

# SAOIRSE

## IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT



UIMH 246 DEIREADH FÓMHAIR — OCTOBER 2007 <http://saoirse.info> 1.50 (£1stg, USA \$30 p.a.)

### EDENTUBBER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION

50th ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4

Assemble: The Border  
Inn, 2.30pm

Óráid: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh,  
Uachtarán, Sinn Féin  
Poblachtach



**Provos welcome RUC/PSNI to no-go areas**

# TOTAL & FINAL SURRENDER

**BRITISH occupation forces formally took possession of the former 'no-go' areas of Ballymurphy in Belfast and Crossmaglen in south Armagh during the past weeks.**

These areas which were bastions of Republicanism for decades were handed over when the head of the British police was ceremonially escorted through them by traitorous ex-Republicans.

Leading the way was the head of the Provisionals and native of Ballymurphy, Gerry Adams, who once held a responsible Republican position in that part of Belfast.

On July 3 last he ushered Hugh Orde, RUC/PSNI chief constable in the Six Counties, into Ballymurphy for a meeting where they shook hands publicly. In effect Adams sponsored the visit, allowing the head of the British police in Ireland to show that the RUC/PSNI 'own' Ballymurphy for the British state.

Following the destruction of their arms this was a formal indication that as far as the Provisionals are concerned the British police are welcome in Ballymurphy and can take control of the area.

In other words an abject political and military surrender.

What a journey for Gerry Adams from when he stood by the coffin of Jim Bryson in Ballymurphy in 1973 after the prominent active service volunteer was killed in action by British occupation forces along with his comrade Patrick Mulvenna.

A long journey from when he was escorting Veteran Republican Jimmy Steele's remains on the Falls Road in August 1970 to 2007 when he welcomes the British

police supremo and formally gives him the freedom of Ballymurphy.

The message it conveys to nationalist people is to welcome British forces with open arms and give them free passage everywhere.

The pattern continued in Crossmaglen on August 24 last when the Provisionals' Conor Murphy welcomed British police leaders to south Armagh where for decades British occupation forces couldn't travel except by helicopter.

Republican Sinn Féin in south Armagh described the meeting as an act of collaboration with the British Crown Forces. "The people of Crossmaglen, and throughout Ireland, must now reject the Provisionals and join with Republican Sinn Féin to create a New Ireland free from foreign occupation," the local Cumann told the *Newry Democrat*.

The British police chief then went as far afield as Rebel Cork in September 28 when he was met with a Republican Sinn Féin protest at the entrance to the hotel venue to indicate that he was not welcome.

Interviewed by the local media, Donal Varian of Cork Republican Sinn Féin said that London and Dublin were attempting "to pull the wool over the eyes of the Irish people, selling the lie that the national question has been settled. This will only be achieved with



• *Hugh Orde, head of the British police in the Six Counties, shakes hands with the Provisionals' Gerry Adams on July 7 last.*

Britain's withdrawal from Ireland," he said.

To introduce and to sponsor the RUC/PSNI into Republican areas of the Six Counties is more than giving legitimacy to British policing in Ireland. It is legitimising British occupation of Ireland.

In truth the Provisionals have become an instrument of British policy in Ireland. They will be forced by their British masters to confront that section of the Irish people who will never accept British rule.

In time they will become indistinguishable from their masters.

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is considered by many to be the greatest English novel written in the 20th century. A fable of how the

Russian revolutionaries, having overthrown the Tsarist regime in 1917, became the new oppressors of the people they were supposed to lead to freedom. Orwell portrays the Bolsheviks leaders as pigs, leading the other farmyard animals to victory over the men who oppressed them.

In the final scene of the book, the men and the pigs

are carousing together inside the farm building while the newly-enslaved farm animals peer fearfully through the window at them. Orwell concludes the book with these words:

*"The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which."*

**REPUBLICAN  
SINN FÉIN**  
103ú  
**ARD-FHEIS**  
2007  
**November 10-11**  
**Dublin**

For further details contact  
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**JAMES DALY  
COMMEMORATION**  
Sunday, October 29, 3pm

Tyrellspass, Co Westmeath

Óráid: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán, Sinn  
Féin Poblachtach

## RUC/PSNI chief not welcome in Cork

**THE head of the British colonial police in Ireland, Hugh Orde, Chief Constable of the PSNI/RUC, was shown he is not welcome while on a visit to Cork on Friday, September 28.**

Orde was in the city at the invitation of the Rotary Club to speak at an event held in the Rochestown Park Hotel. He arrived escorted by uniformed members of the 26 County Gardai, whose plainclothes friends waited to ensure a warm greeting.

A greeting he received, but not what he or his friends expected. On his arrival members of Sinn Féin Poblachtach from Cork and Kerry whose posters read, "No to Collaboration with Forces of Occupation" took up position at the entrance of the hotel.

The local radio and press

were on hand. Donal Varian, Cathaoirleach of Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Cork was interviewed and said that, "Visits by Hugh Orde or any of Britain's representatives will never be acceptable or normal and will be opposed by Irish Republicans."

He continued, "Whitehall and Dublin are attempting to pull the wool over the eyes of the Irish people, selling the lie that the national question has been settled. This will only be achieved with Britain's withdrawal from Ireland. Then all of the Irish people can sit down and negotiate a New

Ireland. Republican Sinn Féin's proposals for a Federal Ireland contained within ÉIRE NUA provides the blueprint for this fair and equal future for all the people on this island."

On September 27 Republican Sinn Féin Vice-President Des Dalton said that the visit of the head of the British Colonial police in Ireland to Cork was part of the ongoing process of normalising British rule in Ireland.

He continued: "By bringing Hugh Orde to Cork, like his visit to Ballymurphy in Belfast and Crossmaglen in Co Armagh, an attempt is being made to suggest that British rule and its forces of occupation are now normal and acceptable."

"British rule and continued British occupation are the cause

of conflict in Ireland and will never be acceptable or normal. Events such as this or a visit by the Queen of England will be opposed by Irish Republicans."

"As they continue their efforts to bed down British rule in Ireland, the British government and the Dublin administration are attempting to pull the wool over the eyes of the Irish people, to sell them the big lie that the national question has finally been settled."

"Such a just and lasting settlement of the conflict in Ireland can only be brought about by a full and public British declaration of intent to withdraw from Ireland. Such a development would create the space necessary for all of the Irish people to sit down and negotiate a New Ireland."

## Gearrscéalta RUC/PSNI harassment continues

**IN A statement on September 20 the PRO of the Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down said that it has been brought to their attention that a crew of tradesmen returning from their work were stopped and harassed by the RUC/PSNI outside Portadown, Co Armagh.**

The statement said: "The lads were from the Newry and South Armagh area. There was a GAA Armagh emblem in the car and noticing it, a member of the RUC/PSNI remarked, 'I see we have a car full of Fenians here'."

"This is the new police force the Provisionals have signed up to and tell us everything is rosy. We know only too well of collusion in the Portadown and Lurgan areas between the armed wing of British occupation, RUC/PSNI and her loyalist death squads."

"The Republican and nationalist people won't be fooled by the Provos or the media that this is a new accountable police force. Republican Sinn Féin are asking people to be extra vigilant while the RUC/PSNI are building up their portfolios for their loyalist mates in the Mid-Ulster area."

## Police hurt in riots in Derry

**IT was reported on September 30 that members of the British colonial police were injured during serious rioting in the centre of Derry city.**

Hundreds of people were involved in the disturbances during which paving slabs were torn from the ground and hurled at police and business premises broken into.

The trouble, the worst seen in the city for some time, started at around 2am when the RUC/PSNI involved in a routine "nightlife patrol" as revellers emerged from nightspots were attacked by a hostile crowd.

Armoured Land Rovers and RUC/PSNI members in full riot gear were called, but the fighting went on until around 4am. At least two members of the British police were injured as bricks and paving stones were thrown. One civilian was injured and taken to hospital for treatment and one man was arrested.

## RSF rejects spy ads

**ON September 12 Republican Sinn Féin criticised moves by the British Security Service – MI5 – to advertise within the Irish media. It was reported that MI5 were to advertise in the Belfast Telegraph, News Letter and the Irish News.**

Richard Walsh, the PRO for Comhairle Uladh (the Ulster Executive of Republican Sinn Féin), stated that "the revelation that MI5 are to advertise in newspapers throughout the Six Occupied Counties demonstrates the lengths the English government is prepared to go to in order to preserve the British occupation of Ireland. The fact that an organisation renowned for its secrecy seeks to recruit publicly shows that they wish to expand their operation in Ireland, which has been ongoing for many years."

Richard Walsh added: "The fact that newspapers in Ireland are prepared to carry such advertisements shows that they will do the bidding of the English government regardless of the cost to human life. Despite the countless deaths of Irish people resulting from MI5 activities these papers are prepared to further the murderous activities of British Intelligence."

"It has also been claimed that, in the event of MI5's Thames House HQ becoming unusable, their next port of call will be the new base at Hollywood Barracks. The Six County 'Executive' in Stormont is clearly unwilling and unable to prevent such an incursion of Irish soil."

## Woman acquitted in Irish language row

AN appeal court in Belfast on September 21 acquitted an Irish language teacher who had been fined for shouting at members of the RUC/PSNI in Irish. Máire Nic an Bhaird (26) denied shouting 'Tíocfaidh Ar La – our day will come' at RUC/PSNI members during a night out in Belfast last summer. She had been convicted of disorderly behaviour at Belfast Magistrate's Court in February and fined £100.

## Results of Dublin raffle

SEPTEMBER results: 1st prize ticket no 251; 2nd prize no 442; 3rd prize no 382; 4th prize no 123; 5th prize no 044; 6th prize no 229; 7th prize no 255; 8th prize no 031.

**SAOIRSE November edition  
published 31/10/2007**

## Stormont 'struggling to avoid collapse'

**ON September 19 Alliance leader David Ford told the Liberal Democrats' annual conference in Brighton that the Stormont executive is "struggling" to avoid a breakdown between the DUP and the Provisionals.**

The South Antrim Stormont assembly member said that the power-sharing government was "directionless". He said the Provos and the DUP "seem prepared to go to any lengths to avoid making any difficult decisions".

"Our executive's watchword seems to be consult, consult and then consult some more, lest you be

forced into actually making a decision," the Alliance leader said. He also said during the speech that most DUP and Provo members still "distrust one another profoundly".

"In council chambers across Northern Ireland they still prefer to squabble over non-issues rather than getting down to delivering better services together," he said.

## RUC/PSNI to retain over half of reserve force

**IT was reported on September 22 that more than half the RUC/PSNI full-time reserve will be retained to combat the threat posed by true Republicans.**

The British colonial police chief constable Hugh Orde said that numbers would fall by 299 by spring 2009 and that those to be retained will focus mainly on highest risk areas outside Belfast.

Reductions announced would begin next April and take around a year. The force will be cut from 680 to 381 and 134 members would be

retained in urban and 247 in rural regions.

Chris Patten's 1999 policing report recommended the abolition of the full-time reserve.

The force has been the object of political controversy, with many nationalists supporting its abolition and many unionists calling for its retention.



- 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:**

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I would like to join Republican Sinn Féin

Ba mhaith liom bheith i mo bhall de Sinn Féin Poblachtach

Ainm .....

Seoladh .....

Tel: ..... Age (if under 21) ....

Send to:

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

or 229 Falls Road, Belfast  
e-mail: [saoirse@iol.ie](mailto:saoirse@iol.ie)

<http://rsf.ie>

or contact your local paper seller for details

**JOIN  
REPUBLICAN  
SINN FÉIN**



### 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 . . .

**For a full British withdrawal from Ireland**



## Gearrscéalta

### Shell to Sea Day of Action

**THE situation in Rosport is now at its most critical. This winter may see the end of Shell's terminal or an effective end of the people's campaign.**

Shell to Sea have called for two days of action in Rosport this autumn/winter. The first day of action is to be early Friday morning, October 12. Shell to Sea is urging people to take these two days off work and come to Rosport to show your support.

As in the past Republican Sinn Féin will be actively supporting the campaign.

People wishing to take the Shell to Sea bus from Dublin (departing Thursday evening, October 11) should contact 086 0566 980. Accommodation provided. Buses from other towns to be confirmed. <http://www.corribos.com/>

### CS gas used 1,000 times in three years by RUC/PSNI

**A REPORT in a Belfast newspaper on September 19 revealed that the RUC/PSNI have been using CS gas spray nearly every day on average since its introduction three years ago.**

The hand-held spray became standard RUC/PSNI kit in July 2004 following recommendations from the Patten Report that the British police be equipped with a broader range of public order equipment.

Latest figures show that since its introduction CS spray has been used on 996 occasions. To date there have been 241 complaints made to the British Police Ombudsman regarding use of the gas.

Paul O'Connor of the Pat Finucane Centre in Derry said he felt the public were "duped" into thinking that all uses of the gas would automatically be investigated.

"We are quite concerned about a number of specific complaints currently pending and these not limited to one section of the community," he said. "The public were originally led to believe all uses of CS spray would be investigated by the ombudsman – it was only after its introduction we were told this was time limited."

"Guidelines for the use of the spray are about as clear as mud. There is nothing to say a person cannot be sprayed whilst restrained for instance. These figures show an alarmingly high level of CS gas use which is very worrying."

### British police cause anti-social problems in Coalisland

**IN A statement on September 29 Patrick Carty, the local representative of Republican Sinn Féin in Coalisland condemned RUC/PSNI for creating the problems that now exist in the town.**

A senior member of the RUC/PSNI in East Tyrone had complained in the local print media at the end of September about what he called "cop-bashing" in the Coalisland area and that he believed the introduction of CCTV would alleviate these. He also invited elected representatives to join members of the British colonial police in patrol so that they could see what he called the "real story on the ground", which he said were vandalism and underage drinking around Lineside and along the canal front.

Patrick Carty, the local representative of Republican Sinn Féin in Coalisland, blamed the RUC/PSNI for creating the problems that now exist in the town and said it had long been a problem in Republican areas but this problem would not have been half as bad had these elements not been groomed and nurtured by the RUC/PSNI Special Branch.

"They recruit and pay a lot of these people to inform on their community and give them immunity to rob, steal and sell drugs in Republican areas to try and undermine the Republican Movement."

"I believe that the Crown Forces are engaged in a PR stunt and that these pleas for help are merely crocodile tears. If the British Crown Forces were to remove their support for this anti-social element and stop funding their behaviour many would have to get a job and not have the time to engage in these activities."

"This is an attempt to gain a foothold in a strong Republican community by engineering a problem so that they can then come in and fix. Republicans in Coalisland have every right to reject the RUC/PSNI Crown Forces. It is these forces who have intimidated and harassed the Republican community in Coalisland for years. It is these Forces who engaged in intelligence operations that led to the deaths and imprisonment of large numbers of young men from the Coalisland area."

"As for CCTV, it failed in Dungannon and the reality is that it is a tool for the Crown Forces to spy on the locals as they are already doing with their fortress of a barracks in the middle of the town with its 500ft high tower and over 100 surveillance cameras."

"As for joint patrols with the Provisionals you may engage in joint patrols with the Provisional Movement but never in a million years will you engage in joint patrols with Republican Sinn Féin — we do not do the Brits' work for them."

## Nelson killing could have been prevented if threats investigated properly

**FOLLOWING the release of a report from the British Ombudsman's office on September 19 a leading human rights group questioned whether Rosemary Nelson's murder could have been prevented if the British Northern Ireland Office and RUC had properly investigated loyalist death threats against her.**

The mother-of-three was killed when an LVF bomb exploded under her car as she left her home in Lurgan, Co Armagh on March 15, 1999.

Allegations of British state collusion in the murder and claims that the RUC had not properly investigated loyalist threats against Rosemary Nelson's life soon emerged.

In November 2000 the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) asked the British Police Ombudsman's Office to investigate allegations that the RUC had not properly probed the threats to Rosemary Nelson's life.

After seven years Nuala O'Loan finally published her findings on September 19, concluding that the RUC and NIO had both failed to act properly over the threats.

