formed the Irish Volunteers in Wynn's Hotel, Dublin on November 11, 1913.

Basque hunger strikers: call for support

THE son of Derry hunger striker has called for local people to show support for prisoners currently on hunger strike in the Basque country.

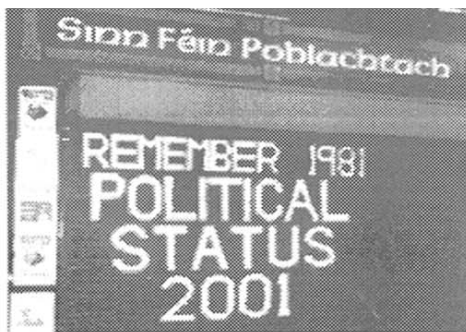
Michael Óg Devine, whose father Mickey died during the 1981 Hunger Strike, urged local people to write to the Spanish and French embassies in Dublin expressing concerns.

Michael Óg Devine said an estimated 720 Basque political prisoners were involved in an indefinite hunger strike.

He said: "This comes at a time when we enter into the 24th year since my father and his comrades died on hunger strike.

"We are very watchful of the similar pain and sacrifice unfolding in the prisons of France and Spain. Their struggle, in many ways, does resemble that which my father and his comrades embarked on against a policy of criminalisation."

Michael Óg Devine called on French and Spanish states not to repeat the "mistakes" of the British government in dealing with the demands of IRA and INLA prisoners which, he claimed, "led to the death of my father and his comrades".



REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin has secured a premises at 229 Falls Road, Belfast as the organisation's public office in the city. This excellent location near the city centre gives a much-needed focus and morale boost to our growing membership in Belfast and throughout Ulster.

Contributions, which will be gratefully acknowledged, can be made:

1. To the following: Mary Ward, Co Donegal; Frank McCarry, Co Antrim; Jimmy McElhinney, Co Tyrone; Geraldine Taylor, Belfast; Michael McGonigle, Co Derry; Joe O'Neill, Co Donegal; Mick McManus, Co Fermanagh; Larry McMahon, Co Monaghan
2. By sending a donation to: Ard Oifig, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1 or to 229 Falls Road, Belfast.
3. By Standing Order Form published here.

Naimhdeas na Róimhe

FÓS féin, an amhlaidh atá an Róimh naimhdeach don tír seo, dá cultúr, go háirithe dá teanga dhúchais? Más fíor don stair, b'amhlaidh a bhíodh, tráth dá raibh beo beirt Phápa, tá, Adrian IV (1154-59), agus an té a lean é, Alexander III (1159-1181).

Go nuige seo, ní raibh ach an t-aon Sasanach amháin ann a togadh ina Phápa, mar a bhí Adrian IV, agus sin faoin am a raibh ionradh ar Éirinn ina phlean ag Sasana Normannach. Bheannaigh Alexander III don ionradh céanna, agus mhol sé cliarlathas na hÉireann as a dtacaíocht don rí Sasanach, Anarraoi II, ag Sionad Chaisil. Ina dhiaidh sin, chinntigh na heaspag go bhfanadh an Eaglais in Éirinn d'fíor choróinn na Sasanach i gcónaí. D'fhan an dílseacht sin beo thar na céadta bliain, fiú i ndiaidh an Reifirméisín (viz *A Short History of Ireland*, le John O'Beirne Ranelagh; Cambridge, 1995: 38).

SIONAD CHAISIL

Céard é ba chúis le sin uilig? Cumhacht na Normannach ar fud na hEorpa faoin am sin, cinnte, d'eile ach polaitíocht. Ach masla úd Phápa an lae do na hÉireannaigh: I litir do Shionad Chaisil Mumhan sa mbliain 1152, dúirt sé nach raibh ionann ach pobal "garbh agus barbartha": Árbh í sin foinse an naimhdeachais don náisiún Éireannach? Nó ar chóir dúinn dul níos sia fós sa stair le teacht ar an mbunús?

Misinéirí ón tír a shíolraigh an Chríostaíocht i dtuaisceart

Shasana, leagan di go réir theagasc Phádraig Naofa, traidisiún a bhí gan locht, go bhfios dúinn, go dtí Comhairle Whitby, AD 664.

Críostaithe a bheith trína chéile in áiteanna maidir le háiriú na Cásca ba chúis le Comhairle Whitby. Ar fud na hEorpa aimsir na Comhairle bhí misinéirí na hÉireann pricilach. Sa mBreatain thuaidh bhíodh Éireannaigh ag obair, agus sa mBreatain theas dream eile, riail eile i bhfeidhm acu faoin áiríú, mar a bhí nós na Róimhe.

Seans gurbh shin an fáth a socraíodh gur i Yorkshire Shasana a bheadh Comhairle Whitby, sa mhainistir áitiúil. Osúf a bhí ina rí ar an gceantar agus glacadh leis mar eadránaí ar an gComhairle. Cuireadh an dá thuairim i láthair an lucht éisteachta agus ní nach ionadh i dreo thuairim na Róimhe a chlaon an rí. Faoi dheireadh ag an Róimh a bhí an bua.

Ar mire a bhí na Gaeil. Cén locht a bhí ar an nós a bhí acusan? Nárbh ó Phádraig féin a fuairleadar é? Ag seasamh an fhóid a bhíodh fíú nuair a bhí deireadh leis na gComhairle. Agus ar an dóigh sin a leanadar go ceann roinnt bliana.



• An Pápa Benedict, an té a chuirfeas deireadh leis an éagóir in éadan na hÉireann?

TAIGHDE DE DHITH

Bheifí ag súil leis go gcuirfeadh sin go mór as don Róimh in ainneoin na sáiroibre a bhí ar bun ag na misinéirí Éireannacha. Ach in éagmais na fírinne a bheas muid go dtí go mbeidh an taighde déanta i Leabharlann na Vatacáine nó eile.

Sin déanta, seans go mbeidh a fhios againn an i ndiaidh na Comhairle sin a thosaigh an naimhdeas úd.

Toisc Éire gan a bheith ina hiarchoilíneacht de chuid na Róimhe bheadh cathú ar dhaoine áirithe "dream barbartha" a thabhairt ar lucht leanúna Phádraig, go háirithe agus na Gaeil a bheith chomh dáigh agus a bhíodar in ionadh géilleadh láithreach do chroí agus d'intinn na hEaglaise!

Ar mhaith le Coláiste na nGael sa Vatacáin lámh chúnta a thabhairt dúinn le teacht ar fuascailt na bhfadhbanna sin?

Sin ceist a chuireann ceist

£18,983

Eire Nua Building Fund Belfast / Derry

Standing Order Form

To the Manager Bank
Please pay Bank of Ireland, (Six Counties) Draperstown, Co Derry, a/c number 14164268, Branch code 90-48-43 OR (26 Counties) Bank of Ireland, Letterkenny, Co Donegal for the credit of Eire Nua Building Fund, a/c number 70958708, Branch code 90-49-15, the sum of £ Amount in words:
..... commencing and thereafter every month until further notice .
and debiting A/C No:

Name: (please print clearly)

Address

Signature Date Please hand in to your bank.

innu ann: Ní dóigh liom go mbeidh sé ró-dheacair na fíricí a bhailiú le chéile.

Ar ndóigh, bhí eiseachtaí ann. Bhí easpaig inár measc a rinne a ndícheall ar son athréimíú na Gaeilge, mar a bhí an tEaspag Eoghan Mac Giolla Uaid (más é sin leagan ceart na Gaeilge ar John Charles MacQuaid), a chuir fáilte roimh an Aifreann i nGaeilge agus a d'ordaigh go mbeadh a leithéid ar fáil i ngach paróiste faoina ard-deoise.

A luaithe, dáiríre, is a d'éag sé laghdú go tobann de réir a chéile na séipéil a mbíodh Aifreann i nGaeilge ar fail gach Domhnach (cuid díobh go rómhóch ar maidin don gcoitiantacht).

San áit a bhfuil cónaí ormsa níl mar rogha agam maidin Domhnaigh, nó lá féile na hEaglaise, ach péire fad siúlóide. Leis an leithscéal "nach raibh éileamh orthu" a cuireadh leo sa gceantar s'againne ach amháin a bhfuil fágtha.

An naimhdeas úd don nGaeilge, sa tséipéal agus lasmuigh de, an argóint faoin ollscoil Éireannach, mar shampla, bhí sé faisir nuair a bunaíodh Conradh na Gaeilge.

Ach níorbh í an Ghaeilge amháin a d'fhulaing an éagóir mar thoradh ar dhílseacht na hEaglaise in Éirinn do rialtas thar lear, mar is léir ó na samplaí a thug an Mgr Pádraig Eric Mac Fhinn ina shaothar, *An tAthair Míchéal P Ó hIleadhá* (Baile Átha Cliath, 1974).

COGADH NA TALÚN

I gCogadh na Talún, ar son na dtiarnaí talún a bhí an cliarlathas (d'eile ach an

dílseacht úd). Cléir a chuir in éadan Acht na hAondachta, d'fhéach an cliarlathas chuige go n-íocfaidís a lándhóthan. Agus, Dia d'ár réiteach, ba iad na tírghráthóirí ba mhó a d'fhulaing éagóir, agus gan a bheith ar bun acu ach iarracht faoi shaoirse na hÉireann a bhaint amach – na Buachaillí Bána, na Finíní, Óglaigh na hÉireann, agus eile.

Bá é cás an Ath Uí Icedha an sampla ba shuntasáí, seans, den éagóir, den naimhdeas, nó easpa den ghrá úd a d'ordaigh Íosa Críost a bheith againn dár gcéile, le dul go fíorchroí na fírinne.

Nuair nach raibh ar fail dó cothrom na Féinne ina thír féin, i measc a mhuintire féin, an chléir, ní fhaca sé ach an t-aon bhealach amháin roimhe, mar a bhí bóthar na Róimhe go dtí an Vatacáin, go dtí an teip dheiridh.

Ón bPápa nua, bail ó Dhia air, fuairamar teachtaireacht, mar atá teagmháil a dhéanamh leis agus cead aighnis a lorg, mura bhfuil dul amú ormsa. Ná bíodh eagla orainn.

Rinne an Eaglais botúin uafásacha ó am go chéile, faoin gCúistiúnacht, mar shampla, ach d'admhaigh Pápa go raibh éagóir déanta faoi dheireadh thiar.

Cliarlathas na Spáinne a sheas le Franco in éadan an rialtais a toghadh go daonlathach, lenár linn féin d'iarr siad pardún ar phobal na Spáinne. An iomarca é a bheith ag impí ar chliarlathas na hÉireann a n-éagóir in éadan mhuintir na hÉireann, in éadan a gcultúir agus, go háirithe, in éadan a dteanga, a admháil, agus ár bpardún a lorg, in ainm an Athar, an Mhic agus an Spioraid Naomh?

— Deasún Breatnach

Bóthar na Síochána – The Road to Peace in Ireland

WITH the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI, readers have asked us to republish the text of the Republican Sinn Féin reply to John Paul II's address at Drogheda in 1979:

“The visit of Pope John Paul II to Ireland has generated deep and widespread interest in our country and especially in the conflict in the North. To understand this conflict it is necessary to courageously and objectively analyse the root causes of the problem. The Pope himself stressed this point and acknowledged that *it is not a religious war*. This is something that we have always maintained.

The struggle is not merely for civil rights within the Six-County State. Rather is it a *war of national liberation* against English Occupation and colonialism which has lasted not just 10 years, but 810 years, having its roots in the Norman Invasion of 1169.

During a previous crucial phase in this struggle the President of the All-Ireland Republic, on 19th October 1921, explained this to Pope Benedict XV in the following words:

“The trouble is between Ireland and Britain, and its source that the rulers of Britain have sought to impose their will upon Ireland, and by brutal force have endeavoured to rob her people of the liberty which is their natural right and ancient heritage.”

We are proud that in every generation the Irish people have resisted foreign aggression and made good their claim to national freedom and independence. What we have witnessed in the last decade is a continuation of that struggle and not “struggle for the sake of struggle” or for some alien ideology. Those who made enormous sacrifices to secure national freedom have been motivated by the philosophy of Irish Republicanism which is the product of some of the greatest thinkers and doers of the Irish nation.

