



UIMH 211 SAMHAIN — NOVEMBER 2004 <http://saoirse.r.r.nu> €1 (70p stg, USA \$30 p.a.)

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Fermanagh couple: all charges dropped

THE dropping of all charges against Michael and Mary Lavelle of Co Fermanagh in a Belfast non-jury Diplock court on October 12 last brings an end to their family's 20-month-long experience of British State terror tactics.

Their case is by no means unique in the long history of British rule in Ireland. They are not the first nationalists to be abused by the British occupation forces and administration in Ireland. However, their experience is a manifestation of all that continues to be rotten in the police statelet of the Six Counties.

Shortly before midnight on February 20 last year hundreds of heavily-armed British Crown Forces descended on the village of Donagh in Co Fermanagh. Nationalist families were unjustifiably ordered from their homes as the RUC/PSNI and British army raided and ransacked the Lavelle home. They locked Michael and Mary Lavelle along with two sons and two teenage daughters out of their home. Returning the next morning they smashed in the door and "searched" the house without any family members being present.

Local people are convinced that this tactic allowed the British Crown Forces to plant the alleged incriminating evidence in the Lavelle home and in the surrounding area. It turned into a three-day siege for the nationalist community of Donagh.

Michael and Mary Lavelle were arrested and taken to Enniskillen barracks on Friday night. Michael's brother Jimmy was arrested the following morning and his house was ransacked. On the next morning their son Emmet was arrested and another son, Michael (jnr) was assaulted by the RUC. As happens so often in occupied Ireland, the injured man was then charged with assaulting those who badly beat him.

Trumped-up charges of possession of arms and explosives were laid against Michael, Mary and Emmet Lavelle. Mary Lavelle spent eight days in custody before being freed on bail and had to



British Crown Forces around Donagh, Co Fermanagh during the three-day siege of the nationalist community in February 2003.

sign every day at an RUC before the last of them was released on bail, having spent

that remand time in Maghaberry prison.

By December 2003 all charges had been dropped against Emmet Lavelle but his parents had to wait another 10 months until their case was dealt with. Then the Crown prosecution case was thrown out of court without a defence being heard and both Michael and Mary Lavelle were cleared.

What has been seen in this case is the fact that nothing has

changed in the RUC and in the British administration in the north. The British police may change their name and their uniform but it is still the same sectarian, anti-nationalist terror group it always was. The nationalist community should shun the politically-directed British police in the Six Counties and they should be supported in doing so by all nationally-minded people throughout the country.

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**CHARLIE KERINS
60th ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Assemble: Denny
Street, Tralee
Co Kerry
2.30pm**



**GEORGE HARRISON
1915-2004
Tributes on pages 8-9 inside**

Poverty and social exclusion in the 26 Counties

THE Community Platform, a network of 26 national anti-poverty organisations, held a seminar in October on how poverty and social exclusion is portrayed by the media in Ireland.

A panel discussion "Telling it like it is - Reporting on Poverty in Ireland" chaired by Ms Carol Coulter, *Irish Times* Legal Affairs Correspondent included Victoria Enright, RTE Kitty Holland, *Irish Times*, Niamh Farnen, Media Co-op, David Quinn, *Irish Independent* and Frank Connolly, *Ireland on Sunday*. They discussed the challenges of accurately reflecting the reality of poverty and inequality in modern Ireland where such messages are increasingly unpopular.

Addressing the panel, Seán Regan, National Co-ordinator of

the Community Workers Co-operative, said that "poverty is too often reported as an individual's experience. Without placing this experience in the context of policies that keep people living in poverty, this experience becomes isolated and presents it as an individual's 'fault'. Poverty is rarely the fault of an individual but rather the result of a system that benefits from it."

The panel discussion was organised to highlight the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17) and was supported by the Combat Poverty Agency. It is

being commemorated by a number of events all over the world to mark people's experiences of living in poverty.

Worldwide there are still more than a billion people who live on less than US\$1 a day and the richest 5% of the world's people receive 114 times the income of the poorest 5%. Ireland itself has the second highest level of relative poverty in the western world after a decade of unprecedented economic growth.

Contact: Sharon Keane at 086 8040277 Seán Regan at 087 2458794.

(Community Platform organisations: Age Action Ireland, Community Action Network, Community Workers Co-operative, European Anti-Poverty Network, Forum

for People with Disabilities, Gay & Lesbian Equality Network, Irish Association of Older People, Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed, Irish Penal Reform Trust, Irish Refugee Council, Irish Rural Link, Irish Traveller Movement, Migrants Rights Centre Ireland, National Adult Literacy Agency, National Network of Women's Refugees and Support Services, National Traveller Women's Forum, National Women's Council of Ireland, OPEN, Pavee Point Traveller's Centre, Rape Crisis Network Ireland, Simon Communities of Ireland, Society of St Vincent de Paul, Threshold, Voluntary Drug Treatment Network, Vocational Partnership for Social Justice, Women's Aid.)

EPA incinerator decision wrong

IN A statement on October 28 Republican Sinn Féin Vice-President, Des Dalton said that the decision by the Environmental Protection Agency in allowing the construction of a toxic waste incinerator in Ringaskiddy, Co Cork and a municipal incinerator near Duleek, Co Meath was clearly wrong and runs against the advice of a senior An Bord Pleanála inspector who cited 14 reasons for refusing permission for the construction of the Ringaskiddy incinerator.

The statement continued: "Vested interests are pushing for the construction of waste incinerators and the Dublin government have made it central to their waste management strategy ignoring the threat they pose to the health of communities throughout the 26 Counties. The experience of other countries such as Canada is that incineration poses a serious risk to human health and the environment."

Mary Kelly's protest 'an act of passive resistance'

THE conviction of peace activist Mary Kelly, Galway, in Ennis District Court on October 28 was deplored in a statement by the President of Republican Sinn Féin, Ruairi Ó Brádaigh.

"She is in the tradition of anti-war activists such as the Berrigan brothers in the United States during the Vietnam war. They burned draft cards, damaged official files and spilled animal blood in government offices to protest and demonstrate their principled opposition to a colonial war."

"Similarly Mary Kelly stood her ground after she had damaged a US warplane using Shannon airport in an allegedly named act. She sought to demonstrate her opposition in a most pointed manner to the involvement of the Irish people in an imperialist and illegal war."

"Hers was an act of passive resistance and all peace loving people must support her stand."

Declaration for a Scottish republic

GERRY CAIRNS, the National Convener of the Scottish Republican Socialist Movement has congratulated the organisers of the Calton Hill Declaration for a Scottish Republic on Saturday October 9, calling it a "massive step forward."

The SRSM joined with the SSP, SNP activists (including the party's youth wing Young Scots for Independence) and Ian Hamilton QC amongst many others for a successful rally which attracted around a thousand people supporting a declaration for an independent republic answering only to the people of Scotland."

Hostage plea

A LIMERICK man who has extensive contacts in South Africa has been in contact with the Mayor of Cape Town to use his influence in the Muslim world to seek the release of Irish-born hostage Margaret Hassan in Iraq.

Seán O'Neill from Prospect, the community affairs spokesman for Republican Sinn Féin said on October 20 that he had been in touch with Nomandia Mfekothe the Mayor of Cape Town to contact the President of South Africa to raise the plight of the Irish-born hostage.

"At present there are 350 Irish construction workers in Hoot Bay near Cape Town building homes for the poorest section of the local community," Seán O'Neill said. "One of the trade union leaders in the group is Paddy Kennedy who is the chairperson of the Munster Executive of Republican Sinn Féin."

"Already Bishop Desmond Tutu has visited the site and commended the project providing new homes for the poor of Cape Town so it would be a gesture on the part of the political leaders of South Africa to use their influence within the Muslim community to push for the release of the Irish-born hostage."

"Today I made these points to the Mayor of Cape Town and I am hopeful that he will respond by using his influence to raise the matter of the highest level of government in South Africa."

"I have also been in touch with Gáiró Diedricks of the ANC who is a Muslim and a government official in Cape Town to add her voice in calling for the release of the Irish aid worker."

Results of Dublin raffle

OCTOBER Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 233; 2nd prize 473; 3rd prize 115; 4th prize 187; 5th prize 193; 6th prize 345; 7th prize 110; 8th prize 051.

SAOIRSE December edition published 8/12/2004

RSF censored in Kerry

THE media is an important element in the life of a country but when newspapers practice discrimination and engage in felon setting, it is time to expose such behaviour, Republican Sinn Féin spokesperson John O'Shea from Ballylongford stated on October 2.

He said that the *Kerryman* newspaper had failed to publish a letter from him referring to news coverage in the paper. "Newspapers are the first to complain about censorship and news management in other organisations but when it comes to the *Kerryman*, they engage in blackening a political party and yet refuse to publish our statement which it shows up how they operate," John O'Shea said.

"We are now circulating the

letter that the *Kerryman* failed to publish to all the other media outlets in Kerry to see if any publication is interested in the truth."

"Letter to the Editor: The front-page report on our edition of Thursday 14th October quite rightly refers to the fact that Republican Sinn Féin had nothing to do with the robbery at the Tarbert Credit Union."

"We felt compelled to make the statement in the light of the

attitude of the police who questioned members of Republican Sinn Féin within a half an hour of the robbery. That statement also asked why the police acted with such haste and pointed out that neither members of the Provos, Fianna Fáil nor Labour had been asked to account for their movements."

"However for your own editorial reasons you omitted this from the statement and the omission has compromised the central point – that members of Republican Sinn Féin are entitled to the same rights as members of Fianna Fáil or any other political party."

"Therefore we take exception to your description of RSF as the 'disident' Republican organisation." This is not true.

Founded in 1987 By Michael Flannery, George Harman, and Joe Styles



- 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>**

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<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 ...

Writing on the wall for US occupation in Iraq?



• An Iraqi artist in Sadr city paints the Statue of Liberty alongside the well-known image of the tortured detainee at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison.

Open letter to the American Ambassador

To Mr James Kenny, US Embassy, Balls-bridge, Dublin 4.

In view of your repeated refusal to meet a delegation from Republican Sinn Féin to discuss our political policies and indeed your non-acknowledgement our communications we feel that we have no option but to bring your position to public notice.

The designation of Republican Sinn Féin as a terrorist organisation by your State Department is a grave error and we have repeatedly brought this mistaken action to your attention and sought a meeting with you to advance our political agenda.

However you have refused to even acknowledge these requests — and for the so called greatest power on earth to not even meet with our representatives gives eloquent testimony to the shaky foundation on which your baseless allegations



• Des Long.

are made. The INA designation is false, based on faulty intelligence and does a grave injustice to all those working for a political solution to the conflict in the Six Occupied Counties of Ireland.

If you have read the policy documents submitted to you by our organisation you will be aware that we have an

alternative to the failed Stormont deal — but our voice is being silenced and repeatedly censored by powerful forces who demonise anyone opposed to the Agreement — it mirrors the action of your State Department.

Therefore without any real dialogue there cannot be political progress and understanding. For all the resources and support

poured into the Stormont deal it is growing more obvious every day that it will not bring a real and lasting peace to Ireland. Your continued refusal to even discuss our policy programme is unworthy of a nation that allegedly holds dear the concept of justice and liberty and freedom of speech.

We are now going direct to the people of the 32 counties of Ireland with an information programme aimed at highlighting the potential of our ÉIRE NUA policy to resolve the national question on a basis of fairness to the whole population.

Our proposals envisage a federal four province Ireland — it is the only hope of a real and lasting peace in Ireland.

— Des Long, Vice-President on behalf of the Ard Comhairle and membership of Republican Sinn Féin.

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National Private Members
DRAW

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3ú Duais: €300

4ú Duais: Framed picture, 1916 Martyrs

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Two girls, two shots to the head

ISLAM Dwidar's classmates were still taking in her shocking death - the teacher weeping outside before facing the girls, her closest friend recounting how they walked to school together each day - when the news arrived about Tahreer Abu El Jidyan.

The two 15-year-old pupils at Jabaliya's school were both shot in the head by Israeli soldiers inside their homes just a few blocks and several hours apart.

Islam died almost immediately after the bullet smashed through her forehead as she baked bread with her mother in their yard on Sunday. Tahreer is still on life support at a Gaza hospital after an operation to remove shards of shattered skull from her brain.

She lies motionless, with little to suggest she is alive other than gentle breathing. Doctors do not expect her to survive. Tahreer's mother, Intisar, was at her bedside yesterday.

"Oh Tahreer, my heart. I wish I were lying in this bed, not you," she whispered to her child. "She was sweeping the floor in front of the door," said Mrs Abu El Jidyan.

"I was standing talking to her. We knew the Israeli soldiers were around, we knew they had snipers in the

buildings on our street but we didn't expect what happened. They just shot her in the head. Her brains spilled out. She said: 'Mum, I'm hit'. She praised God and she collapsed."

There were two bullets. The first struck Tahreer in the head. As she fell, the second hit the wall behind her. "I've no doubt a sniper shot her deliberately. There was no fighting in the area. There were no other shots, only the ones that hit Tahreer," said her mother.

With her stood Tahreer's 14-year-old brother, Naser, who was wounded by shrapnel last week. Israeli forces killed their father 11 years ago during the first intifada.

Mrs Abu El Jidyan regrets preventing Tahreer from walking to school on Sunday morning. She thought it would be too dangerous to venture out of their home in Jabaliya's Sikka neighbourhood because it is on the edge of the area occupied by Israeli troops and tanks last week. Snipers are posted in



• Israeli tanks in Jabaliya camp in the Palestinian Gaza strip.

buildings overlooking their street and a tank is less than

a block away.

"I wouldn't let her out of the house but it was dangerous at home too. When there was fighting, bullets came through the walls. We stopped using some rooms on the side where the Israelis are," she said.

Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups say that about half of the nearly 80 people killed by the army over the past week of "Operation Days of Penitence" are civilians.

The Israeli military says it has carefully targeted Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters with missile strikes.

But while the numbers are in dispute — in part because it is often hard to say whether youths in their mid to late teens are bystanders or part of the Palestinian resistance — there is no doubt that a growing number of children have been felled by Israeli snipers.