In the two years before Rosemary Nelson's murder she had reported 20 separate threats to her life, two of which were allegedly made by members of the RUC.

On 11 separate occasions she reported that RUC members had made comments linking her to Republican groups.

The Ombudsman investigation centred on events in 1998 when CAJ sent the NIO copies of two threats to Rosemary

Nelson's life, asking that an assessment be carried out on the level of threat to the solicitor's life.

The threats referred to a leaflet identifying Rosemary Nelson's address and telephone number and an anonymous death threat to her home.

NIO officials failed to forward the threats to the RUC, instead faxing a "general" letter. Rosemary Nelson later showed the letter to the RUC herself during a meeting in September 1998.

Nuala O'Loan concluded that the NIO had failed to take proper steps to deal with the threats, while the RUC's subsequent actions had been "inadequate".

"They did not acknowledge the existence of the previous death threats, including two threats which were said to have come from police officers," she said. "Nor did they acknowledge a previous assessment in which Special Branch believed Mrs Nelson was at a 'degree of risk'."

Nuala O'Loan said she had found no evidence that any member of the RUC had been asked to assess the risk to Rosemary Nelson's life.

CAJ director Maggie Beirne said

questions remained as to whether Rosemary Nelson's killers could have been caught if the RUC had properly investigated the death threats.

"The ombudsman has confirmed that those threats were not treated with the gravity and urgency required," he said. "Amongst the documents supplied to the police in advance of Rosemary's murder was material that, in our view, later proved of direct relevance to the murder inquiry."

"If this information had been properly investigated it may have led the police to the individuals responsible for her murder."

Rosemary Nelson's brother Eunan Magee said he had been stunned by the detail of the ombudsman's report.

"While in some ways her report confirms our fears over what happened within the police, it also vindicates our family's stance in calling for a full public inquiry and we now look forward to it beginning its public hearings," he said.

"The findings confirm our belief that the circumstances surrounding Rosemary's death could, at the very best, be described as highly dubious. Mrs O'Loan's report takes the police to task for their apathy in dealing with the threats made against Rosemary. Those responsible for this conduct must be taken to task, as they would be in any organisation, but particularly since in this case somebody lost their life."

## Ballymurphy dead described as 'gunmen'

**OVER three days in August 1971, the British army shot 11 civilians in what has become known as the Ballymurphy Massacre. Among those killed were Catholic priest Fr Hugh Mullan and mother-of-eight Joan Connolly.**

A total of 11 people died as a result of the British rampage. The massacre left a huge scar on the area and hardened the attitude of locals to the British army just as Bloody Sunday would in Derry. In a secret military document dated September 1971, a senior commander in the British army described the internment operation casualties as "gunmen".

It read: "We cleared at least one area each night and the result was something approaching battle conditions in each case, with the gunmen (sic) fighting a rearguard action from barricade to barricade, and with our troops having to use covering fire whilst sections and platoons entered buildings from which fire was coming."

"Fire and movement became very much the order of the day. Some of the gunmen fought hard, on occasions right through large buildings, floor by floor, until they were killed on the rooftops."

The author of the document estimated that there were between 12 and 30 people killed by the British army between August 9 and 12.

He adds: "Our casualties throughout the period were four dead and 27 wounded. The battles involved a total of 11 battalions at its height."

"As we moved through Belfast we cleared the debris and barricades, as we felt that psychologically this was important from every point of view. The result of the four-day battle was that we were able to move completely freely throughout all areas of Belfast by day and by night, and until very recently the stunned effects on the population was apparent."

Those shot dead by the British army during the Ballymurphy massacre were Fr Hugh Mullan, Joan Connolly, Frank Quinn, Noel Phillips, Daniel Teggart, Edward Doherty, John Laverty and Joseph Corr.

A nail bomb thrown into the Mackies Factory on the Springfield Road killed William Atwell. Paddy McCarthy died from a heart attack after being attacked by members of the Parachute regiment. Witnesses claimed he was smashed on the head with a rifle.

The majority of victims were shot by British army snipers stationed on rooftops in the Springmartin estate, in the Henry Taggart Memorial Hall and at the Vere Foster school. The families of those killed are campaigning for a public inquiry into the massacre and the prosecution of troops involved.

The families of two of the men gunned down during the Ballymurphy Massacre over 35 years ago are appealing for eyewitnesses to come forward and give them details about what happened to their loved ones.

The families of John Laverty and Joseph Corr are appealing for information about how the men died during one of the bloodiest periods in West Belfast history.

### SINN FÉIN POBLACHTACH



**National Private Members**

**DRAW N° 784**

1ú Duais:	Two 2008 All-Ireland tickets (1 hurling & 1 football) plus €500 spending money.
2ú Duais:	€500
3ú Duais:	€300
4ú Duais:	Framed picture. 1916 Martyrs
5ú Duais:	Bodhrán
Extra prizes	

Donations: £2/€5 each or £5/€10 for book of three.  
Draw will take place at Ard-Fheis in Dublin, November 2007.

# For The Record

**MON. SEPTEMBER 3:** Anthony Gifford, a leading human rights lawyer who represented Paul Hill of the Guildford Four and Gerry Hunter of the Birmingham Six, is to represent Colm Bryce of the Raytheon Nine charged over an anti-war protest at the offices of the US arms company Raytheon.

US President George Bush made a surprise visit to Iraq to bolster his campaign to increase the number of troops there.

**TUES. SEPTEMBER 4:** The Irish Landmark Trust applied for planning permission for a change of use from a dwelling to short-term accommodation for Magherintemple Gate Lodge in Ballycastle. Roger Casement lived there for years and attended Ballymena Academy after moving there from Dublin.

**WED. SEPTEMBER 5:** Willie McCrea of the DUP may be called to give evidence at the forthcoming public inquiry into the murder of LVF leader Billy Wright. He will be asked about meeting he had with Billy Wright and also his comments that he had received information from inside the H-Block warning that Wright and himself were to be killed. There is also a possibility that David Trimble may be called to give evidence of meetings he had with Wright.

Deputy Commissioner Fachtna Murphy was appointed the new Garda Commissioner in the 26 Counties.

Hugh Orde, chief constable in the Occupied Six Counties is to be asked to publish the Stevens Report in full.

The Catholic Archbishop of Dublin blamed poor planning by the Department of Education and other State agencies for the crisis in school places in north and west Dublin. He said it was 'grossly unfair' to blame the Church's enrolment policies for the pressure on school places. The Catholic Church controls almost all of the 3,280 primary schools in the 26 Counties.

The cases against 10 Tara protestors were adjourned at Navan District Court to October 24. The 10 face a variety of public order charges.

The EU will decide in October whether to refer the 26-County State to the European Court of Justice over the demolition of the national monument at Lismullen, Co Meath to make way for the M3 motorway.

Dublin City Council signed a contract for the construction of an incinerator at Poolbeg, Dublin. The incinerator will burn 60,000 tonnes of waste annually.

The EU is pursuing 88 cases against the 26 Counties for alleged breaches of European law. Thirty-seven of the cases relate to breaches of EU environment legislation.

**THURS. SEPTEMBER 6:** Dungannon's Castle Hill is opened to the public for the first time in 400 years. The Castle was once the home of Hugh O'Neill, one of the Irish Chieftains who departed Ireland in 1607.

Over £60,000 pounds was spent cleaning up bonfire sites according to British government figures.

Arson was suspected in a fire which destroyed the Grove Shopping Centre in Market Street, Downpatrick.

Pressure is growing in Britain among MPs for a referendum on the proposed European Treaty in accordance with Labour's promise in 2005 to hold one.

The Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti died in Modena, Italy.

According to Reuter's news agency, more than 200 Taliban were killed in Afghanistan in the last two weeks.

John Kelly, Maghera, Co Derry one of the founding members of the Provisional IRA who resigned from the Provisionals in recent years, died. Ian Paisley will consider a pact with the Ulster Unionists at the next general election.

Fighting broke out between Fatah and Hamas in Gaza during an open-air prayer protest.

**FRI. SEPTEMBER 7:** The 26-County administration agreed to sign a convention to United Nations Convention Against Torture (OPCAT). The protocol is to prevent torture and ill-treatment in places of detention by establishing a system of regular inspections to such places by independent international and national bodies.

An American multi-national corporation applied for planning permission to build an incinerator off the N7 in south Dublin. The



• Shell to Sea campaigners sitting on the road surrounded by 26-County police at the protest at the Corrib gas terminal site in Bellinaboy, Co Mayo on September 14 last. More than 200 people took part in the sit-in and five protesters were arrested.

facility would handle 365,000 tonnes of waste annually. Energy Answers International, a subsidiary of Energy Answers Corporation, will lodge the planning application and finance the project.

US General David Petraeus ruled out an early withdrawal of US troops from Iraq.

**SUN. SEPTEMBER 9:** Gerard O'Neill (16) was elected Lord Mayor of Seán MacDermott Street in Dublin's north inner city by members of a local youth forum. He plans to fight 'school dropout rates and drug and alcohol abuse' in the area. The forum is planning the launch of a new newspaper entitled *Teenage Times* which will discuss issues facing young people in the community.

**MON. SEPTEMBER 10:** The *Irish News*, *Belfast Telegraph*, *New Letter* and the *Daily Mirror* issued a joint statement in an attempt to raise awareness about suicide.

Spanish police defused a bomb outside a defence ministry office in Logroño, La Rioja. The device contained 60 kilos of explosives and was attached to a five-litre can of petrol. A call was made to the Basque newspaper *Gara* from a man claiming to be a member of ETA on Sunday night warning of the bomb.

A major new study conducted by telephone in the 26 Counties by the Health Research Board and the Economic and Social Research Institute found that 14% of people experienced some form of psychological distress over the past year.

**TUES. SEPTEMBER 11:** A book entitled *The Miami Showband Massacre* written by a member of the band Stephens Travers was launched in Dublin. In it Stephen Travers says that he believed it was Captain Robert Nairac who was in charge that night and that he gave the order for their murders.

EDF and nuclear specialists Areva launched a website, [www.epr-reactor.co.uk](http://www.epr-reactor.co.uk), detailing their EPR reactor which they hope to build in Britain.

Anita Roddick, founder of the *Body Shop*, died after suffering a brain haemorrhage.

Hugh Orde said the RUC/PSNI is 'facing difficulties recruiting informers' in the Occupied Six Counties, because they can no longer guarantee that the identity of the informer will be kept secret.

A landmark judgement in the High Court in Dublin gave an unmarried father custody rights over his twin boys. The boys' mother took the children to England in December of last year. The court ruled that retention of the children by their mother was wrongful under Article 2 of the Brussels Regulation. However Justice Liam McKechnie said he was not being asked and could not make any order about the return or otherwise of the children. After the verdict the Unmarried Fathers of Ireland called for a change in the law (to Article 41 of the Free State

Constitution) regarding the status of unmarried fathers.

An inquest into the death in Cloverhill prison, Dublin on January 3, 2006 of Patrick Donoghue, Ballymun was adjourned when a witness claimed that some of his original statement to the Gardaí was omitted.

The Irish Human Rights Commission said that the Garda Síochána is 'still some way from being fully human rights compliant'.

**WED. SEPTEMBER 12:** Up to 200 people, including 30 historians, left Tyrone, Fermanagh and Donegal for Rathmullen, retracing the walk of the Gaelic chieftains and 91 of their followers who sailed from Rathmullen in 1607. Several events are taking place in Ulster to mark the 400th anniversary of the Departure of the Earls.

An inquest in Dublin was told that a prisoner in Mountjoy, Seán Dinneen, Mullingar, who died on his first night he was committed, was dead for 12 hours before he was discovered despite the authorities being aware that he was not taking his prescribed medication for epilepsy and that he had a history of psychiatric illness.

**THURS. SEPTEMBER 13:** Bertie Ahern, 26-County Taoiseach, accepted at the Mahon Tribunal in Dublin that he had not supplied the tribunal with the comprehensive material it requested concerning cash lodgements that it was investigating.

A report from the Advisory Group on Garda Management and Leadership Development recommended the Garda Síochána be run like a private corporation.

Five Shell to Sea protestors who organised a "lock on" protest which blocked the entrance to a Bord na Móna peat depository site in Bangor Erris, Co Mayo on June 5 last, were sentenced to 100 hours community service, in lieu of three months imprisonment, at Ballycroy District Court.

Shell E&P Ireland are to set up a tax-deductible investment fund for the Erris area of north Mayo on the recommendation of Peter Cassells. They 'kick-started' the fund with a contribution of €150,000 to Belmullet GAA Club. But the Erris Inshore Fishermen's Association have refused to accept any funding from either Shell, Marathon or Statoil and described the fund a "public relations stunt."

The family of Brian Rossiter (14), Clonmel, Co Tipperary, said they are angry that they have now been waiting five years for answers as to what happened their son who died in hospital after falling unconscious in a Garda cell in Clonmel in September 2002. He died without regaining consciousness. A statutory inquiry was set up in 2005 and took its last evidence in September 2008. "The inquest can't go ahead until this report is finished and the civil action

we have against the state is on hold – we just can't move on", said his mother.

Prof Brendan Drumm, Chief Executive of the Health Executive, was awarded a bonus of €80,000 on the same day that children's dental appointments were cancelled in Ballyfermot and Inchicore in Dublin as a result of a ban on recruitment imposed the previous week. Drumm's current salary is €320,000 per annum.

A second Bracken Educate Together National School — multi-denominational school — will open in north county Dublin to accommodate the 106 children who were left without school places.

Alice Leahy, director of Trust Ireland, complained to the Data Protection Commissioner complaining about the 40-page dossier that homeless people are asked to complete by the Homeless Agency before accessing State services. She said that the information requested was 'highly sensitive and deeply personal' and asked 'what steps were taken to ensure that information placed about an individual is not libellous'. The Agency claims that it is not compulsory to complete the form but is a "vital element" in its strategy of eliminating homelessness in Dublin by 2010.

Willie Frazer said the Love Ulster parade will go ahead in Dublin in October if Bertie Ahern, 26-County Taoiseach does not meet with him.

The sentence review Commission in the Six Occupied Counties recommended the early release of LVF man Stephen McClean who shot dead Damien Trainor, a Catholic and his Protestant friend, Phillip Allen in the Railway Bar, Poyntzpass in 1998. McClean is expected to be questioned in relation to the torture and death of one of his co-accused David Keys in prison in 1998.

**FRI. SEPTEMBER 14:** Five demonstrators were arrested during a protest at the Corrib gas terminal site in Bellinaboy, Co Mayo. Around 200 people attended the 'sit-down' demonstration at which there were 150 Gardaí.

A statue by John Behan was unveiled in Rathmullen to mark the 400th Anniversary of the Flight of the Earls.

According to statistics from the Central Statistics office in Dublin the number of farms in the 26 Counties decreased by a staggering 37,900 since 1991 - from 170,600 in 1991 to 132,700 in 2005.

Members of an EU fact-finding delegation criticised the 26-County Administration's plans for an incinerator at Poolbeg, Dublin and also the planned M3 motorway so close to Tara.

British Secretary in the occupied Six Counties Shaun Woodward is considering a legal challenge to the release of LVF man Stephen McClean.

**MON. SEPTEMBER 17:** The Independent Monitoring Commission said that non-jury trials should be 'thoroughly reviewed'.

**FRI. SEPTEMBER 21:** According to Hugh Orde more than half the RUC full-time reserve will be retained in the Occupied Six Counties.

Swastikas were daubed on the home of Paul Mason, a Co Antrim taxi-driver who is married to an African nurse, paint stripper was poured over his car and slogans reading 'Nigger scum out' and 'KKK' were also painted on the house.

**WED. SEPTEMBER 26:** The 26-County State is taking part in talks in Reykjavik with Britain, Iceland and the Faroe Islands (a dependency of Denmark) to negotiate a division of ocean floor surrounding the small island of Rockall in the north Atlantic which could hold billions of euro worth of oil and gas.

Bertie Ahern survived a vote of no confidence in Leinster House tabled by the Opposition because of his performance at the Mahon Tribunal in recent times.

