

republican news



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THE ENGLISH



UNDERTAKER

WE CAN ALL FEEL THE PAIN

The hypocrisy of the UUUC members, who have called for the 'Incitement to Hatred Act' to be evoked against Republican speakers at the Bloody Sunday Commemoration, seems to know no bounds.

The fact that numerous Loyalists, including prominent UUUC speakers, have been guilty of most nauseating speeches - directed against the Nationalist community - seems to have escaped Messrs. Baird, Paisley, McKeague and Co.

Most of the Loyalist "anger" following last Sunday's commemoration was directed at Mrs. Maura Drumm, vice-president of Sinn Féin. The British press, true to character, chose to misrepresent Mrs. Drumm's speech for the sake of sensationalism. The Sinn Féin Vice-President spoke at length, not about the SAS but about the sacrifice of the Derry 14 and their fellow countryman, Frank Stagg, who is on the verge of death in an English prison.

Mrs. Drumm made a brief reference to the earlier commemoration sponsored by NICRA-Republican Clubs-CPI when she said:

"A speaker at the earlier commemoration ceremony claimed that the men who died on Bloody Sunday had been marching for Civil Rights and not Civil war. But the first, and most precious civil right which any human being should strive for is the right to decide one's own destiny. The Irish people are denied this right through the dictates of the British Government and its army. I believe, and I am sure that the people present will agree, that the Irishmen slaughtered by British murderers in Derry died for their country before all. I see many of the relatives of those murdered men before me, they marched at the head of this solemn parade, I know that their hearts are still sore today, four years later."

Mrs. Drumm then went on to appeal for support for Frank Stagg and his comrades in British and Irish jails.

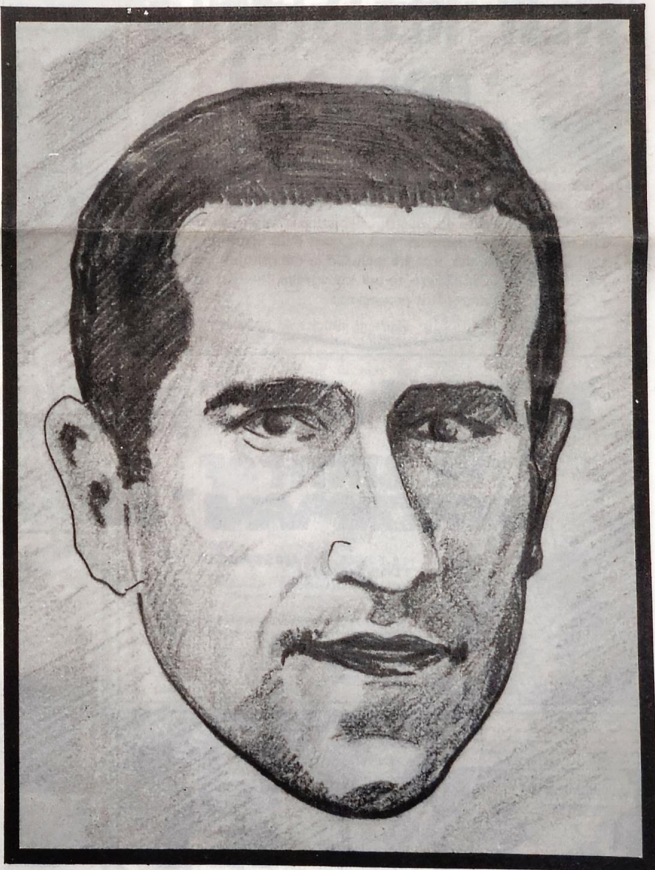
"Civil Rights have yet to be achieved for the men and women who are suffering in British and Irish jails today. Frank Stagg is dying in a jail in England, all that he asks for is to be treated as a human being - Roy Jenkins and his fellow criminals are unwilling to grant even this basic request. Many of you in this gathering have relatives and friends in jails and concentration camps, I have a young daughter myself languishing in a British prison. We can all feel the pain which the families of Frank Stagg is suffering, we can all share in their anguish."

Mrs. Drumm then made a brief reference to the SAS assassination squads in South Armagh, this is the segment of her speech which was blown out of proportion by the British and Free State press.

"Frank Stagg has told his sister that he intends to come home to Ireland, either dead or alive, we all hope that humanity will prevail and that he will be repatriated before it is too late. But if the British Government refuse to his simple request, if they let Frank Stagg die, I am convinced that the fighting men of Crossmaglen will avenge his death by sending the SAS back to England in coffins."

The crowd, estimated by impartial observers as 8,000 strong as against the British "estimate" of 2000, cheered rapturously at this stage.

Among those present at the commemoration was Mr. Ruairi O'Bradaigh, the President of Sinn Féin. Coaches brought hundreds of people from throughout the 32 Counties to Derry for the now annual Commemoration.



"Frank Stagg has told his sister
that he intends to come to
Ireland, dead or alive"

GERRY MEALEY WAS SET-UP BY BRITISH AGENT LENNON

The revelations disclosed in the new book about Kenneth Lennon, the Special Branch spy murdered after he had outlived his usefulness, by the Special Branch, has much more significance today in the light of the complexity of Lennon in the Case of Gerry Mealey, just recently finished a fifty day Hunger Strike alongside his comrade Frank Stagg.

The facts are very simple Mealey was "set-up" by the Branch through Lennon, he never committed any crime, but was alleged to have been "about to commit a robbery." Mealey was not charged under any legislation pertaining to that "alleged attempted robbery" but was charged with Conspiracy, under an act which dates

back to the Magna Carta and which is completely out of date, except when it suits the Brits.

The other factor in the Mealey case is the complexity of Scotland Yard with the Courts, in arranging that Lennon should be "freed" because the Yard still needed him to go about his counter espionage affairs. The fact that Gerry Mealey received a vicious sentence of ten years for "conspiring" was completely overlooked by the British media during his hunger strike. The allegations, in the new boom which incidentally is written by a Barrister, also makes the credibility of the British Press deserving of the gravest doubt. They were prepared to accept the Propaganda

issued by the Branch without question or query, just as long as it was Anti-Irish propaganda. The whitewash TACTICS EMPLOYED BY Widgery after Bloody Sunday were again employed by the British Police to cover up their own misdeed and their subsequent assassination of Kenneth Lennon. The book, Reluctant Judas, brings into the open many unanswered queries about the Home Affairs Minister in London, the Special Branch, the Scotland Yard hierarchy, the British Press and the under cover tactics of the British war machine in the war against the IRA but then all of us could stand aside now and say, "well that is nothing new to us, we have been reading about that sort

of thing since the inception of the six counties" - but the fact remains, this book written by a member of the British Bar of Justice, leaves a lot of questions which must be answered, in the face of Britains claim to have abolished all of this type of small duggery, and it must be brought to the attention of the Human Rights Commission. Kenny Lennon was undoubtedly a spy planted by the Special Branch to try to usurp the IRA but that is not being questioned what must be questioned now is why is Gerry Mealey doing ten years in an English Prison when he never committed any crime, and why is "holier than thou" Jenkins Home Affairs minister?