At Islam and Tahreer's school in Jabaliya yesterday morning, the headmistress, Rukaya Kamal al Budani, fielded calls from parents wanting to know if it was safe to send their girls.

"If they can get here, it's safe," was her stock reply. But of 1,150 pupils, fewer than 200 turned up.

Before word reached the school about Tahreer, Mrs al Budani was getting to grips with the death of Islam.

"This is our first casualty at the school," she said. "I don't know how to deal with the girls. It's going to have a big impact on her classmates and friends. I'm shocked that no one in the free world condemns the killing of a child."

Then one of the male teachers tells Mrs al Budani about the shooting of Tahreer the previous day. The headmistress sits in silence.

Until June, the two young women had been classmates, but then Tahreer failed her exams and was held back for a year. Asmaa Abu Saman walked to school with her each morning.

"I met her in front of my house each morning to walk to school. I did my homework with her. I keep thinking that if she is brain-dead and not killed perhaps she is still suffering. I can't

stand it," she said.

Asmaa walked to school yesterday morning without her friend. "I walked against the wall hoping the soldiers can't see me. I want to go to school because I know the Jews do not want us to study because we need to be educated to build our country," she said.

But the killing went on as the conflict claimed the life of another teenage girl in the Gaza strip yesterday. Palestinian medics said Israeli soldiers fired about 20 bullets into 13-year-old Iman al-Hams, including five into her head.

The military said she had entered a forbidden zone in Rafah refugee camp, and that she dropped a bag that soldiers feared was a bomb.

The Palestinians said Iman was walking to school when troops entered the camp and that she dropped her bag as she ran away in fear.

The bag was not found to contain a bomb.

— Chris McGreal, *The Guardian*, in Jabaliya refugee camp, Wednesday October 6, 2004.



• CS gas spray repeatedly used by British Crown Forces in the Six Counties since last August.

For The Record

TUES. OCTOBER 12: Almost two years after being proffered, conspiracy charges against Michael and Mary Lavelle, of Donagh, Co Fermanagh were dismissed by the British trial judge in Belfast without a defence being heard and both were cleared of all charges.

WED. OCTOBER 13: Veteran Galway

Republican Seán Mac an Iomaire had charges of selling **Saoirse** without a licence dismissed, the judge saying that under the Casual Trading Act no licence was necessary when he was not trading for profit.

SAT. OCTOBER 16: The RUC/PSNI twice used CS spray to quell disturbances in the Victoria Street market area of Derry city. It was used again shortly afterwards against a group of youths in Waterloo Place. The spray was used in a car park at Victoria Street Market to prevent a gang of youths attacking a young man.

THURS. OCTOBER 21: It was reported that CS spray had been used by the RUC/PSNI 19 times since its introduction in August, on eight occasions in Derry city centre and 11 times in other parts of the Occupied Six Counties. CS spray (Methyl Isobutyl Ketone) causes streaming to the eyes and can impact on breathing and the nasal passage.

British government guilty of 'linguistic discrimination'

IN A statement on October 9 Bernard Moffatt, Secretary General of the Celtic League, said that supplying details in [Irish] Gaelic when answering questions or filling in details demanded under new anti-terrorism laws will make you liable to greater scrutiny.

IMEACHTAÍ

EDENTUBBER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Assemble: The Border Bar, Carrickcannon, 2.30pm

Speaker: Brendan Magill

Bus leaves Supervalu (former Virgin Megastore),
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REPUBLICAN BALLAD SESSION CHERRY ORCHARD CLUB, BALLYFERMOT

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Band: North and South, Táille: €8

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2.30pm

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BALLYLONGFORD, CO KERRY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 8.30pm

Speaker: Liam Cotter

Organised by Republican Sinn Féin

CHARLIE KERINS

60th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Assemble: Denny Street, Tralee, Co Kerry, 2.30pm

O'SULLIVAN/ENRIGHT CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry

Anyone wishing to join should contact 087-2113130

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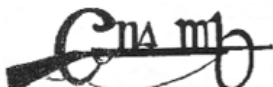
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That is the message from the Scottish Executive Justice Department who were responding to a query forwarded to the UK Foreign Office in March following an incident involving an Irish national questioned at Stranraer earlier this year. The statement went on: "The League had suggested that the incident amounted to linguistic discrimination after it was asserted that the man had been asked to supply the English version of his name for inclusion on the embarkation card."

"We asked what steps the United Kingdom government was taking to end the practice saying that such behaviour is a clear breach of linguistic and human rights conventions that the United Kingdom government has entered into."

However, in the reply from the Scottish Justice Department who say the issue falls within their purview it is made clear that not only Irish people will be subjected to 'special treatment'.

"They say: 'If a person supplies Irish Gaelic details, it is in the interest of national security that they be asked if they have used any other versions of their name or an English version of their name in the past (I am advised that actual instances of this happening are rare). It is also important that the police establish that details are not being supplied in an effort to deceive. The same applies to Scottish and Welsh nationals. The objective of the police is the protection of national security and the protection of communities to include threats from serious and organised crime.'"

"The alarming conclusion from these

comments, is that in some way people who use Irish and Scottish Gaelic or Welsh names — or occasionally alternate between the English and national language version of their name is a pointer to your involvement in terrorism, organised or serious crime beggars belief."

The matter will be considered at a forthcoming meeting of the General Council of the Celtic League.

The full text of the letter from the Scottish Executive Justice Department is set out below:
"Dear Mr Moffat, Thank you for your letter of 14 March which you sent to the Foreign Secretary regarding your concerns about the treatment of Irish nationals by the police. As your concerns appear to fall under the remit of the Scottish Justice Minister your letter has been passed to this Department and I have been asked to reply."

May I begin by saying that I regret how long it has taken to reply to your letter. This is due to the transfer of your correspondence between Government Departments. It is not clear from your letter whether you have written formally to the Chief Constable of

Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary with details of specific incidents. If you have not, I would advise that you do this, as Chief Constables in Scotland are responsible for operational matters affecting their force, including complaints against their own officers.

If, however, you have already corresponded formally with the Chief Constable and you remain dissatisfied with his handling of the complaint, it is open to you to write to

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary explaining why you are dissatisfied with the response you have received. The Inspectorate then have powers to examine how the complaint was investigated. For the sake of completeness, I enclose a leaflet for you which explains the whole complaints process in more detail.

For my part I would advise you that 'embarkation cards' are presented to people who are examined under the terms of Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and who will or have travelled between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Terrorism Act 2000 states that "an examining officer may question a person to whom this paragraph applies for the purpose of determining whether he/she appears to be a person falling within Section 40 (1)(b)(i.e. he/she has been concerned in the commission, preparation or investigation of acts of terrorism)."

Paragraph 5 of the same schedule also records that a person who is questioned under Paragraph 2 or 3 "must give the examining officer any information in his possession which the officer requests."

The ports of Stranraer and Cairnryan are designated Ports under the terms of this Act. Almost two million passengers and 750,000 vehicles use these ports annually to travel between Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Terrorism Act 2000 is designed to protect national security and empower Police Officers and other authorised officers to question and obtain details of persons whom they examine under

the terms of the Legislation. The Legislation was enacted to protect the public and not to penalise any section of society without good cause. I understand that there has been a low number of complaints recorded against Dumfries and Galloway officers in this regard.

If a person supplies Irish Gaelic details, it is in the interest of national security that they be asked if they have used any other versions of their name or an English version of their name in the past (I am advised that actual instances of this happening are rare). It is also important that the Police establish that details are not being supplied in an effort to deceive. The same applies to Scottish and Welsh nationals.

The objective of the Police is the protection of national security and the protection of communities to include threats from serious and organised crime.

I hope this helps to reassure you that Irish nationals are not being discriminated against, and that the Police are acting lawfully and within their remit of the maintenance of national security.

Yours sincerely, Andy Watson"

Note: The leaflet referred to in the final sentence of paragraph 4 was not enclosed with the letter. The Celtic League has branches in the six Celtic Countries of the western British Isles and Brittany. It works to promote cooperation between these countries and campaigns on a broad range of political, cultural and environmental matters. It targets human rights abuse and monitors all military activity within these areas.

Local areas are asked to write to Republican prisoners in Portlaoise, Maghaberry and Magilligan prisons, in particular those from their own province, not forgetting prisoners from the other provinces.



CABHAIR continues to support all true Republican prisoners and their dependants in Irish jails within the 32 Counties.

With this in mind we ask for local areas to form Finance Committees. Help and advice will be given by the Central Committee.

All contributions should be sent to:

**Central Committee
CABHAIR
223 Parnell Street
Dublin 1**



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.

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Signature Date Please hand in to your bank.

Á a bhfuil náire ...

SEO arís mé is mo chúil le balla, na hirisí, na nuachtáin, an teiliféin, a síorscrúdú agam, mé ag súil nóiméad ar bith le scéala go bhfuil deireadh leis an gceogadh agus An Iaráic faoi ollsmacht faoi dhéireadh ag Mac an Toim agus a bhunachara i Londain ...

Fíor dhuit. Ag magadh atáim. Ach ní haon ábhar magaidh é dáiríre go bhfuil an oiread sin cumhachta ag Mac an Toim, go dtig leis gobán a chur i mbéal mór na nuachta maidir le marú na saighdiúirí san Iaráic a choinneáil ina rún go dté deireadh an tógcháin don uachtaránacht.

Ach le tamail is amhlaidh atá, agus gan béic ar bith le clos ó chumann na n-iriseoirí, idir náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta. Nach bhfuil dualgas morálta orainn uilig cur in éadan na hollchúinsreacht? Sa mbeala, anseo in Éirinn, tá cosúlachtaí ar chúrsaí go bhfuil siúd ar leo na meáin i geombhealg eile chumarsaide, go bhfuil hárthithe faoin gclonpháirtíocht idir fórsaí na corónach agus na seimhthitheoirí buí, cé gur magad in aghaidh an lae atá an fhianaise.

JOE TIERNAN

Ach in ainneoin sin tá ag éirí go maith le Joe Tiernan a

leabhar, *The Dublin and Monaghan Bombings and the Murder Triangle*, a dhíol go fáirsing, agus scoit mhór a dhéanamh i mbrat na cinseirachta.

Agus é ag labhairt ar *Raidió na Gaeltachta* ar an mallabhair, dúirt sé go raibh 10,000 cóip dotha aige go nuige sin agus go raibh sé ag súil le sin a dhúibail roimh dhéireadh na bliana.

Thart ar an teoirainn is mó a scaipeann sé na cóipeanna ach is dóigh liom go bhfuil a chuid leithéirí scaipthe ar fuad na tíre ón méid a chloisim agus mé ag dúil goith. Is dócha gur airigh tú faoin gcomhcheig atá bunaithe ag na siopadóirí in éadan an leabhair chéanna i mBaile Átha Cliath?

Faoin am seo tá sé thar a bheith soléir nach deataíonn ón rialtas i mBaile Átha Cliath do dhíoladh amach an fhírinne faoin mbuamaí úd, go fóill, ar aon chaoi, agus Aherm agus Blair ar a sandicheall le smidiríní Stormainte a atáthú.



• *Ted Harding, eagarthoir The Sunday Business Post go dté le déanaí. Ar curreadh iachall air éirí as?*

Más fíor don nuachtán a cheannais ar maidin, ní mór dóibh sin a dhéanamh roimh Samhain 25 nó deamfáidh said féin é!

Má theipeann ar Adams agus Paisley roimh an dáta sin, cabhróidh Aherm le Blair le fácairí chuipe go gcuirfí scrú dáineam eile fós i gceridheaghlant na hÉireann!!!

Le tamall, tá é mbailiú le chéile agam giotáil den bhfírinne faoin gclonpháirtíocht. Ar na mallabhair shleas go raibh mo chuid taighde i gerich agus go raibh sé in am dom an scéal a chur i láthair mhuintir na

hÉireann le cabhair ó nuachtán láidir.

Toise cló a bheith ar *The Sunday Business Post*, é cumasach, é ionraic, é gan a bheith leithscéalach faoin bhfírinne a fhoilsiú dar liom, chinm mé ar é a thair. Isteach an tair, mé ag ceapadh gur i gcló a bheadh sé an Domhnach dár gcionn, ach ní raibh, ná an Domhnach ina dhiaidh sin.

TED HARDING

Scairt mé ar an oifig agus chuireas mo cheist: Ní raibh aon chinneadh déanta go fóill, a dúradh. Ach go gearr ina dhiaidh sin ar ais a tháinig sé,

le nóta ait ón eagarthóir, Ted Harding, nach raibh sé sásta é a fhoilsiú "faoi láthair".

Tá deireadh anois le Ted Harding, mar eagarthóir. Ar curreadh iachall air éirí as? I mease iriseoir, tá scéala ag dul thart go bhfuil deireadh le saoirse an nuachtáin, go bhfuil gobán i mbéal Ted, agus 'chuil sheans go bhfuil stailc ar na féidreachtáil. Níl iontu go fóill ach ráiláil ...

Ba chuimhin liom an *Sunday Tribune* a bheith dána go maith ó am go chéile, é ag foilsiú aisti nach dtáimodh ar chor ar bith lenár máistí, agus sheolais m'alt chuca, agus clúdach in éndí, le go mbhead deis acu é a aiseoladh chugam.

Riamh ó shin, ní thaca mé é, agus ní raibh ann ach obair in aiseac aon colas faoi ar

Os rud é gur nós dom cóip a dhéanamh de gach rud a scríobhaim ní raibh le déanamh agam ach cóip eile a dhéanamh den chóip le go mbéim ridh le casadh eile a bhaint den tsaoil Éireannach, mar a deárfa (b'fhéidir).

Ach anois, cá bhfuil mo thrial? Ar ball chinm mé faoi dhul thar teoirainn. Ó am go chéile léim *The Irish News*. Ba é mo bhairtí faoi go raibh sé ionraic, díreach, tugtha don bhfírinne a fhoilsiú, cibé a bheadh i gceist. Agus, ar ndóigh, bhí sé "Náiseanta".