We note with satisfaction that Pope John Paul has reaffirmed that “every human community – ethnic, historical, cultural or religious – has rights which must be respected.” We would add that the nation is another human community which has the same inalienable rights. For eight centuries and especially during the past ten years, the rights of the Irish nation have been denied and grossly violated by the British government and its armed forces.

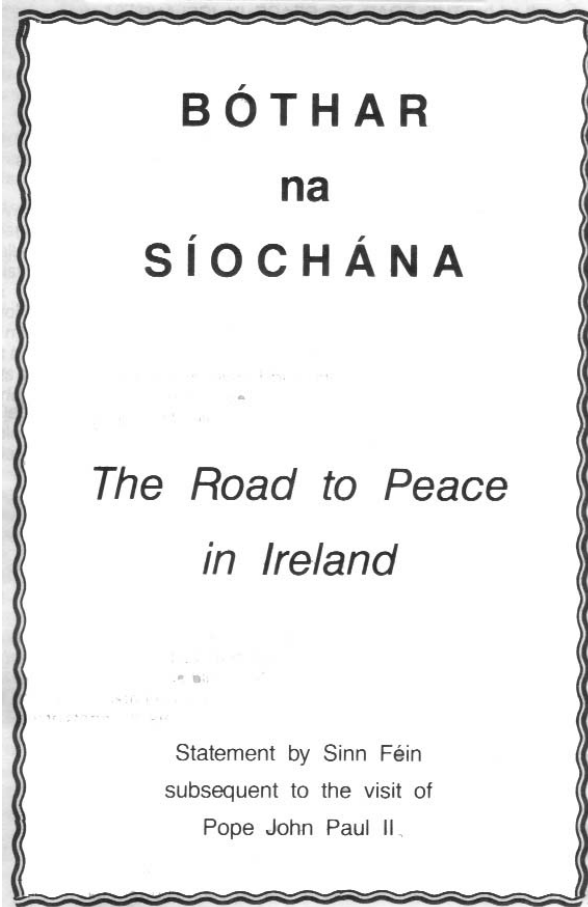
Peaceful and non-violent efforts to win even a small measure of reform within the British system itself were met with the official violence of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the B-Special Constabulary. Among the many acts of aggression over 500 homes were burned and thousands of

families were forced to flee in August 1969. Nine people were killed in one night. This was followed by the curfew on the Lower Falls area of Belfast in July 1970 when four uninvolved civilians were killed by the British army. Matters came to a head with the imposition of internment without trial by the British government in August 1971 and the subsequent systematic and in-depth torture of many prisoners – a practice which was later condemned by the European Commission [of Human Rights] and the European Court of Human Rights. New depths of violence were reached when 14 innocent people were murdered by British paratroopers in the city of Derry at a peaceful march against internment in January 1972.

With all opportunities for political action thus denied to them the people organized their own physical resistance to British terror. This action was totally in keeping with the traditional Christian teaching on the right to resist oppression. In the light of the constant reiteration of media terms like “violence”, “hated”, and “men of violence”, Sinn Féin would welcome clarification as to whether this teaching on the right to resist, the right to resort to legitimate revolt and the right to engage in a just war has been changed. Such clarification is of the utmost urgency because of its serious implications for subject and exploited peoples all over the world.

During the intensification of the conflict the Republican Movement explored every avenue to secure a just and lasting peace. There was a unilateral Truce in March 1972 which met with no response from the British; a bilateral Truce in June and July 1972, which was eventually thwarted by a combination of the actions of the British army and armed loyalists. A courageous initiative by representatives of various Protestant churches at Feake, Co Clare in December 1974 was met with a positive response from the Republican Movement. Despite the effort by the Dublin government to wreck this initiative a unilateral Truce was implemented over Christmas and extended into the New Year. Following direct negotiations with British

government representatives a bilateral Truce was agreed upon which lasted most of 1975. Negotiations with the British continued throughout this period in order to devise measures for a British withdrawal from Ireland. It should be noted



• Republican document issued on October 2, 1979.

that loyalist killings of innocent people intensified during this time while the British forces allowed them full scope.

The negotiations failed because of the inability of the British government to face the stark reality that colonialism in Ireland is an anachronism and must be brought to an end. The failure of the talks was welcomed by the establishment politicians, North and South, who have consistently and publicly attacked them and who has engaged in a futile British-sponsored constitutional convention which would shore up the two artificial states and this perpetuate their own power and privilege. The fact of the matter is that the political party establishments in Ireland, North and South, do not want a British withdrawal, new political arrangements and a new kind of politics.

Since 1976 the policies of both British and Dublin governments have been to “set aside the moral law in the interests of security and law and order”, to quote Pope John Paul II, by an intensification of repressive measures. These measures have produced barbaric

prison conditions, deaths on hunger strike and the present obscenity of the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, now in its fourth year, and which Cardinal Ó Fiach has described as “one of the great obstacles to peace in our community” (August 1, 1978). The coercive measures by both governments resulted in their indictment by Amnesty International in their published reports of September 1977 and June 1978 and even brought about the resignation of the 26-County State in 1976.

Sinn Féin wholeheartedly welcomes Pope John Paul's heartfelt plea for “true peace founded upon justice”. Republicans understand well the urgency for a lasting peace in Ireland, since they have endured great suffering. In addition to the deaths and injuries 10,000 men and women have suffered imprisonment during the past decade alone and thousands of families have been deprived of human, social and economic security. It must also be acknowledged that the major responsibility for establishing a just and lasting peace rests with

the British government whose denial of the right of the people of Ireland to self-determination is the root cause of this conflict.

In view of the world interest now focused on Ireland the British government has a bounden duty to declare its intention of withdrawing from Ireland, to acknowledge the right of the people of Ireland to self-determination, to free the prisoners of war and thus end the war. Its lack of action here contrasts sharply with the ongoing negotiations on Zimbabwe which include the leaders of the Patriotic Front.

Thanks to Pope John Paul to has exhorted us to be conscious of our roots, culture and heritage. The Irish struggle for independence is not more than ever a live international issue, requiring urgent resolution. Towards this end Sinn Féin would welcome an opportunity for direct contact with Pope John Paul whose genuine interest in achieving true peace based on justice is warmly appreciated.”

— Sinn Féin, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. October 2, 1979.

'Time to rebuild the Republican Movement'

THE unveiling of a plaque to mark the Centenary of Sinn Féin took place on Saturday April 16, 2005 at the Belfast office of Republican Sinn Féin.

On opening the proceedings at the unveiling Veteran Belfast Republican Leo Martin spoke from his heart – “a Republican heart”.

He said that after the Fenian period of the struggle it was once again a case of starting over again, starting from scratch. 100 years ago when Sinn Féin was formed, the continuity of the struggle for the Republic was carried on.

“Today we are part of that unbroken struggle and because of what has been done in recent years we too are starting from scratch.

“I’m not ashamed; we aren’t ashamed to be part of that unbroken struggle. I am proud to be here today with true Republicans, but because we are part of the continuation we are called names, we are put

down and are branded dissidents. All because we stayed true. Those who call us names, put us down and brand us dissidents haven’t the right to the name Republican.

“I’m also very proud to be here today with Billy McKee, a man who shows us all the real meaning of Irish Republicanism and whose very name is an inspiration to all who are faithful to the Republic.

“I first met Billy in jail and since then he has been an inspiration to me down all those years of struggle. In Bombay street in 1969, the split 69/70 and the battles of all those turbulent years that have followed to this day. To us Billy is Republicanism in the real sense. Billy has stayed true and because he has stayed faithful former Republicans have made him a target, have called him bad names, have written lies about him in papers and have even attacked him for his



• Pictured at the unveiling of the Centenary Plaque outside the Republican Sinn Féin office in Belfast (left to right): Sarah Murphy, Billy McKee, Leo Martin, Geraldine Taylor, Joe O'Neill, Pat Barry and Des Dalton.

religious devotion. But look where those people, the Provos, who have gone down that road are now – they have sold out everything.”

Leo then asked Billy to unveil the Centenary Plaque.

Before unveiling the plaque Billy McKee said he was honoured to be at the Belfast office of Republican Sinn Féin and was delighted to be amongst faithful Republicans once again. Billy then unveiled the plaque which states (in Irish and English) that the plaque “WILL STAND AS TESTIMONY TO AN UNBROKEN STRUGGLE FOR AN ALL-IRELAND REPUBLIC THAT HAS YET TO BE REALISED”.

On ending the proceedings Leo Martin welcomed the Republicans who had travelled from all parts of Ireland and said “..we all know what has to be done in our own areas.

Leo concluded: “We are starting all over again and it



• Text in Irish on the Centenary Plaque.

will take time, but that’s alright. We will take our time and we will rebuild the Movement

once again. Thank you all for coming today, you here are the faithful Republicans.”



• Veteran Belfast Republican Billy McKee performs the unveiling of the Centenary Plaque on the Falls Road, Belfast on April 16.

NATIONALIST BADLY BEATEN IN SECTARIAN ATTACK

A Belfast Chronology

Saturday, April 2, 2005. It was reported that a nationalist man who was walking home after a night out was set upon and badly beaten by a group of loyalists in the Whitewell road area of north Belfast. The sectarian attack took place at around 1.30am at the bridge on the Whitewell Road. The 27-year-old victim of the attack said later that he was confronted with four men wearing balaclavas and carrying hockey sticks he said he ran, but fell and was beaten as he was lying on the ground he managed to get and run for his life not stopping until he came to a taxi rank. It was also believed two girls had been attacked in the same area earlier in the night.

Also when the news of the death of Pope John Paul II was heard, in loyalist areas of North Belfast fireworks were set off and drums played. The sectarian bigots didn't let their hate end there as they also painted sick sectarian slogans of hate towards the Pope and Catholics in general many of the slogans were painted near nationalist areas where they could cause most hurt.

Wednesday, April 6, 2005. A 79 year-old west Belfast man was recovering after being attacked in his own home by armed raiders - the second such attack in recent weeks.

Friday, April 8, 2005. There were reports of a shooting in the Lower Falls area of West Belfast. It was believed that an 18-year-old man was hit a number of times as he walked along Albert Street. Unconfirmed local reports claimed the shooting was carried out by a group calling itself the Official IRA. There was no further information on the shooting at this stage.

It was also reported that the RUC/PSNI fired a shot into a car. The paramilitary police force claimed the car tried to run down a number of its men, but locals in the Moyard area where the shooting took place said that the car had been rammed by an RUC Land Rover before the shot was fired showing once again the Occupation Forces willingness to use deadly force in nationalist areas.

Monday, April 11, 2005: The so-called OIRA denied it

was behind the shooting of an 18-year-old youth in Belfast.

Tuesday, April 12, 2005. A group of around 10 loyalists attacked nationalist homes at Old Throne Park in the Whitewell Road area of north Belfast.

Belfast Lord Mayor Tom Ekin said the Orange Order could not be blamed for the actions of its supporters on July 12. Along with the Orange Order he is trying to turn July 12 into a 'family-friendly' event.

Wednesday, April 13, 2005. There were reports of a number of petrol bombs being thrown at Day's Hotel in the loyalist Hope Street in Sandy Row area of Belfast. It was believed up to five petrol bombs were thrown at the hotel around 4am and up to 150 people had to leave the building. It was believed at this stage loyalists carried out the attack.

Paula Arnold, sister of the late Robert McCartney, claims she and her sisters were abused and threatened (by a relative of one of the suspended Provos) while delivering leaflets in the Short Strand area of Belfast.

Around 300 old tyres have been collected and left at the collection bonfire site in Epworth Street off Templemore Ave, Belfast.

The Days Hotel, located at the corner of Hop St and Sandy Row was attacked by petrol bombs.

Deirdre Hargey and Cora Groogan who had been selected to stand for the Provos in the local council elections on May 5, and who are among the seven members suspended by the Provo in the aftermath of the murder of Robert McCartney, will not now stand.

Thursday, April 14, 2005. There were reports of a bomb scare in Lisburn. It was reported that the scare was centred around a car at the Lagan Valley Civic Arts Centre. British Occupation Forces claimed had dismantled a device in a Volkswagen that had been left in a carpark at the centre.