Every day of Frank Stagg's period in prison, prior to his hunger-strike, was spent either huddled in a crouching position in one corner or walking around the small cell in an effort to keep warm. Books and news papers were forbidden following his refusal to wear prison garb or work in the prison factory. One half hour period was allowed each day for exercise in the prison yard.

The thirty minutes included the time taken to walk from the cell to the yard. Four screws would accompany Frank during this brief break in the psychological torture.

NEW RESISTANCE COMIC

A new publication, RESISTANCE COMICS, dropped through our letter-box this week. It was sent by a reader in England who, unfortunately, didn't give his/her address. The comic carries professionally drawn strips depicting resistance in Ireland. The famous 'Arm Alight Bar' in the Lower Falls and the exploits of 'Bertie the Brit' are included in the contents. RESISTANCE COMICS are, to our knowledge, the first attempt of this kind to counter Brit propaganda.

OPPOSE REES' PLAN TO ABOLISH POLITICAL STATUS' RESIST BRITISH AGGRESSION'



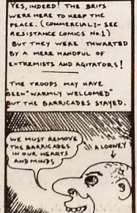
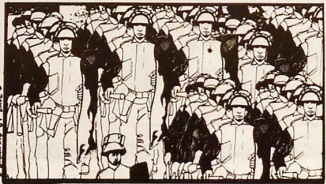
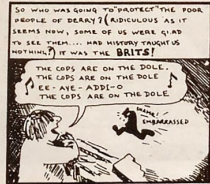
BERTY THE BRIT

"THE BIRTH OF MOTORMAN"



YES, FOLKS. IT'S NOSTALGIA TIME AGAIN!

1941 - AND EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT REVOLUTION AND THE WORKERS' REPUBLIC AND SINGING "STEADY ON YOUR RUN WITH THE PETROL BOMB" "DON'T THROW IT, SON, 'TIL THE FEELERS COME" "YOU ARE A BOSSIDE MAN" AND THE PEOPLE OF BERRY BATE THE FEELERS AND SPECIALS TO A STANDSTILL. . . .



Two faces of British army repression. On the left an Irish worker is arrested on his way home and 'screened' by Brit thugs. Below another Irishman is harassed by Brits as he goes about his days work.



BRITAIN'S LIES EXPOSED IN AMERICA

The US Defence Department has denied a British government claim that 75 per cent of the arms and money sent to Northern Ireland come from the United States. Such claims were recently made by Prime Minister Harold Wilson, Stanley Orme and other British politicians.

The United States denial was contained in a Defence Department letter sent to the National Council of Irish Americans in Buffalo, New York. The letter is dated January 16, 1976, and signed

by Harry E. Bergold Jr., Mr. Bergold, Assistant Secretary of Defence, denied that US intelligence services had ever made such a claim and denied the existence of "any US Military Intelligence Report on this subject."

Mr. Bergold emphatically denied the accuracy of a New York Times article which referred to the alleged US Intelligence Report.

A spokesman for the National Council of Irish Americans in Buffalo, New York, issued this statement:

"The British government has, once again, been caught fabricating the news.

We are glad to note our government's denial of this story. This is just one more example of Britain's policy of fictionalising the news. British efforts to blame Irish Americans for Britain's Viet Nam in Ulster, have failed. When Prime Minister Harold Wilson has to go so far as to fake "news" reports, we know how bankrupt British policy is in Northern Ireland."



Map on the Knuckles for Anti-Republican Priest

Two weeks ago Msgr. Reilly, the spiritual Dir. with the AOH in America, called for all relief funds to Ireland, from the USA, to be channeled through Cardinal Conway. A reply was quickly forthcoming from Fred. O'Brien, Chairman of the Mass. State Board AOH. We reprint both the newspaper article and the reply.

Northern Ireland

AOH Chaplain Asks Money Be Sent Through Primate

PHILADELPHIA (NC) — The spiritual director of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), Msgr. Thomas J. Reilly, has suggested that persons wishing to send financial contributions to victims of the fighting in Northern Ireland do so through the Primate of All Ireland.

Msgr. Reilly, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish, said in an interview that the AOH in the past has avoided the possibility that contributions might end up financing arms smuggling by sending contributions directly to William Cardinal Conway of Armagh.

The suggestion followed recent indictments against five local Americans of Irish descent for conspiracy to smuggle rifles and ammunition to the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA).

A federal grand jury in Philadelphia also charged the five with acting as IRA agents, and four of the five with sending weapons without a license or State Department permit.

Indicted were Neil Byrne, Warrington; Daniel Caballero, Newtown Square; David Duffy, Drexel Hill; Vincent Conlon and Thomas Regan, both former Philadelphia residents now believed to be in Ireland.

Caballero is also chairman of the Delaware County chapter of the Irish Northern Aid Committee, a group which has benefited local parishes to raise money for the needy in Ireland. He arrested those suspicion on whether or not the Irish Northern Aid Committee was raising money to supply arms for the IRA.

"The Northern Aid group took up a collection in front of our church about a year and a half ago," Msgr. Reilly said, "but before we allowed it they had to give us a statement saying the money would be used for strictly humanitarian purposes, to aid the needy victims of the war."

Msgr. Reilly said — and his words were echoed by AOH president Joseph

Montgomery — that the AOH does not condone the smuggling of arms into Ireland.

"That's a federal offense," Msgr. Reilly noted, "and the AOH couldn't condone anything which was against the law."

Montgomery said the Philadelphia chapter of the AOH has not sent any money to Ireland for two years. He added, however, that the small district groups which make up the Philadelphia chapter do sponsor individual families in Ireland.

"These are families of men who are political prisoners, though, for the most part," Montgomery said.

Cardinal Conway's address is Archbishop's House, Ave. Cool, Armagh, Northern Ireland.

The 'Boston Pilot' Fri. Jan. 23rd. '76.

SINN FEIN PICKET JENKIN'S HOME



Prosecution of Irish political prisoners by English PO's is rampant, the case involving 14 prison screws who are at present suspended pending a police inquiry into their activities is already well known. All Irish PO's are regarded as targets for abuse and maltreatment by both PO's and other racist prisoners. One Irish POW in Parkhurst had to be rescued from a beating by two English trade-unionists who are in the same wing. Prison Officials stood by laughing while the attack took place.