IRISH NEWS

Ar aithiú, mar sin ar tríú huair. Ghlaoigh mé ar dtús ar an oifig agus labhair leis an

bhfeir a bhí i gceannas, más fíor, ar an nuacht. Bean a bhí i gceannas ar na sainait, dar leis, agus a sloinne an-chosúil le mo chuid féin. Chui a sheolais an t-airt. Céard é a tharla dó? Ní bheadar mé. Deamhan fhios agam. Freagraí ar mo litreacha? Faic na fríd ...

Seans ar bith eile ann? Na Gael i Meiriceá? Nach bhfuil nuachtáin agus irisí acu? Nach bhfuil go láidir ar son saoirse agus neamhspleáchas na hÉireann, an Éir úd atá gan teoirainn?

Cara liom a thug ainm agus seoladh an té a dhéanfadh an jab dom. Faoin bhpost a d'fhágas m'alt. Ansin tost fada. An amhlaidh a stop cinseiracht SAM é sul má bhí deis ag an bhfeir eile é a léamh? Aris, gan romham ach an t-amhras, ceisteanna, díomá.

Séad thairis: An bhfaca tú an t-airt le Anne Lucey ar *The Irish Times* (Deireadh Fómhair 26) dar teideal *Speech therapy in Irish not available in Kerry*.

"The training for speech therapy is in English," dar leis an mBord Sláinte i gCiarraí. Mar thoradh air sin, catfídh teachlathas na Gaeltachta iompú go hiomlán ar an mBéarla! agus gearráin dá laghad ón gCónradh, ón gComhthráil, ón bForas, ní ó Eamon ó Cúis, fiú. Béarla éigeanach arís, imprilíachas fós beo anár mens.

A Róisín, a stór, céin uair a dhúiseas tú, in ainm dilis Dó?

— Desuán Breathnach

PETROL AND BRICK ATTACK ON NORTH BELFAST HOME

A Belfast Chronology

Monday, October 4, 2004. Claims made by UVF frontman and PUP councillor for Belfast city hall Billy Hutchinson that Protestant families living in the Oldpark area of North Belfast are under attack day and daily from nationalists were rubbished by Republican Sinn Féin and nationalists in the Oldpark area.

It was not clear why Billy Hutchinson was making these claims, but what is clear is such untrue claims will lead to a rise in sectarian tenison's in the Oldpark area.

Tuesday, October 12, 2004. A nationalist man was stabbed in a sectarian attack as he was entering Old Mill Drive in the Shore Road area of north Belfast. he was approached by a number of men and stabbed in the stomach and the arm.

Wednesday, October 13, 2004. It has been reported today that the Provisionals had apologised for the shooting of an nationalist youth over 30 years ago and while admitting the killing of the youth the Provos

went on to say it should never have happened, the youth who died was 15-year-old Bernard Teggart from New Barnsley area of West Belfast.

Thursday, October 14, 2004. There were reports of a UDA/UFF plot to draw an "Orange Line" around loyalist areas of the Occupied Counties, these areas being North, East, South, and West Belfast as well as Derry and South/East Antrim.

The UDA/UFF stated the drawing of an "Orange Line" around loyalist areas is down to the growing nationalist community. The sectarian group also went on to say that they would not let nationalists breach the Orange line, clearly a threat to the whole nationalist community.

Nationalists are not surprised with the UDA/UFF latest threats that will without a doubt lead to a rise in loyalist sectarianism and tention, but it is very clear within the nationalist community that the latest threat from this sectarian group will be taken serious.

Friday, October 15, 2004. Friday morning was witness to a



• The McLaughlin home in north Belfast after the loyalist petrol bomb attack on October 17 last.

bomb scare in South Belfast. The scare resulted in part of the Lisburn road and the loyalist Sandy Row area being closed off for a time. It later turned out to be a hoax.

Saturday, October 16, 2004. It was reported that a group of teenagers were the target of a sectarian attack in East Belfast. They were attacked outside the Dundonald Ice Bowl by loyalist youths who had mistaken the group for nationalists. The victims of the attack had some of their group injured and the group's minibus was damaged.

Sunday, October 17, 2004. The home of a nationalist family has become the latest target for sectarian loyalism. The home of the McLaughlin family in Somerdale Park off the Crumlin Road in North Belfast came under attack from loyalist petrol bombers around 11pm. A brick was also thrown threw the front window narrowly missing a boy who was sitting in the room.

The family had a lucky escape in the latest of many such attacks on the McLaughlin family home.

IN A statement on October 8, the National Traveller Women's Forum said it was concerned with recent developments in Dunsink Lane Finglas.

The statement went on: "The action taken by Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council to erect a barrier at the entrance of Dunsink lane has cut off 80 Traveller families from Finglas village.

"We believe this is a totally inappropriate response to the issue of illegal dumping and is a gross injustice to the 400 Travellers living in Dunsink Lane who are being penalised because of the actions of others. The Local Authorities have acknowledged that most of the dumping is not being carried out by Travellers.

"This action also runs contrary to the work of Travellers and Traveller organisations. While we are working in partnership with government in an attempt to address the social exclusion experienced by Travellers local authorities are erecting barriers blocking families from their local services and children from their schools.

"We call on Fingal

County Council and Dublin City council to:

"(a) Remove the barrier immediately; (b) deal with the illegal dumping in Dunsink lane with the appropriate measures. (c) establish lines of communication with the Traveller families living in Dunsink.

"We also call for balanced reporting and coverage of these issues in the interest of fairness to all parties concerned. For further information contact: 091.771509."

(The National Traveller Women's Forum is the national network for Traveller women and Traveller women's organisations.)

PEACEFUL PROTEST SUPPORTED

A statement released on October 8 the Community Workers Co-operative supported the right of peaceful protest and calls for immediate removal of

the Barrier in Dunsink Lane. The Community Workers Co-operative called for the immediate removal of the anti-Traveller barrier on Dunsink Lane and supported Travellers right to peaceful protest.

Supporting the position of the three national Traveller organisations (Pavee Point, National Traveller Womens Forum and the Irish Traveller Movement), Seán Regan, National Coordinator of the CWC said Dublin and Fingal councils acknowledge that the Travellers are not the main cause of theillegal dumping on Dunsink Lane. Yet the people living in Dunsink Lane are being massively inconvenienced by the erection of this barrier, in a way that would not even be considered were the dumping to occur near where more wealthy, settled communities live.

The CWC calls on Dublin and Fingal County Councils to immediately remove the barrier on Dunsink Lane and consult with the Travellers living there on more appropriate methods of addressing the illegal dumping problem.



• Residents walking around the huge barrier erected, and later dismantled, by Dublin City Council at the entrance to Dunsink Lane in Finglas.

George Harrison 1915-2004:

Mayoman's life remembered

THE wake had an Irish flavor, as befitted a man from Ireland — but at George Harrison's memorial on October 20, at the Local 1199 Union Hall in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan, speakers reminded the audience that Harrison's principles and political activism were international in their application.

Harrison, who died aged 89 at his Brooklyn home on October, 6 was a legendary Irish Republican, activist and gunrunner who emigrated from his County Mayo home in 1938 and, though he fought for Ireland's independence from British rule all his life, never saw an Ireland freed from the influence of

Avenue, scene of the Irish Republican "long green line" protest. "Read this and act upon it", came Harrison's instruction.

By the time he would finished with SAOIRSE, Breslin said, his mind would be whirling with "somebody in 1916 who was shot, and somebody in 2004 who should be shot".

It was perhaps the closest that any of the evening's speakers came to addressing Harrison's lifelong association with political violence, having spent upward of 25 years running guns to the various manifestations of the IRA until he was caught by the FBI and tried with four colleagues in 1981.

It seemed like a cast-iron indictment, but the five beat the rap because of evidence provided by a source connected to the CIA.

Regardless, Harrison's gun-running remains an awkward topic for many of his supporters, who emphasized instead his tireless campaigning and activism on behalf of the oppressed or disenfranchised around the world, such as the cause of Nelson Mandela, for 30 years a political prisoner in Apartheid South Africa, or those in Puerto Rico who demanded independence from the United States.

But it was from the cause of Irish freedom that Harrison drew strength to maintain his unflinching principles. Perhaps it was because in Ireland as a youth, he first understood the series of British-shaping compromises that left Ireland at his death still partitioned.

Sandy Boyer, an activist and friend of Harrison's for many years, recounted what he said was frequently unknown about Harrison: his "unbelievable generosity". The only way to mourn a fallen freedom fighter, Boyer remembered Harrison saying, was to "pick up the rifle that fell from his dead hands".

Throughout his life, Harrison took what he could of his earnings and gave to the needy. Harrison's nurse, Priscilla McLean, recounted that on the day Harrison died, he was in Manhattan to ensure that he had an absentee ballot to vote for John Kerry in the election for president on November 2.

A note had been sent from Ireland in time to be read aloud at the memorial. Recounting how Harrison had — not always to his satisfaction — managed to escape the law all his life, Bernadette Devlin McAliskey's tribute stated: "For 70 years of his adult life he led them all a merry dance, and lived and died on his own terms."

— Stephen McKinley (this story appears in the *Irish Echo* of October 27–November 2, 2004.)



Cathleen Knowles
McGuirk

IT is my privilege to address you at this Memorial Service on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin, of which George has been Patron since 1994 and also because of my long friendship with him. His predecessors were Mike Flannery and Commandant General Tom Maguire.

I thank you for the opportunity afforded me to pay a brief tribute to a great and gallant Irish man and lifelong Irish-American activist. It is with deep humility that I undertake this task. We mourn the passing of George, the unrepentant and legendary revolutionary, but rejoice that his journey through life was one of truth, sacrifice and courage, both moral and physical, and a gathering on his way of countless friends — among them the human rights lawyer Paul O'Dwyer, Michael O'Riordan and Moe Fishman. He always had time for those in need of help and gave sound advice.

Although I have known George since 1981 it is only in the past 14 years that he began to phone me every week, generally on a Sunday morning, in order to discuss the political situation in Ireland. At the end of our conversation he would say "pack the bags" a reference to my taking a trip over to see him. Well I have had to pack my bags, in a hurry this time, but sadly too late.

As a proud and idealistic young Irishman George played his part in his native country's struggle against British rule in Ireland. He served in the East Mayo Battalion IRA under Commandant Pat Finn, a veteran of the Black and Tan war. But the Ireland of the 1930s was a harsh and impoverished one and it resulted in George leaving his parents and family behind in 1938 and taking the boat to America. When the Second World War broke out in 1939 George served in the American armed forces from 1942 until 1946.

The only enemies that George had, or recognized, were, in his own words, "fascist governments led by former

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Botha of South Africa, Marcos in the Philippines, Pinochet in Chile and all his colleagues in infamy in Latin America."

The fight for Irish freedom was the struggle closest to his heart of course. He believed it was incumbent upon Irish Republicans to compel the British forces to leave Ireland, by whatever means, and to overturn the two dominion parliaments.

When someone had the temerity to ask him if the time had not come to give up the struggle in view of the fact that there was a "peace process" in place, — George would answer succinctly with another question "have the Brits left?" His ideology was consistent throughout his life, as was his radicalism.

Early in his life George came to see that Ireland's struggle against British imperialism was but one part of the overall anti-imperialist struggle that has been waged by oppressed peoples for centuries. He was a tireless campaigner for truth and justice, his ceaseless activity directed at addressing liberation struggles throughout the world.

When there was evidence of human rights' violations George was galvanized into action. He was a familiar figure at all demonstrations in New York handing out leaflets and pamphlets for international social and political causes. As a committed socialist he delighted in taking time to speak with people at these demonstrations.

In 1981, when the deaths took place of ten Republicans on hunger strike in the H-Blocks, George issued anti-British statements on a regular basis. Ultimately this led to CIA surveillance, his arrest, along with Michael Flannery, Tom Flavey, Pat Mullen and Danny Gormley, their indictment, trial and subsequent acquittal, thanks to his good friend Frank Durkan, in 1982 on alleged charges of supplying military equipment to the Irish Republican Army for use against the British Army in the north-east of Ireland.

In his book *The Trial of the IRA Five*, Tom Cox has left us an important record of the trial of George Harrison and his co-defendants, of whom only

Danny Gormley is alive, and the involvement of the CIA in their entrapment.

George Harrison's Republican credentials were impeccable. He was inspired by the courage and sacrifice of Wolfe Tone's revolution of 1798, which in turn had been inspired by both the American and French revolutions.

He took his Republicanism from Robert Emmet, the Young Irelanders, the Fenian Brotherhood and Clan na Gael and from the executed leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising, Pearse and Connolly. All his life he followed the straight and narrow path. He was never known to prevaricate on important issues.

When the "split" in the Republican Movement took place in 1969/70 George knew immediately where he stood — with those who carried on that fight under the new Provisional leadership which included Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, Billy McKee, Seán Keenan and Dáithí Ó Conaill; the latter two along with Michael Flannery set up *NorAid* in 1971. At the 1986 Sinn Féin Ard Fheis when a majority of delegates wanted to take their seats in the British established 26-County parliament at Leinster House, George did not hesitate to give his allegiance to Republican Sinn Féin led by Ruairi Ó Brádaigh and Dáithí Ó Conaill.

In his book *The American Connection* (1999) p.247, the late Jack Holland had this to say: "A handful of Irish Americans were opposed to the new strategy. George Harrison, formerly the IRA's main arms supplier and Thomas Flavey, who had been part of the old arms network, saw the change, of course, a worrying sign. They issued a statement condemning it."

We categorically reject any move for elected representation of Sinn Féin to enter Leinster House government, an institution imposed on Ireland by British guns and bayonets, to serve the interests of British imperialism.... We reaffirm our support to those who stand solidly behind the traditional Republican policy of abstention or boycott of all British-imposed institutions of servility and replace not reform them with Republican institutions of liberty and freedom."

Tributes to Republican Sinn

4: unrepentant revolutionary

Holland also wrote that 'Harrison threw his support behind Dáithí Ó Conaill and Ruairí Ó Brádaigh who had established their own political party, Republican Sinn Féin, which held fast to the Movement's original abstentionist position'.

More words are not really sufficient to convey how I feel at his passing but I know that deep in my heart there is an ache that comes from the knowledge that we will never see his likes again.