Pastor Jack McKee said he believed that the three men who attacked his home and car with petrol and paint bombs were loyalists. The clergyman said that the attack is designed to force him close the church-



• Rival loyalist soccer fans clash at the Glentoran v Linfield match in Belfast on April 23. A foretaste of things to come at Croke Park?

based taxi firm he opened on the Shankill Road two weeks ago. The firm's premises and taxis have been damaged also during the two weeks.

The West Belfast taxi association, planning to extend its taxi service to the outskirts of north Belfast, had received threats from the Loyalist Action Force.

Friday, April 15, 2005. One man was wounded in the gun attack which took place around 2pm in the Rosetta Road area of south Belfast. Bullets fired in the attack also hit parked cars. The shooting was believed to be part of a loyalist feud and the wounded man is said to have links to the LVF.

Tuesday, April 19, 2005. A Branch of the South Belfast Ulster Unionist Association has disbanded and are supporting the DUP candidate, Jimmy Spratt, in the forthcoming election on May 5.

Wednesday, April 20, 2005. There were reports of an arms find in the loyalist Shankill area of west Belfast. Occupation

Forces claimed to have uncovered an AK47, and other items and one man was reported to have been arrested.

Saturday, April 23, 2005. Trouble broke out between loyalists at the Glentoran v Linfield soccer match. The trouble which saw both sides attack each other with bricks, bottles and hand-fighting came at the end of the game. Both sides are known to have a following from on one hand the UVF and on the other the UDA loyalist death squads, and its believed these groups were behind the trouble.

Nationalists criticised the decision by the RUC to allow up to 275 members of the Ballymacarrett Orange Lodge and an accompanying band to pass St Matthew's Catholic Church in east Belfast.

Sunday, April 24, 2005. There were reports of trouble breaking out on the Newtownards Road in east Belfast after an Orange march near St Matthew's Chapel. It was believed a confrontation

took place between the sectarian Orange marchers and the nationalist Markets area.

Wednesday, April 27, 2005. It was reported that Gerry Adams, the Provisionals Front Man and Brit MP was forced to leave the Markets area of South Belfast. Adams was canvassing the area when he was confronted by a number of women said to be linked to members of the Provisional grouping who were kicked out over the Robert McCartney killing. The confrontation was more proof of the total mess the Provisionals have made over the McCartney situation.

Thursday, April 28, 2005. John Boyle, Belfast, whose conviction was overturned having spent nine years in jail was granted leave to appeal, by the High Court, for a judicial review after he was refused compensation by the Secretary of State.

Monday, May 2, 2005. There were reports of a bomb scare at Newtownabbey.

MacEntee to investigate 1974 bombings

THE 26-County Government has appointed a commission of investigation, the first of its kind, to examine unresolved questions concerning the Garda inquiry into the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan bombings.

Barrister Patrick MacEntee SC is the commission's sole member and will be given six months to report to the 26-County premier Bertie Ahern on alleged inadequacies in that investigation.

This is the first commission of investigation established under legislation passed last year designed to introduce faster inquiries into matters of public concern.

The legislation came after criticism of tribunals for taking years to inquire into matters of public controversy and expending vast sums of money

in legal bills. These new commissions have many of the powers of a full tribunal of inquiry but are expected to be much quicker as they will not generally carry out their proceedings in public. They are also expected to be much cheaper as teams of lawyers will generally not represent witnesses, as happens at tribunals.

The commission is being established in response to the recommendations of the Joint Leinster House Committee on Justice's consideration of Justice Henry Barron's report

on the bombings.

Justice Barron had the advantage of conducting his report in private, but the disadvantage of not having the powers to compel witnesses and demand documentation enjoyed by tribunals.

The Leinster House committee, which examined his report, called for an inquiry into inadequacies in the Garda investigation. It also demanded an inquiry in Britain, but acknowledged that the failure of the British government to provide full documentation for the Irish inquiry made such a move unlikely. This commission has been asked to investigate:

Why the Garda investigation into the Dublin and Monaghan bombings was wound down;

Why gardaí did not follow up certain leads;

Why certain documentation went missing;

What that documentation was;

Whether the systems currently in place can prevent a recurrence of the disappearance of important documents.

This commission has the power to direct witnesses to attend and answer questions and to produce and disclose documents; to enter into premises to inspect and secure documents if it is reasonable and necessary to do so in the interests of the investigation; and to decide to hear a witness's evidence in public. It is also a criminal offence to make a false statement or intentionally obstruct the

commission.

However families of those killed in the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan bombings criticised the 26 County government's decision to establish a Commission of Investigation into the atrocity, saying the move would shut them out of proceedings.

Justice for the Forgotten expressed disappointment at the move, saying relatives felt the commission would effectively bar them from proceedings.

Unlike the Tribunal of Inquiry relatives sought, the Commission of Investigation will be largely held in private to maximise speed and minimise legal bills.

"The families feel deeply suspicious. They feel they have

been let down by the State. There can be no sense of ownership because the families are not being engaged. We feel we are being shut out of the process," said group legal representative Greg O'Neill.

The terms of reference of the new commission took some by surprise last night, as they were far more extensive than predicted.

In addition to investigating why the police operation into the bombings was closed in 1974, the commission will also probe why gardaí failed to follow up several important leads.

The commission is also tasked to probe unaccounted-for garda files and documentation and the reasons the files went missing.

Gama to stop paying 230 workers involved in dispute

IN what SIPTU have described as a "very sinister" development, Turkish workers in dispute with GAMA Construction over pay and conditions were told on April 22 they were to be removed from its payroll and asked to vacate their accommodation.

SIPTU has asked the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to convene a meeting of all the company's unions to plan a co-ordinated response.

At least 230 GAMA employees are affected by the move, including 130 for whom the company says it has no work. It wants to repatriate them to Turkey.

A number of GAMA's Turkish employees have refused to work in recent weeks and have staged protests against the company.

This latest move by GAMA came within hours of a 26-County High Court decision preventing publication of a Labour Inspector's report on the company, pending further proceedings.

Judge Peter Kelly however said the report could be released to the 26-County police fraud squad, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Revenue Commissioners, the Director of Corporate Enforcement, the Competition Authority and the 26 County police National Immigration Bureau.

The report was prepared for the 26-County Minister for Employment, Micheál Martin after Socialist Party TD, Joe Higgins claimed in Leinster House that GAMA, a Turkish based multi-national construction company, was engaged in "immigrant worker exploitation of massive proportions".

SIPTU construction branch secretary, Eric Fleming said the union received notice from GAMA late on April 22 that workers involved in the dispute at the company would be removed from the payroll on April 25. They were also being asked to leave

owed, the immediate implementation of trade union rates of pay and a 48-hour week'. They further claim that their money was paid into Dutch bank accounts without their knowledge. Gama denies the allegation.

construction workers working for Gama picketed the South Dublin Co Council Offices on two fronts. They claimed that the Turkish workers were being exploited by Gama who paid them well below the union rate and because of this



• Gama workers protest in Dublin city centre.

accommodation provided by GAMA at its various sites by next Friday, April 28.

Earlier in the month, 800 workers from the Gama Construction firm downed tools twice, on Monday, April 4 and Tuesday, April 5, in protest over their pay and conditions on building sites in Ireland.

In Galway they gathered in Eyre Square and in Dublin the workers held a protest at the Spire in O'Connell St and then marched to the SIPTU headquarters at Liberty Hall. Several of the men claim they are being paid as little as €1.80 an hour including Ali Ihsan Semerci from Istanbul who says that was his rate of pay for the last 16 months.

Amidst allegations that 30 workers were locked into a site in Ballymun to stop them joining the protest, a spokesperson for the workers said they 'condemn the victimisation of any workers' and that all they are looking for is 'the money they are

The labour inspectorate has undertaken an investigation into 'allegations of mistreatment of workers' employed by Gama and Michael Martin claims he is 'anxious to publish it' but Gama have secured a high court injunction to prevent this. A previous investigation into Gama found no evidence of any 'wrongdoing'.

There are only 21 labour inspectors for a workforce of 1.6million compared to 41 health officials policing the smoking ban and 50 dog wardens. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions want the number of inspectors increased to 150. President of SIPTU, Jack O'Connor said "the widening gulf between workers' rights on paper and their evidence in practice highlights the abysmally inadequate resources allocated to the enforcement of the employment legislation".

The problem of exploitation of immigrant workers is nothing new. Last year Irish

Irish workers were not being employed. The protest once again highlights the 'bonded slavery' system which keeps the immigrant workers with one employer.

Gearrscéalta Website for Dungannon cumann

IN a statement on March 30 the PRO of the McKearney/McCaughey Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin said that they have been working hard this year trying to promote the organisation in Dungannon and East Tyrone.

The statement continued: "We have been pushing hard to up the sales of the paper and feel we have been making headway in the community educating them on the merits of ÉIRE NUA.

"We have also been working hard trying to construct a website for the area of Dungannon & East Tyrone and this week have purchased the webname thanks to those who sold Easter Lilies in the local pubs on St Patrick's Day.

"The site is not fully complete with a POW page to be added and hopefully a local news and events page but we hope people enjoy the site and we welcome feedback and also any news or events that would link in with the area.

"The address of our website is www.rsfdungannon.com and our email is rsfdng@yahoo.co.uk. May the spirit of 1916 live on."

Glasgow function for CABHAIR

THE Francis Hughes Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin held a very successful Republican Ballad night in the Gallowgate district of Glasgow on 16 April. A crowd of about 60 people enjoyed a great night of Republican songs of resistance ably performed by Erin's Own.

Jimmy Murphy of Dublin RSF told the crowd about the plight of the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise Gaols, and called for increased support for their demands.

Crafts made by the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise Gaol were raffled. All proceeds from the function went to CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund).

Seán McGuire

A UNIQUE Belfast style of traditional music was silenced in March with the death of Seán McGuire, one of the most distinguished Irish fiddle players of the 20th Century.

He was also an accomplished player of other traditional Irish instruments including the flute and uilleann pipes. He had some classical training in his youth but the traditional music of his own country was his preference. But he also put his own stamp on the music and often introduced his own variations to well known tunes.

Seán was a descendant of the once Gaelic rulers of Fermanagh who were driven south to Cavan from where his own immediate ancestors made it to west Belfast. A staunch nationalist his politics were straight 32-County

Republican.

Seán's loyalty to the 'underdogs' (his own people) in the bitter prejudiced and poor circumstances of west Belfast in the 1950s and '60s is a matter of record. Those whom he defended and helped remember him with pride.

Seán worked for and recorded with many people. The BBC also welcomed Seán – at a time when they were hardly allowed to give the results of the GAA games on a Sunday night!

There can be no denying McGuire's commitment, energy and love of and for the music he

played. He was master of his stage, of the concert hall, of the performance in a way that came over whether live or on radio.

In the early 1960s he worked with the ground-breaking Cabaret Ghael-Linn. Though not a fluent Irish speaker he was particularly proud of his association with the dynamic language group who also became his semi-permanent recording company at a time when both he and Gael-Linn were opening up new horizons.

He left a great legacy to Ireland and his pupils will ensure his music lives on.

He was laid to rest in Miltown cemetery on Easter Monday with all the ceremony of a McGuire chief.

Sonas ort ar neamh, a Sheáin, agus go gclóisítear do cheol sna Flaithis go brách na breithe.

WHAT THEY SAID

In other words if Gerry Adams and his allies in the leadership can't persuade the [Provisional] IRA to go out of business then the [Provisional] IRA and [Provisional] Sinn Féin should decouple and go their separate ways.

— Irish Times, April 2, article by Ed Moloney in which he summarises Bertie Ahern's remarks in an interview on the BBC programme *Hearts and Minds*.

This is not the first time the idea of a [Provisional] Sinn Féin-IRA divorce has been floated. Gerry Adams suggested it back in the 1990-91 period, before the ceasefire.

The divorce would have been a sham ... who is to say that the same lie attempted in 1990-91 might not prevail this time?

— Ed Moloney.

If Gerry Adams was not strong enough in 1990-91 to contrive a divorce on his own terms but can pull it off in 2005, what does this say about who now exercises most power in the Provisional leadership?

And if his influence is strong enough to do that why not go the whole hog and start standing the [Provisional] IRA down?

— Ed Moloney.