London Provisional Sinn Féin held their annual Bloody Sunday Commemoration on Sunday and despite the cold weather large crowds of Republicans came from all over England in sacred remembrance of those innocent people who were murdered in cold blood in the streets of Derry by the English Paratroopers for whom seemingly life has very little if any value, otherwise why deliberately open fire on innocent, unarmed people, who were marching peacefully seeking only what is their God-given gifts - civil rights.

The crowd gathered at Speakers Corner Marble Arch where various members spoke vehemently, and true about England's justice, then began the long march to Jenkins house in Ladybrake Square. Proudly we marched behind the Tricolour, the flag's of our four provinces and our particular Sinn Féin banners, but our hearts were full of sadness as naturally our thoughts were centered on our fellow Republican Frank Stagg.

The intention of the marchers was to march to the home of Roy Jenkins and there to hold a public meeting. However near Ladybrake Square the Police stopped the march and informed the stewards that Mr. Jenkins would not allow a meeting to take place outside his home. Jenkins was obviously having his/ afternoon nap and did not want to be disturbed or reminded that his paid agents were slowly torturing Frank Stagg to a lonely death on hunger strike in Wakefield jail. Mr. Jenkins would, we were told, allow 20 members of the marchers to quietly picket his house. The stewards informed the Police that a public meeting would be held where the march had stopped and that a picket would be placed on the home of Roy Jenkins at 8pm that evening (Sunday) and not by 20 but by as many as wished to attend. The meeting was then addressed by Mr. Derick Highstead, Maureen McGuire, Michael

(continued on page 8)

Dear Msgr. Grant

I write this letter in reply to Msgr. Reilly's article about funds being sent to Northern Ireland in care of Cardinal Conway. Msgr. Reilly is cast in the role of "Spiritual Director of The Ancient Order of Hibernians." In the A.O.H. there is no such title for Msgr. Reilly or anyone else. In fact Msgr. Reilly is not listed in any capacity on the National Board. Our National Chaplain is the Rev. Terrence Lee, M.H.M., of Sunset Hills, Missouri. His deputy is Rev. Sean McManus of Boston.

Msgr. Reilly states the AOH in the past has sent money to Cardinal Conway to assure it would not be used to buy arms. In view of Cardinal Conway's policy of "Detente with the British," his demonstrated lack of concern for the oppressed people of Northern Ireland, and his reluctance to visit the British concentration camps in Northern Ireland, and expose the tortures and inhuman living conditions therein. The AOH National Board will no longer contribute monies or clothing in his care. At our National Con-

vention in Anaheim, California this past summer it was unanimously agreed to send all monies to "The Prisoners' Dependents fund" which is a legitimate humanitarian organisation whose books are open to both the Northern and Southern governments in Ireland. In the Republic of Ireland the fund is known as Cumann Cabhrach (Society of the Helpful). In the north it is known as the Green Cross. They Operate much the same way as our Red Cross in aiding the literally destitute families of Ireland's thousands of political prisoners - almost all of which are Catholic. Last summer's decision to send money to this fund was reaffirmed on January 15, 1976 by The National Board, AOH, at a meeting held in the 7th Regiment Armory in New York city.

An apology to The Ancient order of Hibernians in America is most certainly due. Sincerely,

Fred A. O'Brien,

Co. Chairman.

Freedom for all Ireland comm. Mass. State Board, AOH.

SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN

The Officers and members of the Carthy/Crowley/Loughran Sinn Féin Cumann, Dungannon, deeply regret the death (by accident) of Raymond and Rosaleen, beloved children of Brian and Marie Donnelly.

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

SIX LECTURERS AND 60 STUDENTS CALL ON JENKINS TO INTERVENE

The Prisoners Aid Committee in London stated that responsibility rested fully with the British by their refusal to transfer Mr. Stagg and the other hunger, Gerry Mealey, to the North. "We call on the British Government to transfer both prisoners immediately to save their lives."

Six lecturers and 60 students at UCD have called on Mr. Jenkins to intervene in the case of the two Irish hunger strikers.

A statement from the group said it had been suggested in an open letter from four priests to the UN office in Geneva that the hunger strike would end if assurances were given that the

men would not again be placed in solitary confinement.

A statement from the Irish Republican Information Service claimed last week that the two hunger strikers were "on the precipice of death."

The statement said Mr. Stagg's main condition for discontinuing his protest was an undertaking that he would not be returned to solitary confinement ever again. He requested a similar guarantee that he would not be forced to do prison work "as befits his political status."

A statement from the Dublin branch of the Association for Legal Justice said it was the clear duty of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to see that Frank Stagg did not continue to suffer "inhuman and

degrading treatment at the hands of the British Government and the prison authorities."

"Even at this late hour we call upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs to accept his responsibilities and to act on behalf of this helpless Irish prisoner."

A procession of fears was held in five western towns in a demonstration of support for Mr. Stagg, organised by the east and west Mayo Comhairle Ceannair of Sinn Féin.

The procession travelled through Balla, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Claremorris and Hollymount, where leaders of the cavalcade called at the home of the hunger striker's parents.

Ireland jail, on humanitarian grounds.

A group of Dubliners, the Beattie family and friends of Mount Prospect Drive, Clontarf, sent telegrams to the British Home Secretary and the President of the European Commission, M. Ortol, asking them to intercede on humanitarian grounds.

Miss Philomena Beattie said that the telegrams represented the views of over 100 people in their district.

Mr. Redmond O'Sullivan seconded by Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald at Kerry County Council, proposed a resolution to be sent to the British Ambassador, asking that the demands of the Wakefield hunger strikers be met by the British Government.

Thirty-five professors and lecturers at University College Galway, have added their voices to the call for action by the British authorities to save the lives of Stagg and Mealey.

In London, a group of British trade unionists joined an executive meeting of the Irish Republican Party in appealing to TUC general secretary, Len Murray, to intercede on behalf of the hunger strikers.

Roscommon Co. Council agreed to send a telegram to the Taoiseach, asking him to intervene. Galway Co. Council adopted a proposal to send a telegram to the British Prime Minister, asking that Stagg be transferred from Wakefield Prison to a Northern

QUB NOTES NATIONALIST STUDENTS MUST FIGHT. . . .

On Wednesday, January 21 at a meeting in Queens, the University Labour Club gave its unanimous backing to Frank Stagg and Gerry Mealey, at present on hunger-strike in England. They decided to send a telegram to the Home Secretary calling for the immediate repatriation of all political prisoners and to write a letter to the Press voicing this demand.

We have noticed that leaflets have been pinned up on notice boards in the Union Building informing students of the plight of these two men.