That he was a warm, kind and compassionate human being and an eloquent defender of the oppressed everywhere is beyond doubt. He did not go gentle into the dark night and for that we are eternally grateful. No goodbyes, George, as you always said, just a very reluctant so long.

An Phoblacht Abú!

Ruairí Brádaigh

In a statement on October 6 Republican Sinn Féin President Ruairí Ó Brádaigh paid tribute to George Harrison, Patron of Republican Sinn Féin since 1994, who died at his home in New York on October 6.

A native of Shamher, Kilkelly, Co Mayo, he was a veteran of the East Mayo Battalion IRA. He emigrated to the USA in 1938 and from then on he was a life-long Irish American activist and an active supporter of international liberation struggles.

In 1982 along with the late Michael Flannery and three others he was acquitted in an American court on a charge of supplying arms to the IRA.

George was in his ninetieth year and his passing leaves a huge gap in the ranks of Irish American supporters of the Republican Movement in Ireland.

Leaba i measc na bhFínní go raibh aige.

National Irish
Freedom Committee/
Cumann na Saoirse
NE sláonta (USA)

We join with all true Republicans in Ireland, Scotland, England and throughout the world to mourn the passing of a lifelong Irish Republican and Eternal Fenian, George Harrison of Brooklyn, New York, New Hampshire and the County Mayo.

We empathise with his family and innumerable friends during this time of their profound loss and grief at the passing of this modern Irish hero. He shall be remembered forever. And as we remember this dedicated man, we rejoice in his long consecrated and meaningful life. A life that was dedicated to the unification of Ireland by any and all means possible.

To this end, George and a committed cadre of his fellow physical force Republicans organized a weapons procurement programme which had three decades of success in supplying the Freedom Fighters of the Irish Republican Army with the wear with to sustain their campaigns.

Unfortunately, the fruits of George's and his friends' labor is now being bartered as the price of

admission for revisionist former Republicans to participate in British direct rule of the six occupied counties in the north of Ireland. Adams and his purloined posse are swapping semtex for summer homes, guns for governmental positions, and they are cementing over arms dumps to secure their status as second class citizens in their loyalist controlled state – not what George and his compatriots had in mind when they set about their clandestine weapons quest.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention George's support of freedom movements worldwide. Of George it was said, 'Never met a revolution he didn't like', and to paraphrase the old ballad, 'God grant you glory, old George, and open heavens to all your men, the cause that called you may call tomorrow in another cause for the Green again.'

Frank Durkan

When violence flared as reaction to British oppression in Northern Ireland, it came as no wonder that George Harrison actively engaged in supporting what indeed can correctly be described as a rebellion against British authority. This included George's active support for the rebels in the form of gunrunning to the Irish Republican Army in the North, an activity which he engaged in for a quarter of a century at great personal risk to himself.

Nobody was better qualified to help arm the insurgents than George, who served for four years in the United States Army as a member of an artillery regiment.

He was indicted, of course, and acquitted in the Federal Court in Brooklyn in 1981 in a now famous trial along with his friends and colleagues Mike Flannery, Paddy Mullen, Tom Falvey and Danny Gormley.

Whereas others might have been intimidated in the face of the government in bringing serious charges, George continued his verbal onslaught on all forms of imperialism.

No later than last week in the Irish Voice, George, in his 90th year and in frail and failing health, took time out to express himself forcefully and vividly on the subject of American politics, his concern being his perceived erosion of the Constitution of the United States by the present administration in Washington.

In testimony at George's trial, the late John Kerry O'Donnell told the court and jury: 'There isn't a church in County Mayo that hasn't a roof that wasn't put on it by George Harrison.' Though not a religious man in the traditional sense, George was a far better Christian than most people I know.

He was brilliant, intelligent, forceful, dedicated, charitable and true to his instincts that the less fortunate citizens deserve the most attention. His passing makes this world a lesser place.

Bernadette Devlin
McAliskey

The names many of us identify as 'disembodied' heroes, from many



cultures and struggles, George knew as real flesh and blood people who had their strengths and weaknesses, people he had worked with in the vast canvass of his political activity.

Loyalty, reliability and discretion were the hallmarks of this old soldier. George Harrison was above all other things a modest, quiet man. Only a fool like George Bush and a braggart like Tony Blair could delude themselves that the George Harrison's of this world can be defeated by their military intelligence, satellite surveillance, warmongering, human rights denial, and pathetic attempts to seal their borders.

George Harrison, Mayo man, Irish Republican, Socialist, Internationalist Humanitarian and Labour Organiser led them all a merry dance for 70 years of adult life and lived and died on his own terms.

Solidarity/US
supporters of
Fourthwrite

Friends and Comrades of George Harrison: It is with deep regret that we mark the passing of George Harrison, a tremendous and tireless fighter for many generations for national liberation and socialism in Ireland and around the world.

Activists everywhere knew George as one who saw no boundaries between the fight for freedom in Ireland and the liberation of oppressed peoples the world over. While mourning his loss, we take this time to re-dedicate ourselves to advancing the struggle for progress and human emancipation of which he was such an integral member. Comrade George Harrison, present!

In sympathy and solidarity,
Bradley Duncan; Ron Lare Brian Mullan; Aaron Siegfried; Matthew Siegfried, US supporters of
Fourthwrite and members,
Solidarity-US.



• George with his close friends and comrades Bernadette McAliskey and Frank Durkan.

Sandy Boyer

George Harrison was perhaps the most unrepentant Fenian of them all. He was, as they say, baptised in the Fenian faith at a very early age in his native Shamher, Co. Mayo. He held to that faith unflinchingly until he died sitting in his apartment in Brooklyn, New York on Thursday, October 7th.

Of course the Fenian faith has as

many variations as any other. George Harrison's was the Fenianism of Frank Ryan and James Connolly, two of his heroes. It was also the fenianism of Republican Sinn Féin, whose Patron he was proud to be.

His vision was of a 32-county socialist Ireland. He believed firmly that nothing but physical force would ever get the Brits out. And George judged every new development in Ireland by that very basic criterion – would it help get the Brits out?

But his internationalism was integral to his Republicanism. He held that if you wanted to free Ireland, you had to support the struggles of oppressed people everywhere in the world. George was fond of saying that the US had no more right in Puerto Rico than the Brits did in Ireland.

He is best known for providing the IRA with arms and equipment for over 25 years. George purchased the weapons, the most vital and dangerous part of the job. Others raised the money, stored the arms and ammunition and arranged to ship them to Ireland. Owen MacNamee, who George referred to as the "Emissary," was their link with the IRA.

Jack Holland, in his book *The American Connection*, says that there were never more than a dozen people involved with the network. George estimated very conservatively that they supplied the IRA with 2,000-2,500 weapons and more than a million rounds of ammunition.

I am very conscious of everything I have left out. Things like his passionate devotion to the Republican veterans of the Spanish Civil War, his attachment to New York City, his occasional stubbornness and obstinacy



and his great affection for his family and many friends. Other people who knew George would no doubt include much more.

Maybe, at the end, we can say with Shakespeare that "Take him all and all, we shall not look upon his like again."

Of course George might disagree. He would probably have said that he did he did the best he could, and now it is up to us to do the rest.

Sinn Fòin Patron at Memorial Service in New

Serious breach of Geneva Conventions

AT the request of the CIA, the Justice Department drafted a confidential memo that authorizes the agency to transfer detainees out of Iraq for interrogation — a practice that international legal specialists say contravenes the Geneva Conventions.

One intelligence official familiar with the operation said the CIA has used the March draft memo as legal support for secretly transporting as many as a dozen detainees out of Iraq in the last six months. The agency has concealed the detainees from the International Committee of the Red Cross and other authorities, the official said.

The draft opinion, written by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel and dated March 19, 2004, refers to both Iraqi citizens and foreigners in Iraq, who the memo says are protected by the treaty. It permits the CIA to take Iraqis out of the country to be interrogated for a "brief but not indefinite period." It also says the CIA can permanently remove persons deemed to be "illegal aliens" under "local immigration law". Some specialists in international law say the opinion amounts to a reinterpretation of one of the most basic rights of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which protects civilians during wartime and occupation, including insurgents who were not part of Iraq's military.

The treaty prohibits the "[i]ndividual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory . . . regardless of their motive".

The 1949 treaty notes that a violation of this particular provision constitutes a "grave breach" of the accord, and thus a "war crime" under US federal law, according to a footnote in the Justice Department draft.

"For these reasons," the footnote reads, "we recommend that any contemplated relocations of 'protected persons' from Iraq to facilitate interrogation be carefully evaluated for compliance with Article 49 on a case by case basis."

It says that even persons removed from Iraq retain the treaty's protections, which would include humane treatment and access to international monitors.

During the war in Afghanistan, the administration ruled that al Qaeda fighters were not considered "protected persons" under the convention. Many of them were transferred out of the country to the naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and elsewhere for interrogations. By contrast, the US government deems former members of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party and military, as well as insurgents and other civilians in Iraq, to be protected by the Geneva Conventions.

International law experts contacted for this article described the legal reasoning contained in the Justice Department memo as unconventional and disturbing.

"The overall thrust of the Convention is to keep from moving people out of the country and out of the protection of the Convention," said

former senior military attorney Scott Silliman, executive director of Duke University's Center on Law, Ethics and National Security. "The memorandum



became public this June.

The Office of Legal Counsel writes legal opinions considered

closed-doors debate and classified rules for detentions and interrogations at Guantanamo Bay and in Afghanistan and Iraq. Senior defence leaders have repeatedly been called to explain and defend their policies before Congress. But the CIA's policies and practices remain shrouded in secrecy.

The only public account of CIA detainee treatment comes from soldier

Iraqi Al-Ansar terrorist group, was captured by Kurdish soldiers in June or July of 2003 and turned over to the CIA, which whisked him to Afghanistan for interrogation.

In October, White House counsel Alberto R. Gonzales asked the Office of Legal Counsel to write an opinion on "protected persons" in Iraq and rule on the status of Rashid, according to another US government official involved in the deliberations.

Goldsmith, then head of the office, ruled that Rashid was a "protected person" under the Fourth Geneva Convention and therefore had to be brought back to Iraq, several intelligence and defence officials said.

The CIA was not happy with the decision, according to two intelligence officials. It promptly brought Rashid back and suspended any other transfers out of the country. At the same time, when transferring Rashid back to Iraq, then-CIA Director George J. Tenet asked Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld not to give Rashid a prisoner number and to hide him from International Red Cross officials, according to an account provided by Rumsfeld during a June 17 Pentagon news conference. Rumsfeld complied.

As a "ghost detainee", Rashid became lost in the prison system for seven months.

Rumsfeld did not fully explain the reason he had complied with Tenet's request or under what legal authority he could have kept Rashid hidden for so long. "We know" from our knowledge that [Tenet] has the authority to do this," he said. Rashid, defence and intelligence officials noted, had not once been interrogated since he was returned to Iraq. His current status is unknown.

In the one-page October 2003 interim ruling that directed Rashid's return, Goldsmith also created a new category of persons in Iraq whom he said did not qualify for protection under the Geneva Conventions. They are non-Iraqis who are not members of the former Baath Party and who went to Iraq after the invasion.

After Goldsmith's ruling, the CIA and Gonzales asked the Office of Legal Counsel for a more complete legal opinion on "protected persons" in Iraq and on the legality of transferring people out of Iraq for interrogation.

"That case started the CIA yammering to Justice to get a better name," said one intelligence official familiar with the interagency discussion. Michael Byers, a professor and international law expert at the University of British Columbia, said that creating a legal justification for justice to get a better name, from Iraq "is extraordinarily disturbing".

"What they are doing is interpreting an exception into an all-encompassing right, in one of the most fundamental treaties in history," Byers said. The Geneva Convention "is as close as you get to protecting human rights in times of chaos. There's no ambiguity here."

— Dana Priest, *Washington Post Staff Writer, October 24, 2004.*



• A US Apache helicopter flying over the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, where Iraqi prisoners were subjected to extreme abuse by US soldiers.

seeks to create a legal regime justifying conduct that the international community clearly considers in violation of international law and the Convention." Silliman reviewed the document at *The Post's* request.

The CIA, Justice Department and the author of the draft opinion, Jack L. Goldsmith, former director of the Office of Legal Counsel, declined to comment for this article. CIA officials have not disclosed the identities or locations of its Iraq detainees to congressional oversight committees, the Defence Department or CIA investigators who are reviewing detention policy, according to two informed US government officials and a confidential e-mail on the subject shown to *The Washington Post*.

White House officials disputed the notion that Goldsmith's interpretation of the treaty was unusual, although they did not explain why. "The Geneva Conventions are applicable to the conflict in Iraq, and our policy is to comply with the Geneva Conventions," White House spokesman Sean McCormick said.

The Office of Legal Counsel also wrote the Aug. 1, 2002, memo on torture that advised the CIA and White House that torturing al Qaeda terrorists in captivity abroad "may be justified", and that international laws against torture "may be unconstitutional if applied to interrogations" conducted in the war on terrorism. President Bush's aides repudiated that memo once it

binding on federal agencies and departments. The March 19 document obtained by *The Post* is stamped "draft" and was not finalized, said one US official involved in the legal deliberations. However, the memo was sent to the general counsels at the National Security Council, the CIA and the departments of State and Defence.

"The memo was a green light," an intelligence official said. "The CIA used the memo to remove other people from Iraq."

Since the September 11, 2001 attacks, the CIA has used broad authority granted in a series of legal opinions and guidance from the Office of Legal Counsel and its own general counsel's office to transfer, interrogate and detain individuals suspected of terrorist activities at a series of undisclosed locations around the world.

According to current and former agency officials, the CIA has a rendition policy that has permitted the agency to transfer an unknown number of suspected terrorists captured in one country into the hands of security services in other countries whose record of human rights abuse is well documented.

These individuals, as well as those at CIA detention facilities, have no access to any recognized legal process or rights.

The scandal at Abu Ghraib, and the investigations and congressional hearings that followed, forced the disclosure of the Pentagon's behind-

testimony and Defence Department investigations of military conduct. For instance, Army Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba's report on Abu Ghraib criticized the CIA practice of maintaining "ghost detainees" — prisoners who were not officially registered and were moved around inside the prison to hide them from Red Cross teams. Taguba called the practice "deceptive, contrary to Army doctrine and in violation of international law".