Two part-time firefighters, Brian Murray (46) and Mark Shaughnessy (26) died while fighting a massive blaze at a disused warehouse in Bray, Co Wicklow.

**THURS. SEPTEMBER 27:** A package containing bullets and six names, believed to be those of senior Provisionals was delivered to UTV's offices.

The Fianna Fáil-led coalition government in the 26 Counties came within one vote of a defeat in Leinster House on the issue of Aer Lingus closing its Heathrow slots at Shannon Airport.

One-hundred-and-seventy-eight jobs are to be lost at Tyco Electronics manufacturing plant at Shannon, Co Clare.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deferred its decision on an emissions licence for the Corrib gas refinery in north Mayo until November 28.

The talks at Reykjavik regarding the shareout of potential oil and gas exploration rights around the island of Rockall in the north Atlantic ended without agreement.



## Republicans hit out at Maghaberry prison system

**IN A statement on September 9 Richard Walsh, Derry Ard Chomhairle member and PRO of Comhairle Uladh (Ulster Executive) said that families of Republican visitors to Maghaberry jail are being made to share transportation and waiting areas with well-known loyalists housed on integrated wings.**

He said that despite recommendations made in the

Steele Report in relation to segregation, prisoners are still being treated unfairly.

"Ever since the introduction of segregation within Maghaberry the British and their screws have continued to act in bad faith."

The Steele Report published in 2003 said that separation of paramilitary prisoners was necessary in the interests of safety. He said he reached this view after much soul-searching and on the basis that the

government would never again concede complete control of the wings to prisoners as happened at the Maghaberry.

Richard Walsh said prison warders had been abusing system and control checks.

"Sniffer dogs have also recently been manipulated to prevent a visit from four people to a Republican prisoner including his sister and young

nephew," he said.

"This came only a couple of weeks after another prisoner was placed in solitary confinement for a period of 48-hours, again owing to abuse of the sniffer dogs.

"The screws are well aware of the fact that Republican prisoners are completely opposed to the use of illicit drugs, and that none of their

visitors have ever been found to be in possession of such substances. Neither have any been discovered within the prisoners' landings.

"Ordinary people must stand up for the rights of the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry, and demand an end to the vindictive tactics of the prison authorities in the Six Occupied Counties."

## Tomás Ashe 90th anniversary ceremony and protest

**On a beautiful Sunday at Kinnard, Lispole, Co Kerry where the Kerry hills slope down to Dingle bay, the 90th anniversary of patriot Tomás Ashe took place.**

Organised by Sinn Féin Poblachtach Chiarraí on September 23 proceedings were chaired by Matt Leen, Tralee. A wreath for all those who gave their lives for Irish freedom was laid by Pádraig Garvey, Cahersiveen, before Stephen Brosnan, Tralee read the 1916 Proclamation. John Mangan recited a decade of the Rosary, before the main speaker Seán Murphy was introduced.

Seán, speaking as Gaeilge and in English, gave a riveting account of the life and times of one of Ireland's greatest patriots. He outlined what he had done in his short lifetime, a schoolmaster, author and singer. Thomas Ashe was a true soldier of the Republic who led from the front.

On Easter Monday 1916 he led the Volunteers at Finglas and later at Ashbourne where heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. He was

sentenced to death which was later commuted to penal servitude, which he served in various English jails.

When he was released he was rearrested in Co Longford and sentenced to two years. He went on hunger strike in jail and was removed to the Mater Hospital where he died after forced feeding on September 25, 1917.

John Mangan sang Amhrán na bhFiann to bring the proceedings to a close.

Later at Páirc an Asaigh in Dingle Liam Cotter, Kerry County Board Officer, GAA, laid a wreath to Tomás Ashe at the gate of the field.

### PROTEST

On the anniversary of his death, September 25, members of Republican Sinn Féin protested outside the Thomas Ashe Hall, now the Kerry County Museum in Tralee, where an exhibition is being

held on William Melville, founder of M15.

Matt Leen, PRO for Republican Sinn Féin in north Kerry said it was a travesty to be commemorating a renegade such as Melville in a hall called after one of Ireland's greatest patriots.

Melville was born in Sneem, Co Kerry but emigrated to London in his teens. He spent his entire career protecting the British Establishment and was closely connected with the founding of Scotland Yard, M15 and the British Secret Service.

Matt Leen said he could think of thousands of Kerry people who would be more worthy subjects of exhibitions, including Peig Sayers, Tom Barry and Bryan MacMahon.

"William Melville spent his lifetime subverting the authority of this country with his M15 agents and spies. Are we going to have an exhibition about the Black and Tans or Cromwell next," he said.

Museum curator Helen O'Carroll said she was "delighted" to see Matt Leen raising questions, saying it was only right people should be asking what the museum was up to.

"I think Republican Sinn Féin should be applauded for caring that much about our history," she said.



• Liam Cotter, Ardfer and other members of Republican Sinn Féin in Kerry protesting outside the Thomas Ashe Memorial Hall in Tralee on September 23.



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin in Kerry at the Thomas Ashe Memorial in Lispole on September 23.

### Development Fund Special Appeal

#### Republican Sinn Féin

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



considerable amount of money.

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

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

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

**Account number: 15411-097.**

All donations will be appreciated and acknowledged.



• A memorial bench was unveiled recently in the Éamonn Ceannt Park, Crumlin, Dublin, in memory of four young boys who were drowned in a disused quarry on the site 60 years ago. The site used to be a tiphead with a quarry where water collected and in the winter young children skated on the ice. The four young boys who died were trapped under the ice and drowned.

## Guth na Mumhan: Inniu is Inné

TÁ sé ar intinn ag Comhairle na Mumhan alt a foilsíú i Saoirse gach mí as seo amach. Ba mhaith linn cúrsaí na cúige, idir polataíocht, cultúir, ceisteanna sóisialta is an troid náisiúnta a coiméad ós comhair an phobail.

Beidh tagairt don stair freisin, cathanna, luiocháin, dishealbhú is sléacht, is an troid fhada uasal a rinneadh Gael ar son saoirse na hÉireann. Leanúnachas na staire ár neart chun Éire Nua, Éire Saor is Éire Gaelach a baint amach. An Phoblacht Abú.

### Kilrush Commemoration

Comhairle na Mumhan have decided to hold a memorial ceremony for Clare Republicans at the Manchester Martyrs monument in Kilrush on Sunday, October 28 at three o'clock in the afternoon. The parade will form up near the marina and will be led by colour party and piper. A dignified ceremony will be held at the monument. We appeal for the support of all Republicans and Nationalists in honouring the memory of the Clare men and women who paid such a high price in the cause of Irish Freedom.

### Croom Commemoration

The memorial ceremony recently held to honour the four IRA volunteers who died in the destruction of Croom courthouse in May 1921 was very successful. A good crowd attended and the parade formed up on the main Cork Limerick road near Anhid graveyard where two of the IRA men are buried. The fine spectacle of Colour Party and Piper followed by two well disciplined lines of Republicans on the four hundred yard march to the Republican Plot was very impressive.

Des Long Cathaoirleach of Comhairle na Mumhan was cathaoirleach on the day and the oration was given by Séamus Ó Súilleabháin who recalled the events being remembered, their place in the struggle for freedom and the importance of holding commemorations. A decade of the rosary was said in Irish by Annette Ní Longaigh. Wreaths were laid by Phil Heneghan on behalf of the Prisoners and by Seán Biggane on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach. A short parade later took place in the town of Croom where a wreath was laid at the old courthouse.

### Battle of Liscarroll

The battle of Liscarroll was fought on September 3, 1642 between the Confederate Irish under General Garret Barry, a veteran of the European wars and the English army in Munster under the command of Murrough O'Brien, Lord Inchiquin. This little-known battle is the epitome of the Irish struggle for freedom. Following the outbreak of the great rebellion of October 21, 1641 the cause of the Munster Irish made great progress. All across county Limerick castle after castle fell to the rebels and on June 23, 1642 Limerick Castle with its magazine of heavy guns surrendered. With this heavy artillery the few castles remaining in English hands were quickly captured.

The Irish leadership decided to carry the war into the territory held by the powerful English colony in county Cork.

They mustered an army of 7000 men and 500 horse and with a train of artillery advanced towards Liscarroll Castle, then considered one of the strongest castles in Ireland. The plan was to continue the advance to Doneraile, home of the late Lord President of Munster, St. Ledger, which lay ten miles to the south east and continue on to the important port town of Youghal. The siege of Liscarroll lasted thirteen days and the garrison surrendered shortly after the artillery which took a long time to arrive, started firing. The delay allowed Inchiquin to collect together a force of 2000 footsoldiers and 400 horse from the garrisons remaining under his command. He was determined to gamble the future of the rich province of Munster on one pitched battle.

Liscarroll Castle surrendered to the Irish army of Munster on September 2 and the English garrison were allowed to march out to their own lines. The following morning Inchiquin with his army appeared before the castle to find the Irish in occupation and drawn up in battle array. The Irish foot was in three bodies, each of about 2,000 men with the horse in one body near the right wing. The English also divided their

army in three and after an artillery duel the English right advanced.

This advance was stopped and the English were forced to retreat. At this point in the battle Inchiquin was captured by his first cousin, Oliver Stephenson, the son of an Elizabethan planter, one of the Irish leaders, who failed to execute him. He was himself quickly killed by a rescue party and the nearby soldiers fearing treachery stopped fighting and panic quickly spread through the army.

The bulk of the army began to retreat and the English celebrated their victory at Liscarroll with the butchery of broken men. The line of retreat was so littered with dead that it became known as Féith na Fola, the vein of blood. The castle garrison of 80 men were all killed. The Irish lost one tenth of their army and retreated back to County Limerick which they continued to hold for most of the long war which followed. The best blood of Munster flowed in the veins of Inchiquin but he considered himself an Englishman and for most of this long war he crucified his own people.

On the extreme right of the Irish lines was a ringfort which has since been known as Lios Gearailt. This position was defended by seventeen gentlemen of the Fitzgeralds of Kerry. They all died there.

When the sad news reached Kerry a lament was written for one of them, Captain Garret Pierse of Aghmore. Seo dhíobh cúpla véarsa

Marbhna Ghearróid Mhic Piarais a marbhadh i Lios Gearbhaill 3 Meán Fómhair, 1642.

*Tháinig anoir ina rith na scéala*

*A chuir guais ar uaislibh is ar éigsibh*

*Do chuir dírbt ar míltibh is ar chéadaibh*

*Do chuir buaireamh gan ghuaicailt ar Éireann*

*D'fhág na tíortha tinn tais treithlag*

*Buartha, nimhneach sciosmhar, déarach*

*Brúite, brónach, breoite, baolach,*

*Cráite, cnaíte, claoite, céasta..*

*Swiftly from the east came tidings that saddened our nobles and scholars,*

*That banished the hopes of hundreds and thousands*

*That plunged Ireland into endless grief*

*It left the country sick sore and weary*

*Sorrowful, poisoned, tired and tearful*

*Crushed, sorrowful, sick and fearful*

*Saddened, wasted, beaten and crucified.*

## Call to resist visit of Queen of England

THE new-found friendship between Ian Paisley and the Belfast-born President of the 26 Counties should be exposed as mere scene-setting for an upcoming visit by the Queen of England, Joe Lynch, Limerick, Vice-Chairperson of Comhairle na Mumhan (Munster Executive), Republican Sinn Féin said on September 15.

He said that the continued forging of links between the 26 and Six-County Administrations was an attempt to give the impression that the Border did not exist. "The reality is far different," he said. "Partition is still in place and then island of Ireland

is divided and the Six Counties occupied by British troops. No amount of handshakes between politicians and presidents can disguise that truth.

"The sad reality is that the nationalist and Republican people are becoming increasingly aware that the

Stormont Agreement has not ended partition nor paved the way for a British withdrawal.

"In fact the Stormont Agreement is cementing British rule in Ireland, assisted by former Republicans who now embrace and advance the very forces they fought against

in the Six Counties.

"The Queen of England coming to Ireland would signal a re-entry to the British Commonwealth and the nationalist people of Ireland would not tolerate such a move. It will be resisted whenever it happens."

## IMEACHTAÍ

WHITE LINE PICKET  
IN SUPPORT OF MAGHABERRY POWS  
229 FALLS ROAD, BELFAST  
OUTSIDE RSF OFFICE, 1.30pm  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6  
Organised by the RPAG

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET  
IN SUPPORT OF MAGHABERRY POWS  
THE QUAYS, WATERFORD, 1.30-2.30pm  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6  
Organised by Kilkenny and Wexford Republican Sinn Féin

MANCHESTER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION  
KILRUSH, CO CLARE  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7  
Assemble: The Marina, 3pm for march to Memorial

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 12.45pm, GPO, Dublin

JAMES DALY COMMEMORATION  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 3pm  
TYRELLSPASS, CO WESTMEATH  
Speaker: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

EDENTUBBER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4  
Assemble: The Border Inn, 2.30pm  
Speaker: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

O'SULLIVAN/ENRIGHT CUMANN  
Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry  
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-1204592

KERRY COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR RSF  
can be contacted at:  
<http://www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinkerry/>

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

Mac CURTÁIN / Mac SWINEY CUMANN  
Republican Sinn Féin, Cork  
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-3352006 or visit our website [www.rsfcork.com](http://www.rsfcork.com)

BRUGHA/SABHAT - HURSON/SANDS CUMAINN  
Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick  
Anyone wishing to join should contact  
[www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinlimerick/index.htm](http://www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinlimerick/index.htm)

COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR ÁTHA CLIATH RSF  
Anyone wishing to join should visit our website:  
[www.freewebs.com/rsfdublin](http://www.freewebs.com/rsfdublin)

JAMES MCDAID CUMANN, REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN  
Anyone interested in joining in the Midlands, England, should contact: Ard Oifig, 223 Parnell St, Dublin 1, Ireland, Dublin 8729747 or [saoirse@iol.ie](mailto:saoirse@iol.ie)

KEVIN COEN CUMANN  
Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin in West Roscommon contact:  
Joe Murphy, tel: 986 1281 861

McNEELA/GAUGHAN STAGG CUMANN  
Republican Sinn Féin, Mayo  
Anyone wishing to join in contact:  
Adrian Haire, Cross, Cong, Co Mayo or tel: 087 9232 096

CUMANN AN tATHAIR Ó GRÍOFA  
Republican Sinn Féin, Galway  
Anyone wishing to join in contact:  
Tomás at 097 2933 782 or Seán at 091 525 977

REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN, LEITRIM  
Anyone wishing to join in contact:  
Micheál at 071 9641 804 or John at 086 4061454

## Health protest in Ennis



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin from the James Connolly Cumann, Ennis, Co Clare and from Limerick took part in the 5,000-strong march in Ennis, Co Clare on September 29 in protest at 26-County Minister for Health Mary Harney's recent decision to cut 24-hour accident and emergency services at Ennis General Hospital.



# PRIEST WARNS YOUNG NATIONALISTS NOT TO WALK ALONE AT NIGHT IN BELFAST

## A Belfast Chronology

**Tuesday, September 4, 2007.** The RUC/PSNI objected to bail at a hearing of two men charged with conspiracy to murder and possession of explosives. Seán McConville, Lurgan and Gary Toman, Craigavon were refused bail in the High Court in Belfast.

**Thursday, September 6, 2007.** The home of Joe and Michelle O'Connor in Kerrere Street, north Belfast was attacked by loyalists and the windows broken with hammers. Paint was thrown around the sitting room through the broken front window.

The windows in their car were also smashed and the home of a pensioner, across the road, was attacked. Michelle O'Connor, who is four months pregnant, said she was disgusted by the reaction of the RUC/PSNI made her and he husband feel that they were the culprits.

They were asked if they ever were involved in sectarian fighting in the area. "I was made to feel that I had done something wrong in my own home", she said. Fr Aidan Troy, Ardoyne, visited the couple and criticised the conduct of the RUC/PSNI. "When I got to the house I saw the hammer the attackers had used to smash the window was still lying on the road. There were also surgical gloves covered in paint left on the road. The items were only taken when I contacted the RUC." He said the RUC "squandered an opportunity to show nationalists that they would properly investigate such attacks".