Unfortunately we believe that the Labour Club which acts as an umbrella organisation for the majority of Left Wing groups in Queens's could do more. We believe that they should be active in informing other students of the plight of fellow Irishmen in English jails, and calling for an amnesty for all political prisoners in Ireland and England. Most socialist students involved in University politics believe that this demand is just and fair, and that it is one of the conditions which must be fulfilled before perman-

ent peace can be achieved in Ireland. However, we have noticed the fact that the Communist Party of Ireland (CPI) and the NLF domination of student affairs has prevented this issue coming to the fore.

It is therefore the duty of all Nationalist students to fight for the rights of the men behind the wire. They should be active both on the campus and off, calling for freedom to all political prisoners; and they should not forget that they have an important role to play in bringing the revolution in Ireland to a successful conclusion.

It is also worthwhile saying that Republican News now has an underground circulation in Queens's of over 50 copies per week, which shows us that not all students opinion is controlled by the revisionist Republicans in the NLF or their allies in the CPI.

We have learnt that the Union of Students in Ireland have also sent telegrams to a number of British Ministers regarding the plight of the hunger-strikers.

WORKERS AND SMALL FARMERS SUFFER

THE BUDGET introduced in Leinster House last week will depress everybody's standard of living and worsen the unemployment situation.

Those who will suffer most of all are the workers and small farmers. This is not surprising from a Cabinet which, before it took office, pledged a small group of bankers, financiers and stockbrokers that there would not be even a mild reform of the system that had given 71 per cent. of the wealth to five per cent. of the people.

These statistics are still unchallenged and the guarantees given to the bankers and reported in "Hibernia" on March 30, 1973, have gone uncontradicted.

Those who have been most let down are the people who voted for the Labour Party. All the promises of a more equitable distribution of wealth have been broken, such improvements as there have been in social welfare have barely kept up with the falling value of money. And the dole is no substitute for secure, well-paid employment.

The tax impositions on motorists have been particularly savage. But this is understandable from government ministers who have chauffeur driven Mercedes cars at their disposal for both ministerial and private use. There is no hairshirt there when Sean Citizen pays the bills.

Mr. Cooney and Mr. Donegan will between them spend £156 million this year on what they call "security". Why has Mr. Ryan not sought a refund from the English Exchequer for the vast sums spent in protecting English interests in the six counties, because that is what the "security" effort is all about? He could have got his £107 million there and need not have imposed any new taxation.

The simple answer is that none of the Leinster House politicians has the guts to stand up to the English bullies. The Icelanders put them to shame.

To crown it all, we have had a reliable report that what is called a "friendly settlement" of the Strasbourg human rights cases is being arranged with London in return for English support in getting Garret Fitzgeralds made President of the EEC Commission.

University College Add Their Voice



Visits involving Irish political prisoners take place in a closed room with the prison Governor and a screw sitting at either side of the table. Both prisoner and visitor are instructed that if any contact is made, or whispered conversation attempted, the visit will be immediately cancelled. An attempt to embrace a wife, child or parent can be punished by 56 days solitary confinement.

NEW IRELAND ENTERPRISES DRAW

Pictured below, at the draw for the National ballot: New Ireland Enterprises, are (L-R) Joe O'Neill (Bundoran) Mrs. Patricia Davidson (Belfast Sinn Féin) Pat Ward, (manager, New Ireland Enterprises) and the well known figure of Charlie McGlade (Ard Comhairle, Dublin)



WINNERS WERE:

Jim McCabe, Belfast. (289) £100 First prize.
Tom Rodgers, Carrigart, (14845) £50 Second prize.
H. Gallagher, Creeslough, (14711) £25 Third prize.
Eugene McDonnell, (9000) £25 Fourth Prize

Who killed the Reluctant Judas?



A new book, covering the rise and fall of British agent Kenneth Littlejohn, has been released this week. The following review is from an English daily, the EVENING POST: a paper with circulation in the Hereford area. We reproduce it without comment.

KENNETH LENNON, petty criminal, police spy and loving husband was executed in a Surrey ditch on Good Friday morning, 1974.

His death at the hands of "a person or persons unknown" was presumed by the national Press to be the work of an IRA execution squad seeking revenge for the four Lutron Republicans he had helped, put behind bars.

But unknown to his controllers, the 30-year-old informer from Newry left behind him a bombshell document that turned a penetrating spotlight on the activity of Britain's secret police, the Special Branch.

Within days of its release by the National Council for Civil Liberties Home Secretary Roy Jenkins ordered Deputy Commissioner James Starritt to report on the actions of police officers concerned with the case of Kenneth Lennon.

It was the first and only occasion on which the Special Branch had been forced to answer publicly allegations of misconduct.

Armed with this report, the NCCL document, transcripts of trials and conversations with Lennon's family, contacts and friends, barrister Geoff Robertson has put together a remarkable book.

In "Reluctant Judas", published today (Temple Smith), Mr Robertson tries to discover why Kenneth Lennon, "time and again for no significant financial incentive turned traitor on his closest friends."

His search leads him to a searing indictment on the way in which Britain's Special Branch police operate.

Kenneth Lennon spent the first 18 years of his life in Newry, a Republican stronghold near the border with Southern Ireland. His mother died when he was four and he was brought up by his elder sister, Bernadette. Lennon was later to claim that the close bond which grew between them to be used by the Special Branch to force him to inform on his Republican friends.

In 1964 he moved to Luton. There he met and married Rosaleen Farrell and two years later their daughter, Sheila, was born. He became a shop steward at

Chrysler's Daimler truck factory and was known on the fringes of left wing groups in Luton. The family moved to a flat in Francis Street and Lennon became the collector for the Foresters Arms football tote. It was a pub that was to bring him into contact with Republicans and members of Luton Sinn Fein.

The results of those contacts were soon to become the focus of national interest. Three members of Luton Sinn Fein were sent to prison for ten years for conspiring to rob in the Blatchley area. They were arrested waiting for Kenneth Lennon to join them, but by this time Lennon was a police spy. According to him the Special Branch blackmailed him with his criminal past. He was afraid his sister Bernadette, who had become involved in the Irish Civil Rights movement, faced possible internment. According to the police Lennon contacted them offering information.

Following the conviction of the Lutron Three Lennon turned his attention to 18-year-old electrician and Republican Patrick O'Brien. At the time Lennon was being paid £5 a week retainer by the Special Branch. Lennon and O'Brien were arrested outside Winslow Green Prison in Birmingham and charged with conspiring to "spring" one of the three. Lennon was acquitted but O'Brien received a three-year sentence which was later quashed, on appeal.