1936 Republicans and Easter processions

There was some dissention among republicans in the Free State over the arrangements for the procession on Easter Sunday. Both government supporters and followers of Mr Seán MacBride and Miss Mary McSwiney wanted to have charge of the event. At a Gaelic football club meeting in Dublin, a resolution was passed expressing resentment at the 'hypocrisy' of the Men's Association of the Irish Republican Army in seeking to 'honour the men whom they have dishonoured', adding 'We believe that the Republican dead can never be honoured by the men who have compromised the republican position by their support for the Free State Government, thereby assenting to the position of Ireland and by their acceptance of monetary rewards from the government.'

— Irish News, April 8, 2005, *On This Day/April 8, 1936*, by Éamon Phoenix.

The call from Gerry Adams to the PIRA to abandon all violence and concentrate on politics to achieve its aims has been dismissed by many as a mere tactic in the days before the forthcoming British election.

A response from the Provos is eagerly awaited. Speaking as a northerner, I

find myself of the view that the PIRA relinquished any possible claim to a mandate when they recognised the legitimacy of the Northern Ireland State and the principle of consent.

— Mick McConnell, writing in the *Kerryman*, April 13, 2005.

The supposed justification for the predominance of the western economic powers in the UN is that they ostensibly pay for the UN.

The reality is that the US has used its economic power to blackmail the UN and starve it of resources whenever it dares to challenge US global actions.

— Irish Times, April 14, article by Edward Horgan.

Mary Robinson, one of the UN's few effective leaders in recent decades, paid the price for challenging the veto powers (US, Britain, France, Russia and China) on issues of human rights.

A UN economic agency, the World Bank, will now be presided over by Paul Wolfowitz, one of the architects of the Iraq war. Democracy does not exist at the UN, oligarchy and oligopoly do.

— Edward Horgan.

The UN system is therefore inherently unjust and is being used to prevent a more equitable distribution of world resources.

Ireland, by supporting these flawed proposals for 'un-reforms' of the UN, is hindering long overdue reform of the international system.

— Edward Horgan.

The unlawful levelling of over 100,000 people in Iraq, for which Ireland abandoned its neutrality, was in direct contravention of the UN Charter.

The urgent need for UN transformations or replacement had already been clear from its catastrophic failures to prevent or stop genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia, and the UN's culpability in the deaths of half a million children due to UN-imposed sanctions on Iraq.

— Edward Horgan.

Ireland should be aligning itself with other small states and with developing states and the EU to ensure international law is not only respected, but undergoes constant updating and improvement.

The US has no wish to replace or reform the UN because it benefits most from the inequalities of the post WWII status quo, copperfastened by the UN charter.

— Edward Horgan.

... the [EU] constitution enshrines a particular economic system based on an extreme neo-liberal ideology, which it seeks to clamp as a constitutional imperative on 450 million Europeans.

— Anthony Coughlan, senior lecturer emeritus in social policy at Trinity College, quoted in *Irish Times*, April 16, 2005.

This is typical of the cover-up that has been going on

since Séamus was murdered 28 years ago. If Séamus had been killed by the IRA we would be getting the same publicity as [Belfast murder victim] Robert McCartney's family. But as soon as it became known that loyalists were behind Séamus's death, the authorities here did everything they could to sweep it under the carpet.

— Kevin Ludlow, quoted in the *Irish News* April 20, 2005, speaking about the delay publishing the *Barron Report* on his brother's murder in which he claims that the 'the Irish government did not want to embarrass their British counterparts over evidence that his brother's killers were linked to the security forces'.

A garrison of more than 83,000 [British] troops had surrendered to a Japanese assault force numbering about 30,000. Singapore's [1942] capture, Winston Churchill said, was 'the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history'.

— Village magazine, April 22-28, book review of *Forgotten Armies: The Fall of British Asia, 1941-45* by Christopher Bayly and Tom Harper.

... Major Percival, who was to fail so dismally against the West Cork IRA (1920-21) was later to become the Commander of the pathetic surrender of 1941 at Singapore.

'We could not foresee that our target of that night would, as Lieutenant General Percival, Commander-in-Chief of ninety thousand British troops, surrender himself, his army, and many months' supplies, after a skirmish, and without a real fight, to a much smaller force of Japanese.'

— Tom Barry in *Guerilla Days in Ireland*. (General Barry sent a telegram of 'communication' to Percival in Japanese captivity).

Those who have been most vocal in the calls on the GAA to drop Rule 42, and have driven this and previous campaigns, are actively hostile and amongst the most vitriolic critics of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and all it represents.

Indeed the most pertinent questions have not been asked of the FAI, firstly as to what they have done with the vast financial resources they must have accrued over the past 15 to 20 years and secondly, why in that entire period they were not in a position like the GAA to build their own stadium.

— Village magazine, April 22-28, letter to the Editor from Des Dalton, Vice-President, *Republican Sinn Féin*.

Despite all [Provisional] Sinn Féin's republican rhetoric, it has no great strategy to achieve a united Ireland.

In practical terms, it lives with partition just as easily as does its rival [the SDLP].

— Sunday Tribune, April 24, Suzanne Breen, Northern Editor.

Nor is there any

substantial difference between the pair on social and economic issues. The SDLP rather unfairly has a more conservative image. But in government at Stormont, [Provisional] Sinn Féin proved to be no rip-roaring radicals.

And when they eventually get back for a more prolonged period, they'll be as capable as any mainstream party of shutting schools and hospitals.

— Suzanne Breen.

In terms of international policies, it's also much of a muchness.

[Provisional] Sinn Féin shouted its anti-Iraq war slogans louder, but its leaders would have been first in the queue to shake George W's hand had they been invited to the White House on St Patrick's Day.

— Suzanne Breen.

[Provisional] Sinn Féin, just like New Labour is a triumph of style over substance. Centre-stage on the Belfast billboard is Dubliner Mary-Lou, pretty in pink.

— Suzanne Breen.

He [Séamus Mallon] laments 'all the lives lost from 1974 when [Provisional] Sinn Féin could have accepted Sunningdale, which offered just as much as the Belfast Agreement 24 years later.

— Suzanne Breen. *Republicans would say that Sunningdale offered more with a full-blown Council of Ireland; less was paid for it with no loss of Articles 2 and 3 of the 1937 Constitution.*

Electoral victory for [Provisional] Sinn Féin and the DUP will mean no peace deal for the foreseeable future, he [Mallon] says.

— Suzanne Breen.

The O'Donnells' and McIlwaines' experiences unite them naturally. (Kevin Barry O'Donnell, 21, of Coalisland, killed by British SAS; David McIlwaine, 18, of Portadown and Andrew Robb, 19, were killed by the UVF).

Both [families] have been denied death certificates and inquests. Both are involved in protracted legal battles to establish the facts surrounding the killings. The O'Donnells allege a shoot-to-kill operation. The McIlwaines claim their son's murder investigation hasn't progressed because at least one of the killers is a police or British military informer.

Both families' cases have been taken up by Relatives of Justice, which campaigns for the victims of state violence.

— Suzanne Breen.

The UVF told [Paul] McIlwaine [father of David] several 'rogue' members were involved in the unsanctioned attack. Neither teenager was a paramilitary. One theory is they were mistaken for LVF men and killed in retaliation for the murder of UVF mid-Ulster leader Richard Jameson.

— Suzanne Breen.

Gwynfor Evans (93) died April 21. He was a Welsh

language campaigner and former president of the Welsh nationalist party, Plaid Cymru. Elected Plaid's first MP in 1966, he went on hunger-strike in 1980 in the cause of Welsh language television. He forced Thatcher to yield and achieved the foundation of S4C. He was an effective speaker and a dogged propagandist on behalf of the Welsh nationalist cause.

— Sunday Tribune, April 24, obituary by Meic Stephens. Shortly after his successful hunger strike, he addressed a public meeting at the Dublin GPO organized by Conradh na Gaeilge.

After the meeting he greeted Ruairí Ó Brádaigh as the only political leader in attendance and presented him with his own tie pin badge — representation of three mountain peaks in Wales.

Stocháin storat dá anam uasal.

The Afghan mujahedin were described by President Reagan as 'the moral equivalent of America's founding fathers', a description some of the detained Afghans at Guantanamo would find puzzling.

— Sunday Business Post, Agenda, April 24, Book review of *Dining with Terrorists* — Meeting with the World's most wanted Militants by Phil Rees.

It [Bush's War on Terror] is revealed as a *carte blanche* foreign policy to impose the American way on the world. It also justifies the propping up of repressive but allied regimes which, in turn, are only too eager to bandy the term about to describe their own domestic security concerns.

In such a scenario, Nelson Mandela, once described by Britain and the US as a terrorist, forever remains one.

— Review of *Dining with Terrorists* by Éibhir Mulqueen.

'In the Autumn of 1920, Michael Collins with his band of '12 Apostles', assassinated 14 British officers,' he writes. Officers they may have been, but this was a counter-insurgency group which carried out its own assassinations as part of its work.

— Review of *Dining with Terrorists*.

Did he [Cardinal Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI] think he had it in the bag anyway, and could do as he liked? Or was his laying it on the line for his fellow cardinals: this is what you are voting for, take it or leave it?

They opted to take it. — Sunday Business post, April 24, Vincent Browne column, 'Between the Lines'.

Transport Minister Martin Cullen, and the Taoiseach are reluctant to allow a second terminal [at Dublin Airport] to be privately owned. Government sources pointed to the private construction of the West Link bridge and the sale of the Eircom network as

policy mistakes that the Minister for Transport was anxious not to repeat.

— Sunday Business Post, April 24, article by Niamh Connolly and Pat Leahy.

SIPTU is set to oppose any private sector involvement in the new second terminal at Dublin Airport.

— Sunday Business Post. We believe that Niall could have been safely apprehended and that there existed absolutely no justification for the shooting. This was clearly an unnecessary use of lethal force...

A huge surveillance operation was in place prior to the killing which involved the [RUC]/PSNI and a British Army helicopter.

The operation in place was disproportionate to any alleged threat and had all the hallmarks of the shoot-to-kill incidents that characterized three decades of conflict yet Neil was not involved in any organization.

— The family of Niall McConville who was shot at a checkpoint near Lisburn in April 2003 and died later in hospital. *Irish News*, April 28, 2005.

[Former Labour Party senator] Jack Harte recalls that as a means of deterring ambushes, cars containing Arab prisoners were sent to accompany motorised [British] army patrols, while the houses of suspected insurrectionists were burned down by the army.

— Sunday Tribune, May 1, article by Stephen Collins. Mr Harte's experience with the British Army in Palestine in 1938 was nothing new. The British did the same thing in Ireland in 1920-21; the Free State Army did them in 1922-23.

He [Tony Blair] also deserves electoral disgrace for inflicting war on the people of Iraq and for the lives of the British soldiers that have been lost on a fraud.

— Sunday Business Post, May 1, Vincent Browne column 'Between the Lines'.

He [British Attorney-General Peter Goldsmith] also warned there might be a prosecution for war crimes at the International Criminal Court — and maybe even a prosecution for murder — on the grounds that the military action was unlawful. He concluded: 'We cannot be certain that (such prosecutions) would not succeed.'

— Vincent Browne.

Finally he observed that 'regime change cannot be the objective of military action', which is precisely the grounds on which Blair now justifies the war.

— Vincent Browne.

DUP deputy Leader Peter Robinson has been quoted as saying that it will be for the 'next generation' to decide whether [Provisional] Republicans are 'fit' for government [in Stormont].

— Sunday Business Post, May 1, article on 'Northern Election' by Paul T Colgan.

No Irish Republicans Standing In this Election

A chara

Every single candidate standing in this election supports and recognises the Six-Occupied Counties as being part of the United Kingdom.

This included the Provos who, while purporting to be Irish Republicans, are being paid generously by the British Government to administer their colonial affairs here and to keep the Union jack flying over Stormont. Just like good Unionists. No difference.

On May 5 instead of going to a British Polling Station, visit the grave of an Irish patriot instead. Remember that on May 5, 1981 Bobby Sands gave his life after 66 days on hunger-strike so that we might be free Irish citizens. He did not die to line the pockets of those who have now betrayed him. May 12 is the anniversary of Francis Hughes, Derry, who died after 59 days on hunger strike. On May 21 remember Raymond McCreesh, South Armagh, and Patsy O'Hara, Derry, both of whom died after 61 days of hunger strike. May is indeed a sad month in the Republican calendar.