A Catholic priest issued a warning to nationalists walking alone in Belfast at night-time. Fr Dan White, parish priest of St Mary's on the Hill in Glengormley said recent attacks prompted him to speak out. In Glengormley several attacks have taken place over the last few weeks, the most recent on a 20-year-old man by two men who was seriously injured on August 24. He said young people should get a taxi home after a

night out.

**Friday, September 7, 2007.** Belfast Coroner John Leckey will begin new hearings in October into six deaths at the centre of the shoot-to-kill policy operated by Britain in the Occupied Six Counties. A special RUC unit carried out all six murders in 1982.

The six are named as IRA men Seán Burns, Gervaise McKerr and Eugene Toman shot near Lurgan in November; INLA men Peter Grew and Roderick Carroll shot near Armagh in December and a nationalist teenager Michael Tighe shot in a hayshed near Craigavon in November.

**Saturday, September 8, 2007.** Two legal challenges (judicial reviews) will be heard in the High Court in Belfast regarding the non-disclosure of material by the RUC/PSNI to the Coroner John Leckey.

The applications were lodged by solicitor Peter Madden when it emerged that the RUC failed to provide full disclosure in the cases of Gerard Casey, shot by loyalist at his home in Rasharkin, Co Antrim in 1989 and Danny Doherty, killed by the SAS in the grounds of Gransha Hospital, Derry in 1984.

The common point is a judgement by British law lords that the RUC/PSNI is obliged to provide coroners with all relevant documentation relating to each victim. Another application in respect of the inquest not yet completed relates to the murder of Kevin McKearney in the Moy, Co Tyrone in 1992.

The outcome of the legal challenges will have relevance to several other inquests that have opened and were repeatedly adjourned over many years.

Ryanair is to operate a new route to Stanstead from Belfast airport in October.

**Sunday, September 9, 2007.**



• Joe O'Connor and his pregnant wife Michelle at their living-room window following the attack on their home in north Belfast by a loyalist gang on September 6.

Joseph Graham, a barman from the Finaghy area of south Belfast suffered severe injuries when he was attacked on Albert Street off the Falls Road as he made his way home from work in Castle Street last night. He was left unconscious on the street for approx. three hours before he was found.

**Monday September 10, 2007.** A plaque was unveiled in Belfast at the weekend to Irene Gallagher who was shot dead in crossfire between the IRA and the British Army in the Iveagh Drive/Street area when she was just seventeen months old.

An inquest could be held into the

death of LVF man David Keys from Banbridge if those in jail with him at the time, March 1998, can be traced according to Coroner John Leckey.

Stones were thrown at the Ballygomartin Church, north Belfast and the doors kicked at by a group you youths, some as young as 11, during a service. No one was injured.

**Wednesday, September 12, 2007.** Paratrooper Lee Clegg is to serve in Afghanistan with the British Army. Clegg was jailed for life in 1993 for the murder of two teenagers after he fired on a stolen car and killed Karen Reilly and Martin Peake in 1990. He was released on licence in 1995 and

was cleared of the murder after a retrial in 1999.

**Thursday, September 13, 2007.** A fire at a car workshop in Arthur's Road, north Belfast is believed to have been started deliberately. Several families were evacuated from the area.

Crumlin Road Jail in Belfast opened its doors to visitors for the first time.

**Saturday, September 15, 2007.** A group of English skinheads calling themselves the British Ulster Alliance 'Thomas McDonald Memorial Committee' visited the Whitewell area of Belfast in preparation for the annual Whitewell Defenders march. Almost 50 bands and an estimated 1,500 loyalists took part in the huge show of strength to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the death of White City loyalist Thomas McDonald, a 16-year-old member of the UDA's youth wing who was killed when he was knocked down by a car he had been throwing stones at on the Whitewell Road. The English skinheads taking part in the march are regular visitors to White City. Interface violence has flared during their previous trips to Belfast.

**Monday September 17, 2007.** The appeal court acquitted Máire Nic an Bhaired, an Irish language teacher, of disorderly behaviour. Máire Nic an Bhaired spoke in Irish when she was questioned by the RUC in May 2006 and they demanded she speak in English.

**Saturday September 22, 2007.** Arson is suspected in the fire that caused extensive damage to The Boundary Bar on the Shore Road, Belfast.

Members of the RAF Aldergrove marched in Belfast for a Battle of Britain Commemoration, exercising its Freedom of Belfast which was awarded in 1957, by the then Lord Mayor McKee.

Bullets were found at the Andersonstown Leisure Centre on in west Belfast. The 50 bullets were found hidden in a sock.

## Rockall back on agenda

**THE small island of Rockall in the Atlantic 265 miles northwest of Ireland and Britain, has for decades been argued over by those countries. Rockall is just over 70ft high and 90ft wide but significant oil and gas reserves are believed to be in its vicinity.**

On September 26 senior civil servants from both countries began talks to strike an agreement over oil and gas reserves around the islet.

Talks at Reykjavik regarding the shareout of potential oil and gas exploration rights around the island of Rockall in the north Atlantic ended on September 28 without agreement.

The talks in Reykjavik

were intended to put an end to past bickering, with a comprehensive deal being thrashed out between the 26-County State, Britain, Iceland and the Faroe Islands — a Danish dependency.

Under a new United Nations code, states applying before 2009 can claim the ocean floor that links directly to their own landmass, provided there is no dispute with

neighbouring countries.

It was reported on September 23 that the British government was preparing to lodge an application for control of the underwater landmass around Rockall to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. A Dublin official called the British move "not very helpful". From Dublin, it looked as if London was about to take a leaf from President Putin's book, after the Russian leader sent a submarine to plant a titanium flag beneath the Arctic seabed.

Under the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, coastal



states are allowed to own the seabed for 200 miles if it is part of a continental shelf. The new code extends the limit to 350 miles offshore, although the rules will only apply to the seabed and not to the fish above it.

Britain's claim to Rockall

dates from 1955 when two British Royal Marines were dropped on to the rock by helicopter, where they planted the Union Jack and cemented a plaque asserting British sovereignty over it. The reason given at the time was to block the Soviet Union's expansionist

claims.

Thirty years later former SAS soldier Tom McClean spent a month reasserting Britain's claim by living on Rockall in a wooden box little bigger than a coffin. His adventure was spurred by an Irish attempt to do the same a year earlier which ended in tragedy with the death by drowning of Jack Lavelle from Donegal.

Britain is reportedly preparing similar claims for the disputed waters surrounding the Falkland Islands and the volcanic Ascension Island in the South Atlantic.

# Edentubber Martyrs honoured in Wexford

**ON Sunday, September 16 a memorial stone was unveiled in the Garden of Remembrance at the Old Jail in Wexford for the Edentubber Martyrs.**

Proceedings were chaired with a march from the Bullring to the Old Jail led by a colour party. Former Long Kesh and Portlaoise POW Jimmy Kavanagh chaired the event in the Garden of Remembrance and began by saying:

"Fifty years ago two young men from Wexford along with three of their comrades were killed in a tragic explosion at Edentubber. It is only fitting now as we approach the 50th anniversary that we should gather here to unveil a lasting memorial to those courageous young men.

"Wexford Republican Graves and the Republican Movement would like to welcome everyone here today to be part of this commemoration in memory of that tragic event. We particularly welcome representatives from the Parle and Keegan families and comrades and friends from that period, as well as representatives of the Wexford Pikemen Organisation."

Jimmy Kavanagh called on Paddy Parle, nephew of Patrick Parle, to lay a wreath on behalf of the families and to unveil the memorial stone. The memorial stone is a beautiful piece of granite, with the five men's names and counties on it and a poem from the memorial card of Paddy Parle.

Jimmy then called on Tom Malone to lay a wreath on behalf of the Wexford Republican Graves Association and Frank McManus to lay a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement.

He then introduced Seán Ó Brádaigh, saying he was a man whose knowledge of the events of that period of the struggle is born out of



• Seán Ó Brádaigh next to Paddy Parle's nephew, Paddy Parle, with old comrades of Paddy Parle and George Keegan in the Garden of Remembrance, Old Jail, Wexford on September 16.

participation and personal experience and who on that sad occasion 50 years ago stood at the graveside and delivered the oration over the remains of Paddy Parle.

In the course of his oration he said: "George Keegan and Patrick Parle died in an accidental explosion at Edentubber, Co. Louth, near the border, on November 11, 1957. Paul Smith of Armagh, Oliver Craven of Down and Michael Watters of Louth also died in that unfortunate accident. May their souls rest in peace in the company of God and of all who have died for the freedom of Ireland and all who have died in the cause of justice in other lands. Such people are truly selfless, generous and heroic.

"I am well aware that in coming here today to Co. Wexford I am coming to a county whose name is written large in the long story of our struggle for freedom. The United Irishmen of Wexford led the way in

1798. They drove the crown forces from all of Co. Wexford and held the field for one glorious month. They did this on their own, with their own resources and their own leadership. Again, in 1916, Enniscorthy was one of the few places, other than Dublin, where the Irish Volunteers mobilised.

"The free expression of democracy in Ireland has been frustrated and thwarted by successive English governments who insist on claiming jurisdiction over six Irish counties and keeping them within the United Kingdom. They do this by force of arms, a contrived majority in an artificial state and with the collaboration of large sections of the Irish establishment. The Stormont and St. Andrews agreements and the establishment of the Stormont Assembly are in complete contradiction of the 1916 Proclamation.

"We had an All-Ireland Dáil, a real

Dáil Éireann which was elected by the people of Ireland in 1918 and which met for the first time in the Dublin Mansion House on January 21, 1919. England's response was to declare Dáil Éireann an illegal body and to send troops, auxiliaries and black-and-tans to unleash war on the Irish people.

"The Ireland we have today, is the result and consequence of English rule as expressed in the Government of Ireland Act of Westminster, 1920 and the Treaty of 1921 which gave effect to this Act.

"Irish Republicans give their allegiance to the remarkable and splendid Proclamation of 1916, for the signing of which, all seven signatories were executed by firing squad within a few days. When a National Parliament is reconvened, Republicans will be pleased and willing to give their allegiance to it and to participate fully in it for the

welfare of the Irish people.

"Since both partition states and their parliaments were set up in order to overthrow, supplant and defeat Dáil Éireann, it is unwise to expect that working through those institutions will ever bring about Irish freedom. The task of Irish Republicans is to work to achieve and restore the 32-County Dáil Éireann envisaged by the men and women of 1916.

"The 1916 Proclamation is disregarded and profaned in many ways every single day in this country. It remains for SINN Féin Poblachtach to organise and lead the Irish people in defence of their rights on many issues, social, economic and cultural and to build a movement that will achieve the freedom of all Ireland, Éire saor agus Gaelach. And in that free Ireland, there will be a place for all — Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter, as Theobald Wolfe Tone declared.

"The Catholic Father Murphy and the Protestant Bagenal Harvey fought together to break the connection with England and establish an Irish Republic. The place of the Ulster Protestants and Presbyterians in a free Ireland was bought dearly with their own blood in the battles of Antrim and Ballinahinch and Saintfield in 1798. The finest of men, like the Presbyterian Henry Joy McCracken, who died on a Belfast scaffold in 1798, and the Protestant Thomas Russell, who died on a Downpatrick scaffold in 1803, laboured and died for a Democratic Irish Republic, free of English rule.

"The Sinn Féin ÉIRE NUA programme for a four-province federal Ireland is designed to ensure that all communities have an equal place in a free Ireland. ÉIRE NUA is also the blueprint for the just and lasting peace in Ireland that we all desire."

## Republicans right to march threatened by 26-County police

**REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin held its annual Eve of All-Ireland rally in Dublin on September 15. Held on the eve of the All-Ireland football senior and minor finals the rally drew people from across Ireland.**

The parade assembled at the Garden of Remembrance and led by a colour party and a piper marched to the island opposite the GPO on O'Connell Street.

As the rally was about to commence in O'Connell Street organisers were approached, in a very aggressive manner by a senior garda, and told that the march was an "illegal march" because the Garda had not been notified about it.

It was pointed out to him that the rally had been held in O'Connell St for many years and like all Republican Sinn Féin public events was advertised.

The garda then warned the organisers that the 26-County police

would have to be informed of all future events. This appears to be an escalation of the policy of intimidation directed against Republicans.

The Cathaoirleach Joe O'Neill informed the crowd of the threat and declared that Irish Republicans would not be driven off the streets of Ireland nor would they seek permission to march in O'Connell Street, no more than the men and women of 1916 had.

Speakers at the rally were RSF Vice President Des Dalton, Kerry Republican Pat Quirke, and RSF Comhairle Uladh PRO Richard Walsh, Derry.



• The parade marching to the GPO for the Eve of the All-Ireland rally on September 15.



# Protesters form giant human harp at Tara

ON September 23 hundreds of protesters gathered at the Hill of Tara in Co Meath to form “the world’s first giant human harp” photographed from the air. The event was designed to promote the campaign to reroute the M3 motorway.

Those who took part in the elaborate aerial art exercise were requested to dress in white and to “take nothing but memories and leave nothing but footprints” on the Tara site.

Amongst the participants were Irish actors Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Stuart Townsend.

The gathering was directed by the internationally renowned aerial artist John Quigley, who has completed similar aerial works in the Arctic, the Amazon rain forest and Antarctica.

Campaigners also gathered outside Leinster House on September 22 to continue their protest against the development of the M3 near Tara.

About 30 harpists assembled with their instruments in Dublin to demonstrate against the proposed route. “Ireland is unique in having a musical instrument, the harp, as its national emblem,” harper Laoise Kelly said.

“This shows the importance of the harp in Irish culture. The sites currently under threat have been linked with harping and bardic traditions for more than 2,500 years.”

The harpers, who presented a petition letter to the 26-County Minister for the Environment John Gormley, were joined in their protest by Stuart Townsend, Paddy Moloney of the Chieftains and MEP Kathy Sinnott. They all spoke out against the proposed M3 route.

Townsend said he understood how the locals did not want to spend time in traffic but he said there was a need to balance infrastructural progress “with environmental and heritage protection”.

“I love visiting Tara. I find it a very spiritual and powerful place. I couldn’t bear the thought of hearing traffic in such a peaceful place. I would urge both the Government and public to take a look at the Meath Masterplan which is an excellent alternative,” he said.

The plan includes upgraded coach services and a rail link to serve the expanding towns of Ashbourne, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Navan and Kells. It also suggests the conversion of the M3 to a toll-free road and modifying part of the route to protect the Tara landscape.

One female protester said: “The gathering of harpers shows that we face a musical and cultural loss with what is happening in Tara. The sound of Tara’s harp should not be drowned by cars, traffic or toll plazas.”

The World Monuments Fund (WMF), who placed the Hill of Tara archaeological complex on the 100 Most Endangered Sites List 2008 in June, issued a statement on September 22 in Trinity College Dublin:



• Tarawatch protester outside Leinster House during the demonstration on September 22. The banner is that of the ‘Harpers for Tara’ who played at the protest.



• Hundreds of protesters formed the “the world’s first giant human harp” at Tara on September 23.

“The World Monuments Fund is concerned that the excavation at Lismullin has reached a critical point, and is now entering a destructive phase.

“Tara Hill, which is the centrepiece of a large archaeological landscape with hundreds of significant sites, is the ceremonial and mythical capital of Ireland,” said Bonnie Burnham, president of the WMF.

“It would be a huge loss to the world if Tara’s surrounding landscape, about which we have

much to learn, is destroyed for a highway development that will only encourage more rapid and inappropriate development. We are horrified at the prospect of a radical alteration of such an important site and call upon the authorities to reconsider their decision.”