Immediately after his acquittal Lennon arrived in London to be met by his Special Branch controller. His new instructions were to return to Luton and continue his work. But during those three months in custody before the trial began Lennon's attitude had changed. Riddled with guilt he approached the NCCL only two days after the trial and made a full confession of his police activity.

As he left the NCCL offices he told its senior legal adviser he was afraid that if the IRA did not kill him the Special Branch would, making it look like an IRA execution. Two days later his bullet-ridden body was discovered in a Surrey ditch.

Those are the bare bones which form the background to author Robertson's investigation into the role of Britain's secret police.

"In those months before his death Lennon was a pawn in a Special Branch game, ignorant of the moves that might be made in the course of play. He had no liberty and he was given no choice," claims Robertson.

During the trial of the Lutron Three, says Robertson, the police with-held from the Director of Public Prosecutions and prosecuting counsel the identity of their informer, Lennon.

"The significance of this decision and others is that they were all made by the Special Branch, apparently without informing the DPP or prosecuting counsel, let alone the Home Secretary or the Attorney General," he says.

"In 1969 the Home Secretary issued instructions to the police forbidding the use of informers who actively engage in planning and committing the crime."

"According to those instructions the prime consideration was that the court must not be misled by the necessity to protect the informer. Police should not grant immunity to an informer in respect of other crimes he has committed and the DPP and prosecuting counsel should always be told of the informer's faults. These instructions are contained in a Home Office circular that does not have the force of law. In its use of Kenneth Lennon, the Special Branch was a law unto itself."

As a barrister specialising in the conspiracy law, Robertson's concern

throughout his book is the role of the police informer and the point at which that informer begins to act as an agent provocateur.

Two weeks before the trial of the Lutron Three took place the police issued a licence to Patrick O'Brien to carry a gun. That gun was later to turn up in O'Brien's car parked outside Winslow Green Prison. Lennon was in the passenger seat.

By this time the police must have known O'Brien's involvement with the Lutron Three, says Robertson.

"The issue of the Firearms Certificate is powerful evidence that the police were prepared to use Lennon (with the help of his unwitting side kick) as an agent provocateur."

The book spares no detail in assembling a catalogue of police "misconduct" throughout their involvement with Lennon, but the most scathing remarks are reserved for the police's own internal report which followed Lennon's confession to the NCCL.

The report was prepared by Deputy Commissioner Starritt in eight days. It completely absolves the police officers concerned in the Lennon affair.

"What was required was a searching examination into the truth of the matter, and a consideration of whether, or in what circumstances, consideration of the national interest could justify any illegal, unethical or unusual practices that might come to light," says Robertson.

What was presented to the Home Secretary, however, was a report that had "the tone of a public relations exercise."

Turning to the Special Branch's dealings with the Government, Robertson

maintains that neither the Home Secretary, Attorney General nor any other responsible minister, was informed of the use of the security service had made of Lennon over the previous months.

"The Special Branch had absolved him of all responsibility of serious crimes he had confessed to committing," says Robertson.

"They had permitted the police to arm a fanatical youth and had encouraged elaborate security precautions against jail break plots they knew were being fomented by their own agents. They allowed the Press to publish false information that may have had the effect of prejudicing a trial and endangering life."

"They withheld evidence from lawyers at two major criminal trials. They used the procedures of the criminal law to bolster the cover of their informant; but when the plan misfired and he was exposed they failed to protect him. Although all the evidence indicates that Lennon lost his life because of his service to the State, they failed to take care of his family."

"All these decisions were taken by middle-ranking officials whose interpretation of the dictates of 'national security' is never in fact questioned by Ministers of State, by the Press or by the courts of law. The Lennon affair ultimately poses the question of who is to take care of the security service while the security service is busy taking care."

Cost of British presence continues to rise

During the past year there have been ample indications that Britain is accelerating her plan for total withdrawal from the six counties. Despite the continuous barrage of carefully phrased hand-line utterances from the politicians, in the best Neo-Colonial tradition Britain is systematically plundering anything of value by way of industrial plant machinery etc. and carefully shipping it home to the mainland.

While refusing to share their plans for Northern Ireland with the people whom it most concerns (the Irish people), they have apparently alerted NATO and the US

of their imminent departure. Both these bodies have now dismantled part of their Radio and Telecommunications network and indications are that within a year they will have removed all their installations from the North.

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The British Press, apparently on Government instructions, has now undertaken, the education of the Tax-payers as to the full cost of her involvement in Northern Ireland over the past six years.

We reproduce here a table of figures published by the Sunday Mail 11.1.76.

This is what it has cost the British Exchequer in the six counties since 1969. Separate figures quoted for the 'mainland':

The cost of six year of war: £2,014,000,000.
Maintenance of British Forces here £129,000,000 (£45,000,000 for 1975 alone).

Property compensation
£129,000,000.
Injured persons [already paid] £17,000,000.
Injured persons [pending] £60,000,000.

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Frank Stagg, despite British propaganda released through their NI Office, did not demand an immediate transfer to Long Kesh, Stagg only asked for an open and written statement from Roy Jenkins that he would be guaranteed humane treatment while in prison. Frank Stagg would be quite willing to say with stay with his comrades in English jails until such time as they were all repatriated. Jenkins, in typical arrogant fashion, refused even to guarantee Stagg humane treatment while a prisoner.



Following Frank Stagg's refusal to wear prison garb or engage in punitive work he was placed in solitary. Like most Irish prisoners of war in English jails Stagg has spent the greater part of his imprisonment alone in a damp, dingy cell. Until his recent move, to the hospital wing of the prison, Frank Stagg was allowed no contact or communication with other prisoners. Even the PO's (Screws) were instructed to avoid sensory deprivation and is used by the Russian KGB and the Secret Police in the Chilean junta.

Mac GIOLLA FAVOURABLY REGARDED BY BRIT PROPAGANISTS

by Sean Mc Neill



When Tomas MacGiolla addresses the Sticke Ard Fheis it is, one might say, a case of the blind misleading the blind. Nothing unusual in that. What is unusual, however, is that the BBC should behave as it did last month and choose to regard his clinche-ridden outpourings as the number one international news story of the day.

MAC GIOLLA
DIATRIBE

Some have thought that the explanation is simply that Mac Giolla anti-Republican diatribe was virtually indistinguishable from the propaganda line and that the BBC big-wigs decided, on that basis alone, to promote it as a major story. This is hardly plausible. The BBC, on its own, would hardly make such a grotesque editorial decision if only to protect its reputation for professional competence.

FORMER BRIT

Journalistically, there was no way the decision to inflate MacGiolla's ranting could possibly have been justified. There has to be another explanation - especially when we consider that the "story" was carried prominently not just in the "Home" news bulletins but in overseas broadcasts as well.