Let no one dare dishonour these Irish Republican patriots by saying they gave their lives for anything other than Irish freedom and Independence.

SARAH MURPHY
South Armagh

Know Your Rights

A chara

As Michael McDowell continues his crusade to turn the 26 Counties into a police state, Republicans, and indeed all persons with a social conscience, must continue to resist such a state becoming a reality.

Legislation to curtail our rights and freedoms is being rushed through Leinster House on an almost weekly basis. It is difficult to know from one day to the next what is a 'criminal offence' and what is not. Yesterdays acceptable behaviour is today a crime.

The criminalisation of large sections of society is unacceptable as McDowell's version of anti-social behaviour is questionable to say the least. He inhabits a world only dreamed of by the marginalized society at whom much of his legislation is aimed.

Coming as he is with his background it is no wonder that his fascist tendencies inform his current policy. Being the grandson of Eoin McNeill, the man who countermanded the order for the Easter Rising is a hard act to follow. However he is doing his very best to top that never mind match it.

Civil liberties groups have

also expressed concern at wide-ranging powers being bestowed on the Gardaí and the state. They can see our freedoms and rights disappearing under a raft of totalitarian legislation.

I am not advocating ignoring serious anti-social behaviour but the causes must be assessed and addressed. Neither am I a bleeding heart liberal but it is a recognised and documented fact that the vast majority of those imprisoned come from socially deprived areas. The crime/criminal tag is generally only applied to those people and not to the white-collar crime/criminals who are perceived to be untouchable – the poor go before a court, the rich go before a Tribunal. The evidence given to a Tribunal cannot be used in prosecutions while in the Special non-jury court in Dublin anything is permissible to get convictions, including perjury, names on wreaths in graveyards and personal tattoos to name just a few.

From next month SAOIRSE will carry a 'Know Your Rights' section dealing with the various acts such as Offences Against the State Act, The Public Order Act, the PTA etc.

All accounts of harassment should be logged with a solicitor in your local areas.

JOSEPHINE HAYDEN
Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin

Hands Off Tara

A chara

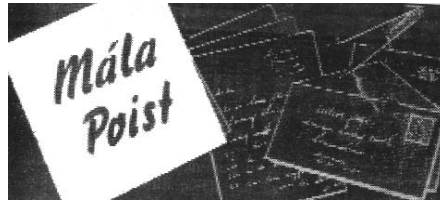
Republican Sinn Féin supports the objection by scholars and academics to the proposed M3 motorway through the Tara/Skryne valley.

This area is of immense archaeological importance, there are references to it dating back over 1,000 years. Tara always was and is still regarded as a sacred place. It will always be associated with the High Kings of Ireland. It is a territory steeped in history, if any area represents the sovereignty of Ireland it is Tara.

St Patrick is associated with Tara, regarded as the centre of political and religious power at the time. He is said to have gone there to get permission from the Ard-Rí of Ireland to teach Christianity. Two great Irish symbols, the shamrock and the harp, are associated with Tara. The royal demesne of Tara is a part of our great Celtic heritage and to run a huge motorway through it is sacrilegious and outrageous. We call on Dick Roche, 26-County environment minister, to re-route the motorway to the east of the Tara/Skryne valley.

The speculators, the capitalists who have bought up land along the proposed route of the M3 motorway should be shown the contempt they deserve. As environment minister we call on Dick Roche to protect the environment and our Celtic heritage.

PÁDRAIG ENNIS
PRO, Comhairle Chúige
Laighean
Sinn Féin Poblachtach



• A 'Know Your Rights' feature will be carried in SAOIRSE starting in the June edition.

EIRE NUA Programme Only Alternative

A chara

The blame game continues on in the Belfast battlegrounds as to who is at fault in the recent flare-up of loyalist attacks. The ugly fact remains that nationalist people are being brutalised and terrorised as the loyalists lay siege and try to cut off isolated areas such as in the Short Strand community.

We all hear the same old tired patronising lines from the politicians of all ilk that "there needs to be an end to the violence"; "WE must restore calm"; "WE must build trust", what good are words under a petrol bomb barrage and blast bomb attack?!

The reality is on the ground, not in Stormont, Leinster House, Westminster or Washington. Provo Adams and McGuinness met with Tony Blair to address and strategise on the violence and to reaffirm the future of the flawed Stormont Agreement. The most telling quote coming from those meetings was from Adams' (as reported from the *News Letter*): "The [British] government has to ensure that no one thinks there is any alternative to the Stormont Agreement or the changes it contains."

This is outright deception and treasonous collusion against the Irish people the world over by the Provos and their collaborationists. To take the people down the path of legitimising partition and occupation, which was created by the Brits, and the recognition of their puppet government's legal and moral authority to rule is unconscionable. All in the context that no alternatives to

the Stormont Agreement are out there, they wish to deceive the people.

There are realistic and viable alternatives such as Sinn Féin Poblachtach's ÉIRE NUA political manifesto in the creation of an All-Ireland Democratic Socialist Republic in a four-province federal set up. Why do Adams and Blair wish to silence the ÉIRE NUA proposal with the help of all the mainstream capitalist profit hungry media on both sides of the Atlantic? You draw your own conclusions. Now is the time for offensive action by Sinn Féin Poblachtach to hammer home the ÉIRE NUA plan as the alternative to the Stormont Agreement which can lead the way towards a peaceful solution.

It sure has not been too peaceful looking as the Stormont Agreement is rammed down our throats. With a desire to suppress our message in the media or the use of visas by the US government to deny Sinn Féin Poblachtach members from coming into the US to gather support for ÉIRE NUA, it only serves to make Republicans more determined than ever to break the chains that would bind a nation.

SEÁN Ó LÚBHAIGH
Ohio, USA

RSF Here to Stay

A chara

Whilst reading the *Irish News* of March 31 it emerged that the Provos had attacked two Republicans, hospitalising one of them for a few days. Why, may one ask? Their only 'crime' was that of giving their allegiance to the 32-County All-Ireland Republic and for selling Easter Lilies.

It has also emerged that wreaths laid by Republican Sinn Féin at the Republican Plot in St Coleman's Cemetery,

Lurgan, Co Armagh were destroyed by these same fascists. I would like to take this opportunity to show our solidarity with our comrades in Lurgan. We in Newry in the years since 1986 had cords ripped from wreaths and were threatened with everything under the sun. We are growing in Newry, paper sales increasing and membership is growing. The Provos know that.

Again we have a Provo mouthpiece John O'Dowd (a member of the British Establishment) claiming he had no evidence to suggest that Republicans were involved in these attacks. True, Mr O'Dowd, Republicans don't desecrate graves or attack fellow Republicans only pro-Brit collaborators do. Here we have the Provisionals again lying through their teeth just like in the case of Joe O'Connor (murdered by the Provos' military wing), to name but one case of their false denials. Once more I take this opportunity to tell all our friends, supporters and especially our comrades in Lurgan and throughout Ireland that we have faced the might of the so-called British Empire for centuries, we have faced the Blueshirts with whom the Provisionals have much in common, we are not going away, we are not going home (as McGuinness told us to do in 1986). We are here to stay to end British rule once and for all.

Keep the faith. Up the Republic.

FR
Newry, Co Down

Correct Name of Wexford Patriot

A chara

In the report in April SAOIRSE on the Easter commemorations in Co Wexford an incorrect name was given.

In fact the wreath was placed for Maurice Spillane at the Post Office in Enniscorthy.

In 1922 Maurice Spillane was killed by the Free State army because he remained faithful to the 32-County Republic. He will never be forgotten in Enniscorthy.

BRENDAN TOBIN
Co Wexford

Media Blackout Suits Establishment

A chara

One could not but be moved at the courage of the people of South-east Asia in the aftermath of the tsunami (quite rightly getting wall-to-wall coverage) but also the extreme courage of parts of Southeast Asia (Aceh province, Adimenm Nicknor and Sentinel Islands and indeed India) who turned back aid from Bush, Blair and Sharon (fresh from their killings in Iraq and Palestine).

This rejection of aid got scant coverage. It is sad that Ireland is part of these killings with Bertie Ahern dragging the good name of Ireland (built up over centuries and admired throughout the world) through the gutter.

In contrast upwards of 200,000 have been slaughtered in Iraq (men, women and children), many more than were killed by the tsunami but no wall-to-wall coverage at all, even though the ancient and holy city of Basra was utterly destroyed with its unrivalled treasures – of course one must not forget the slaughtered inhabitants.

In contrast also on January 5, 2005, Irish travellers were driven off their site (which they had for over three years) in the British Midlands by British police with jackboots and goggles, supported by police dogs, bulldozers, you name it.

The media were completely barred from the area. Since then there has been an onslaught on travellers and Irish people in general in Britain. This has led Kevin McNamara to compare the onslaught to a "whiff of the gas chambers". Of course as we know from our history travellers were originally driven off their lands by Cromwell and such like and indeed there are a few large estates even in the 26 Counties yet (for example, Devonshire in Waterford) running into many thousands of acres which would house many of these travellers who indeed are the rightful owners. Of course the Irish media, clergy, Ambassador, Dublin government stand idly by as usual in all of this.

S Ó CORAINN
London

Please note that all material for publication, articles, features, news reports, combhroin, 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

Martin Calligan

REPUBLICANS in Clare and indeed throughout Ireland were saddened to hear of the death on April 13 of Martin Calligan of Kilmurry-McMahon, Co Clare. His passing is a break in the Republican chain which reaches back into the early part of the 20th century.

The large attendance at his funeral was an indication of the respect and admiration in which Martin was held. His coffin was covered by the Tricolour and a pair of black gloves. A guard of honour marched on either side of the hearse.

Proceedings at the graveside were chaired by Paddy Kenneally, Crusheen, who called on Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President, Republican Sinn Féin, to lay a wreath on behalf of the organisation. Martin was honorary Vice-President of Comhairle na Mumhan for almost 20 years.

The graveside oration was delivered by Des Long, Limerick.

At the start of his oration Des Long read from an autographed book which Martin signed in Arbour Hill prison on May 19, 1941 in which he said: "We

have the strength and peace of mind of those who never compromised." The speaker said that these words exemplified Martin's life.

He then went on to give those present a potted history of Martin's long, active, exciting and interesting life. He joined the IRA in 1924 under TJ Ryan who had just been released from internment after the Civil War and how he played an active part in rebuilding the east Clare Battalion of the IRA. From 1924 until his death Martin was a Republican active in all branches of the Republican Movement at great personal cost.

He was a constant target for the Free State political police and was subject to threats and bribes. He was offered a free passage to America for information. On another occasion the police kidnapped

Brón ar an mBás



• Ruairí Ó Brádaigh lays a wreath on the grave of Martin Calligan.

him from his home at 2.30am, stripped him naked, threw him into the boot of their car, drove him to a lonely spot and threatened to shoot him. On this as on all other occasions of threat, Martin was unmoved.

In 1931 he was one of the first batch of Republicans

before the Free State military courts. He was before a military court five times, once in 1935 on Christmas Eve. In total Martin spent almost 16 years in captivity between jail and internment.

In 1934 he was interned by de Valera but Séamus Bourke

took a *habeas corpus* action and all internees were released. Martin knew his would be a temporary release and he went on the run. He was arrested six months later and was again interned. In the Curragh he was one of those who burned the camp and received a two-year sentence in the Glasshouse. Martin spent the rest of WWII in jail, sentenced or interned.

Because of the unemployment situation in Ireland during the 1950s Martin had to go to England to seek work to support his family. This did not stop his efforts and he continued his work in England, collecting for prisoners and on paper sales etc. Back in Kilmurry-McMahon in the 1960s he again became active locally supporting the Republican Movement in every way possible.

In 1969 when some former Republicans decided to enter the Leinster House partitionist assembly Martin opposed the move as a sell-out. He was one of the most active of those in Clare who supported the H-Block/Armagh prisoners. Because of his prison experiences he knew what those prisoners were suffering.

In 1986 he was again to the fore in opposing the sell-out.

Martin the man was a likeable character with a great sense of humour, liked by all who knew him and he was a very good neighbour. The speaker said that while Irish freedom was always to the fore in his thoughts and efforts he always supported those in foreign lands who were trying to throw off the yoke of slavery in their efforts to achieve their freedom.