Gen Paul J. Kern, who oversaw another Army inquiry, told Congress that the number of CIA ghost detainees "is in the dozens, to perhaps up to 100."

The March 19, 2004, Justice Department memo by Goldsmith deals with a previously unknown class of people — those removed from Iraq.

It is not clear why the CIA would feel the need to remove detainees from Iraq for interrogation. A US government official who has been briefed on the CIA's detention practices said some detainees are probably taken to other countries because "that's where the agency has the people, expertise and interrogation facilities, where their people and programs are in place".

The origin of the Justice Department memo is directly related to the only publicly acknowledged ghost detainee, Hiwa Abdul Rahman Rashid, nicknamed "Triple X" by CIA and military officials.

Rashid, a suspected member of the

WHAT THEY SAID

Meanwhile, the chairman of the present Dutch EU presidency, foreign minister Brammert Bat has welcomed a suggestion that the [ten] referendums [on the EU constitution] should all be held between May 5 and 8 next, dates which will also make the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

— Sunday Business Post, September 5, 2004, article by Seán Mac Cárthaigh, Political Correspondent.

Policitors across the European Union are increasingly worried that the new EU constitution will be rejected in a referendum and are looking to Ireland for campaign advice.

— Seán Mac Cárthaigh article.

As soon as Russia's instrument of ratification [of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change] is received by the United Nations, the protocol adopted in Japan's old imperial capital in December 1997 will finally enter into force 90 days later.

— Irish Times, October 1, 2004, Editorial.

Russia's ratification has been vital since President Bush pulled the United States out of Kyoto in one of his first acts after taking office in January 2001.

And because of the "business as usual" approach adopted by the Coalition Government since 1997, Ireland's (26 Counties) [greenhouse gas] emissions are already overshooting the target level agreed with our European Union partners by a factor of two.

In that context, the decision to drop carbon taxes must be seen as another illustration of the ostrich-like refusal by ministers to address the most important environmental problem facing humanity.

— Editorial.

Ireland (sic) is among the European Union member-states with the greatest gap between rich and poor, according to figures published yesterday by the EU.

The top 20% of Ireland's (sic) highest earners receive 4.5 times more than the bottom 20%.

— Irish Times, October 2, 2004.

A [RUC] Special Branch police informant shot dead the *Sunday World* journalist Martin O'Hagan, the reporter's chief contact has claimed.

Barry Bradbury (62) said he was given details of the gunman from a trusted contact in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (RUC).

— Sunday Business Post, October 3, 2004.

[Jim] Campbell, who was shot and wounded by the Ulster Volunteer Force in 1984, added: "The big question is: who in the UVF is not an informant? The UVF was set up with the knowledge and help of the Special Branch."

— Sunday Business Post (Jim Campbell was a colleague of Martin O'Hagan).

New figures released by the

Department of Health reveal that there were more than 100,000 fewer people covered by the medical card scheme in September 2004 than there were in January 1997 just before the current Fianna Fáil-Progressive Democrat coalition was elected.

— Irish Times, October 5, 2004, Health Supplement.

In a sign of heightened security concerns, the monarch [QEII of England] travelled a bullet-proof limousine rather than in the open-top carriage in which she travelled down the same street in 1999 before opening the [Scottish] parliament's first session in its temporary home.

— Sunday Tribune, October 10, 2004.

Last week, though, he [Edwin Morgan, Makar or poet laureate] lent his support and his signature to the Declaration of Carlton Hall, which supports a more Scottish parliament, Scotland rather than the monarchist limited-powers devolved assembly currently in place.

— Sunday Tribune.

The document, which opposes devolution, will state RTE's Scottish parliament should be truly that and an assembly with limited powers, that it should control Scotland's financial and natural resources and defence policy.

— Sunday Tribune.

The book — *The Road From Mallow to Arding* — by David Prentice — claims that RTE current affairs was dominated by members of the Workers' Party, and went up to its elbows in the party held senior positions within RTE.

— Sunday Business Post, October 4, 2004, article by Paul T. Coleman.

McAleese wrote in her diary at that time that: "I was a Catholic, a Northern nationalist and a woman in a quadruple deviant in the eyes of many influential people in RTE." She claimed that RTE's H-Block coverage was "biased at worst, misguided at best."

— Sunday Business Post, October 10, 2004, article by Paul T. Coleman.

There would be a bit of embarrassing strutting on the national question, but that would die down after a while. And then the same old mix.

— Sunday Business Post, October 10, 2004, "Between the Lines" column by Vincent Browne.

That is the way it has got to be, because that is the political culture. And that is the political culture because nobody is trying to change it.

There is nobody campaigning for anything other than office. Nobody campaigning for a change in people's attitude towards taxation, social welfare, etc. (other than managing it better, which is a side issue), education, anything.

— Vincent Browne.

ESRI economists Niamh Ní Cúill and Mr Brian Nolan say that while average income per tax-payer has risen dramatically in Ireland (sic) over the last decade, the numbers falling below the relative income poverty threshold remain "well above the EU average."

Their paper says that 15% live below 50% of the median income here, the highest in the EU and well above the 9% EU average. All those falling below

the threshold are "not poor", the paper says, but they are "at risk of poverty".

— Irish Times, October 12, 2004, article by Cliff Taylor, Economics Editor.

Improvements in tax and welfare rates and structures are a key factor when looking at the higher percentage of people at risk of poverty here compared to a country like Denmark, it finds.

— Irish Times.

Successful anti-poverty policy requires both education and employment opportunities and improved income supports, the paper concludes.

Higher spending would require higher taxes and with the implications of this for the economy "are critically important to the strategic choices to be made."

— Irish Times.

It has been a hard road since the high hopes generated by the loyalist ceasefire announcement of October 13, 1994.

— Irish Times, October 13, 2004, article by David Adams, senior figure in the now defunct Ulster Democratic Party, political wing of the UDA.

It is now only a matter of time before the current impasse is broken and the Stormont institutions are restored, he believes.

He boldly predicts that February will witness the ending of direct rule. But then the real work begins.

— Irish Times, October 13, 2004, interview by David Irvine, PUP (political wing of the UVF) by-election candidate.

The US military jet used in the abduction and transport of Al-Qaeda suspects, can land at Shannon airport "without permission, the transport minister Martin Cullen has said.

The Gulfstream jet with the call sign N399P has landed at Shannon on at least 13 occasions in the past four years.

— Sunday Business Post, October 17, 2004, article by Paul T. Coleman.

Described by the CIA as "extraordinary renditions", the plane's operations are designed to transfer suspects to countries where they can be interrogated without the protection of western law.

Two Egyptian suspects, Ahmed Agiza and Muhammed al-Zery, were reportedly "abducted" by US government officials.

Both men, who have been granted asylum in Sweden, were taken on the Gulfstream jet from Bromma airport, Stockholm, to Cairo where they claimed to have been brutally interrogated.

— Sunday Business Post, October 17, 2004, article by Paul T. Coleman.

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the threshold are "not poor", the paper says, but they are "at risk of poverty".

sharing power with their Catholic (sic) neighbours. Thus far, they have consistently been rewarded by the Irish (sic) and British governments for this, as officials' attempt to force [Provisional] Sinn Féin to meet each new DUP demand.

— Sunday Business Post, October 17, 2004, Editorial.

It is also aware that as soon as the [Provisional] IRA issues its final order to stand down, the DUP plans to demand a "period of decontamination" before sharing power.

— Editorial.

After a controversial initiative on coalition [of Fianna Fáil] with [Provisional] Sinn Féin south of the border was a carefully choreographed move to enhance the prospects of [Provisional] IRA decommissioning in the next two weeks and enable the DUP to do a deal with [Provisional] Sinn Féin.

— Sunday Tribune, October 17, 2004, front page article by Stephen Collins and Shane Coleman.

PSNI officers were forced to use CS gas after coming under attack from a crowd of around 100 youths early yesterday in Derry.

Twenty minutes earlier, officers had used CS spray to quell a riot in the nearby Victoria Market carpark.

— Sunday Tribune, October 17, 2004, front page article.

The AB-Partei Committee on the [1937] Constitution unanimously concluded in April that constitutional change was not necessary before the introduction of legislation allowing for the compulsory purchase of land and the development by local authorities, at existing use values plus 25%.

— Sunday Business Post, October 17, 2004, article by Shane Coleman.

We have managed to convince the two governments that Republicans are in a context of a really big deal prepared to do historic things.

— Martin McGuinness speaking on Prime Time, RTE 1, October 19, 2004.

...[the] IRA [are] finishing far short of their constitutional goal. A democratic Socialist Republic won by force of arms.

They are now ready for finality. IRA units north and south, once staffed in hundreds, are trimmed to heads of departments plus a few. Activists are integrated into politics.

Arms dumps are made safe for perhaps two final phases acts of decommissioning by the new year if a deal is posed for a formal act of cessation by army council or general convention of members.

— Brendan O'Brien, Prime Time, October 19, 2004.

It is about completion, yes, absolutely. I don't have any difficulty about that at all.

— Martin McGuinness speaking on Prime Time, RTE 1, October 19, 2004.

Are you saying that you do believe that the IRA has taken a decision to finish completely?

— Brendan O'Brien questioning to Danny Morrison on Prime Time

October 17, 2004, article by David McWilliams.

The existence of all renders the entire system unstable, because someone is always trying to get their grubby hands on the stuff, whether through coups, invasion or arbitrary changes to property rights and laws.

— David McWilliams.

The DUP have found one use after another to avoid actually

beyond use, including retiring from the situation.

— Danny Morrison.

I want to be able as member of parliament for mid-Ulster to come out and tell the people of east Tyrone and south Derry that their children should join a new policing service and that they could do so walking out of their houses [Derry] and into places like Coalisland and Mahera with their uniforms on, with cheests out and their heads held high.

— Martin McGuinness.

The deal would involve a plan to transfer policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly, maybe within two years. There's been talks of splitting justice and policing into two separate ministries, one nationalist, one unionist for public confidence, that's down the line, but Sinn Féin would take policing board seats and support the PSNI much sooner - history indeed.

— Brendan O'Brien.

If the DUP had the wit to see the inevitability that they have two choices, they either get the two alternatives - one which they can't win in a hundred years, and day we have already got the end of the IRA and they take that jackpot, then I would think that [Provisional] Sinn Féin will be on its board by about January next year.

— Denis Bradley, Vice Chairman, Northern Ireland Peace Process.

We in [Provisional] Sinn Féin are determined to deal with this issue as speedily as we possibly can. It is sufficient to say we want to do it sooner rather than later.

— Martin McGuinness.

The potential use of these weapons represents a major escalation of the danger posed to those exercising their right to protest in the Irish Republic. The deployment of these weapons is in fact an attempt to portray protest as criminal and terrorist in nature.

— Village, 16-22 October, 2004. Mick Dooley, Dublin Grassroots Network, writing on the *Lessons Learned Weapons Conference* being held in Dublin.

Because even the manufacturers admit that they can kill people. And they have killed people. Plastic bullets alone have been responsible for at least 14 deaths in Northern Ireland over the past 30 years.

— Village.

Ten thousand guns, which deliver a 50,000-volt shock through a wire, have caused several deaths in the US.

— Village (the number of deaths has put at 37 by *Williamette Week*).

According to Amnesty International, in 2002, the US Department of Commerce approved 127 licences worth \$14,773,542 for export of discharge-type items (stun guns, shock batons, electric cattle prods and immobilization guns and projectiles) according to a Department of Commerce report in 2003.

— Village.

A low-cost, yet dignified, standard of living is out of reach each time a group of people who are dependent on social welfare, a pioneering new study has found.

The family budget research, the first of its kind undertaken in Ireland, was carried out by the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice.

— Irish Times, October 19, 2004, article by Kitty Holland.

Catholics (sic) in Northern

Ireland are almost twice as likely as Protestants (sic) to be unemployed, according to the latest official figures.

The unemployment rate for Catholics was 8.1% against a rate of 4.3% for Protestants, the Labour Force Survey covering 2002 published by the Statistics and Research Agency showed. — (PA).

— Irish Times, October 19, 2004.

The plans to drive a motorway through the Tara-Skreen Valley have enraged experts around the world, with over 50 senior academics signing letters against the proposal.

Archaeologists and historians have claimed that the motorway would amount to an act of "cultural vandalism" unparalleled in Irish history.

— Sunday Tribune, October 24, 2004.

I thought this kind of behaviour by Irish people travelling to the UK was a thing of the past. "Christy Moore after being detained by anti-terrorism police in Holyhead."

— Sunday Tribune, October 24, 2004, Quotes of the Week.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has cleared the way for the construction of the State's first toxic waste incinerator by project in Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork.

The official scrutiny of Indaver's plans [Indaver Ireland is the builder for this incinerator and another near Duleek, Co. Meath] was the subject of comment from a spokesman when it emerged that the company's former project manager for the incinerator projects, Ms Laura O'Connell, had been appointed as a director in the EPA.

— Irish Times, October 27, 2004.

Judge Moran refused the expert witness accounts of former assistant US secretary-general Denis Halliday and Professor of International Law, Curtis Doebler on [Mary] Kelly's behalf.

"I did not want this case to degenerate into a political debate," the judge explained to the jury yesterday. "This is not a case to consider the legality of the war in Iraq."

— Irish Times, October 29, 2004.

Kelly argued that she had lawful excuse to make the aircraft as she was trying to save life in Iraq.

Kelly made an impassioned and highly charged address to the jury when she said: "I didn't run away. I wanted to be responsible and be accountable for my actions to stop the danger that is going on... I acted to save life and property."

— Irish Times.

Queen Elizabeth's [of England] visit to Berlin next week is descending into a diplomatic farce after somebody mention the war [WWII].

Diplomats in Berlin and London have dismissed as nonsense reports of a possible apology by the queen for the fire-bombing of Dresden, but are working behind the scenes on a damage-limitation exercise.

"Will the queen apologise?" was the front-page headline yesterday of *Bild*, a newspaper read by 12 million Germans.