Dr Jonathan Foyle, Chief Executive of WMF Britain, said:

“The Tara Valley is the ancient homeland of those who forged Irish culture. As the personalities of these remarkable people are muted by a

lack of recorded literature, archaeology becomes the sole resource for understanding them. Therefore, the destruction in Tara Valley of what is a two thousand-year old time casket is an injury to the people of Ireland ... WMF Britain deeply regrets that sound academic advice on the unique importance of Lismullin, which recommends its preservation, is regarded as an inconvenience to be rejected in favour of this destructive and culturally insignificant road building scheme.”

WMF Britain is writing to the European Commission and the Irish authorities and asking them to seek interim measures at the European Court of Justice, to halt the works at Lismullin national monument resulting from the proposed M3 motorway route. WMF Britain also adopts the statement from this summer’s XIII Celtic Conference, hosted by Permanent Bureau for the International Congress of Celtic Studies, which recognised the significance of the site.

WMF placed the 2,000 year-old archaeological complex of Tara Hill in Ireland on its 2008 world monuments watch list of 100 most endangered sites, in recognition of its international significance.

The panel who voted to include Tara Hill included heritage experts from Europe, Iraq, Kenya and Guatemala and was chaired by Tim Whalen, the Director of the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles, California.

This decision was taken before the discovery of an amphitheatre at Lismullin, whose significance was confirmed in a report by Dr Ronald Hicks, Department of Anthropology, Ball State University, USA.

The World Monuments Fund calls on the European Commission and Irish authorities to urgently reassess the legal and ethical basis for this irreversible action before it is too late.

On October 2, it was announced that the 26-County Minister for the Environment John Gormley had used his powers under the National Monuments Acts to make a temporary preservation order for Rath Lugh, a prehistoric promontory fort associated with Tara alongside the route of the M3 motorway.



## Chavez threatens Brits for Malvinas war

AT the start of September, President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela threatened Britain with revenge for the Malvinas war of 1982. He warned that his recent build-up of sophisticated Russian and Iranian weapons would be used to destroy the British fleet if it attempted to return to the South Atlantic.

Speaking on his weekly television show *Alo Presidente*, Chavez denounced what he described as Britain's "illegal occupation" of the Malvinas and repeated his call for a regional military alliance against Britain and the United States.

"If we had been united in the last war, we could have stopped the old empire," Chavez said, as he gesticulated to maps showing how Venezuelan aircraft and submarines would intercept British warships. "Today we could sink the British fleet."

Chavez has often expressed support for Argentina's claim to the Malvinas. He declared that British history was stained with the blood of South America's indigenous people, and demanded revenge for the cowardly sinking of the General Belgrano.

Chavez, announced that he would negotiate with guerrillas holding dozens of hostages in Colombia, including three US contractors and Ingrid Betancourt, a French-Colombian abducted as she campaigned for president in 2002. But US and British officials have recently become more concerned by his willingness to lavish billions of dollars from Venezuela's soaring oil income on military capabilities.

On his TV programme, Chavez introduced a group of 30 Venezuelan pilots who were trained in Russia to fly a squadron of 24 Sukhoi SU-30 multi-role fighters. The aircraft were part of a \$3 billion armaments deal with Moscow.

Chavez has also bought 100,000 AK-47 assault rifles and negotiated to set up a Kalashnikov factory in Venezuela. He has reportedly ordered nine Russian diesel submarines, including the cruise missile-carrying 677E Amur-class vessel.

The Venezuelan pilots told him they would soon be training with medium-range BrahMos missiles, a supersonic antiship cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia.

## Brutal repression

### continues in Burma

SINCE the middle of September the eyes of the world have been fixed on Burma as its long suffering people faced the might of the military junta which has ruled the country since 1962, ignoring the result of the country's last election in 1990 which gave the country's National League for Democracy a mandate to form a government.

To date, whilst it is reported 13 people, including a Japanese photojournalist, have been killed by the military it is believed the numbers are much higher, some estimating as high as 200.

Public anger was stirred by a change in economic policy on August 15th, when the military government, introduced a fivefold increase in the price of natural gas and a 67 % price rise for petrol, a doubling of petrol and diesel prices, as well as a fivefold rise in the price of cooking gas. This tapped a deep well of anger in a country in economic crisis. Inflation runs at 40% and the majority of people are in poverty.

The people's anger was first reflected by the decision of the country's Buddhist monks to take to the streets. About 500 Buddhist monks held prayers inside Burma's holiest shrine in Yangon (formerly Rangoon) on September 20 after being locked out for two days to prevent them launching a formal religious boycott of the ruling military junta.

Protest marches by monks quickly became a daily occurrence.

Several hundred ordinary people joined in before the monks marched through the streets of the main commercial city, past the embassies of Britain, Australia, India and the United States. Initially they met no opposition, however as the scale of the protest grew as more and more people came out on to the streets in support of the monks this changed. The military junta has a history of using extreme violence against its own people, in 1988 an estimated 3,000 people; students and monks were massacred following a mass pro-democracy

# WORLD NEWS



• Japanese photographer Nagal Kenji of AF tries to take photographs as he lies fatally injured after police and military officials fired upon and then charged at protesters in Rangoon city centre on September 27.

uprising.

Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Laureate and pro-democracy activist has been detained for 11 of the past 17 years after her National League for Democracy swept to victory in a 1990 general election. She was seen in public for the first time in three years on September 22 when 2,000 protesting monks were allowed through barricades to pray near the home where she is under house arrest, and she emerged to pray with them. Following this barriers were reinforced to prevent a repeat.

Within days the numbers taking part in the protests swelled, by September 24 the dictatorship threatened to "take action" after up to 100,000 demonstrators protesting against the regime flooded the streets of Rangoon in the biggest show of dissent in almost two decades. As many as 20,000 protested in the second city, Mandalay, and there were reports of smaller marches in the north-western oil town of Sittwe and the religious centre of Pakokk. On the international level a move to have UN sanctions imposed on Burma was vetoed by China, which has consistently supported the military junta during their 45 year rule. Despite strong language by European leaders such as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the EU leaders did little more than call for the establishment of a committee to examine the possibility of sanctions.

Following nine straight days the military moved against the people and the monks with ferocity, fewer monks were seen on the streets as up to 500 had been arrested and many others confined to their monasteries by soldiers, who raided six monasteries around the capital. Leaders of the National League for Democracy were also rounded up. Pools of blood remained in monastery dormitories and stairwells, where the troops had smashed in windows and doors and beaten the young novices as they lay sleeping. In some raids shots were fired and one senior abbot at Moe Ngway monastery was said to have died later in the afternoon.

Military forces fired automatic weapons into crowds of pro-democracy demonstrators in Rangoon after they flouted warnings to clear the streets or face "extreme action". Thousands of protesters played a deadly game of cat and mouse

with the police and troops, continually dispersing as they were attacked and reforming to taunt the military forces who used tear gas, baton charges and live ammunition against them.

"There's no doubt the people were very scared," said one western diplomat who has closely observed the violence. "But that they came out again after the killings illustrates just how angry they are about what happened to the monks and they want to show the military."

One demonstrator who called CNN during the rally on September 28 said the group was being led by the 88 Generation of Students carrying the "fighting peacock" flag that symbolised the revolt that ended so bloodily almost two decades ago.

The 47-country UN human rights council decided to hold an extraordinary session on October 2 to discuss the crisis. UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon sent his special envoy to Burma, Ibrahim

Gambari, on September 29, where he held talks with pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, but failed to secure a meeting with pivotal military leader Gen Tan Shwe.

Campaigners warned against expecting too much from the UN. They pointed to soothing noises Gambari had made last year after the junta gave him assurances of progress that turned out to be illusory. Without the UN Security Council's firm commitment to set a timeframe for the regime to begin talks about democracy, backed by the looming threat of international economic sanctions, Ibrahim Gambari would be toothless, they said.

Meanwhile witnesses described small groups of protesters appearing fleetingly. Internet links to Burma also remained cut, apparently a further attempt by the regime to keep the lid on the flow of information and pictures showing the international community evidence of the soldiers' brutality.

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets of Dublin and Belfast on September 29 in a show of solidarity with Burmese demonstrators under attack from military rulers in their own country.

Burma Action Ireland and Amnesty International organised rallies in both cities as part of a global day of action to support the Buddhist monks-led pro-democracy campaign.

Members of the Burmese community in Ireland and Opposition politicians were among around 250 people who gathered across from the General Post Office in Dublin's O'Connell Street.

Eileen Seymour, Burma Action Ireland spokeswoman, said thousands of passers-by signed a petition calling on the China to compel Burma to engage in a process of valid national reconciliation.

"The people have been led by the monks to protest for better living conditions, national reconciliation and calling for the release of political prisoners," she said. "We are here to support that."

In Belfast, more than 100 people stood together outside the City Hall to register their protest at the brutal suppression of peaceful demonstrations in Burma.



## Let Informers Go to Hell

A chara

It was reported in the *Irish News* that today's RUC/PSNI are keeping the names of informers secret.

This means that the Provos are keeping the names of their police informers secret.

Go to hell for selling out our cause.

BRENDAN TOBIN  
Wexford

## Battening Down Of the Hatches

A chara

This autumn the MI5's new £20 million headquarters near Hollywood will open

operations. In certain newspapers in both the Occupied Six Counties and 26-County Free State staff positions were advertised and it is believed that some of those positions to be filled will include in their daily duties listening and recording conversations on people's phone calls.

Surely what this agency beings to the occupied Six Counties is a battening down of the hatches, a foreign oppressive force rooted firmly on Irish soil backed and supported by the British and 26-County political establishments and their spin that partition is acceptable.

Removing British troops (leaving 5,000) and replacing them with the spies of MI5. I wonder which is worse, the camouflaged combats of the British soldier or the suit and tie of MI5.

MARTIN MAHER  
Westmeath

## Disrespect To National Flag

A chara

Avril Doyle can no longer claim to represent the people who elected her after showing such disrespect to our National Flag. To be ashamed of our flag is to be ashamed of the very people who elected her in the first place.

If this had happened last year Clr John Dwyer and his Provo/RUC friends would be the first to call on her to resign. Of course they cannot now as they are all the one.

JIM AND KEVIN  
KAVANAGH  
Enniscorthy  
Co Wexford

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.

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



## WHAT THEY SAID

A full inquiry was underway yesterday into the incident in which the five missiles, which had been intended for decommissioning, were mistakenly mounted on the wings of a B52 bomber and flown from one of the US to the other last week.

The plane landed safely and the US Air Force officials insisted that the public was never at risk at any time but there was an unmistakable air of farce about the entire affair.

— Editorial, *Irish News*, September 6, 2007 commenting on the five nuclear missiles that were mistakenly transported across America.

A significant shift in the Green Party position on the EU was signalled yesterday with Minister for Communications, Marine and National Resources Éamon Ryan saying he was in favour of the new EU reform treaty.

In the first public indication that the party intends to support Fianna Fáil on a treaty referendum next year, Mr Ryan, when asked if he was in favour of the treaty, said: "Yes, when you look at how the EU has benefited Ireland environmentally, but also economically and socially."

— *Irish Times*, September 8, 2007, lead story on front page by Miriam Donohoe, Political Staff.

One topic on the agenda [of Stormont] is the future of the controversial 11-plus exam, which [Provisional] Sinn Féin has pledged to abolish, and which the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) is adamant should remain.

— Sunday Business Post, September 9, 2007, article by Colm Heatley.

The Irish Language Act, which would accord Irish equal status with English, is also set to be opposed by the DUP.

— Colm Heatley.

Among those [playing to a more hard-line audience] is David Simpson, an Assembly member and DUP MP [at Westminster] for Upper Bann. Last month he accused a senior [Provisional] Sinn Féin Assembly member of being a British agent.

He has offered no proof to support his accusation, but it is bound to poison the atmosphere in the [Stormont] Assembly as the real work begins this week.

— Colm Heatley.

Support for the 11-plus is as strong among the Catholic

(sic) middle class, a key target group for [Provisional] Sinn Féin, as it among the Protestant (sic) middle-class. Whether [Provisional] Sinn Féin can muster the support needed to abolish it remains to be seen.

— Colm Heatley.

The Rev Ian Paisley is stepping down as Free Presbyterian moderator amidst dissent among church figures over his relationship with [Provisional] Sinn Féin in Stormont's power-sharing executive.

— Sunday Tribune, September 9, 2007, Suzanne Breen, Northern Editor.

Sources said the DUP leader had been effectively forces from his position as unease increased about him combining his religious role with that of First Minister [at Stormont].

— Suzanne Breen.

Last night former Green Party MEP, Patricia McKenna, said she would be opposing the treaty and said the "No" campaign within the party would swing into action in the coming weeks.

She said in her view one of the reasons the Taoiseach brought the Greens into government was to neutralise opposition to the treaty.

"It would be very difficult for the Greens in government to oppose something that the government is promoting," she said. Ms McKenna opposed the party decision to go into coalition with Fianna Fáil.

The June summit [of the EU in Brussels] gave a strict mandate for drafting the new reform treaty to replace the constitutional treaty which fell after its defeat in the 2005 French and Dutch referendums.

It has been stripped of its symbolic trappings but, otherwise, its advocates say that its contents remain much the same. That is a difficult stance to sell to the general public.

— *Irish Times*, September 10, 2007, editorial.

Members of an EU fact-finding delegation have prepared a preliminary report strongly criticising the Government's plans for an incinerator at Poolbeg as well as plans to build a motorway close to Tara.

It points out that the proposal – which would see one of the biggest incinerators in Europe built at Poolbeg – comes at a time when "incineration as a form of waste disposal is being discarded completely many of Europe's regions".

— *Irish Times*, September 15, 2007, article by Honor Mahony in Brussels.

On the proposed 3 motorway close to Tara, the report notes that the "enormous heritage value to the nation and to the world" made a committee delegation necessary.

... it goes on to say that the



• At approximately 12.40pm on March 15, 1999 a bomb exploded under Rosemary Nelson's car as she drove out of the street where she lived. She was killed instantly. Nuala O'Loan, Police Ombudsman said on September 19 that the RUC "did not properly consider the particular nature of Mrs Nelson's public profile or the level of concern about her safety."

delegates was "perplexed by the choice of route and by the damage done to the integrity of the many sites in the Tara area and the Gabhra Valley."

— Honor Mahony in Brussels.

The report asks why it has been "deemed necessary to build one of the largest M3 intersections precisely at this most vulnerable location in terms of Ireland's national heritage" and wonders why the Government puts so much emphasis on roads and "sp little" on a rail network.

— Honor Mahony in Brussels.

A split in the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in the North appears inevitable after a councillor who resigned from the party last week said he planned to launch a rival, more hardline unionist party.

— Sunday Business Post, September 16, 2007, article by Colm Heatley in Belfast.

Mel Lucas, a former election agent for DUP rebel MEP Jim Allister, resigned his seat on Antrim council last Thursday, after almost 20 years in the party.

He said the decision by DUP leader Ian Paisley to share power with Sinn Féin had prompted dissident DUP members, include around a dozen former councillors, to launch a new party.

— Sunday Business Post, But since the formation of the cabinet, the enthusiasm with which John Gormley and more lately Éamon Ryan have ditched core Green policy in a variety of areas has rendered their party a pitiable defender of the environment.

— Sunday Tribune, September 16, 2007, Diarmaid Doyle column.

He [Gormley] can't do anything about Dick Roche's decision to destroy the monument at Tara; he can't say anything about the incinerator in Ringsend.

The one thing he has done that you might argue is consistent with his previously expressed beliefs was his decision last week to approve fees for €100,000 on builders applying for permission to build large-scale developments such as motorways and power plants.

— Diarmaid Doyle.

His [Éamon Ryan's] announcement last weekend that he was in favour of the EU Treaty on which Ireland (sic) will vote in a referendum next year immediately put him at odds with his party, which has been such a consistent opponent of such treaties.

— Diarmaid Doyle.

[David] McWilliams is not enamoured with the EU. He says Brussels won't worry about the "Septic Tiger". He regrets the surrender of monetary policy to Frankfurt [European Central Bank], the more so as he says immigration policy is determined in London.