Des Long reminded the attendance that Martin, together with his neighbour and comrade the late Jack Brown, took part in the Republican Sinn Féin 1991 picket of Shannon Airport in protest at the use of the facility by US warplanes on their way to bomb Iraq and the giving away of Irish neutrality by the Fianna Fáil administration. He pointed out that this was ten years before the bulk of the Irish people realised what was going on.

On behalf of the Republican Movement Des Long expressed sympathy to his wife Maureen who is in hospital in England and to his son Martin, daughter Frances and grandchildren.

Séamas Ó Caoil

REPUBLICANS in County Down and indeed throughout Ireland were saddened to hear of the death on April 23 of Séamas Ó Caoil, Moneycarragh, Clough, near Castletewellan, Co Down.

Séamas was born on November 8, 1919, the only child of James and Margaret (nee King). He lived with his wife, May.

Séamas came from a strong Republican background, his father having been chairperson of the local Cumann of Sinn Féin and was instrumental in organising a meeting addressed by Countess Markievicz in Castletewellan in 1917.

His father opposed the Treaty of Surrender in 1921 and was a founder member of Feis an Dún. He died on New Year's Day 1922 as a result of hardships endured while organising Sinn Féin in the area.

Séamas joined Óglagh Na hÉireann and took the oath to the Republican on the same day the

Barnes and McCormack were hanged – February 7, 1940. He was involved in the raids for arms in Ballynilar British Army Camp. Quartermaster at the time was Barney Kelly from Kilkoo and other fellow comrades were the O'Hagan brothers, Kilkeel and Eddie Steele, Aughlinnafin, who later escaped from Derry Jail.

Séamas was leader of the Aughlinnafin section which trained on Rose's Hill near Maghera village. At the time there was no shortage of Volunteers from all over Co Down, Kilief, Saul, Loughanisland, Maghera, Leitrim, Kilkoo and many other areas.

Séamas was also involved in the National Graves Association and was instrumental in erecting a Róisín Dubh monument at the

grave of Comdt James Johnston in the 1950s. He founded a branch of the Gaelic League in 1943 in Aughlinnafin which was very successful and many attended Gaelic classes and got gold fáinní. He was a founder member of the Newcastle Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann which is still in existence. He played the violin and attended all the Fleadhanna over the years.

Over the past thirty years he and May kept many Republicans in their homes from all over Ireland and beyond. Séamas was very actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement and in 1972 was imprisoned in Crumlin Rd Jail for protesting against internment. While in prison two riots took place during which the paratroopers savagely beat the defenceless prisoners. It was also during this time that, accompanied by the late Joe McCrickland, Leitrim and Oliver Rea, Bryansford, he attended a civil rights march which was ambushed by loyalists in Burntollet Bridge.

Séamas was a founder member of the South Down Martyrs



• Séamas Ó Caoil

Cumann of Sinn Féin in Castletewellan after the 1969 split and the launch was attended by the late Máire Drumm. He was also the chairperson of the of the local Comhairle Ceantair. In 1981 he took part in the outdoor hunger strike/blanket protest in Castletewellan in solidarity with the hunger strikers and men on the blanket in the H-Blocks of Long

Kesh.

Séamas was actively involved in the Sinn Féin elections in the 1980s and three councillors were elected to Down District Council and Newry and Mourne Council. During this time, a lot of work went into purchasing offices in Castletewellan, ably assisted by the late Kevin Agnew from Maghera.

After the split in 1986 Séamas, loyal to the ideals of the men in 1916, chose to continue the struggle with Republican Sinn Féin and has done much active work, including delivering the Easter oration on a number of occasions in various locations. Séamas also did much to promote an awareness and love of the Irish language and culture in Co Down. He has been a member of the committee of Cumann Gaelic Lá Cathal and was connected to the Feis an Dún committee for many years.

To the end of his days, even through illness bravely borne, he remained steadfast in his commitment to a 32-County Socialist Republic and was opposed to compromise of the principles enunciated by the men

and women of Easter 1916. He believed that our former Republican comrades were orchestrating a treacherous sell-out on a scale not witnessed since the 1921 partitionist treaty.

After Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Aughlinnafin, he was buried in the adjoining cemetery. Members of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann sang at the funeral Mass. The coffin, draped in the Tricolour, was flanked by a Republican Sinn Féin guard of honour. Sarah Murphy, south Armagh presided at the graveside and extended condolences to Séamas's many friends and comrades. A decade of the rosary was recited in Irish by the officiating priest. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and south Down Republicans.

His friend and comrade Danny Fitzpatrick gave a fitting oration and members of Comhaltas sang a lament as Gaeltige following the oration. The Tricolour was folded and presented to his wife May by Sarah Murphy.

Laurence McDonnell

THE death occurred in London England recently of life-long Republican and trade union activist Laurence (Lary) McDonnell.

Lary from Patrickswell, County Limerick was forced through economic circumstances to emigrate in 1982 when CIE Road Freight Department ceased operating.

Lary was the last of the many active service volunteers from Limerick who took part in the 1956-1962 IRA campaign to return home. He returned home in May 1962 after he and other active service volunteers in the campaign had safely stored and dumped their arms so that they would be available for the next phase in the fight for Irish freedom when that time would occur.

He had been sent on active service by the Limerick Command when IRA HQ requested volunteers from

Limerick in 1958. He took part in many operations until he was arrested with Seán Cronin, Chief of Staff in a car stopped at traffic lights in Finglas village in June 1960. He together with Seán Cronin were sentenced to six months jail for "failing to account for their movements".

On completion of his term in jail, served in Mountjoy, Lary returned home and recommenced work as a driver with CIE Road Freight. After a very short period of time, IRA HQ sent for Lary again and without hesitation he went north to do his part in the fight for Irish freedom. He remained on active service until the campaign was called off and acting on instructions he dumped weapons. He again returned home in May 1962 and again



• A recent picture of Lary with Seán Cronin, former Irish Times US Correspondent and former Chief of Staff IRA.

took up work in CIE Road Freight Depot as a truck driver.

During his career as a driver with CIE he was a very active member of his trade union. Because of his ability and commitment he was elected chairman of the Road Freight section of the union. In that capacity he was engaged in negotiations with management to improve the working conditions of his members. He ably led the members in a number of strikes undertaken by the union and was regarded by all as an able and committed leader.

He was a driver and union leader with CIE Road Freight until the CIE management decided to close down that section of CIE operations and again Lary was to the fore in getting the best possible redundancy conditions for his membership.

In 1969 and in 1986 when former Republicans decided to abandon Republican principles and accept the two statelets and

their institutions Lary was to the fore in his opposition to those moves. In a recent conversation with the author he condemned the decision by the Provos and their leadership to destroy weapons.

He said: "In 1962 we dumped arms safely to ensure that they would be available for the next phase and in August 1969 when that phase came about we had arms and men available. These moves by the Provos to destroy weapons when England still rules part of our country can only be described as treachery and must be resisted." Lary was a dedicated and militant Republican to the last.

The Republican Movement sympathised with his wife Eileen, nee Long, who he married in 1967, his son Cathal, daughter Niamh, granddaughter Ella, brothers Michael and Buddy, relatives and a large number of comrades and friends.

SINN FÉIN WINS TWO SEATS AND 152,000 VOTES

50 Years Ago

ON May 26, 1955 a grand total of 152,310 no votes were won by Sinn Féin in its Six-County wide election contact and two seats – Fermanagh

South Tyrone and Mid-Ulster – were gained.

Eight of the 12 Republican candidates were prisoners – five of them Omagh Raid men – and the two elected were Tom Mitchell in Mid-Ulster and Philip Clarke in Fermanagh-South Tyrone.

Every constituency was contested for the first time since Sinn Féin stood in 1921 and the breakdown of the Republican vote was as follows:

North Antrim: Seán Dougan, Dunloy – 6,809;
South Antrim: Michael Traynor, Belfast and Dublin – 5,155;
North Belfast: Frank McGlade, Belfast – 4,534;
South Belfast: Paddy Kearney, Dublin – 1,679;
East Belfast: Liam Mulcahy, Cork – 3,156;
West Belfast: Éamonn Boyce, Dublin – 8,447;
North Down: Joe Campbell, Newry – 1,637;
South Down: Kevin O'Rourke, Banbridge – 19,644;
Armagh: Tomás MacCurtáin, Cork – 21,363;
Derry: Manus Canning, Derry – 19,640;
Mid-Ulster: Tom Mitchell, Dublin – 29,737;
Fermanagh-South Tyrone: Philip Clarke, Dublin – 30,529.

A big impetus to the whole campaign was gained when the nationalist convention meeting in Enniskillen on May 6 selected the Sinn Féin prisoner candidate, Philip Clarke as their candidate in the election.

Outgoing and veteran MP for the constituency, Cahir Healy who sat in a British Parliament, was reported by a delegate, Tommy Campbell of Belleek, as saying that if Clarke were selected and elected, "the RUC and B-Spears would rise up and drive the nationalist people out of the Six Counties."

But the convention went ahead and chose Clarke. Sinn Féin appealed to the Mid-Ulster convention, due to meet in Omagh two days later, "to refrain from nominating a Nationalist candidate in opposition to Tom Mitchell".

It went on "The Fermanagh-South Tyrone Convention gave a lead of far-reaching importance by deciding to support Phil Clarke".

"If Mid-Ulster follows, it will strengthen, where it is most needed, the determination of Irish people to free Ireland. It will encourage, wherever encouragement is needed, the will to make whatever sacrifices may be necessary to break the shackles of slavery that bind Ireland to the British Empire."

At the convention 167 delegates from 32 of the 35 parishes in the constituency attended. The Secretary read two letters from Sinn Féin asking the chair and delegates to "leave a clear field for the Sinn Féin candidate, Tom Mitchell".

After a discussion lasting 40 minutes, the convention decided not to put forward a candidate. This historic decision was greeted with rage in some quarters.

The *Irish Times* of May 7, in an editorial headed "The Northern Fiasco", in effect denounced the Mid Ulster decision. "The Nationalist hand has been forced by Sinn Féin's decision to contest every one of the twelve Six-County seats. The historic and once united Nationalist Party in the Six Counties had at last been driven into 'liquidation'."

Rather than endorsing the policy of physical force by supporting the Sinn Féin candidates, "thousands of patriotic Nationalists will decline to set their seal upon the use of unconstitutional means. There may be enough of such people to let the Unionists in".

In west Belfast, where Jack Beattie had held the seat for Labour by a very narrow majority (25 votes), that seat would go to the Unionists also.

The editorial concluded: "Sinn Féin, that irresponsible rump of a once great organisation, has played most tragically into Glengall Street's (Unionist HQ) hands."

It would be interesting to quote the *Irish Times* editorial comments on Sinn Féin in 1917-21!

The *Sunday Independent* of May 1 reported that the Co Down Anti-Partition Board "announced that it



• Tom Mitchell, elected TD for Mid-Ulster.

would not put forward a candidate" in the election. In spite of the begrudgers the tide was turning in favour of the Republican candidates.

As soon as nominations closed on May 16, the Unionist Chief Whip at Stormont, Colonial WVB Topping issued a statement saying that if any of the Sinn Féin candidates were elected, an application would be made to unseat them as "disqualified persons" and to declare the next candidate elected.

Michael Traynor, secretary of Sinn Féin and candidate in South Antrim, said it was an attempt to frighten Nationalist voters. "If another election was held they would contest the seats with the same candidates as before".

A statement by the Anti-Partition Association in Dublin "thanked Col Tipping for his restatement of the traditional attitude of the English government towards Irish felons." All nationally minded people will resent this attempt to bully the electorate.

"If the defeated Unionist candidates from Fermanagh-South Tyrone and Mid-Ulster appear in the (British) House of Commons to misrepresent half the total area of the Six Counties, it will be an interesting demonstration of the working of democracy under the Union Jack."

Eight of the twelve candidates were prisoners serving sentences of penal servitude. Seven of these were held in Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast while the eight, Manus Canning of Derry, was incarcerated in Wormwoods Scrubs Prison, London.

With the election campaign in full swing, Tomás MacCurtáin of Cork addressed a public meeting in his constituency at Lurgan. They had been asked why they did not fly the national flag at their meetings.