Consider the following: the man who makes the on-the-spot decisions about which stories BBC Television News should cover, and how much prominence to give each, is TV News Editor Derrick Amore. It was he who decided that the great British public should be treated to the sight of Mac Giolla delivering his anti-Republican polemic. Mr. Amore is a former British soldier. And not just an ordinary soldier. Amore spent three years as an "intelligence officer" attached to the 'sas murder gang.

(Incidentally, Amore's boss, the Head of Administration at BBC News is Peter Bond, a Major in Territorial Army intelligence; his Deputy Alan Protheroe, is a Captain in the same regiment, other strange bed-fellows for Mac Giolla).

CONFIDENTIAL
BRIEFINGS

On a more general level, the BBC's news coverage, both radio and television, both home and abroad, was among subjects discussed recently at a series of "confidential briefings" held over lunch at fashionable Soho restaurant, L'Escargot, between top Foreign Office officials and BBC editors and producers. The BBC's "duty" to give real, but unobtrusive, support to British policy especially in "sensitive" areas of which Ireland is of course one - was stressed.

SIMILARITY

One follow-up from this new and even closer relationship between the Foreign Office and the BBC was the memo - already mentioned in Republican News - from the Central Office of Information to the Director of the BBC's External Broadcasting Department. This drew the attention of the Newsmen to the similarity between the Sticke attitude

to the Republican Movement and the attitude of Britain itself. It suggested that in some circles in the United States for example a denunciation of Irish Republicans might be more effective if made by someone who described himself as a Republican - rather than the regular and large?y disregarded outbursts by Brit or Free State Cabinet Ministers.

In the light of this specific suggestion, the decision to "puff" the MacGiolla speech internationally, and to use it as first item on North American wave-lengths, is easily understandable.

We are willing to admit that all this may do MacGiolla something of an injustice. That is not to say that we have many good words to say about him. Indeed we well recognise that he is a political nincompoop... leading a withered organisation with a disgusting past and no future. But we believe, naively perhaps, that he might not be happy to be regarded as such a useful comrade by SAS thugs, British Intelligence Officers and Foreign Office propagandists. If we are right in that generous belief, we now publicly invite him to repudiate the support he has received from this Imperialist fifth - or to explain honestly why he will not.

BOOKS APPEAL

The Education Officer, Republican POW's Long Kesh, has once again appealed for books. Following the fire, which destroyed the camp, the entire library was burned. All types of Republican, Irish language, and political revolutionary books will be welcome. They should be sent to: Director.

Republican Press Centre,
170 a Falls Road.

THE BBC'S DUTY IS
TO GIVE SUPPORT
TO BRITISH POLICY
IN SENSITIVE AREAS:
""LIKE IRELAND

In the event of his having any shred of political conscience left MacGiolla might like to ponder why his political of the Republican Movement is so favourably regarded by a specimen like Derrick Amore.

BELGIUM SUPPORT FOR STAGG

BRUSSELS 28th JANUARY A leaflet, on the Stagg-Mealey Hunger Strike, was widely distributed in Belgium to Irish and British Embassies, business establishments, clubs, etc. All foreign Embassies in Brussels also received a copy. Other copies went to Human Rights Groups, Lawyers, Trade Unions, Politicians, Universities and the Press. Copies were likewise circulated in Denmark, France, Holland, Italy and Britain. In Belgium, numerous telephone calls went to British Embassy and telegrams were sent to the British Home Office from many quarters including the I.A.D.L. (International Association of Democratic Lawyers) Collectif des Avocats, Human Rights and Oxfam - Belgian Section, Amnesty and Law Students in many Universities, etc. As a result, the entire question of Irish Political prisoners and their treatment in British prisons is under scrutiny.

The holding of an emergency Law Conference on the 30th January in Brussels gives an idea of the shock and alarm felt in Europe about the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill 1974. The draconian nature of

this impending Bill allied to the already existing repressive laws in both North and South of Ireland prompted the I.A.D.L. and Collectif des Avocats to act quickly in holding an emergency conference, in co-operation with the A.L.J. of Ireland. Mr. Anthony Walsh and Mr. Michael Connolly B.L. (who incidentally is Frank Stagg's lawyer) will speak at this conference which will be attended by lawyers from Belgium and other EEC countries. Observers are expected from Amnesty International, Human Rights League, Trade Unions and University Law faculties.

On the morning of the conference, there will be a Press Conference in the International Press Centre of the EEC. The Press Conference will be addressed by Messrs. Walsh, Connolly and their Belgian hosts. (Mr. Frank Maguire M.P. and a member of the Stagg family may also attend but this is not definite at time of writing). While the News and Law Conference are intended to cover "The Jurisdiction Bill" the Stagg and Mealey Hunger Strike will also be aired.

HAS NO ONE THE COURAGE

A Chara,

Almost eight weeks have passed and still it continues - a man - well, a skelton of a former man - continues his protest lying in a prison bed in a foreign country, his blood dripping away, his flesh dropping away, and still no man of stature can end his suffering, by calling a halt to this institutionalised torture, and grant the few small demands. Promissas Stagg; 11 months in solitary confinement; now 52 days on hunger strike (his fourth) and virtually on his last breath; habitually tortured mentally and physically by convicts and screws in his place of imprisonment; and yet he still refuses to bend the knee. Why does this man

continue? Why will he not wear the garb of a convict-rapist or thief? Why does he refuse to wield the pickshaft or sow the mailbags and take up the identity of a common criminal? One has only to listen to the words of Thomas Clarke, who endured 15 long and lonely years in English gaols to understand why Stagg, Mealey and many others doggedly refuse to accept the status of criminal: "England might force me to associate with the dregs raked in from the gutters, humiliation might be heaped on to me with an unsparring hand, but never for one moment did I forget I was an Irish Political Prisoner. In fact I took great satisfaction in the knowledge that great

England could not force me to regard myself as one of the criminal class." Mr. Roy Jenkins could never understand this. It is beyond the comprehension of a number of the Brit establishment, blinded with hatred for the Irish race, to recognise and grant the rights of solitary Irishmen in an English gaol. Must Frank Stagg join Michael Gaughan and Terence Mac Swiney in the long sad history of Ireland as testimony once again of gross English inhumanity to Irishmen and Irishwomen? Must the British upper lip stay cast in its defiant position? Has no-one the courage to end the suffering and agony of Frank Stagg?

Is Mise,
PRO. Cooper Cage.

SINN FEIN SCARE OFF 'NATIONAL FRONT' THUGS

A Chara,

On Sunday afternoon 25th January Sinn Fein members from Luton, Birmingham, Nottingham and Manchester held a picket demonstration outside Wakefield Prison in support of Hunger Strikers Frank Stagg and Gerry Mealey. The previous day about 12 National Front members congregated outside the prison calling for the bodies of the two men. Needless to say none of these brave thugs were to be seen the next day during the Sinn Fein demo.