— Sunday Business Post Agenda, September 16, 2007, review by Finola Kennedy of "The Generation game", by David McWilliams (Gill and Macmillan publ)

McWilliams believes that we now face a stark choice between a long recession in European Monetary Union or a short recession by leaving it and devaluing our currency.

— Finola Kennedy review of *The Generation Game* by David McWilliams

The problem [of Iraq] will be handed over to the next administration. And, if he [President Bush] gets his way, the US presence in Iraq will be extended indefinitely.

That is the burden of a reference in his televised speech to keeping US troops and bases in Iraq to protect American interests in the region, even after the main war-fighting force is

withdrawn as military tasks are handed over to Iraqi troops.

— *Irish Times* editorial, September 17, 2007.

"I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle, wrapped in an enigma; but perhaps there is a key. That key is Russian national interest." Winston Churchill's famous remark, expressed in an October 1939 radio broadcast, remains apposite.

— *Irish Times* editorial, September 17, 2007. Churchill wondered at the Soviet-Nazi non-aggression pact of August 1939 and the joint invasion of Poland in September and October.

Krenlinologists the world over were flummoxed by President Vladimir Putin's appointment of the nondescript, colourless, obedient but capable Viktor Zubkov as prime minister this week and now scramble to out it in context.

The key is Mr Putin's determination to maintain political and personal continuity, with himself as the ultimate political arbiter, when his second presidential term expires next year.

— *Irish Times* editorial.

Nuala O'Loan's [Police Ombudsman] investigation into the manner in which police [RUC] dealt with questions over Mrs Nelson's [Armagh solicitor murdered by loyalists in 1999] safety "did not properly consider the particular nature of Mrs Nelson's public profile or the level of concern about her safety," she said yesterday.

Mrs O'Loan was responding to four allegations made by the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) concerning the RUC handling of Mrs [Rosemary] Nelson's safety.

— *Irish Times*, September 20, 2007, report by Dan Keenan, Northern News

Editor.

The Dutch prime minister, Jan-Peter Balkenende, has said his government would not hold a referendum on the forthcoming EU treaty following legal advice that it does not contain constitutional elements.

— *Irish Times*, September 22, 2007.

The new treaty takes on most of the features of the old constitution, but without the overtly statehood-like parts – such as enshrining the flag, anthem and motto in the text.

So far, Ireland is the only EU member which will definitely have a referendum on the Reform Treaty, expected to be finalised at the end of this year.

The UK (sic) is coming under strong internal pressure to have one, while similarly eurosceptic Denmark remains undecided.

— *Irish Times*.

[Stormont] Minister for Social Development Margaret Ritchie (SDLP) should consider her decision to cancel £1.2 million sterling (£1.7 million) in funding for loyalist communities if the UDA does not begin decommission by October 8th, the Rev Harold Good has urged.

— *Irish Times*, September 24, 2007, report by Gerry Moriarty, Northern Editor.

This followed a pipe-bomb attack at the weekend. Mr Good, who with the Rev Alec Reid oversaw IRA decommissioning, confirmed yesterday that he has held talks with the UDA's south Belfast "brigadier" Jackie McDonald about how the UDA should move away from criminality and violence.

— *Irish Times*.

Some 15 members of Republican Sinn Féin picketed Kerry County Museum in Tralee yesterday, the 90th anniversary of the death of patriot Thomas Ashe, because it is hosting an exhibition on the life of British spy and Fenian chaser William Melville.

— *Irish Times*, September 26, 2007, report by Anne Lucey in Tralee. The exhibition costs €60,000 to stage, she says.

Yesterday, outside the Ashe Memorial Hall, spokesmen for Republican Sinn Féin Matt Leen said: "This place is called after Thomas Ashe. Melville's cohorts force-fed Ashe and actually murdered him."

"Can we now expect an exhibition on the Black and Tans or Oliver Cromwell in this museum?"

— Anne Lucey in Tralee reporting in the *Irish Times*.

She [Helen O'Carroll, Museum Curator] said she would not close the exhibition, which will run until next year, and she did not rule out hosting a big show on Cromwell or the Black and Tans.

— Anne Lucey in Tralee.

# The Departure of the Earls a strategic regrouping

**THE following is the text of a lecture in Donegal town on September 7 by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, entitled "The Flight of the Earls and its Consequences".**

"At the outset I would like to take issue with the expression 'Flight of the Earls'. One dictionary explains 'flight' as 'to run away, as from danger.' I agree with Prof John McGurk of the University of Ulster when he spoke at Letterkenny on August 19 last. Naming the event as a 'flight' was 'pandering to the English interpretation' of what happened. He suggested that the departure of the Earls – who had intended to return – could have been termed a 'strategic regrouping'. Cardinal Ó Fiaich, who was Professor of Modern Irish History at Maynooth at the time with Pádraig de Barra, entitled their book in 1972, *Imeacht na n-Iarlaí*. (The Departure of the Earls). Ó Fiaich stated: 'Every schoolchild knows it as The Flight of the Earls, a phrase which deserves to be expunged from our vocabulary'.

The historian Micheline Kerney Walsh in her work 'Destruction by Peace: Hugh O'Neill after Kinsale' published in 1986 writes 'It has been generally assumed that he accepted defeat and, in despair, had gone into voluntary exile', but this is not so. She states that according to recent research, his principal objective in leaving for Spain in 1607 was 'to return at the head of an army designed to break English power in Ireland.'

Nollaig Ó Muraíle, senior lecturer in Irish at NUI, Galway, is completing a new and comprehensive edition of Tadhg Ó Cianáin's account at the time of the exile itinerary of the Ulster chiefs, Ó Néill, Ó Dónaill agus Cúchonnacht Maguire of Fermanagh. He points out that Ó Fiaich and de Barra's use of *Imeacht* (Departure) as opposed to *Teiceadh* (Flight) was because 'the latter (term) reflected hostile contemporary English attitudes' and McGurk writes: 'O'Neill's correspondence from Rome gives the lie to the interpretation that he never intended to return.'

The 99 Irish exiles who sailed from Rathmullen, Co Donegal on September 14, 1607 were on a French ship procured for them by Cúchonnacht Maguire, chieftain of Fermanagh. They sailed for Spain and were within sight almost of the Spanish coast when an almighty storm blew them off course and back across the Bay of Biscay to France, where they landed on October 4.

Their journey from there to Rome took nine months, on foot, on horseback, by boat and coach. It was, Ó Muraíle writes 'a tortuous, protracted journey that can be retraced in British, Spanish and Papal newsletters, diplomatic correspondence and

spy networks.' It included crossing lakes in Switzerland and the mighty Alps where O'Neill lost his money in an accident.

Many honours were bestowed on them on the continent of Europe where they were well known and renowned. The Irish Press column 'This Happened Today' by MJ McManus on September 4, 1957 records their journey. Nowhere were they received more warmly than by the Irish Franciscans at the College of St Anthony, Louvain in what is now Belgium. Founded the previous year, 1606, it offered schooling and practical hospitality to the younger generation of O'Neills, O'Donnells and Maguires, giving them back a new sense of belonging and a mission for the future. But within months in 1608 Maguire died in Genoa, Italy and the brothers Ruairí, Earl of Tírcho-naill and Cathbarr Ó Dónaill, as well as Hugh (Óg) O'Neill passed away in Rome. Supported by pensions from the Papacy and Philip III of Spain, the Great O'Neill himself survived until 1616, still holding out for a renewal of armed conflict in Ireland. They were all buried in San Pietro di Montorio where Cardinal Ó Fiaich laid a commemorative slab to Hugh O'Neill in 1989. Irish tourists from all over the world visit the Church of San Pietro, ask to have the rug on the floor withdrawn and pay their respects to them all. Of all his titles, that preferred by Hugh O'Neill was the Irish one 'The O'Neill' or simply 'Ó Néill' as he signed himself.

At home in Ireland, the consequences of their departure from the scene were many and varied. With the Plantation of Ulster from 1608, the Gaelic order was eclipsed, and the great Irish Diaspora began. With that emigration to the continent over succeeding decades of tens of thousands of Irish people, was written 'one of the most splendid pages of Irish history', that of the Irish Abroad. In France, Spain, Austria and Prussia they rose to eminence in church, state and in the professions.

Also in Ireland began a great renaissance of culture and learning, in the Irish language of course, 'Anocht is Uaigneach Éire' (Ireland is desolate tonight), by Aindrias MacMarcais is a poem famous for its description of the Irish following the Departure. 'C'ait ar Ghabhadar Gaoidhí! (Where will the Irish go?) by Lochlainn Ó Dálaigh is another. 'Mo Thruaighe mar táid Gaoidhí! (My Pity for the situation of the Irish) by Fear Flatha Ó Gnímh is another still. Poets: Fearghal Óg Mac a'Bháird, Eochaidh Ó h-



• Speakers at the seminar in Donegal town on the Flight of the Earls were (from left) Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Eamon Ó Ciardha, Eunan O'Donnell and Seoirse Ó Dochartaigh.

Eodhasa, Eoghan Rua Mac a'Bháird and many others stand out.

But the big contribution was in prose, 'Annála Ríoghachta Éireann' (The Annals of the Four Masters), a history of Ireland up to the death of O'Neill in 1616 was compiled from 1632 to 1636 in Donegal Abbey and along the banks of the Drowes River which marks the border between counties Leitrim and Donegal. Franciscan lay brother Mícheál Ó Cléirigh and three assistants did the work. This was a massive contribution to the history of the Irish people.

Then from 1620 to 1634 Seathrún Céitinn (Geoffrey Keating) composed his 'Foras Feasa ar Éirinn' (A Foundation of Knowledge about Ireland), described as the first narrative history of Ireland in Irish. To these poets and writers, Louvain was a second home. The Irish Franciscans there printed, published and circulated their work. The Irish College there also trained seminarians and sent them back to Ireland. It was a 'power-house of the Counter-Reformation,' more accurately described as the 'Catholic Reformation'.

The Plantation of Ulster, begun in 1608, was the greatest consequence of the Departure of the Earls. Their lands were confiscated by the English Crown. The revolt of Sir Cahir O'Doherty of Innishowen in January 1608 was initially successful in that he captured the city of Derry. But in July he was shot at Kilmacrennan, Co Donegal and his lands too were confiscated. Sir Arthur Chichester, ancestor of Captain Terence O'Neill, was Lord Lieutenant in Ireland of the English government and he now planned the plantation of Six Ulster Counties: Derry (known as Coleraine) Tyrone, Fermanagh, Armagh, Cavan and Donegal. Antrim and Down had earlier been

saturated by settlers from England and Scotland.

Chichester and Sir John Davies, the Attorney-General at Dublin Castle felt that war would never be at an end until there was 'one king, one allegiance and one law'. The king would, of course, be the king of England and English 'common law' would replace the Irish Brehon code. This would be the new framework for Ulster. The crown escheated, or confiscated the lands of the six counties, declaring the earls to have laid down their loyalty to the king (of England) by leaving the kingdom without his permission.

The scheme adopted was not simply to redistribute the land seized but to build a new society – an exercise in social engineering. This is how the Ulster Plantation differed from earlier plantations elsewhere in Ireland and why it lasted so much longer. A homogeneous society at all levels was to be created, with English law, English courts and an English army in the background.

'Undertakers' received 40% of the land. These were English and Scottish gentry in equal numbers who were required to remove the native Irish and introduce settlers onto their lands within two years, and to erect a castle on their holding before 1613. Towns and villages were to be created. 'Servitors' or former soldiers and English government officials received 13% and these men, unlike the 'undertakers', could employ native Irish as tenants – paying substantial rents of course. English and Scottish tenants were in the low rent category. Thirdly, the established state Church of Ireland acquired 18% of the confiscated land to support their ministry.

Finally 1% of land was assigned to support schools to educate the sons of settlers and to 'civilise' the sons of the

surviving native elite. I should add that 14% went to native free holders, including some who had remained loyal to the English Crown, and others who became prominent following the Departure of the Earls. Estates were parcelled out in holdings of 2,000, 1,500 and 1,000 acre lots. Co Derry in its entirety was given to the City of London and would be managed by a new body to be known as the Irish Society. Estates here would be 3,000 acres each in the renamed county of Londonderry and the land would be divided among twelve groups of London trade guilds.

In 1641 and again in 1689 the Irish rose up in support of the worthless Stuart kings, only to find themselves left on their own to face Cromwell, the Williamite onslaught and the long night of the Penal Laws. The settlers and colonists and their descendants at ordinary level proved industrious with the full support of the English State. They too had their diaspora in the 18th Century, in their case to North America. The Presbyterians, who were the majority in that community, also suffered disabilities on account of their religion. Their marriages were not recognised, for instance.

Inspired by the American and French Revolutions, Protestants, Catholics and Dissenters came together in the 1790s as the United Irishmen. A democratic programme and independence from England were their objectives. However with the defeat of the United Irish movement and the Act of Union in 1800, the English government were more clever. The disabilities on Presbyterians were removed and a 'regium donum' was paid directly to their ministers. The 'Ulster Custom' as developed meant that the tenant's saleable interest in his holding was recognised. Land agitation was, as a result, lesser in that

province and with greater stability capital accumulated. The Industrial Revolution therefore, took place in Ulster which marked it out from the rest of Ireland.

The present Belfast and St Andrews Agreements are just that – agreements. They are not a settlement. An artificial arrangement at Stormont gives us a temporary and enforced vertical power-sharing, but under English rule. The alternative is a nine-county Ulster which would give the unionist-oriented population a clear working majority but with the nationalists within reach of power. Strong regional councils and powerful local councils would be controlled according to local majorities, with maximum devolution of power and decision-making. This would give natural horizontal power-sharing.

It could be permanent within a four province federation where all power would be exercised at provincial level – or beneath – except foreign affairs, national defence and overall financing. This proposal, known as ÉIRE NUA – a New Ireland – was outlined face-to-face at confidential meetings with all shades of unionism in the 1970s. In all cases the reaction was the same. If the English government disengaged from Ireland, then our proposal would be the second choice of unionists. Their first choice would be an independent Six-County state. We felt that that model would not be viable.

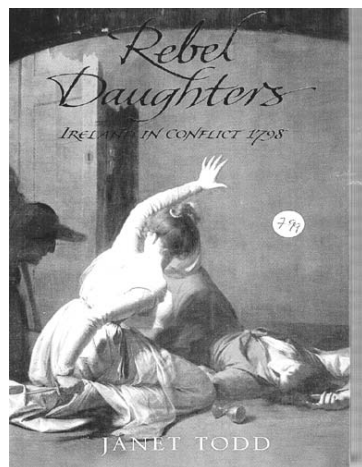
Nationalists have never sought to undo the Plantation of Ulster which next year will be four centuries old. They seek equal rights and equal opportunities within an Ireland where there is room for all – where all its inhabitants can feel comfortable and have their place in the sun. Such an Ireland has been outlined here tonight.

A final word on the Earls: Maguire did not have a chronicler. Aodh Mór Ó Néill was fortunate in that Tadhg Óg Ó Cianáin accompanied him all the way to Rome and recorded his story. Aodh Rua Ó Dónaill died at Simancas Castle, near Valladolid in north central Spain in 1602. He had sought renewed aid but was poisoned by an English agent, Blake from Galway. He was 29. Red Hugh was a superb soldier. Pádraic Pearse wrote of the Great O'Neill: 'Ní raibh le thaoiseach ná de threoir ag Gaeil riamh ó theacht do na Normánaigh fear a b'inchurtha le Wolfe Tone ach Aodh Ó Néill' (Priomh-alt An Barr Buadh 25 Bealtaine 1912). (The Irish never had a leader or a guide since the coming of the Normans who was comparable to Wolfe Tone except Hugh O'Neill)."

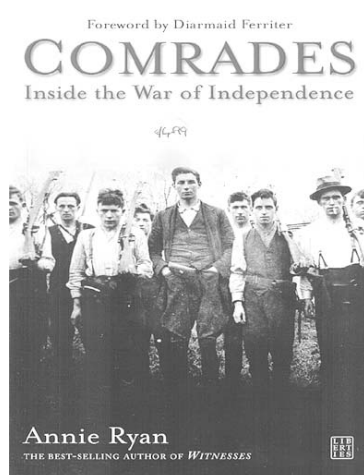
The seminar was also addressed by Eamon Ó Ciardha from the Ulster Scots Association, Eunan O'Donnell and Seoirse Ó Dochartaigh.