"They had too great an honour for it to see it dragged through the streets," the *Irish Independent* reported on May 9. "They would not fly the Tricolour until they could adequately protect it from insult by anyone," Tomás MacCurtáin said.

On May 12, the same paper reported the manifesto issued in Belfast on behalf of the Sinn Féin candidates: "We are pledged to sit only in a republican Parliament for All Ireland."

Nothing could be clearer. The Sinn Féin candidates asked to be elected not as British MPs but as Irish TDs to a 32-County Parliament.

"The manifesto added that the number of votes cast for their candidates would not be regarded as a plebiscite affecting in any way the right of Ireland to complete freedom.

"That right was inalienable and must never be put in issue through referendum of a section of the population."

Since Phil Clarke had been at the time of his capture following the Omagh Raid a night student at University College Dublin, students from NUI Dublin concentrated their effort in the election on his constituency of Fermanagh-South Tyrone.

Each weekend in the late April and throughout May they travelled in an open lorry to Swanlinbar, Co Cavan, a town on the Border just twelve miles from Enniskillen.

This lorry was under the direction of Matt Larkin of Dublin, later the General Secretary of ACRA (Combined Residents Association) in the city.

From 'Swad' they were ferried by car to the Fermanagh county town where they were accommodated in the local community hall overnight.

A public meeting would be held in the town on the Saturday night chaired by a prominent local person, eg Councillor Seán Nethercott, after which the students would be dispersed to local areas in order to address in each case a series of after-Mass meetings next morning.

A booklet entitled "The writings of Philip Clarke" was produced and sold at these open-air gatherings in



• Phil Clarke, elected TD for Fermanagh/South Tyrone.

good summer weather. Philip Clarke's articles written for the *United Irishman* assisted in bringing the young candidate nearer to the people of Fermanagh-South Tyrone.

On another weekend, Dungannon, Co Tyrone would be the hub of student election activity. All over the Six Counties each weekend a similar process was engaged in in aid of the candidates.

One such public meeting did attract much attention because of Unionist hecklers and the forceful language of the republican speakers. It was held in High Street, in the very centre of Belfast and was the first Sinn Féin public meeting to have been held there ever.

The *Irish Independent* of May 16 reported: "Scores of detectives and uniformed police mingled with the crowd and a police shorthand writer took a note of the speeches. A heckler interrupted one of the speakers shouting: 'We are proud to belong to the British Empire'."

"Mr J Steel, Chairman, appealed to the crowd not to interfere with any hecklers and a police officer escorted the interrupters from the meeting. Later a lorry load of British Army Territorial troops passed down High Street and some catcalls were heard.

"An Orange church parade passed along Royal Avenue just out of sight of the meeting place during the speeches."

The *Irish Times* of May 16 also reported on the meeting: "Mr Séamus Ó Soraghan, a Dublin barrister...said the present campaign was aimed at ending the Border by constitutional means. 'But', he said, 'if it fails it will inevitably and inexorably come to the use of the gun'."

"There will be nothing for it but the use of physical force – the gun, the rifle and the hand grenade – in an effort to take back by force what was taken from us by physical force."

"I hope it will never be necessary for young men to go out again to lay down their lives in the cause of Irish Republicanism. It is an open secret that there are men ready and trained, imbued by the ideals of the past generations, who will fight and who will win."

Other speakers were Tomás Ó Dubhghaill, Vice President of Sinn Féin, Frank McGlade, candidate for North Belfast, Archie McKevitt, Carlingford and Séamus Rafferty, Dundalk.

Another meeting was held later at Fruithill Estate on behalf of Michael Traynor, candidate for south Antrim. Paddy McShane, Meigh, and Peter McPartland, Bessbrook, spoke at a meeting in Keady on behalf of Co Armagh candidate, Tomás MacCurtáin.

Meetings in support of Tom Mitchell, mid-Ulster candidate, were held at Carrickmore, Loughmacrory, Mountfield and Greencastle. Tomás MacCurtáin and P. Hennessy, Dublin spoke. At Omagh, Frank Morris, Convoys, Co Donegal, a native of Tyrone, spoke.

The remarks made by Séamus Soraghan, BL in High Street, Belfast, were not strictly in accordance with instructions from Ard Oifig, Sinn Féin, in Dublin. Séamus was noted for the exuberance of his speeches and the location in the centre of Belfast probably carried him away.

The campaign in general was well organised and enthusiastic. The *Irish Times* of May 23 noted: "Belfast Sinn Féin meetings are well attended. In pro-Unionist areas they are well conducted; in Nationalist areas well applauded."

In Newtownbutler, Co Fermanagh, a group of speakers and supporters went straight from a church-gate meeting to visit Canon Tom Maguire PP in the parochial house before they proceeded to Roslea for another meeting.

The veteran Nationalist priest had proposed Phil Clarke at the top of his nomination papers. Eleven years later in 1966 he was to propose Ruairí Ó

Brádaigh as the Republican candidate for the same constituency.

"I'm behind ye 100%" he told the visitors, "and if there are any of the IRA among ye remember I'm still your Chaplin." His remarks and general demeanour certainly raised morale.

The *Irish Independent* of May 27 did a round-up of voter turn-out. "There was a large turnout of voters in Armagh city the percentage being estimated at well over 80. At Lislea, a Nationalist area four miles outside the city there was as usual 100% poll. In Keady, another nationalist area, the poll was 95% while many areas in South Armagh polled more than 90%."

"There has seldom been such a quiet election in Fermanagh-south TyroneThe earliest voters in Enniskillen were the hundreds of women returning from 7am Mass in St Michaels Church where a mission was being held.

"They formed long queues as they waited to vote. The North Ward, Enniskillen recorded an 83% vote, 509 voting out of 608 on the register.

"Mid-Ulster – there was a heavy poll in some areas, especially in mid-Tyrone, where 90% of the electorate turned out. In North and West Tyrone over 70% voted. In Omagh town there was an 80% poll and in Cookstown 90% of the electorate voted.

"Election excitement was notably absent in Belfast during the day, the only division where polling was fairly heavy being west Belfast..."

In the *Irish Independent* of May 29 there was some bitter criticism of Sinn Féin alleging that polling booths in some Unionist-majority polling booths were "unmanned". These sources were anonymous and the usual nationalist representatives could have done the job in the polling booths.

Cahir Healy came out openly in his criticism to give him his due, but there was no concerted move by the RUC and B-Men to expel the nationalist population across the Border, as he had predicted in the situation of Sinn Féin winning.

In the matter of postal votes, Art McCaughey of Dungannon election agent for Phil Clarke was able to say that there were only 180 less such votes than in 1951. A total of 7,640 (including 4,300 to the nationalist electorate) were issued.

The late Des Cox of Armagh lived in Enniskillen in the 1950s and did a magnificent job in charge of postal votes. Unionists objected to 34 postal votes for the Passionist community at the Graan Enniskillen and the votes were officially turned down for the first time ever. "Missionary priest" could not be classed as "service, occupation or employment".

The Nationalist Party criticism was in marked contrast to Canon Maguire's call on the Sunday before the election: "Let us be wise far-seeing and not blinded by Party prejudice."

Brian MacLua, Clare, speaking in Belfast before the election, was quoted in the *Irish Independent* (May 23): Sinn Féin would contest the next 26-County General Election. It was their intention eventually to form a Third (All-Ireland) Dáil."

Caoimhín MacChathmhaoil, solicitor, Mayo in a letter to the newspaper said: "A point that may be overlooked is that the Sinn Féin candidates were not standing as abstentionists but were seeking to be returned to Dáil Éireann, the Parliament of the Irish Republic.

"The two successful candidates are now entitled to act as members of the Third Dáil and to appointment to the Executive of An Dáil."

Leo Martin, still with Republican Sinn Féin, made a similar statement at the public meeting in Belfast.

The *Irish Times* of May 29 in its editorial said: "The intervention of Sinn Féin as it turns out, has made no practical difference to the result in the two predominantly Nationalist constituencies of Fermanagh-South Tyrone and Mid-Ulster, where the Unionists have just – only just – failed to steal a victory."

It was 'questionable' if Jack Beattie of Irish Labour would have managed to beat the Unionist without a Sinn Féin candidate in the field, the editorial said. The Unionist got 34,191, Beattie 16,050 and Éamonn Boyce 8,447.

Sinn Féin won Mid-Ulster by 260 votes and Fermanagh-South Tyrone by 261. Overall the results were a great boost for Republican Ireland. For the first time since Sinn Féin contested all seats in 1918 and 1921, all people in the Six Counties could vote for a free and independent Ireland.

The results meant a great deal to Sinn Féin workers going out in support of candidates in the 26-County local council elections the following month, June 1955 ...

(More next month. Refs. *Irish Independent*, *Irish Times* and *Sunday Press*, May 1955.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

THE GOP Republican Party of the United States was formed in its present form by an elite group of Americans who wanted true, real Native Americans to wield power in the United States. They were concerned that growing numbers of immigrants by sheer numbers might gain power and change the Anglo-Saxon Protestant ethic that dominated America since its founding.

These immigrants were for the most part overwhelmingly Catholic, especially Irish Catholic. The Nativist Republicans portrayed the newcomers as ignorant lowlives who had fled Europe and now came to the States with their hands out expecting to be taken care of. They considered them lazy drunken people with a religion that had no place in America.

The Know Nothings were a paramilitary group that invaded immigrant ghettos and beat the helpless, raped women who they claimed sold themselves cheap, and denied access to the poles. These German, Irish, Italians and Jews had no place alongside decent Americans.

The leadership of the Know-Nothings numbered businessmen, newspaper publishers and a rising politician from Illinois named Abraham Lincoln who would be the face of the Republican Party.

Lincoln was on the payroll of the railroad tycoons and argued their case in court and did quite well for himself protecting the interests of the super-rich. Paddy was laying the rails and the railroad tycoons wanted to keep them in their place at low wages and no political power. Lincoln was their man to do the job.

At Republican functions, Lincoln told off-colour jokes about dumb drunken Paddy and his whore of a wife who he rented out for money to buy booze. Lincoln and his lot despised the Irish and the Catholics in general. They set the Republican Party as the anti-Catholic Party which carries on to today.

The political descendents of Lincoln are alive and well and have fought modern-day Irish Catholics who dare to try to help Ireland become a unified nation like the US.

US AID TO BRITISH

In the past 35 years of struggle, Republican Presidents have done everything possible to assist the

British in maintaining the partition of Ireland. Some even claimed Irish heritage, which they dishonoured. They are Richard M Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George HW Bush and George W Bush.

It began with Richard Nixon who was in power during the start of the Civil Rights Movement in Ireland that was patterned after that of the African Americans. It was non-violent, but was met by violence and brutality by the British.

The British state terrorism, the initial violence of the era, would have stopped instantly had the Nixon Administration spoken up, but their silence and indifference would contribute to the campaign of resistance that would emanate from the Nationalist ghettos in the North of Ireland which was still occupied by a brutal repressive British regime that was on par with the much criticized communist regimes to the East.

The British were worse than the communists were because they were hypocrites for claiming to be democratic. Their American cousins disgraced their own ideals by not demanding simple justice for the Irish.

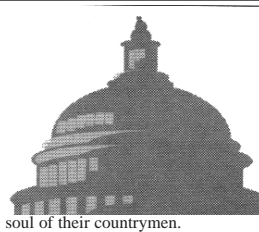
As long as the British stood alongside Nixon in his obsessive campaign against the 'commies', Britain could beat and kill as many 'papists' as the wished and Washington would remain deathly silent.

There was an emerging group in the USA called the 'Lace Curtain Irish' who were trying to fit in and become part of the American Establishment and that meant becoming associate WASPS and of course joining the Republican party and in so doing selling out their own kind.

They became the vocal critics of the Irish 'terrorists' to prove their loyalty to the Anglophile WASP Republican. That is a modern Irish tragedy.

No Irish curse is strong enough to put on those who forgot their heritage and forgot those at home seeking to obtain their rights and freedom. They are lapsed Irishmen and women and should be excommunicated from calling themselves Irish when it suits their narrow purpose.

They are worse bigots than the rest of the WASP Republicans, bigoted against their own kind. The 'Lace Curtain Irish' judge their own by dollar amount, putting a price on the



soul of their countrymen.

