

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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SYMBOL OF BRIT RULE

THE MARCHING ORANGEMEN

WE ARE now well into the traditional Orange marching season; a period during which the (supposedly 'neutral') state forces of the Brits and RUC combine OPENLY with the marching Orangemen to stamp the message of the Protestant ascendancy across the length and breadth of the Six Counties.

In a few days time on July 12th more than 1,500 Orange Lodges will bring out onto the streets more than 100,000 'loyal' people. They march in their best suits, many wearing bowler hats, symbolic of a privileged people.

The drum is the dominant instrument; and although none of the songs are actually sung on the marches, the message comes through clearly in the tunes which are played: "Croppies Lie Down" and "No Surrender".

As is very familiar to the bulk of our readers each lodge is preceded by a band thumping out the (loyalist) ascendancy songs.

The beleaguered people of the Nationalist ghettos of Belfast, Derry and numerous towns throughout the north-east can expect the usual invasion of Brits (and RUC). In the "fringe" areas (like Short Strand, New Lodge and Ardoyne) the people will awaken early on in the morning of 12th July to the ominous sounds of armoured cars, prowling jeeps and arrogant Brit accents.

The Nationalist people will be hemmed in on all sides (literally by giant hessian screens) by a British military presence strangling the areas almost to the point of suffocation. "Unofficial" area curfews will be imposed.

And all of this we are told is for our benefit, to stop the Loyalists from attacking (stoning) our areas. More to the point is that it provides an excellent opportunity for a huge display of British military aggression directed against the Nationalist people; and it provides an assurance to the Loyalists that all roads are open to them on their "Glorious Twelfth".

The central political role the Orange Order plays in the maintaining of British occupation of the north-east should not be under-estimated. (A sharp criticism of this institution which is an essential instrument of British colonial rule, should not be lightly brushed away as manifesting "Catholic sectarianism").

The Orange Order is neither primarily a religious nor a cultural institution, but provides an instrument of political domination; it provides a mechanism through which the Loyalists can be fed (relative) privileges by their British masters.

ORANGE ORDER

A brief look at the history of the Orange Order is instructive. The Order was formed in 1795 as a militant organisation dedicated to preserving Protestant supremacy and it immediately began driving Catholics out of north Armagh and south Tyrone. The Orangemen were loyal to the (British puppet) Dublin government and were quickly recruited into the yeomanry — a part-time force officered by the landlords.

When the 1798 Rising came more Ulster Protestants served the English king than fought against him in the United Irishmen.

In more recent times the Orange Lodges have been used as the nucleus (organising centre) from which the UVF of 1913 and the UDA and UVF of today were recruited. During the actual establishment of the "Northern Ireland" statelet the specials were recruited in Orange halls; and in 1933 the Order was prominent in smashing the temporary fragile unity of the Belfast workers which led to joint (Nationalist-Loyalist) rioting against unemployment.



JAMES MOLYNEUX— THE BRIT MEDIA PROJECTS HIM AS A 'LIBERAL' AND YET HE IS ADORNED BY THE TITLE OF "SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER OF THE IMPERIAL GRAND BLACK CHAMBER OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH."

The effective "loyalty" of the Order to the Brits has given it a very special place and great influence in the political machinery of the Six Counties; to the extent that even today it provides an integral part of the state machine.

However in the face of international opinion hostile to (Loyalist) apartheid, and given the need to dress-up the Orange statelet in "democratic" clothing what has arisen is a subtle more private discrimination (behind closed doors) rather than the blatant public discrimination of ten years ago. But the dominant practices and results remain the same. The Brit maintenance of partition ensures this is so.

POMPOUS SECTARIANISM

To this day Unionist politicians (nearly to a man) are members of the Orange Order. Official Unionist leader at Westminster is James Molyneux — the Brit media projects him as a "liberal" and yet he subscribes to a pompous sectarianism even more extreme than your ordinary Orangeman. Foe Molyneux is adorned by the imposing title of "Sovereign Grand Master of the Imperial

REPUBLICAN NEWS ON HOLIDAY

NEXT WEEK THERE WILL BE NO ISSUE OF 'REPUBLICAN NEWS' PRODUCED AS OUR PRINTERS ARE ON HOLIDAY.

THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE DATED SATURDAY 22nd JULY.

Grand Black Chamber of the British Commonwealth."

These days Westminster might place some Catholic Unionist puppet in charge of housing or some social service department but even then the sectarian power of orangism will eventually win out.

We can see this in housing (the 50% cut back in the Pegglass scheme) and employment (the continual siting of firms in Loyalist areas).

Orangism acts as a reactionary ideology firmly binding together the mass of the Loyalist people to the business men and aristocrats who grow fat on the people's backs.