The demonstrators braved freezing conditions and snow showers for three hours and also continual harassment from the Screws. At one stage one of the demonstrators was knocked over by a car driven by a Screw, which incidentally was unseen by the numerous cops on duty outside the prison.

In London Sinn Fein members are nightly picketing the mansion of Roy Jenkins in Ladbroke Grove.

Is mise,
Brian Gay, Assistant PRO
Luton Sinn Fein.

GERMAN SOLIDARITY

Comrades,
we wish to inform you that the Internees Release Association (West Germany) send several protest telegrams to Mr. Wilson in London about the brutal conditions in English jails. The telegrams also voted for the

transfer of Francis Stagg to Northern Ireland. We also sent a protest list in this case to Mr. Wilson, signed by several hundred German people.

Fraternally yours,
Hans and the others..

We will continue our Solidarity for Francis Stagg.

Another Scurrilous attack on Freedom Fighters

A Chara,

Once again we have witnessed another scurrilous attack on the brave freedom fighters of our land. The N.I. Office used Wednesday's Irish News for a full page spread in a fruitless effort to set back the campaign. The British War Machine has spoken again but as usual no-one

the N.I. Office cannot seem to realise how the youth of Ireland want to see their land free and to build a society where peace with justice can prevail. N.I. Office says the youth is being manipulated by 'greedy men'. But what about his army? The soldier shot an January 17th was only 19 years old. Many of his com-



IRA FREEDOM FIGHTERS

listens. It is now obvious that Rees knows he's a loser and that he and his Government is on the verge of sinking into the quagmire, because in the paper, the word "Why" appears in block print. Everyone knows why. How else can the British war dogs be expelled from our isle? How else can freedom be achieved? In one hopeless last ditch attempt to smash the resolution of our young volunteers.

rades are also teenagers. Rees uses English teenagers to do his dirty work, so that he doesn't have to work, he can live fat, have money and drive new cars. The arch-hypocrite speaks again.

As long as the British remain, the youth shall continue their just struggle against the decadent forces of British Imperialism.

Is Mise Le Meas,
Hector and Micky.

Views expressed here, by letter writers, by regular columnists and in other signed contributions, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the publishers.

letters

NEW LODGE POW'S CALL FOR SUPPORT

Henry Grattan, who spoke for you, was called a liar and a hypocrite. Emmet, who died for you, was called an imbecile and a traitor. The Young Irishlanders and the Fenians, who fought in your name, were called cut-throats and assassins. The men of 1916, who began with those immortal words, 'Irishmen and Irishwomen,' were called rabble and today, their grandsons and grand-daughters are called criminals, murderers and thieves.

You, who have endured, and won over, the thuggery and murder committed by the

pick of Britain's N.A.T.O. forces, her Commandos, her Paratroopers, her Marines and her S.A.S., with their 'loyalist' allies, will, after March, according to Mr. Rees, put on the garb of a convict. He intends to clothe you in a suit of centuries of lies and against you.

You, who made the hills and mountainsides of Ireland fertile: you who worked hard, proudly and independently, without the stolen wealth of an Empire; you, who sent more missionaries abroad per population than the greatest of nations to feed the hungry and

nurse the sick, are to stand idly by and allow the British to bear false witness against you and export her slander to every corner of the globe.

Britain may have a billion words to try to murder your character. You can give her the coup de grace with one word - the truth.

Support the Provisionals in their fight to keep Political Status.

Support them now. They in turn, will fight with every fibre of their being to defend your birthright - your freedom.

Is mise le meas,
A. O. C. O'Connell PRO, New Lodge Road area, POW's.

MEAN THIEF

One of the mini-buses, used by the Republican Press Centre to ferry relatives of Republican POW's to Magilligan Camp was stolen from outside Kinnane's garage last Sunday night.

The bus was later found in the Ballymurphy area by local people. Anyone with information as to the identity of the criminals responsible should contact any member of the Republican Movement.

The Second Battalion, Belfast Brigade will have something to say to the mean thief when he is apprehended.



Frank Stagg's bedding and mattress were taken from his cell at 7.30 am each morning. This was part of the punishment for refusing to work in the prison factory along with the criminals. His night light was replaced with a bright white light which hurt the eyes after several hours and made any kind of sleep impossible. A woolen prison blanket was given to Stagg to keep him warm during this period.

THE ONLY REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION IN IRELAND

A Chara,

I would appreciate it if, you would print the following parable which I came across the other day. I feel that it adequately explains why a war is being waged.



"There was once a factory which employed thousands of people. Its production line was a miracle of modern engineering, turning out thousands of machines every day. The factory had a high accident rate. The complicated machinery of the production line took little account of human error, or ignorance. Day after day, men came out of the factory with squashed fingers, cuts, bruises. Sometimes, a man would lose an arm or leg. Occasionally, someone was electrocuted or crushed to death.

Enlightened people began to see that something needed to be done. First on the scene were the Churches.



An enterprising clergyman organised a small first-aid tent outside the factory gate. Soon, with the backing of the Council of Churches, it grew into a properly built clinic, able to give first-aid to quite serious cases, and to treat minor injuries. The town council

became interested, together with local bodies like the Chamber of Trade and the Rotary Club. The clinic grew into a small hospital with modern equipment, an operating theatre, and a full-time staff. Several lives were saved. Finally, the factory management, seeing the good that was being done and wishing to prove itself enlightened, gave the hospital its official backing, with unrestricted access to the factory, a small annual grant, and an ambulance to speed serious cases from workshops to hospital wards.

But, year by year, as production increased, the accident rate continued to rise

More and more men were hurt and maimed. And, in spite of everything the hospital could do, more and more people died from the injuries they received.

Only then did the people begin to ask if it was enough to treat peoples' injuries, while leaving untouched the machinery that caused them."

After 1969 the people of the Six Counties felt likewise and the Provisionals were born. They remain today as they were then; the only revolutionary organisation in Ireland.

Is mise le meas,
PRO Fennell, McDonnell
Cumann Provisional Sinn Fein, Twinbrook.

National front thugs attack solidarity rally in London

by Peter Dowling

Between two and three thousand demonstrators braved the snow swept streets of London last Sunday afternoon in order to demand the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. The demonstration organised by the Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee was originally planned to finish up with a Troops Out Movement Rally at the Hammersmith Palais. However, having received some friendly 'advice' from the Home Office, Mecca had cancelled the TOM booking. An open air rally was held instead in Notting Hill.