— Irish Times, October 29, 2004, article by Derek Scully in Berlin.

Counter Revolution Tevised

A chair has no such place as the "British Isles"; it is a highly political term. It is as redundant as "British Central Africa". It suggests a sickening, offensive reminder of empire and the dissolution of the colonised. It is a phrase as frantically as "paddy", "nigger" or "wog". It is truly racist and highly political because it lays claim to the territory, the people inhabiting it and their culture.

Several British programmes over the past few months have been propagating the term again. BBC's *Natural History of the British Isles* filmed segments in and named Bray, amongst other Irish locations, as part of the "British Isles". There is a show called *Atlantic Britain* which features the west coast of Ireland. A show called *Battlefield Britain* enacted the Boyne escapade. Who ever told the permit for these shows to film here and by virtue lay claim to Ireland as British. I expect no less of the Brits but I expect more of the civil servant or minister representing Irish interests, that allows us to be designated to the status of British by inclusion in these shows. Are we a nation or are we posing as a nation?

It gets worse: on Friday, October 8 I watched the *Six-One News* and *Nationwide*. Wrongly trusting that domestic television would not be supportive of the back-peddling to the Act of Union as perhaps foreign channels might. Woe and behold, Brian Kerr on the *One News* talking about the exodus of Irish to see the upcoming soccer match with the Irish spoke of the "exodus of fans" from the "British Isles".

Less than one hour on RTE's *Nationwide* programme, a feature of the renovation of Cork city included a council spokesperson/contractor refer to the eventual completion of the project as leaving Cork as one of the "best cities" in the "British Isles".

What is going on? Did I miss the invasion? Did we put up a fight? Was there a vote on the matter of abolishing nationality or is it the insipid lack of a national identity that purport generates, that allows all this to occur. I know a great poet said that the revolution would not be televised but it seems the counter-revolution is. If only it was as simple as switching off.

FIANN Ó NUALLÁIN
Crumlin, Dublin

Puppets And Paymasters

A chair reading the front page of a New newspaper on Thursday, October 14 found a somewhat distressing but not surprising article by a local Provisional councillor. The article itself, about the banning of smoking in bars/hotels for non-smoking staff, I have no qualms with.

It does however when this so-called Republican councillor calls on his direct-line minister Angela Smith (she might be his minister but is not one for the true Republicans of Newry) to act sooner rather than later. Yet again we have the pure hypocrisy of the Provisionals claiming to be Republicans and

then asking their British paymaster to implement direct British rule in our country.

Again the people of Newry and indeed the whole of Ireland are being duped by the Provisionals claiming to be Republicans while in fact they are mere puppets to Westminster. I call on all the Republican and nationalist people of Newry and the whole 32 Counties to reject these people as they are now showing their true colours so arrogantly and stonily.

Break the connection with England. Support the true Republican Movement.
Republican Sinn Féin

NEWRY TOWN
REPUBLICAN
(Not Newry city as sponsored by the Queen of England as the Provos now refer to it.)

Dublin's Policy of Convenience

A chair There is a section of the 26-County Establishment which wishes that the victims of the Dublin/Monaghan bombings had no surviving relatives. The Justice for the Forgotten Group remain an unwelcome reminder of areas where the Dublin Establishment would rather not stay.

The interests of Dublin and London are mutually entwined, and it is for this reason that the death of May 1974 could never be given any real significance. Uncomfortable questions may lead to difficult answers, and Leinster House as an institution has largely been shrouding itself in mythology.

The reality for Irish Republicans is that Leinster House in real terms is no further on than it was in 1922. It remains an institution born of conspiracy against the Republic, in its origins it has been propped up by British whoredom and has acted in the interests of those posing a greater threat (ie London).

The 26-County State has utilised coercive force against the Republican Movement in every decade since its imposition. The Movement has always been the greatest, unyielding threat posed to British rule in Ireland, and by extension the institutions which have their origins in such outside interference. Therefore, an attack on British forces was seen by the Dublin government as an attack on itself by implication. To oppose Partition is to logically oppose the institutions which flow from the boundary mutilation of the early 1920s.

With this in mind it was naturally the priority of the Cosgrave/Corish administration of 1974 to see off the challenge of the IRA and to shore up the 26-County State. However, there is a certain symbiotic relationship between the revolutionary and counter-revolutionary forces in struggle, insofar as both sides write off civilian casualties in pursuit of their given ends. When looked at in these terms the carnage of Dublin/Monaghan was a small price to pay as far as the Dublin government was concerned.

However, for the opinion shapers of the Saorstát the Dublin/Monaghan atrocities were the bombs to which no one could apportion blame. They were to be denoted as the mysterious work of some hidden hands, and to which successive

administrations feigned ignorance. We now know that this was a position of convenience adopted at the expense of the victims of these bombings.

The Dublin/Monaghan bombings epitomises so much of the relationship between the 26-County State, as the Dublin administration put the interests of the greater threat above that of what is right and just. They did this in much the same manner that they shelved the Four Courts in August 1922 at Britain's behest. In turn the body parts and rubble from the 1974 bombs were dutifully swept up and the victims summarily buried.

Forgotten can forget about attaining justice from any Dublin administration, the *realpolitik* of participant politics will see to that.

PAUL FINN
Waterford

Anti-Irish Bigotry From Within

A chair I wish to make a point in reference to an article in October's *SAOIRSE*, titled "Anti-Irish prejudice from within", which touched on the point of anti-Irish bigotry inside the Irish nationalist community in Scotland.

It is to be welcomed that publications like *SAOIRSE* are willing to broach the issue of sectarianism and anti-Irishness, particularly in the West of Scotland. It is a subject in which the "mainstream" media in Ireland and Scotland have failed to seriously address. They prefer to focus on the Celtic versus Rangers dimension instead of the cancer of institutionalised sectarianism which is deep rooted in Scotland.

On these shores the Irish flag is seen a sectarian symbol. Of course there is never any detailed analysis as to why this is so, and who could there be, when the whole ethos behind what the flag symbolises is neo-sectarianism and Jacobinism.

The narrow-minded bigots here, seem to share the attitude that any display of Irish identity is offensive. Is it any wonder the Orange Order marching season in Scotland is met with hostility onto the streets parading the tune of sectarian songs with the newspapers and general media reporting on the marches of hate as some sort of family day out!

When Celtic fans sing songs about Ireland's fight for freedom, they are deemed to be sectarian tunes, thus making the people singing them bigots. Yet again, there is no reasoning behind the argument that songs about the 1981 hunger strikes are in any way sectarian, and with the media accountants nobody they need not justify their arguments.

Also, if anybody tries to argue against the media they need not hold their breath waiting to be given a medium to air their opinions as it will not be forthcoming.

I would say to the Irish community at home and abroad to celebrate their culture as they see fit, regardless of the ignorance shown towards them. As Bobby Sands once said, "for those who believe, no explanation is necessary, but for those who do not believe no explanation is possible".

To finalise, on behalf of the Francis Hughes Cumann, Scotland, we would like to take the opportunity to thank the patrons of Celtic Park for their untiring support for our sales of *SAOIRSE*.

IRISH REPUBLICAN
SOCIALIST
Alba/Scotland

Sorry state Of A&E Hospital Departments

A chair "Inside, the unit is bleak and uninviting. There are at least 15, mostly elderly, patients either on trolleys or on chairs ... There is one toilet in the unit with a faulty tap which, relatives of the elderly are dirty and gut-churning."

"In one of the cubicles is an older man with a blood-clot in his leg, who has been waiting on a bed for three days. He is looking for something to rest his leg on but can't find anything. Earlier he had washed himself and changed his clothes in the unit's cramped toilet."

"Another elderly woman is attending to her husband. She has washed him and brought in some food and pillows. On a previous visit, he was forced to wait up six days for a bed, he tells one visitor."

The above is taken from a report in the *Irish Times* 21/10/04 written by Carl O'Brien after a visit to the A&E of the Mater Hospital.

Eithne Donnellan also had a report on the same paper from various A&E around the country and the story was the same: 18 patients on trolleys awaiting beds yesterday morning in Cavan General Hospital; 15 patients on trolleys early yesterday in Galway's University Hospital; Cork General Hospital 22 patients on trolleys.

Things have indeed reached a sorry state when waiting patients have to form a pressure group to force the state into recognising the seriousness of the problem – the "general public" so to speak one of the worst (though not the only) areas.

One of the women involved in the new pressure group, Janette Byrne, had to resort to the courts three years ago 'after the Mater Hospital was forced to repeatedly cancel her cancer treatment for her'. Three years

on and Eithne Donnellan's headline reads "Planned surgery cancelled due to pressure on beds".

Top heavy in administration, personnel, a two-tier system and mismanagement by successive free state administrations have contributed to the shambles that is now our health service which staggers from one crisis to another.

Proper health care must be accessible to everyone not just those who can afford the Blackrock Clinics or Mater Privates in this state.

Janet Byrne is speaking from experience, so am I.

MAIRÉAD O NEILL
Clondalkin

Travesty Of Justice

A chair In Ennis Circuit Court last Friday Mary Kelly was found guilty of 'criminal damage without lawful excuse to a US navy aircraft'. Her 'crime' – "taking an axe to the US aircraft at Shannon in January 2003".

In Friday next she will know her fate.

What passes for a justice system in Ireland I wouldn't fancy her chances of a fair sentence seeing as how, if she did not get a fair trial. A fair outcome would have been a not guilty verdict along with an apology and compensation for the trouble the state has caused her – she should never have been charged in the first place.

Judge Moran on the bench and implicated all the people of Ireland in the charging of Mary Kelly. He stated "It is not a case of the Irish Government, the US Government or the Garda bringing the case against Ms Kelly; it is the people of Ireland bringing the case against her."

No one asked me if, as a person of Ireland, wanted to take a case against Mary Kelly. Was any person of Ireland consulted as to whether they wanted to bring a case against her? They certainly were not. Moran does not speak for me, nor indeed for the many people of Ireland who believe Mary Kelly should get a medal for her courageous act and not a sentence from the courts.

Judge Moran also decided that "anything to do with the war in Iraq or the US military use of Shannon Airport was not relevant to the defence of the charge of criminal damage facing the anti-war activist, Mary Kelly". How he could reach such a conclusion is incomprehensible. Mary's action was taken as a direct result of the war in Iraq. Had there been no war in Iraq Mary would not have felt the need to take an axe to a US navy aircraft. Mary believes the invasion and occupation of Iraq to be illegal and many thousands of people share her view. Her action was based on that belief, as was her defence in court when she stated that she "tried to prevent a crime taking place and a loss of life".

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 be sent to
Dublin 17 9757 or by e-mail to saoirse@iol.ie

One of the observers at Mary's trial told me that the trial was a travesty. Never had he witnessed such unjust treatment in a courtroom. The vast majority of Mary's witnesses were not allowed to take the stand in the presence of the jury. All reference to Iraq was disallowed. Moran said that he could not allow witnesses such as former assistant secretary general to the UN Denis Halliday, Curtis Döbberle professor of International law or Edward Hogan former Free State Army officer (and himself before the courts in December) give evidence because he did not want to this case to degenerate into a political debate.

What was the judge trying to hide? Why did he not leave the jury to decide for themselves if it was a political issue and that the war in Iraq was relevant to the case or not? Could it be that he was afraid that if the jury heard ALL the facts they would decide that the war in Iraq was very relevant to the case; was a political issue and that Mary Kelly was totally justified in what she did?

The jury may have heard that in the first nine months of this year 112,000 US troops shipped out of Shannon Airport, that in September alone 150 flights carried 22,525 US troops. They may have heard that Shannon Airport is the only airport in Ireland that in September alone an estimated €14 million "from the US troop traffic in 2004". They may have heard that the US military now have a "base camp" at Shannon Airport cordoned off and guarded by Free State troops. They may have heard about the transporting of prisoners to "torture chambers" via Shannon.

The response of the Free State to the people of Ireland who opposed the use of one of our civilian airports for the transport of war materials/ kidnapped prisoners is as usual one of contempt. Martin Cullen is on record as saying that "there will be no change in government policy on US military aircraft landing at Shannon Airport". So the Free State continues to give support to the US in its illegal war on and occupation of Iraq.

And all in the name of the people of Ireland – your name.

JOSEPHINE HAYDEN
Tallaght

Protectors Of British Rule

A chair The RUC/PSNI call themselves the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Protectors of the Sasannah Northern Ireland might be closer to the mark.

And all in the name of the people of Ireland – your name.

BRENDAN TOBIN
Co Wexford

REACTION TO OMAGH RAID

50 Years Ago

"A BEACON of light and hope which will be welcomed by the suffering people of the North" was how the *Connacht Telegraph* of

Castlebar, Co Mayo described the Omagh Raid in its issue of October 24, 1954.

The local newspaper said, "The recent raid on Omagh Military Barracks will focus world attention on the Partition of Ireland far more effectively than propaganda or the pratings of politicians."

"Pacifists and 'loyal' Ulstermen will condemn the raid and howl for the blood of the raiders; sincere Irishmen at home and abroad, while not openly condemning the exploit, will have nothing but praise and admiration for the courage and daring of the youths concerned and sympathy for the unfortunate men and women who were caught and now face trial before a bigoted anti-Irish court."

"The time has come when it must be admitted, and the fact faced up to, that so long as British troops occupy a portion of Ireland and enforce 'law and order' with the baton and gun, just so long will there be unrest here, and just so long will men sacrifice their liberty and lives if necessary, for the hollowed ideal of a free united country."

"Thus it has been for over seven hundred years; thus it is bound to be until the ideal is achieved."

"Today many cherish the hope that freedom may be achieved by peaceful negotiations. The raid on Omagh Barracks demonstrates that many people think otherwise."

"The unnatural Border is in existence for over thirty years, during which time the people of the North have been coerced and bullied into being British subjects."

"Thirty years is a long time to be coerced and bullied and persecuted, and regardless of what the people of the South may think we imagine that the armed raid on Omagh Barracks will be welcomed by the suffering people of the North and be as a beacon of light and hope in them in the darkness of their misery."