The ruling (Protestant) elite have always maintained their grip through the patronage and privileges that they are able to dispense.

Yet the past decade of successes of the liberation struggle (especially the smashing of Stormont) have forced contradictions to appear openly inside the Loyalist camp. The Orange monolith has cracked; and continued Republican resistance has given rise to such loyalist ventures as the proposals for Six County "independence".

In the event of such a development the Orange Order would become the backbone of this sectarian statelet and would continue to provide the manpower to defend the loyalist ascendancy.

For us to attempt to reach an accommodation with the Loyalists inside the confines of partition would be a disastrous error; far from undercutting sectarianism it would re-inforce and strengthen it, through being seen as a Republican surrender.

In reality to forge lasting unity and end the fostered division of the Irish people we need to dig out the root of sectarianism.

This root is the Protestant

(Continued on page 5)



West Tyrone IRA claim

IN A SUPPLIED STATEMENT THE WEST TYRONE BRIGADE OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY HAVE CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SHOOTING DEAD OF AN RUCR CONSTABLE OUTSIDE CASTLEDERG BARRACKS ON TUESDAY 4th JULY. THE SUPPLIED STATEMENT EMPHASISED THE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECTARIAN RUC WHICH FORMS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BRITISH WAR-MACHINE'

CASEMENT PARK H-BLOCK PROTEST

LAST SUNDAY afternoon, the Belfast Comhairle Ceanntair of Sinn Fein organised a very successful meeting to protest against the withdrawal of political status and the brutality inflicted on the protesting Republican prisoners.

Several thousand demonstrators formed up at several points along the Falls Road, and then proceeded to converge on Casement Park, where Down were playing Derry in the Ulster G.A.A. Semi-finals. The protesters arrived at Casement and, after a short delay they filed into the park. Members of Sinn Fein appealed through loud-hailers to the football audience to stay behind and listen to the speakers.

Many hundreds of spectators did stay behind as did both the football teams, Derry and Down.

Opening the meeting the Chairman stated that the struggle for an independent united Ireland had been going on ever since the British occupied Ireland and that the ill-treatment of prisoners by British gaolers is nothing new. "History books are filled with horrific accounts of Republican prisoners being brutalised".



Tony O'Malley Daley, Sinn Fein Councillor in Donegal addresses crowd. Alongside him is Mr. McKee of Twinbrook stands clad in a blanket symbolising the H-Block protest.

The Chairman then went on to introduce the first speaker, Anthony O'Malley Daley, a local Sinn Fein Councillor in County Donegal, he said: "The British government are engaged in a war of attrition against the Irish people in the occupied six counties. This policy is personified by the brutalising of political prisoners in the H Blocks, Crumlin and Armagh. These men are fighting an enemy which has refined its brutal methods in many other countries over many centuries of colonial domination, but in few countries around the world have the British pursued a policy of such systematic brutality as they

have over the years here in Ireland".

He then went on to talk about a letter he had just read which was written by Tom Williams before he was hanged in 1942. The last few sentences of the letter were in the form of an appeal to the mass of the Irish people: "to carry on the fight no matter what the odds" "even though the walk to freedom is pathed with suffering and torture....."

The next speaker was Madge McConville, whose son Gerry is on the blanket protest for almost sixteen months. In a moving speech she recalled the visit she had the day previous with her son:

"My son was taken from me when he was sixteen years old, he is now eighteen. During the last two years I have watched as my son has become an old man in every way except his mind. He has been tortured and starved during this time but has remained steadfast.

"Yesterday, when I went to visit him, I went through the usual procedure, and when I was sitting down awaiting my visit a screw came and told me I was in the wrong place, he said that Gerry was in the prison hospital. I was taken to the hospital to see him.

"I found him lying in bed, his hair was matted with dried blood. I asked him what happened to him. He told me that for breakfast

on Thursday morning he got a cup of black tea and four rounds of dry bread. He threw the tea out because there was salt in it. He was then dragged from the cell blocks and put on the boards for this.



Madge McConville addressing the crowd in Casement Park.

"When he was alone in the cell six screws came in and attacked him. They beat him so badly that his head was opened from the back to the front. Then fearing for his life the screws said they would take him to Lagan Valley Hospital. But Gerry refused to go unless they put his own clothes on. The screws told him he would bleed to death. Gerry said he would never wear the criminal uniform even to save his life".

"And you know what Mammy", he said to me. "I wore my own clothes to the hospital".

"Well", I said to Gerry, "you've beaten Roy Mason".

At this remark the crowd clapped loudly in appreciation of the victory the prisoner had over the British war-machine. Mrs. McConville ended her speech by

appealing to the crowd to help in every way they can to retain political status.