On the way the demonstration passed Roy Jenkins' house. Absolute silence was observed in order to register contempt for this man's inhumane treatment of Irish republican prisoners and to express solidarity with Frank Stagg.



OVER ENTHUSIASTIC GOONS

At the start of the demonstration it had been attacked by a 50 strong band of Union Jack waving fascists from the National Front. Despite some initial hesitation a squad of London bobbies assisted in quelling this display of over enthusiasm. After all, the British state does not yet need the fascist goon squads to suppress home based opposition to its rule in the North of Ireland. The Prevention of Terrorism Act and other civilised democratic methods are preferred. The situation in Ireland itself is different. Here the British army need the loyalist paramilitary thugs and assassins to assist them in disciplining the nationalist population.

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As Gerry Lawless put it, on behalf of the Troops Out Movement, "This attack by the National Front is the latest example of how reactionaries in Britain have always understood the central importance of the relationship between the struggle in Ireland and the struggle in Britain. The trag-

edy is that the British left have never been able to achieve the same level of understanding. However, we can use this demonstration as an effective start to our campaign in 1976. A campaign which will allow the Irish people the right to self-determination."

MURDER PLOT HATCHED IN WHITEHALL

The rally was also addressed by prominent members of the London Labour movement. These included Mike Knowles secretary of Hackney Trades Council and Freddie Silberman of St. Pancras North Labour Party. The main guest speaker from Ireland was Bernadette McAliskey. She reminded the rally of what

The T.O.M. has issued the following statement to the British labour movement:-

"A change in British policy towards Ireland is long overdue. The Constitutional Convention has submitted its report and now the British Government is faced with handing over power to a Paisley/West dominated Stormont, or continuing with Direct Rule. Either way means prolonging the violence and bloodshed

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The Government must break with the traditional approach of Britain towards Ireland. There can be no more British made 'solutions'; the Irish people as a whole must decide their own future.

But such a change will only come when the Labour Movement begins to recognise this, formulates a policy, and having done so, makes its voice heard. It is essential that the British labour movement begins to realise the true relationship of the Irish question to Britain, because if they do not the co-existence of right wing and Army generals certainly do.

With this in mind, the Troops Out Movement is organising a Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland in May 1976. The purpose of the Delegation will be to establish the facts about what is happening in Ireland by discussion with representatives of the Labour Movement in Ireland, both in Dublin and Belfast; thereby enabling the Labour Movement in Britain to arrive at an informed and progressive policy which will assist the Irish people to establish their right to national self-determination.

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T.O.M. WILL BE ORGANISING A LABOUR MOVEMENT DELEGATION TO IRELAND IN MAY '76.

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LABOUR MOVEMENT DELEGATION TO VISIT IRELAND.

The Troops Out Movement took the opportunity provided by the rally to publicly announce its next major activity: the organisation of a British Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland in May. Already the delegation is backed by six Westminster Labour MP's and three Trades Councils. From the South, Matt Merrigan of the A.T. & G.W.U. is amongst others in sponsoring the delegation

The Delegation will meet representatives from Trades Council, Trade Unions and Shop Stewards Committees, sections of the main political parties, Civil Rights organisations, radical lawyers groups, and tenants and community organisations, and will be open to all those Labour Movement bodies who agree with the right of the Irish people as a whole to self-determination."

BOGUS LETTERS

Paranoid letters appearing in the columns of the 'Irish News' are believed to come from within Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn.

It is common knowledge that former Brit propaganda chief at the Barracks, Warren Sillitoe, had a team of three who indulated the letters pages of the Irish press. Sillitoe, and his aide Ronnie Sampson, were the men responsible for the 'Jim Bryson' plastic surgery story which sent gases of laughter resounding around Republican circles in Belfast. On that occasion Sampson distributed photographs of both the late Jim Bryson and Billy 'Blue' Kelly, alleging that the Kelly picture was the 'new Bryson'. The 'Irish News' has continued to print the bogus letters despite overwhelming evidence that they are faked.



Frank Stagg was forced into four separate hunger strikes during his terms of imprisonment in Long Larkin Jail, Parkhurst Prison and Wakefield. He is now in the hospital wing at Wakefield where, five weeks ago, he was force-fed by two "Doctors," Knox and Xavier. Westminster M.P. Mr. Frank Maguire, reported that Frank Stagg still bore bruises and scratches on his wrist a week after being forcibly fed by the two doctors. Following the mammoth hungerstrike by the two Price girls Roy Jenkins told pressmen that no-one would ever be forcibly fed in a British prison again - he was deliberately lying.

THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND WILL NOT LIE DOWN

SAYS GEORGE STAGG

(continued from page 3)

McGuire, George Stagg (brother) and Mrs. Brid Donoghue (sister).

Referring to the attitude of the authorities today in handling the march, Derick said that while Stagg was prepared to fight the establishment from a death bed in Wakefield jail we would have to be prepared to fight it on the streets of London if need be.

Later Derick Hightead claimed the meeting reminded those present that Michael Gaughan would have been released from prison if not murdered.

He then asked the people to show their contempt in the forces of law present and for Cooney and co., in the South by donating to a collection, the outcome of which was £150 donated in 5 minutes.

George Stagg in his address to the people said:

"We come here today for a very solemn reason to express horror and revulsion at the murder of 13 innocent people 4 years ago committed by the British Army in Derry.

"Wouldn't it be a shame if the Rt. Hon. Mr. Jenkins were to be aroused from his afternoon nap only to be reminded of the slow murderous torture being carried out by his agents on Frank Stagg at H.M. Prison Wakefield.

I seen Frank this morning he cannot lift his head to drink, he's drinking from a baby's bottle. He is in

death agony and yet his jailers continue to leave what they describe as a full meal I would describe it as foul smelling shit.

"Ia sure Mr. Jenkins is proud to go on radio and TV and challenge a dying man.

"Give up or Die" Is this the policy of the British Government. When a man's own kick is in the teeth. Well I can tell Mr. Jenkins and his puppets in Dublin that the Nationalist people of Ireland are not down, they will not be kicked. One group of people which I have a special mention for - they are the gentlemen of the SDLP, who made back door approaches to my family, through priest re Frank conditions and demands.

"We know the SDLP's only interest is - to gain Political advantage. Remember the same SDLP who took Britains 30 pieces of silver in the power-sharing assembly, sold Nationalist people down the river while sitting in their velvet chairs with Brian Faulkner, the money burnt a hole in their pockets now they are trying to crawl back on the body of my brother. I warn, Mr. Fitt, Don't play gutter politics with Frank Stagg.

"When I visited Frank to day, he asked me to thank all the people here today who have supported and campaigned for him in his present fight.

"His words are: 'The Fight must go on.'

★ ★ Green Cross ★ ★