"The spirit of the unconquered people of the Six Counties was captured in poetic words and phrases by the eminent author Benedict Kiely of Omagh. In a report in the *Irish Press* of November 2, 1954 he described the unveiling of a Celtic cross to the 1798 martyr Roddy McCorley:

"There were enough RUC men in the little streets of Toome yesterday to fight the battle of Antrim over again. They were drafted specially there to see that the Tricolour was not carried in procession as the bands and people moved down to the bridge for the unveiling..."

"Up the narrow street they stepped and since there has been no storming ban yet on national ballads they stepped to the music of Eithne Carbery's song and to the stirring music of the songs about the Mountains of Pomeroy and the men who died in Manchester."

"Up the narrow street he stepped Smiling and proud and young. About the hemp rope on his neck His golden ringlets hung."

"There was a strained air in the street as the procession passed the groups of black constabulary. But the wind from the Lough and the Bann water brought the breath of freedom with it when the procession cleared the houses, swung right along the river to the green-mounded place where a Celtic cross waited for unveiling, where the Tricolour flew above the gathering crowd of people from Antrim, Derry and Tyrone."

"The flag was at half-mast waiting for the moment of unveiling. Behind me in the crowd a woman from Washington said: 'They'll raise it!'"

"And raise it they did under the dull sky while the men from Ballinascreen, Brackaghreilly and Bally Mhic Teisce, some of them clad against all Stormont law in green and gold uniform played *The Soldier's Song*.

"The swollen Bann burst out from the Lough (Neagh) and swilled around the eel water and the people from farmstead and from fishers cot along



• Part of the heavily-armed RUC and British army convoy which brought the Omagh Raid prisoners to and from jail in Belfast.

the banks of Bann stood bareheaded for two silent minutes remembering the dead, remembering the 19-year-old boy — Ulster's Kevin Barry — hanged on that bridge a century and a half since."

"The power of tradition there is as strong as the flow of the broad Bann. It was a Father Devlin who came in 1798 to the young fair-headed boy, McCorley, before they hanged him."

"It was a Father Devlin yesterday who, in a wonderful speech by the riverside, made the past live again and showed us Roddy McCorley as he lived on, not in scholarly records, but in the living traditions of the people."

"Eithne Carbery in 1898 caught up those traditions and turned them into a song that has kept the name of Roddy McCorley alive."

"Father Devlin went further back and gave his listeners the Roddy McCorley who has lived in a new story and ballad by the beards of the Loughshore people:

"In sweet Duncaune this youth was born and reared up tenderly."

"There were people from Duncaune there yesterday by the bridge of Toome, and people too from 'sweet Drumawl', where according to tradition Roddy McCorley lived happily among his Presbyterian neighbours."

"Farewell unto you, sweet Drumawl, If you I had stayed, Among the Presbyterians I would not have been betrayed."

"His body was buried by the riverside by the men who killed him. Years later when a new bridge was being built, the bones were discovered and reinterred in sweet Duncaune."

"The Celtic cross by the riverside, the Loughshore men, bareheaded as the flag was raised, proved the indestructibility of a memory cherished by a people who love freedom," Benedict Kiely's report concluded.

"It was just two weeks after the Omagh Raid and a new spirit was abroad. The monument to Roddy McCorley still stands "on the Bridge of Toome today", in 2004."

Meanwhile not all organs of opinion took the stand of the *Connacht Telegraph* in favour of the action at Omagh on October 17. The *Irish Times* in an editorial the following day called it "a grave disturbance of the public peace" and was "a signal failure to advance the day of a united Ireland."

"It went on: 'The real harm is to the Government in power in the Twenty-Six Counties which inevitably is charged, with the provision of, at least, negative aid and comfort to the instigators.'

"Let it be granted that any Republican (sic) regime which should co-operate positively in the detection and punishment of IRA activists in the Six Counties would endanger its own prospects of survival!" At least the *Times* recognised the level of support for what had happened.

"It continued, 'An explicit re-statement of Parliament's sole and sovereign authority in this regard (dealing with the problem of partition) might clear the air against an occasion when it will be impossible to stand aloof any longer'."

In other words, state your position in Leinster House now against the day when British threats will force you to crack down on Republicans."

A mere ten days later the Leinster House politicians took the hint. A motion had been on the Order Paper there since June in the name of Deputy Jack McQuillan. (Roscommon) calling for the right of audience in Leinster House for the

elected representatives of the Six Counties.

A debate was initiated based on this motion which was used by Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil to condemn the use of force against the British occupation forces in Ireland.

John A Costello as head of government and Éamon de Valera as leader of the opposition were in complete agreement in this regard.

The Labour Party deputies were left to a free vote with Dan Desmond, Chairman, as their chief spokesperson.

The *Irish Independent* of October 29 tells us "the House was crowded" and in the Distinguished Strangers Gallery were the British Ambassador, the US Ambassador and Eddie MacAteer (Derry) Stormont MP.

The motion was, of course, defeated by 100 votes to 21. With the vote Fine Gael-Fianna Fáil vote was the Clann na Tatalán Deputy Michael Donnellan (North Galway).

For were 21, made up as follows: Labour — 15 Deputies Casey, Corish, Davin, Desmond, Dunne, Everett, Keyes, Kyne, Leary, McLaughlin, MP Murphy, Norton, Mrs O'Carroll, Pattison, J Tully, Clann na Tatalán 2 — Fincunne (Kerry), O'Hara (Mayo), Clann na Poblachtá 2 — Seán MacBride (Dublin SW) and John Tully (Cavan), Independents 2 — McQuillan and Maguire (Sligo-Leitrim).

Mr Costello made a long speech in which he twice indicated his worries about Sinn Féin people being elected in the Six Counties.

The *Independent* quotes him: "The position was, however, that there was no unity among the nationalists and there were the Sinn Féin representatives who had repudiated (sic) the Dublin Parliament and who said it did not exist (sic)."

"The passing of Mr McQuillan's motion would not affect the position of Sinn Féin". The 'Dublin Parliament' certainly did not exist as regards the people of the Six Counties and Costello and de Valera joined in a vote that day to keep it so!

Seán McBride, who had through Clann na Poblachtá during the summer got Liam Kelly elected to the Dublin Senate while he was in Belfast Jail, said "isolated acts of violence in the Six Counties were not likely to further the ultimate unity of the country."

He went on: "Partition was imposed on this nation by Britain and only existed today by the political, economic and military support given to it by Britain."

He blamed those in Leinster House "because over the past 30 years they had lacked leadership in the matter of Partition."

Seán Dunne (Labour) said that in the last couple of months there had been a stirring of Republicanism and Nationalist opinion, generated by the actions of brave young men in Armagh and Omagh.

Ben Maguire (Ind) said that neither the Taoiseach nor Mr de Valera had any solution and they had no message of hope to send to the nationalists in the Six Counties.

(Note: Seán Dunne had been an internee in the Curragh Camp in the 1940-45 period and Ben Maguire represented a Border constituency, as did John Tully.)

In reply, the Army Council of Óglaigh na hÉireann circulated a four page folder (A4 size) throughout Ireland during November. It was headed 'Irish Resistance to British Aggression'

and it stated the Republican case.

The "elected representatives of the Irish people had condemned the 1916 Rising it said and had cheered in the British House of Commons at the news of the execution of the leaders. They later denied they did but the record stood."

It quoted Lord George's letter to Edward Carson dated May 29, 1916, in regard to the promised Home Rule:

"My dear Carson

I endorse Greer's draft propositions. We must make it clear that at the end of the provisional period Ulster does not, whether she wills it or not, merge in the rest of Ireland."

Ever sincerely
D. Lloyd George.

Will you show it to Craig?"

There was to be a 'clean cut' of six counties from Ireland forever. Lloyd George's secret pledge to the Unionist leaders of permanent partition was given while he was a minister acting on behalf of the British Cabinet.

In December 1916 he became Prime Minister of England until 1922. (Carson published the text of this secret letter in 1924.)

The IRA pamphlet concluded: "The dispassionate logical conclusion to be drawn from the history of the two countries (Ireland and England) is that Ireland can only achieve unity and freedom when the whole people of Ireland tell the British Army to get out or be driven out."

Issued by the Army Council, the pamphlet appears from its wording to have been penned by the man who was then chairperson of that body, Tomás MacCurtain of Cork.

The annual Ard-Fheis of Sinn Féin was held in Dublin on November 6 and 7 and was so enthusiastic as would be expected in 1954. An t-Uachtarán, Tomás Ó Dubhghalláin in his address said that the continued presence of the British occupation forces was an act of war against the Irish Nation.

"Their presence is an insult and a challenge to the Irish people. Thank God we still have young men willing and able to take up that challenge and answer it in the only way England has ever understood."

There was an atmosphere of confidence and hope in the future. Republican actions on the military front had been complemented by more widespread Sinn Féin activity and the vision to contest all twelve seats in the forthcoming Westminster elections in the Six Counties had given all members an immediate task which demanded considerable work.

Five days before the Ard-Fheis a constituency convention of Sinn Féin delegates met at Kanturk, Ardara, Co Tyrone to select a candidate for mid-Ulster. According to the *Irish Press* of October 28 it unanimously selected Tom Mitchell, one of the Omagh prisoners.

He was proposed by Joseph Mary Plunkett Cumann, Pomeroy and seconded by Tom Williams Cumann, Monemore, Co Derry.

The *Irish Independent* of November 15 reported that a Sinn Féin convention in Newry had selected Kevin O'Rourke of Killynery, Banbridge, Co Down to contest the South Down constituency. Kevin O'Rourke was a prisoner in Belfast Jail awaiting trial on arms charges.

Also appreciated was the action of the National Cycling Association for their gesture towards Philip Clarke, another Omagh prisoner and one of their members.

Meanwhile in New York Fr Liam Pilkington was honoured at a dinner sponsored by Clann na Gael and IRA Veterans of America. He was returning to the mission fields of Africa but he remained faithful to the All-Ireland Republic, he said.

A native of Sligo, Fr Pilkington had been General Officer Commanding the Third Western Division, IRA during the Black-and-Tan and Free State Wars.

(More next month. Refs: *An t-Eireannach Anocht*, 1954; *United Irishman*, November and December 1954; *Irish Press*, November 2, October 28; *Connacht Telegraph*, October 24; *Irish Times*, October 18; *Irish Independent*, October 29, November 15.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

WHAT follows are documents I received anonymously that were copied from a classified file of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by a decent FBI special agent sympathetic to Irish American activists.

In his transmittal letter he states: "I retyped most of the documents. You will note that the confidential/national security denials are in caps." I am told the agent passed away recently and these documents may now be published without harm to him.

The documents date from September 1973 to February 1975, the contents speak for themselves, but clearly show the fears Dublin, London and Washington have of the Republican Movement and its US supporters. That fear is current as evidenced by visa denials and the designation of Republican Sinn Féin as a "foreign terrorist organisation".

— **Peadar Mac Finhin**

MEMO: 9/6/73
TO: Director, FBI
FROM: Attaché, US Embassy, Dublin
SUBJECT: Recent visit to Ireland by Dr F Burns-O'Brien
SUBJECT WAS IN IRELAND FOR THREE WEEKS RECENTLY AND WAS FOLLOWED BY THE FBI. HE PRASE AT THE HOMES OF DAVID O'CONNELL AND RUARIÓ Ó BRADAIGH, BOTH ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE IRA ARMY COUNCIL. SUBJECT IS CLOSE TO THE ABOVE AND ENDORSES THEIR POLICIES WHENEVER ASKED.

SUBJECT WENT ON HIS PRASE AT THE HOMES OF DAVID O'CONNELL AND RUARIÓ Ó BRADAIGH, BOTH ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE IRA ARMY COUNCIL. SUBJECT IS CLOSE TO THE ABOVE AND ENDORSES THEIR POLICIES WHENEVER ASKED. SUBJECT WENT ON HIS PRASE AT THE HOMES OF DAVID O'CONNELL AND RUARIÓ Ó BRADAIGH, BOTH ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE IRA ARMY COUNCIL. SUBJECT IS CLOSE TO THE ABOVE AND ENDORSES THEIR POLICIES WHENEVER ASKED.

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NATO.

Note: "NATO partners" and "British's backyard" (last paragraph) - Editor.

LETTER: November, 1973
FROM: Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger
TO: Senator Barry Goldwater
WE WERE MADE AWARE THAT YOU ATTENDED A CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION RECENTLY FOR A RUARIÓ Ó BRADAIGH AND OTHERS SPONSORED BY THE MAJORITY LEADER, THOMAS P. O'NEILL, AND ATTENDED BY MANY CONGRESSMEN AND SOME SENATORS. WE HAVE RECEIVED CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BRITISH EMBASSY WHO WERE ALARMED BY THE EVENT.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THAT MR ÓBRADAIGH IS CONNECTED WITH THE PROVISIONAL IRA TERRORIST GROUP. HE IS PRESENTLY PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN. THEY WANT THE STRAIGHT DOCUMENT TO MAKE SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN AWARE OF THIS PEOPLE ARE AND THAT UNDER SUPERVISOR'S EYES.

THE EVENT WAS ALSO SPONSORED BY THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS ON BEHALF OF THE IRISH COMMUNITY WHO PAID FOR THE EVENT. MANY PEOPLE ARE INNOCENTLY TAKEN IN FOR THE BEST OF INTENTIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT IS AT YOUR SERVICE FOR ANY BRIEFING YOU MAY REQUEST ON IRISH MATTERS.

MEMORANDUM: NOVEMBER 1973
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS/RUARIÓ Ó BRADAIGH
IRISH EMBASSY CONTACTED FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ABOUT TESTIMONY TO BE GIVEN BY MR Ó BRADAIGH, PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN REGARDING ALLIED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AGAINST REPUBLICAN PRISONERS. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAKING EVIDENCE WAS DONALD FRASER OF MINNESOTA.

THEY REQUESTED CHAIRMAN FRASER DROP Ó BRADAIGH AS A WITNESS. MR FRASER REFUSED AND THEY APPEALED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. WE INFORMED WE COULD NOT PRESSURE CONGRESS. THEY WERE ANGRY. HE TESTIFIED AND HIS VIEWS WERE DAMAGING TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT.