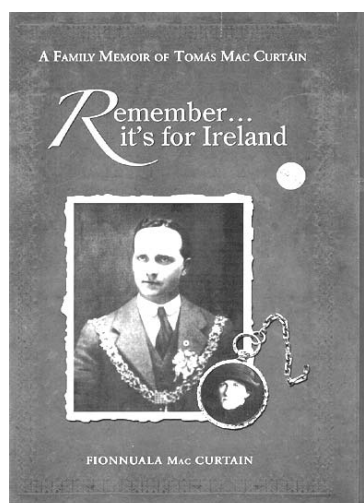
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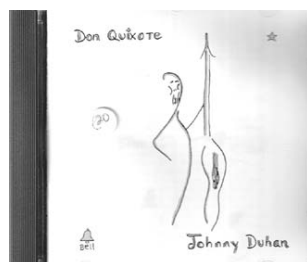
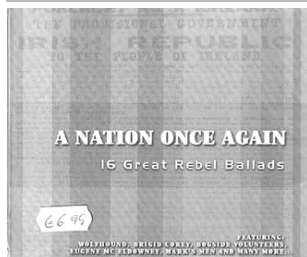


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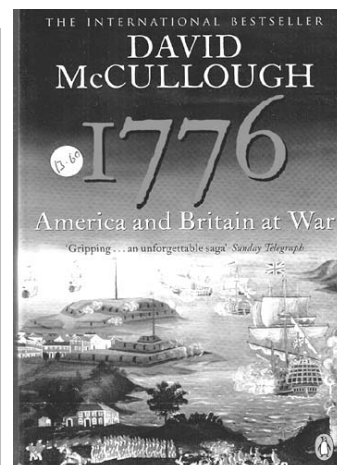
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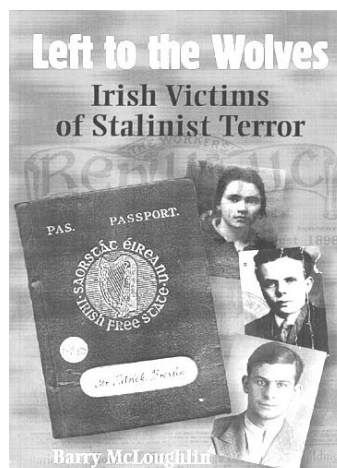
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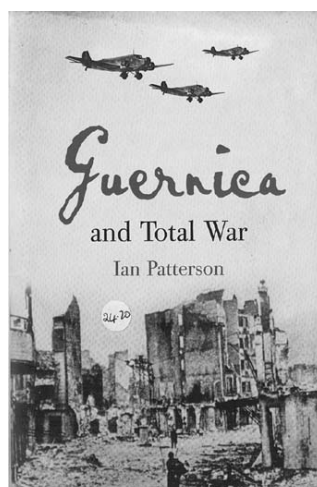
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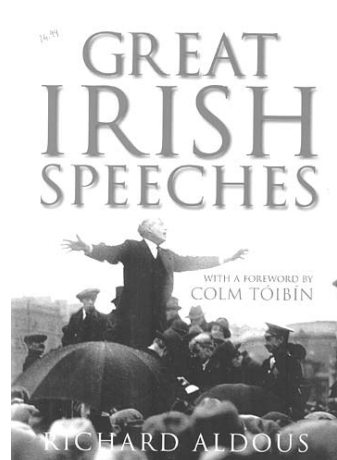
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# ANTI-INTERNMENT PROTESTS AND CENSORSHIP OF NEWS

**50  
Years  
Ago**

**TOWARDS  
the end of  
September  
and early  
October 1957,  
the 26 County  
Board of  
Works moved  
a large party  
of workers**

**into the Curragh Concentration  
Camp and began repairs on the huts  
housing the 118 internees there.**

This was in preparation for the re-opening of Leinster House in October and the inevitable raising of the question of the Concentration Camp. That camp had been opened in July two days subsequent to the closure of Leinster House for its summer recess.

Internees were moved to vacant huts as the Board of Works men took over. The huts were re-roofed to keep out the rain (note: the summer had been unusually wet).

The walls were lined internally with "hard-board" to keep out the wind. Flush toilets were installed in the huts to replace the extra large buckets used heretofore.

A section of the old 1940s internment camp known as the "football field" was fenced off, an opening made in the barbed wire at the southeast corner of the existing camp to link up with this "field" and a bridge placed over the 15 foot deep moat to provide access to the "field".

This bridge operated as a tunnel surrounded by barbed wire to allow the internees through to the field for games in the morning and afternoon and also in the evening when bright.

It reminded the prisoners of the circus tunnels through which the lions were herded from the vehicle cages into the closed ring where they would perform for the attendance.

Other smaller improvements were made in conditions, but the complete lack of any privacy – even in the toilets – still remained.

An *t-Éireannach/The United Irishman*, in its October 1957 edition, noted that conditions had "improved considerably" since the publication of the statement from the Publicity Committee of Sinn Féin in a paid advertisement in the *Sunday Independent* of August 8.

This advance "followed a wave of public protests by people, many of whom can hardly be said to be sympathetic with the Cause of Irish Republicanism".

There was still plenty of room for improvement, it was stated, but that, by itself, was not enough. The men had committed no crime and MUST BE RELEASED NOW.

In the September issue of the Republican Organ, a full list of the Curragh internees was given county by county. In all 24 counties were represented as follows:

**Antrim:** three; **Cavan** two; **Cork:** Four, including city councillor Liam Early; **Clare:** five; **Derry:** one; **Donegal:** one; **Dublin:** 49; **Fermanagh:** three; **Galway:** four; **Longford:** one (Ruairí Ó Brádaigh TD); **Limerick:** one; **Leitrim:** one; **Meath:** seven; **Mayo:** five; **Tipperary:** four; **Tyrone:** one; **Westmeath:** one; **Wicklow:** four; **Wexford:** one.

In all cases full addresses were supplied. The total in September came to 116. A further two were interned without trial later that month. They were from Dublin, making a total of 50 from that county.

In D-Wing of Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast, the number held without trial from that city was also in the region of 50. More on this later.

On October 19, Roscommon County Council suspended standing orders to pass a resolution by 11 votes to 9, calling on the 26-County government to "consider the feasibility" of releasing the men held in the Curragh Concentration Camp.

The original motion by Councillor PA McGuinness of Farmonbarry (Clann na Poblachta) "deplored the action of the Government in having citizens arrested and interned without trial". The amendment (as above)



• Seán Ó Brádaigh.

which was carried, was proposed by Councillor Brian Lenihan (Fianna Fáil), later Minister for Justice at Leinster House.

Notes and Comments in the Republican Organ (October) reported on the National Convention of the Federation of Old IRA (1916-21). They discussed at length a South Louth protesting against "the tyrannical system of arrests and imprisonment of citizens of the 32 Counties of Ireland without trial or charge".

Eventually the Convention, on the suggestion of the Chairman, Seán Dowling of Dublin (dentist and IRA veteran (1916-24)) agreed to adopt a composite resolution as follows:

Asking the 26-County Government "to bring continued pressure to bear on the UNO to denounce the continued occupation by British Crown Forces of part of the territory of Ireland; that this Convention implores the Government to utilise to its utmost the resources of the Civil Courts in the maintenance of the law".

The columnist "Éireannach" comments "Mr Aiken (26-County Foreign Minister) while discussing the Hungarian at UNO might note particularly that Resolution".

A panel in the Republican Organ of October is headed: "Spirit of Republicanism" and reads: "The spirit of Irish Republicanism is not to be found in the speeches and saying of Mr de Valera and his lieutenants.

"The spirit of Irish Republicanism is to be found in the Autobiography of Wolfe Tone, the Proclamation of Robert Emmett, the Essays of Thomas Davis, the letters of Fintan Lalor, John Mitchel's "Jail Journal" and "Last Conquest of Ireland Perhaps", John O'Leary's editorials, "The Sovereign People" of Pádraig Pearse, and James Connolly's "The Re-Conquest of Ireland".

"These are the true founts of Republican doctrine. Their message is timeless. We can ask ourselves: "How would they view the struggle for Irish freedom? Would they condemn it? And instinctively we know what the answer would be.

"Educate that you may be free – SAOR". A further addition to SAOR's list would without doubt be Terence Mac Swiney's "Principles of Freedom".

In October also was listed the names of nine members of Sinn Féin co-opted to replace those Ard Chomhairle members then in the Curragh Concentration Camp.

They were: Councillor **Seán Ó Murchú**, Cork; **Ned Smith**, North Cork; **Michéal Ó h-Aonghusa**, Dublin; **Seán Ó Mahony**, Tipperary; **Jack Guinness**, Meath; **Myles Shevlin**, solr, Carlow; **JJ McGill**, TD, Leitrim; **Mrs Ella May Woods**, Kerry and **John Behan**, Laois.

During September, the Republican Organ reported that a big demonstration was held at Ballinamuck, Co Longford.

Its purpose was to commemorate the Battle of Ballinamuck in 1798 when Irish and French forces were defeated by overwhelmingly superior British numbers and also to protest against the internment of Pádraic Ó Ceallaigh and other Irishmen at the Curragh Concentration Camp.

Several hundred people paraded from Gaigue

Cross to the meeting led by students of the local Technical School where Pádraic Ó Ceallaigh taught.

The students carried plaques reading: "Ballinamuck students demand release of their Headmaster, Pádraic Ó Ceallaigh". "Give us back Mr Kelly". "Release our Headmaster", etc.

John Joe McGill, TD, Tomás Ó hUiginn, Longford and Seán Ó Brádaigh addressed the gathering. JJ McGill said the Free State administration sought to cripple Sinn Féin by jailing the Ard Chomhairle.

"But," he continued," a new Ard Chomhairle has taken its place. The youth of Ireland are flocking to the ranks of Sinn Féin and no threats or intimidation from the politicians will hinder us in our work for the unity and independence of Ireland.

"The attention of the Irish Red Cross Society should be drawn to conditions in the Curragh Concentration Camp where 116 men are housed in two huts, the normal capacity of which is 38 each."

Seán Ó Brádaigh said that the people of Newry had proved that the resistance movement is rooted firmly in the nationalist people of the north, when they defied the British-imposed curfew and proclaimed the right of the Irish people to walk the streets of their own towns if they like.

The "national" newspapers did not tell the people that broken bottles and glass were scattered on the streets to hinder the movement of RUC and British army vehicles. It is our duty, he said, to help the unfortunate people who are suffering the brunt of British occupation.

Tomás Ó hUiginn said that Pádraic Ó Ceallaigh was arrested at a meeting of the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Féin on July 6 and is being held without charge or trial.

Not alone that, but now he has been suspended from his teaching post by the 26-County Minister for Education because "he failed to perform the duties of his office satisfactorily". How could he do so when held in a concentration camp, he added.

A meeting of Roscommon Co Council passed unanimously a resolution asking the Minister for Defence to allow Ruairí Ó Brádaigh TD to consult his legal adviser on his suspension and threatened dismissal from his position as a vocational teacher at Roscommon.

Peter A McGuinness, Co Councillor (C na P) said that Mr Ó Brádaigh had applied to the Camp Commandant to see his solicitor on this matter on August 29 but was told on September 5 that the Minister had refused the legal visit.

Jack McQuillan, TD (Indpt) seconded the motion and said that it was a serious position that a man seeking legal advice with regard to his employment should be refused.

Mallow Town Council unanimously adopted a resolution from Owen Harold (Sinn Féin), "asking the Minister for Local Government to reconsider his attitude regarding the reinstatement of Tomás Mac Curtáin as a rent collector under Cork Corporation, and condemning any action that precludes any person from living and working in his own country".

At the monthly meeting of Kerry Agricultural Committee, Mr E Fuller said that the country was never quieter, and that it was ridiculous to be arresting these young men without cause. He was preparing the adoption of a resolution received from Carlow Agricultural Committee, protesting against the action of the Government in arresting and internment young men without trial.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

An interesting set of figures was put down in an article in An *tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* of October 1957 by a writer entitled "Observer".

He called the 26-County Constitution of 1937 a "mighty fraud". The number of voters on the register that year of 1937 was 1,777,823. The "Sacred Constitution" was accepted by 685,105 or 38.54% of the register.

It was rejected by 526,094 or 29.59% of the register. Spoiled votes amounted to 116,194 or 6.54% of the register. No vote at all was recorded by 450,430 or 24.45% of the register.

These figures mean that an actual majority of the register in the 26 Counties alone failed to support the 1937 Constitution.

Fianna Fáil advocated "Yes" and secured 38.54% of the register. Fine Gael urged "No" and got 29.59%. The Republican Movement said "Spoil", receiving 6.54%. No vote at all was recorded by 25.34%.

The Republican reasoning was as follows; "If we vote Yes we claim all 32 Counties under Articles 2 but confine the laws to 26 Counties under Article 3.

"If we vote No we are seen as supporting the 1922 Free State Constitution which was the alternative. That we cannot do."

Many prominent women and women's groups opposed the new constitution because of its articles on women and women's rights. Republicans would also agree with this.

Other articles allowed for military and other non-jury courts.

Fifty years later these are no Articles 2 and 3 in what is now clearly a 26-County constitution. What was accepted by a minority on the register in 1937 was, according to its advocates: "A new constitution for All-Ireland". What it gave with one hand, it took away with the other.

In the autumn of 1957 detachments of RUC Commandos took over private property in four counties of the occupied area for use as barracks. These included the Archdale Memorial hall in Lisnaskea and an old rectory near Derrygonnelly, both in Co Fermanagh. Other property seized was in West Tyrone and South Armagh, whole the old jail in Derry city was fortified as a stronghold.

Yet the British Army Camp at Magilligan, on the northern tip of Co Derry was attacked on October 24. A blockhouse part of Lough Foyle fortifications was destroyed.

On October 16 and RUC patrol in Co Derry was ambushed but the attack could not be pressed home because a civilian moved into the line of fire.

In South Derry and North Antrim occupation installations were attacked during the same period. A B-Special training hall and a British Army Cadet training hall were destroyed by explosions on October 24 at Kilkeel in South Down.

Also during October Seán Harland, a native of the area, was picked as a candidate to contest the Dublin North Central by-election on behalf of Sinn Féin.

The Republican Organ said that "what Ireland needs today is youth, courage and vision. Seán Harland has all three in abundance."

He was aged 23 and had been severely wounded at Brookeborough, when Seán Sabhat and Fearghal Ó hAnluain were killed in action. In October 1957 he was interned at the Curragh.

Ag tús Mhí Lúnasa bhí Comhdháil bhliantúil an Chomhchaidrimh dá reachtáil sa gCeathrúin Rua i nGaeltacht Chonamara. Eagraíocht a cheangail le chéile na Cumainn Gaelacha as na hIolscóileanna ar fad in Éirinn a bhí ins an gComhchaidrimh.

An cheist a bhí á plé aca i 1957 ná "Ath-Aontú na Tíre". Roghnaíodh Tomás Mac Curtáin leis an "Seasamh Poblachtánach" a chur i láthair na Comhdhála ach ar ndóigh bhí seisean neigbhinn ar Churach Chill Dara.

Cuireadh Seán Ó Brádaigh, mac léinn óg 20 bliain d'aois, ina áit. Ós a choir bhí Earnán de Bhlaghad, sean-fhondúir 68 bliain a bhí gafa leis an nGaeilge i rith a shaoil agus ina Aire i Rialtas an tSaorstáit 1922-32. Chuir seisean an leagan amach mar atá i gComhaontú Stormont i 1998 i láthair.