Nixon, in response to pleas for help from brutalised Irish people, said it was an internal British matter, but in the communist countries it was different, it was an American concern there.

GERALD Ford continued the Nixon policies of indifference towards Ireland and both these men were of Irish heritage. His baptismal name was not Ford but Leslie Lynch King.

Ronald Reagan was the next Republican president and he played up his father's Irishness during his political campaign, but he was not a credit to it. During his Hollywood acting career, Reagan was an informer for the FBI, turning in any of his colleagues who had left leaning tendencies. As we know his best friend in politics was the Butcher of Benches, Margaret Thatcher.

Reagan backed her treatment of our Hunger Strikers and when they died desecrated their memory. He was rewarded for his campaign against the Irish by being sponsored for a knighthood by the same Margaret Thatcher. Reagan is now in the hottest place in hell reserved for traitors and informers.

Reagan was followed by Bush 1 who continued Reagan's harassment of Irish Americans as well as supporting British torture and killing innocent Irish civilians. What we now know is that American soldiers were at Castlereagh and Long Kesh and other torture centers observing the in-depth interrogation procedures the Americans would use in Afghanistan, Iraq and Cuba (Guantanamo).

Bush too was given a knighthood by the queen of England for activities against the Irish in Ireland and America. His son Bush II now reigns the coup and has branded Irish Republican activists, specifically Republican Sinn Féin, to be terrorists. I wonder what reward the Queen of England will have for him?

The Bush Administration has defined terrorism as the intentional killing of civilians. I am not aware that RSF has killed one civilian, but the estimate for Bush kills of Iraqi civilians is well over 100,000. Who

the hell is the terrorist?

Let me offer one Irish American as an example of one who is utterly disgusted with Bush, his supporters and the direction of the New America of the religious right. This gentleman served in the US Marine Corps, Federal Law Enforcement and is proud of the contribution of the Irish to the USA throughout its history.

Hw tells me that in his work in law enforcement, they have no clue or care to learn who the real enemy of the USA is and who they should be pursuing in order to stop real threats to the National Security of the United States. America, in its pursuit of the so-called war on terrorism, is Don Quixote charging a windmill.

He sees the US acceptance of the British mantle since WWI as an utter disaster. Britain no longer had the resources to continue world dominance, so it turned to its former colony which had endless power to do its bidding.

America fell into the trap and became a tyrant while still maintaining it was a nation supporting freedoms for the world's peoples. The USA never supported Irish freedom.

Ireland, according to Bush, which is not grateful for all the British have done for them and what the British have had to endure, should show its gratitude to the Brits.

America should be encouraging physical force by the IRA unless it is prepared to peacefully force the British out of the 6 Counties. That would be following the premise of the founding of America but the Bush Klan have long ago embraced the British version of America.

CONVENIENCE

Like Britain, the USA uses dictators and authoritarian regimes when convenient and striking down small nations that it claims are evil. Look at who are USA allies in the war on terror. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia are examples of dictatorships that which the US spins as nations pursuing freedom. The problem is that Saudi Arabia is financing world terrorism.

We know 17 of the 19 World Trade Centre terrorists were from Saudi Arabia and the wife of the Saudi Ambassador was a major contributor to charities controlled by al Qaeda. We know that former President George HW Bush is a partner with members of the Saudi royal family.

We know that the only plane allowed to fly after 9/11 was a plane carrying two al Qaeda terrorists, the bin Laden family and other questionable Saudis safely away from any US investigation.

We know that the Saudi royal family gives money to Islamic fanatics of the Wahabbi sect to push their fundamentalists violent branch of Islam in order to keep them from overthrowing the Saudi Monarchy. We know that George W Bush has made them untouchable.

If Bush had invaded Saudi Arabia, a clear proven threat to the national security of the United States, I do not think there would have been any outcry from Americans, but Bush invaded Iraq as an excuse to divert attention away from Arabia.

Fifteen hundred plus American soldiers and 100,000 Iraqi civilians are no more important than spit in a bucket to Bush and his Klan. Bush has stated the God told him to invade Iraq, so he did. Bush needs some serious time with a battery of shrinks. The fool is clearly off his rocker, the fool does not suffer, we do.

His parents never gave little Georgie the beating he needs. Someone needs to do it. Killing innocent people is the definition of terrorist, one Bush and his Klan fit, but he designates Republican Sinn Féin, which is no threat to the United States, nor does it fit the definition of terrorists.

The Bill of Rights, the greatest basic law, has been thrashed by the Bush Klan. Dissent, the very foundation of the America true Americans believe in, has been made criminal if you criticize the Bush Klan. If the Irish criticize the British peace process, they are flirting with terrorists.

My source says that many of his friends were killed and are listed on the stark black Vietnam Wall in Washington DC. He goes at least once a year to that wall to grieve. He cannot understand why Americans are not permitted to honour their dead when they come back in coffins from Iraq. It is a directive of Bush that all the coffins are to be hidden from view when they come back, even from their families. It is a reminder of those who served honourably, which Bush, Cheney *et al* did not do and hide their shame.

Many of us oppose the war, but the warrior deserves to be honoured for his or her sacrifice. Their valour is something Bush and Cheney cannot identify with because they are cowards. They have to hide those bodies because they have to hide their shame and disgrace. They had others die in their place.

— Peadar Mac Fhínín

Máire Killeen

THE death took place in Dublin on April 15 of Máire Killeen (Máire Ní Chillín), late of Currygrane, Ballinalee, Co Longford and Merrion House, Lower Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin.

She is survived by her sister Éilís, nephews Ultan and Aidan, niece Emer and cousin Barry Hughes, Gowna, Co Cavan.

Coming from a noted Republican family, Máire, along with her sister Éilís, was very active in Sinn Féin in Dublin in the 1950s and '60s, while her late mother Catherine was a staunch supporter. In later years her allegiance was to Republican Sinn Féin.

A national teacher by profession, Máire was known by those who were active with

her in the Republican Movement as "Miss Killeen". She was formerly Vice-Principal of Stanhope Street Convent National School in Dublin.

Her late father, James Joseph Killeen had a colourful career. He was tried three times in 1900-01 under the Whiteboy Act before being finally acquitted, was a PL Guardian and County Councillor, was interned without trial in Rath Camp, the Curragh and was elected Sinn Féin TD for Longford-Westmeath in 1923. In 1927

he was elected a Fianna Fáil TD.

Máire Killeen's uncle, Seán Duffy of Ballinalee, was a renowned IRA soldier and served as second-in-command of the North Longford Flying Column.

She herself will be remembered for her idealism, her lively personality and her generosity both in spirit and in material matters. She certainly lived up to her family's record of service to Ireland and its people.

The funeral took place on April 19 from Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross to Clonbroney Church, Ballinalee. The coffin was draped in the Irish Tricolour. Following Mass, burial was in the adjoining cemetery.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Comhbhrón

CALLIGAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late Martin Calligan (Kilmurry-MacMahon, Co Clare). From Patrick Williams New Jersey, USA.

CALLIGAN. The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to the comrades, family and friends of Martin Calligan, Kilmurry MacMahon, Co Clare who died on April 13.

CALLIGAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late Martin Calligan (Kilmurry-MacMahon, Co Clare). From Comhairle na Mumhan, Republican Sinn Féin.

CALLIGAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late Martin Calligan (Kilmurry-MacMahon, Co Clare). From Republican Sinn Féin, Clare.

COSTELLO. The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to the family, comrades and friends of Tom Costello, Dunmore, Co Galway who died on May 2.

KILLEEN. The Ard Chomhairle,

Republican Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Máire Killeen, Dublin who died on April 15.

LEAVY. The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Tom Leavy, Westmeath who died on April 27.

LEEN. Sincere sympathy is extended to Matt Leen on the death of his mother. From the Carmody/O'Rahilly Cumann, Ballulalongford.

LEEN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Leen on the death of his mother. From Seán Ó Sé.

LEEN. Sincere sympathy is extended to Matt Leen, on the death of his mother. From Bill O'Shea.

LEEN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Leen on the death of his mother. From John O'Shea.

LEEN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Leen on the death of his mother. From the Maurice O'Neill Cumann, Cahersiveen.

LEEN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Leen on the death of his mother. From the Garvey Family, Fylemore, Cahersiveen.

LEEN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Leen on the death of his

mother. From Jim O'Shea, Cahersiveen.

LEEN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Matt Leen. Tralee, Co Kerry on the death of his mother. From Séamus Mac Suain, Loch Garman.

QUAIL. The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Séamus Quail, Co Down who died on April 23.

QUAIL. Sincere sympathy is extended to May and family on the death of her husband Séamus Quail on April 23. From South Armagh Republican Sinn Féin.

QUAIL. Sincere sympathy is extended to May and family on the death of her husband Séamus Quail on April 23. From South Down Republicans.

QUAIL. Sincere sympathy is extended to May and family on the death of her husband Séamus Quail on April 23. From Danny Fitzpatrick, South Down.

QUAIL. Sincere sympathy is extended to May and family on the death of her husband Séamus Quail on April 23. From Sarah Murphy, South Armagh.

Vote sectarian and keep the Brits happy

AS yet another British election date looms this island are united in keeping real issues away from the electorate's mind. Paisley, Adams, Durkan, Trimble and the Alliance sweepers have as usual ignored issues such as housing, employment and health, preferring to dwell on the events of 1690 and in the case of nationalists the Good Friday Disagreement.

A recent report states that manufacturing jobs which were almost a hundred thousand in the mid seventies are now around the twenty thousand figure. This 'peace dividend' is not top of Gerry Adams's agenda when going around the country.

He seems to prefer 'history' lessons and whipping up hysterical paranoia among the masses about how unionism is the enemy and Britain our future saviour. His recent

calling on the PIRA to disband seems ludicrous — this 'army' has been out of business for over ten years now. Its former leaders are mostly in receipt of their old age pensions. Those who are slightly younger spend two weeks in the sunshine and the rest of the year recovering from the exertion.

This election has been interesting in that the call to hand over those who killed the McCartney sisters' brother in Short Strand has not been obeyed by the ordinary folk. The RUC for their part, seem to be waiting until after the election to act. One suspects this is to save Gerry and his Limited Intelligence Company embarrassment. After all who wants prisoners on remand during an election period.

Jobs, housing and health care seem reasonable things to expect from those we elect to govern. Let's remember that at the height of the troubles these



• Bobby Sands — his name is being used to gather votes for ex-Republicans and ex-freedom fighters.

things were top of Britain's agenda. De Lorean, Fruit of The Loom, Segro — to name but a few. All are gone and the puppet

politicians seem not to have noticed. They prefer to run with horror stories about drugs and suicides among young people. The relationship between unemployment, lack of health education and young people at risk gets ignored.

It's a strange old world where Tony Blair has been branded a liar by 60% of those who also say they will vote for him.

It's a strange old world where Gerry Adams and Limited Intelligence encourage collaboration with the colonial power, ignore every bread and butter issue effecting the working-class, promise hospital closures and unemployment and still expect to get elected on the basis that they shared a cup of tea with Bobby Sands in Long Kesh thirty years ago.

LET'S ask a question. Of all those asking to be elected is there any difference. Look at how they are dressed. Think about the issues

they believe are important (Nationalist and Unionist, Tory and Labour are agreed that the IRA must disband and then who gives a toss about the issues. There will be no IRA to cause trouble and marches and things will be dealt with as in the past. Hail, hail Bloody Sunday.)

It's all up for grabs Ministerial positions. Payment cheques for all those media interviews. The feel-good factor. Trips to America. Back to the future in Stormont if Paisley allows it.

David Trimble and his old buddies who were never members of The Committee and all the nationalists who were never members of the IRA rubbing shoulders and forgiving each other for allegedly killing US. It's all a very touching story.

It really is a privilege to vote for such people. And when they call at your door if you listen to them they will tell you that.



Republican Garden Bundoran

THE Committee & Trustees of the Bundoran Republican Garden is pleased to announce that the Garden was officially opened on Easter Monday, March 27.

Special Appeal for Funds

In remembrance

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 & Sligo Areas.

At least €20,000 is required to finish and for the upkeep of the Garden, so 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, Séamus McGowan, Thomas Kelly and Mary Ward.

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