THEY HAVE ASKED US TO DENY ANY FUTURE VISAS TO Ó BRADAIGH AND HIS COLLEAGUES. IRISH US THAT HE IS PRESIDENT OF A LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY BUT AS A TACTIC, THEY DO NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN IT AND THE PROSCRIBED IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY AND HAVE CHARGED THE ENCOURAGED SINN FEIN MEMBERS OF THE WORD OF A SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL THAT THEY TOO ARE IRA MEMBERS.

IT APPEARS WHEN CONVENIENT, THE IRISH GOVERNMENT DO NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THEM AND FOR VISA PURPOSES THEY REQUEST WE DO THE SAME.

Ó BRADAIGH WAS ACCOMPANIED TO THE HEARING BY IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS LEADER, DR FRED BURNS O'BRIEN WHO HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE SEEK OUT MR Ó

BRADAIGH'S VIEWS.

WE WANT TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT SO WE WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THEIR REQUEST REGARDING FUTURE VISAS. WE WANTED TO KEEP THE BUREAU INFORMED.

Note: "As a tactic" (paragraph 3) and "when convenient" (paragraph 4) - Editor.

LETTER: DECEMBER, 1973
FROM: SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER
TO: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER

HENRY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER REGARDING THE RECEPTION FOR ME RUARIÓ Ó BRADAIGH ET AL. I RECEIVED MANY LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS FROM PEOPLE IN ARIZONA WHO ASKED ME TO MEET WITH MR ÓBRADAIGH WHILE HE WAS IN WASHINGTON. THE RECEPTION IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE PLACE TO SEE HIM.

THE IRISH ARIZONANS CONSIDER HIM A HERO AND HOLD HIM IN THE HIGHEST REGARD. THEY TOLD ME HE IS OPPOSED TO BRITISH RULE IN IRELAND LIKE WE OPPOSED THEM DURING OUR RECEPTION WHICH THEY POINT OUT WAS FAR MORE VIOLENT THAN THE PRESENT STRUGGLE OVER THERE.

WE MET SOME FINE IRISH AMERICANS AT THE RECEPTION. MANY OF WHOM WERE AMERICAN SERVICE VETERANS WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR THIS COUNTRY. I AM NOT EVIDENTLY, THE IRISH METHODS OF THE IRISH HOW THEY DEAL WITH THE BRITISH.

THE FOUNDER OF CONSERVATISM WAS AN IRISHMAN, EDMUND BURKE, WHOSE PHILOSOPHY WAS KEEP ALL THAT IS GOOD AND CHANGE THAT WHICH IS NOT. EVIDENTLY, THE IRISH FIGHTERS THINK CHANGE IS NEEDED.

THOSE PEOPLE I TALKED WITH DO NOT ADVOCATE VIOLENCE BUT THEY ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON THOSE WHO HAVE TO LIVE IN CONDITIONS THAT ARE OFFENSIVE.

PERHAPS THE DEPARTMENT COULD ASSIST IN A SOLUTION THAT WOULD GAIN FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND THE FREEDOM WE ENJOY. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH OUT FOUNDING.

I MET A DR FRED BURNS O'BRIEN WHO IS CONNECTED TO THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS TO WHICH MANY OF MY CONSTITUENTS BELONG. I THINK HE WOULD BE A GOOD SOURCE FOR YOU.

I HATE TO BE IGNORANT, SO I INTEND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IRISH FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. THE IRISH ARE GREAT FIGHTERS. I HAD MANY WITH ME IN MY MILITARY SERVICE. THEY ARE GOOD TO HAVE AT YOUR BACK.

LETTER: JANUARY 1974
FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE TO: BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE

THE ACTIVITY OF THE IRISH AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS BASED ON THE FACT OF THEIR USE OF A BLOCK VOTE IN EACH INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENCY. IT WOULD NOT BE A GOOD STRATEGY TO OPPOSE THE CONSTITUENTS WHO HAVE VOTES, BUT A BETTER

APPROACH IS TO HAVE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT MAKE REGULAR VISITS TO CONGRESS AND PRESENT POSITIVE POINTS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY.

WE IN THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOUR EFFORTS AND WILL GIVE POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT TO YOUR EFFORTS. EACH INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED BY REPORTS TO EACH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE. IT IS BEST TO TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH. IN TRUTH, THE IRISH GOVERNMENT FEARS THE IRISH AMERICANS AND ARE GOING TO SEND PEOPLE TO CONFRONT THEM BECAUSE IT APPEARS THAT THEY ARE PASSIVE ON THE ISSUE AND EVEN CALLED PRO-BRITISH. THEY WOULD DO THE POLITICAL ATTACKS YOU NEED TO AVOID.

TOT US SET US A LAISON ON THIS ISSUE BETWEEN OUR DEPARTMENTS. HENRY KISSINGER
Noted (the Dublin government) will do the political attacks you [the British government] need to avoid: "Each incident of violence should be emphasized ...". - Editor.

MEMO: 1/1/74
TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON, DC
FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON/BELFAST
SUBJECT: IRISH CAUCUS

Request any available info on group called "Irish Caucus". (This may be an abbreviation of full title) Mr Seán Walsh who identified himself as Executive Director of "Irish Caucus", accompanied congressional delegate Wolf to visit to Ireland November 14-17. Organization was described as a group coordinating activities of several leading Irish-American organizations.

Walsh had arranged for Sinn Féin/IRA leader Ruairi Ó Bradaigh to meet CoDel Wolf to assist in arranging his program. SPECIAL BRANCH INFORMS US DR FRED BURNS O'BRIEN JOINED THEM AND SB FOLLOWED THEM TO MEETING WITH ALLEGED IRA LEADERS. THEY SUSPECT THEY TALKED ABOUT VISA ISSUE.

TELETYPE: 12/74
CIA/EUR/NE Approved
TO: American Embassy, Dublin
INFO: American Embassy, London
FROM: Secretary of State, Wash, D.C.

Subject: IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS (ref. Dublin 1668)
Irish National Caucus is new Group in Washington WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE PROVISIONAL IRA; SB DUBLIN, M15 LONDON LAISON. Executive Director is Seán Walsh, Fred Burns-O'Brien, regular contributor to The Irish People, Provisional IRA newspaper published in New York is Information Director.

The Caucus is described on November 23 issue of The Irish People as consisting of five committee members from five different organizations which in turn claim to represent at least 31 different Irish-American organizations.

Committee members are listed as Jack Keene, National President of the Annet Order of Loyalists, Brendan McCusker, Chairman of the Executive of Irish National Aid Committee (Provisional IRA fundraising front in US), Bridget Brennan, Irish American Legal Aid Association, Mark Barrett representing Committee for Ulster Justice and Ted Gleason. Representing Longshoremen's Association.

ACCORDING TO THE FBI, THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GLEASON THAT HE ASSISTED IRS GUN-RUNNING OUT OF NEW YORK TO IRELAND USING ILA WORKERS AND LABOR CONTACTS IN IRELAND.

HE IS ALLEGED TO HAVE TIED TO ORGANIZED CRIME. A LEADER OF ILA IS ANTHONY SCOTTO SON-IN-LAW OF ALBERT ANASTASIA

(MURDER INCORPORATED). O'BRIEN AND WALSH HAVE MET SCOTTO.

HE ARRANGED TWO LOANS FOR THE INC WITH A BANK ALLEGEDLY CONTROLLED BY THOSE BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS OF AN ORGANIZED CRIME FAMILY. THIS ASSOCIATION MUST BE SCRUTINIZED AND GIVEN A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

Further info will be sent pending results of FBI investigation.
Signed, Kissinger

MEMO: 12/23/74
TO: Director, FBI
FROM: Legal Attaché, London
SUBJECT: Irish National Caucus
WE HAVE MET WITH M15 AND THEY HAVE BEEN WATCHING THE INC PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THEIR OPERATIVES IN IRELAND ARE MONITORING MOVEMENTS THERE.

SEAN W. WALSH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR FRED BURNS O'BRIEN, INFORMATION DIRECTOR, HAVE GONE ON NUMEROUS TRIPS TO IRELAND, MEETING ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE PROVISIONAL IRA/SINNFEIN LEADS AND STAYING IN THEIR HOMES. THEY ARE PLANNING EFFORTS TO GET VISAS FOR THE REPUBLICAN LEADERS WHO HAD THEIR VISA REQUESTS DENIED.

THEY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF MANY CONGRESSMEN. IN WALSH LETTER ENCLOSED IT APPEARS THEY ARE MONITORING US. THEY MAY HAVE AN FBI MEMBER. THIS MUST BE CRITICIZED. WALSH AND BURNS-O'BRIEN APPEAR TO HAVE IDENTICAL WRITING STYLE. LATTER IS THE WRITER.

The bureau is requested to make this information available to WFO to assist in their investigation. Copy this to New York Field Office.

Note: "M15 ... watching the INC people in Northern Ireland and their operatives in Ireland [26 Counties?] are monitoring movements there." - Editor.

MEMO: JANUARY 1975
TO: FBI HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
FROM: US CUSTOMS, INTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: FRED BURNS O'BRIEN
Subject has been appointed to the President's Commission on Amnesty at the White House by President Ford. We will be monitoring him to insure he does not use his position to help his friends in Ireland. He is in the section considering cases of military desertion and AWOL matters due to his JAG experience and familiarity with the U.S. Code of Military Justice.

THE MERE FACT HE HAS BEEN TO IRELAND AND APPEARED IN PUBLIC WITH SINN FEIN LEADERS AND ENDORSED THEIR VIEWS IS A POINT OF CONCERN BECAUSE OF WHAT IT MIGHT IMPLY, BUT THIS IS NOT ANY VIOLATION, BUT IMPLIES THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS THAT A WHITE HOUSE AIDE IS CLOSE TO IRISH REPUBLICANS.

AIRTEL: 1/28/75
TO: Director, FBI
FROM: Legat, London
SUBJECT: Irish National Caucus
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE BELIEVES INC IS MERELY A POLITICAL FRONT GROUP TO PUT A BETTER FACE ON THE IRA/SINNFEIN. THEY ARE CONCERNED BY SUCCESS TO DATE OF INC. GROUP THREATENS THE GOOD RELATIONS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE HAD HISTORICALLY WITH THE CONGRESS.

Ghouls, Ghosts and Bogey Men

HALLOWEEN is a time when custom has it, the dead rise up and for one night of the year can visit again the places they knew in life. This year I had a particularly frightening experience.

Before I begin, I should point out that prior to this incident I had no belief in the supernatural. For me there has always been the firm conviction that for every circumstance there is an empirical explanation. Regardless of how outlandish and unexplainable any phenomenon may appear there is always an explanation. That belief was shattered on the night of October 30, 2004.

For me the evening started as any other. An aperitif before dinner. (lobster – shaken not stirred) followed by custard and digestive biscuits crumbled over the top. As usual my wife thanked me for preparing

dinner and went off to bingo. My plans for the evening were simple. Couch dragged to the middle of the living room floor, six-pack of Guinness in one hand and the television remote in the other.

My photographic memory is useful on such occasions. One short glance at the television fixtures and an evening of channel-flicking can last for hours.

It was clear from the outset the television companies had decided to mark this day by showing innumerable horror films modern and ancient.

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* was showing on a number of channels. The *Mummy* sprang up from time to time and every now and again a scream echoed round my livingroom. (I have a particularly nervous dog, a breed of a collie mixed up with

some genes from a slightly neurotic poodle). The evening was shaping up nicely and under normal circumstances I would have been asleep with 15 minutes. It was then it happened.

A flick of the remote and there it was, the ghost of Tom Hartley. Larger than life and strolling casually among thousands of headstones. The last time I saw Tom he was leaving the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin having honoured the British soldiers who spent hundreds of years murdering my friends and relations. From there he disappeared for some years (presumably to the Provisional Valhalla where their fallen heroes go).

What was a shock suddenly turned to horror as I noticed Tom's Ghost was accompanied by a familiar ghoul, yes, it was

David Irvine, bomb disposal expert – extraordinary – and apparently, like Tom Hartley, a man who feels the need to explore his inner feelings by visiting France and walking among the graves of dead Irishmen.

IN the case of David Irvine this is perhaps understandable. David has always been fascinated with the prospect of walking knee-deep in dead Irishmen, but what was Tom doing there?

Well, I turned up the volume and listened carefully. It seems that Tom and many other former Republican activists have suddenly discovered that there are much more comfortable talking about Britain's colonial wars in Europe than their presence on Irish soil at this time.

Irishmen who died ninety years ago can be described as

having been exploited by Britain whereas those who died fighting the British in recent years here in Ireland might well appear to be exploited by the politicians who are being elected to represent nationalism and do so by creeping to arms dumps in the middle of the night accompanied by Britain's man de Chastelain.

Of course all horror stories have to have a happy ending and this one was no exception.

The final scene was that of the two former enemies (now overweight and ten years from qualifying for their pensions) walking into the sunset somewhere on the Western Front, obviously talking amiably to each other as the thousands of headstones covering those who had really fought, and really died, and were really buried there, reflected the sun's last rays up

the back passages of both men. It may have been just me, but for a second it was as though a gentle ejaculatory fart emanated from the posterior of both men as an old British army marching-song rang across the battlefield one last time.

Oh we're the Connaught

Rangers

The boys who fear no

dangers

We are the Connaught

Rangers

Get up ye bastards and

fight.

I can't wait 'til next year when Gerry Adams visits Ivo Jima and John Wayne explains to him how an Irish cameraman helped him win the war against Japan.

As Obi WanKenobe puts it so concisely,

'May the fart be with you'

— Mac Cool



• Work has begun on the Republican Garden in Bundoran, Co Donegal.

Republican Garden Bundoran

THE Committee & Trustees of Republican Garden is pleased to announce that work has started on the Garden over the last few weeks.

Special Appeal for Funds

In remembrance

1973 Volunteer Paddy Carty, Bundoran, Dungannon

1973 Demot Crowley, Cork City

1973 Sean Loughran, Dungannon

1984 Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, Magherafelt

1984 Claran 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.

To complete the Garden it will cost €30,000, 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.

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

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