Fuair an Bhlaghdach go léir spáis sna paipéirí ar fad cé go raibh sé imithe ón bpolaíocht le fada an lá. Cé go raibh ceathrar Teachtaí Dála sna 26 Chontae agus beirt sna Sé Chontae ag Sinn Féin, ní bhfuair an Brádaigh fid i focal amháin ins na meán chumarsáide.

D'fhóillsigh COMHAIR, iris mhíosiúil an Chomhchaidrimh, téacs iomlán Sheáin Uí Brádaigh. Ag tosaigh i Mí Dheire Fómhair, chuir An *tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* é i gcló comh maith i dtír mhíreanna. Á léamh inniu, tá sé fírinneach réadúil agus spréagúil.

(More next month. Refs. An *tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, October and November 1957.)



# Fenian Notes

## From our Washington Correspondent

THERE has been a lot of activity in Washington lately in regard to civil liberties and it has not all been bad for a change. There was concern when the USA Patriot Act was re-authorised.

Many controversial provisions were made permanent. The ACT allowed federal law enforcement to do just about what it wished under the umbrella of fighting terrorism.

We know that the fight against terrorism also meant a fight against Bush opponents. An opponent was considered unpatriotic because only George Bush and his associates know what is good for the USA and what is patriotic.

No one can proclaim what is patriotism because there is no one answer. The greatest patriotism in America traditionally has been the right to question authority. Bush tried to demonise that right.

The Bush Administration has tried to get information on hundreds of thousands of Americans by the process of data mining. That process has been under attack by civil liberties groups and individuals who have a respect for individual freedoms.

The Homeland Security Department had now given up on one of its widest anti-terrorism data-mining tools after investigators found it was tested with information about real people without any regard to privacy safeguards.

The program was known as ADVISE and was started in 2003 in response to 9/11. The abbreviation comes from the Analysis, Dissemination, Visualization, Insight and Semantic Enhancement program.

The program was developed by the department and the Pacific Northwest national laboratories for use by the DHS agency components, including immigration, customs, border protection, biological defence and its intelligence office.

The testing of the system was supposed to use fictitious information, but real information about real people was used and their privacy violated.

DHS says that the program is being entirely dropped, but there are many sceptics that do not believe that all of the program will be dropped but transferred to another agency. The concept to get the desired information will be shifted and will be restarted under a new name. It is hoped that gathering information will be made more difficult and by that give greater protection to innocent Americans.

DHS had considered that ADVISE would resume when privacy concerns are addressed and this could still happen. The history of the Bush Junta has been never to give up any form of spying on Americans.

They will have to be more careful. Do you think DHS or Bush will really totally give up one billion pieces per hour of structured information and one million pieces of unstructured text, such as government intelligence reports.

ADVISE was to identify links between particular pieces of information that might otherwise go unnoticed. The project would display charts showing relationships and links.

What is it that they were trying to link? It was supposed to be all about terrorism, but quickly became about simply spying on America. ADVISE hopefully is dead, but something is expected in another form.

There is too much information that would have been gathered under ADVISE, so we can expect its functions to be hidden in the practices of spy agencies that are not as detectable. Among the information targets of ADVISE given is an indication that already other ways to utilize its ideas are in process.

One of the databases was the no-fly



list of people barred from domestic air travel. This list continues to be used and is not going away. The problem with this list is that most people on it are just average citizens who may have a similar name to a person of interest.

If they were in a central database their lives could be severely disrupted without any benefit to law enforcement. Who knows how the information could have been used?

Terrorist Screening Centre lists people who have attempted to cross the US-Canadian Border at a point of entry. Classified intelligence reports about groups and individuals who have been involved in gunrunning, lists of people who have been thought to have overstayed their visas. They would be lumped with terrorists.

## CONCERN

Although the ADVISE program was of concern to privacy advocates, the data mentioned and more that is similar have been cleared for use in other programs. The concern of advocacy groups is that the ADVISE tool could misidentify or erroneously associate an individual with undesirable activity such as fraud, crime or terrorism.

We can only be cautiously optimistic but must monitor government programs always and not let our guard down when the government says it is going to make a correction.

In another development a federal district judge struck down a key section of the USA Patriot Act that allows the FBI to secretly seize personal records about customers from Internet service providers, phone companies, banks, libraries and other business without a judge's permission.

This is the dreaded National

Security Letters (NSL) which investigators issue at their own discretion as part of an inquiry into suspected spies or terrorists. A company would have to turn over records and the employee target would be banned from telling anyone about the subpoena. The FBI has 90 days to appeal and still carry on the practise while on appeal.

The judge believed the NSL has had an enormous growth spurt and there was reports later confirmed that the FBI were using the NSL to obtain information illegally. They used the letters to obtain information beyond what the law allowed.

This gives too much power to investigators who may use the NSL against individuals or groups they themselves have a bias against or which offends their political sensibilities.

You get the feeling that somehow in this era of fear mongering the FBI and the Bush Administration will get their way. We must support advocates for accountability.

We must consider the fact that the FBI is always looking for ways to pry into the private lives of Americans to obtain information to use against them in the future.

The FBI has cast a wide net in its so-called terrorism investigations than it has previously called link analysis, acknowledged by relying on telecommunication companies to analyse phone calls of the associates of Americans who had come under suspicion, according to newly obtained FBI records.

What this reveals is the FBI used secret demands for records to obtain data not only on individuals it saw as targets but also details on their community of interest – the network of people that the target in turn was in contact with.

The community if interest data sought by the FBI is central to a data-mining technique intelligence officials call link analysis. The community is a word that can be so broad as to include anyone which is the purpose of the consuming interest of the Bureau. Their prime interest is political and personal not pursuing criminals.

After 9/11, American

counterterrorism officials have turned more frequently to the technique of using communications patterns and other data to identify suspects who may not have any other known links to extremists.

AN extremist is a relative term and to the FBI it is redefined on a case-by-case basis. The FBI is itself an extremist group of right wing agents who are especially effective when there is a right-wing fanatic in the White House such as George Bush or Ronald Reagan. They do not follow evidence; they create it to suit their needs.

The communication patterns are references to political concepts that the FBI wants to pursue to please a political client, the prime one being the White House. When the White House wants to demonise they have the FBI pursue tainted evidence to create a bad public image.

The FBI uses data mining to put a blanket pursuit over a group and if any member is a political advocate of opposition policy, they are suspect and they go after suspects and all their associates.

It is easy to remember when the FBI was after Irish activists they alleged they broke the law which they had not, but information was gathered on all members of the group and the idea of intimidation was created to cause members to give up activity or they would be targets of the FBI's investigations.

Community of interest is not narrow enough, it must be a specific designation for pursuit. Last year tens of thousands of records were created under the community of interest theory.

Every Muslim is in that community of interest as were the Irish and to a degree still are because the FBI never lets go and if any opponent of the peace process is in a community of interest. Anyone who speaks that the process is an abomination is a suspect in a community of interest.

Today any Muslim is considered a community of potential terrorists. We Irish must watch their case and avoid Muslims or be swept into its community of interest.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

## Comhbhrón

CONVERVY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and the Convery family, Belfast on the death of her mother Beatrice. From Cathleen Knowles McGuirk. (Omitted inadvertently from last month's SAOIRSE).

MACGOBRAIN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and family of Roibeard Mac Gobrain of Cork who died recently. From the Kevin Coen Cumann, Roscommon, Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chonnacht.

O'CALLAGHAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Mary O'Callaghan, Listowel, Co Kerry and Catherine Heneghan, Mallow, Co Cork on the death of her son John and brother to Catherine. From Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick.

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PARLE, Deepest sympathies are extended to Paddy Parle and family on the recent death of his

uncle Laurence (Larry) Parle, From Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearail, Loch Garman.

## I gCuimhne

DOYLE — 87th Anniversary. In loving memory of Vol Patrick Doyle, 1st Batt, South Roscommon Brigade, IRA. Always remembered by Republican Sinn Féin, Connacht.

DRUMM, 31st Anniversary. In loving memory of Maire Drumm, Belfast, Vice-President, Sinn Féin, murdered in the Mater Hospital, Belfast, October 28, 1976. Always remembered by Republican Sinn Féin, Connacht.

MULRENNAN — 85th Anniversary. In loving memory of Vol Patrick Mulrennan, 1st Batt, South Roscommon Brigade, IRA. Always remembered by Republican Sinn Féin, Connacht.

MACSWINEY — 87th Anniversary. In loving memory of Terence MacSwiney, Sinn Féin Lord Mayor of Cork who died on hunger strike in Brixton prison, October 25, 1920. Always remembered by Republican Sinn Féin, Connacht.

O'CONNOR — 72nd Anniversary. In loving memory of Father Dominic O'Connor, OFM Cap, Cork. Fr Dominic was the ministering priest to Terence MacSwiney in his last hours in Brixton prison. Always remembered by Republican Sinn Féin, Connacht.

O'HALLORAN — In proud memory of John O'Halloran, Limerick who died on October 21, 2005. Always remembered by the Republican Movement, Limerick.

O'HALLORAN — In memory of John O'Halloran, Limerick who died on October 21, 2005. Never forgotten by John and Christy Dunne, Limerick.

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## Buíochas

CONVERVY, The Convery and Taylor families, Belfast would like to thank all those who sympathised with them in their recent loss. Those who called to the house, sent wreaths and Mass cards and attended the funeral of Beatrice. Their sympathy and support was very much appreciated.

## Beannachtaí

BIRTHDAY greetings to PJ Kelly, Portlaoise prison POW. From Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearail, Loch Garman.

BIRTHDAY greetings to Jock McMahon, Portlaoise prison POW. From Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearail, Loch Garman.

BIRTHDAY greetings to my godfather Jock Mc Mahon. From Micheal Óg Ó Fiach.

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to Teresa and Dan Hoban, Newport, Co Mayo on the Golden Jubilee of their wedding. From Comhairle Chéige Chonnacht, Republican Sinn Féin.

CONGRATULATIONS to Cormac and Danielle and all the McElhinney family on the birth of their daughter Aoibhe. From the North-west Comhairle Ceantair, Republican Sinn Féin, Bundoran/Ballyshannon, RSF and Letterkenny Republican Sinn Féin.

CONGRATULATIONS to Cormac and Danielle and all the McElhinney family on the birth of their daughter Aoibhe. From Joe and Mary O'Neill, Bundoran.

CONGRATULATIONS to Cormac and Danielle and all the McElhinney family on the birth of their daughter Aoibhe. From Pat Barry, Bundoran.

CONGRATULATIONS to Cormac and Danielle and all the McElhinney family on the birth of their daughter Aoibhe. From Dean Gallagher.

CONGRATULATIONS to Cormac and Danielle and all the McElhinney family on the birth of their daughter Aoibhe. From Paul and Benny.

CONGRATULATIONS to Cormac and Danielle and all the McElhinney family on the birth of their daughter Aoibhe. From Brendan Casey, Ballyshannon.

CONGRATULATIONS to Cormac and Danielle and all the McElhinney family on the birth of their daughter Aoibhe. From Richard Walsh, Derry.

CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Barry, Bundoran on his 50th birthday. From all his comrades in Donegal.

CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Barry, Bundoran on his 50th birthday. From Joe and Mary, Bundoran.

CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Barry, Bundoran on his 50th birthday. From Brendan Casey, Ballyshannon.

CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Barry, Bundoran on his 50th birthday. From Dean Gallagher.

CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Barry, Bundoran on his 50th birthday. From Paul, Benny and Cormac.

CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Barry, Bundoran on his 50th birthday. From Richard Walsh, Derry.

## Provos march on towards the rearguard ...

**I**BELIEVE the Provos when they say they didn't do the Northern Bank job. (I can now reveal it was planned by Bertie Ahern and carried out by Peter Robinson and the DUP executive.)

Even though the Mahon Tribunal is far from over it is obvious that north of the border people have been learning from it. The DUP have begun bunging jobs the way of their old buddies in the party.

The Giants Causeway project may be an example of what Gerry Adams means when he talks about uniting the island. I don't think uniting the country in corruption is what 3,500 people died for.

Meanwhile it emerged this week (*Irish Independent*) that Gerry and Martin were not the first to 'open up contacts with British Intelligence' (ie Mountain Climber ... see papers 2010 under 30-year

rule). Their forbear in treachery Michael Collins did exactly the same. While ordering young men to their deaths (and to kill others) he was secretly negotiating his own survival.

Nothing much changes. As we write with embarrassment the Provos (or what little is left of them) march on ever further toward the rearguard. As they compete with each other in a

bid to make ever more grovelling statements we watch on in horror. Their collapse as a party south of the border has led the SDLP and Fianna Fáil alliance to re-emerge after years of underground activity.

**I**T is reported that Queen's University Belfast is a happy recruiting ground for Fianna Fáil. Maybe it is the case that if the Mahon Tribunal goes wrong the entire Fianna

Fáil party is going to go 'on the run' up north.

If that happened then they will have to feed and clothe themselves. Which brings me back to that mysterious Christmas present the Northern Bank made to 'the men from god knows where.' Rustle papers uncomfortably if you want, Bertie and Peter, but the truth is now in the public domain.

I know some of my readers may think I have lost the plot. I hear you asking do I really believe Bertie Ahern and Peter Robinson robbed the Northern Bank.

Well I'll put it this way to you, after recent events do you really believe the Provos are smart enough to have done it? Enough said!

— Mac Cool

## SIPTU hypocrisy

**SIPTU, Ireland's biggest trade union has decided to replace their full-time cleaning staff at its head quarters in Liberty Hall, Dublin with contract workers. SIPTU will not have to pay for the worker's pensions or health care.**

Neither the union nor the contract cleaning company, ISS Cleaning Services, would reveal what the hourly rate of pay its workers would earn. However, most employees of contract cleaners earn little

more than the minimum wage of 8.65 per hour.

Republican Sinn Féin Vice President Des Dalton. Who is also a member of SIPTU condemned the move. "At a time when worker's rights, pay

and conditions have never been more under threat, SIPTU's decision to use a contract cleaning company is a disgraceful and shameful act. Instead of championing and defending the rights of all workers, the vision of the union's founders Connolly and Larkin, SIPTU by their action are undermining those hard fought for rights."

Independent Worker's Union leader Ray O'Reilly described SIPTU's move as "Hypocrisy of the highest order - they will not have pay these people a pension, health benefits or give them a full time job. SIPTU



• Statue of James Connolly pictured opposite Liberty Hall, the SIPTU HQ in Dublin.

seems to have forgotten they are a trade union not a blue-chip multi-national."

## REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN CO DONEGAL

Special Appeal for Funds - to pay off our loan of €4,000

The committee and trustees of the Republican Garden in Bundoran, Co Donegal are pleased to announce that plans are being drawn up for the next stage of development at the garden.

It is proposed that six commemorative plaques will be erected in the coming year. To date, the garden has had visitors from all over Ireland, America, Europe and beyond, and the response has been positive.

In the weeks running up to Easter, the gates and railings, seats and flagpoles were all painted. New flags were erected and additional flowers and shrubs were added. This in keeping with the continued development and is only fitting considering the Republicans who are remembered there.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way small or big and ask anyone who wishes to make further donations to forward them to any committee member, head office or Joe O'Neill directly.

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



## Centra picket over pay row

**A MEMBER of the Ray McCreesh Republican Sinn Féin Cumann, North County Dublin who was employed in the Centra supermarket in Main Street, Swords was refused pay for three weeks. Under pressure to pay his rent he requested his wages that he had worked for. The management refused to pay him.**

North County Dublin RSF took the decision, following a Cumann meeting, to place a picket on the shop. Over 30 people assembled in support of the striking worker. Placards were made at short notice, with the slogans: "Boycott Centra" and "Don't shop at Centra".

Hundreds of potential shoppers refused to pass the picket which lasted over an hour-and-a-half. Through the actions of the picketers the management sought a meeting with the striking RSF member. A member of the public who

was supporting the protest stood as a witness for the striking worker while meeting with the management.

A settlement was reached and the worker received part of his wages, with the promise of the rest to come in the next few days. If these are not paid, a further picket will be placed on the shop.

The day after the picket, members of the public who supported the worker were refused entry to the shop.



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