The next speaker, Charlie McGlade, from Belfast, spoke of the reason why the British government are brutalising prisoners in this manner: "They need to establish that we are only criminals so that they can justify their presence here to the rest of the world.

They have lied about the situation here. They tell everyone that they are keeping the peace between warring factions but the truth is known and the heroic resistance inside the prisons has been a major factor in showing up the British for what they are; let us speed the day when these freedom fighters are given their rightful status and the British leave us in peace".

The next speaker was Niall Fagan, Ard Comhairle Sinn Fein. He informed the crowd about the reality of living under the 26-County regime. "Don't be under any illusions about the government of the 26 counties. It is capable of inflicting as much torture as the British and has done so. The task that lies before us is enormous, the protesting prisoners are to the fore in this battle, we must strive to mobilise the mass of Irish people in their defence".

Ending the meeting, Mr. McGee, from Twinbrook, who regularly heads H Block marches covered in a blanket, read the following message from the Republican prisoners in Crumlin Road Gaol: The Republican political prisoners in Crumlin Road Gaol send greetings of solidarity to the militant people of the working-class nationalist ghetto areas of Belfast who today continue to sustain their in-

spiring struggle on behalf of the political prisoners in H Block Long Kesh, B Wing Crumlin Road Gaol and Armagh Gaol. While Mason promises the political hacks of establishment British politics that there will be no compromise over political status you the revolutionary Republican people of occupied Ireland are once again illustrating your determination to smash the remnants of the British war machine in Ireland.

You will not be joined today by the grovelling, cringing politicians of the SDLP or the sticks who are more concerned with lapping the political crumbs from the table of British imperialism than with the plight of political prisoners. How loud have their voices been raised against the systemised brutality of Irish political prisoners exposed by the Amnesty International Report, the system of internment-by-remand at Crumlin Road and Long Kesh, and the unquestioning acceptance of fabricated statements extracted by torture techniques by the non-jury diplock courts? The reality is that these nationalist Judas' are part of the British war machine in Ireland and as such accept and support willingly the repression of that war machine including its present policy against political prisoners.

The responsibility on the anti-imperialist movement with the Republican Movement as it vanguard is now enormous; but the Republican political prisoners remain confident that the risen people of the working-class nationalist ghettos will carry forward the liberation struggle to a successful conclusion and will destroy the British war-machine in Ireland".



Section of the crowd marching up the Falls towards Casement Park.



Protestors pouring into Casement Park.



A section of the crowd on the Falls Road.

SCREWS ATTACK BLANKET MEN

BEING ATTACKED FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN PROTESTING FOR POW STATUS HAS BECOME A DAILY OCCURRENCE IN THE H BLOCKS OF LONG KESH.

THREE YOUNG BELFAST REPUBLICANS INCARCERATED IN H4 WERE SAVAGELY ATTACKED LAST WEEK (ON THURSDAY 29th JUNE). THE 'REASON' ON THIS OCCASION WAS BECAUSE THE PRISONERS REFUSED TO DRINK BLACK TEA WITH SALT IN IT.

THE PRISONERS ARE BENNY LYNCH (18 YEARS OLD), PAT McCOTTER (20 YEARS OLD) AND GERRY McCONVILLE (18 YEARS OLD). THE LATTER PRISONER WAS TREATED IN AN OUTSIDE HOSPITAL FOR A BADLY SPLIT HEAD AND A SUSPECTED BROKEN JAW.

WE PRINT BELOW THREE STATEMENTS WHICH ARE INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS OF BRUTAL ATTACKS BY NAMED SCREWS ON NAKED AND DEFENCELESS PRISONERS — THE BLANKET MEN OF THE H BLOCKS. THE ATTACKS TOOK PLACE SOME WEEKS AGO BUT DUE TO THE NEED TO GET CONFIRMATION OF THE ATTACKS WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO PRINT THE DETAILS NOW.

THESE STATEMENTS ARE ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG OF THE SCREW BRUTALITY AGAINST REPUBLICAN PRISONERS; THE BRUTALITY IS PARTICULARLY DIRECTED AGAINST THE YOUNGER (UNDER 21) PRISONERS IN ORDER TO BREAK THEM.

WE PRINT BELOW A STATEMENT FROM ONE SUCH YOUNG MAN, 18 YEAR OLD PADDY WILSON OF ANDERSONSTOWN, WHO RECEIVED 23 CUTS AND BRUISES AT THE HANDS OF THE SCREWS. THE PRISONER DOUBLED-UP IN THE SAME CELL, CHRIS McKNIGHT FROM DERRY, RECEIVED A SEVERE BEATING AT THE SAME TIME AS PADDY WILSON. (CHRIS McKNIGHT'S INJURIES WERE SUCH THAT HE NEEDED A TETANUS INJECTION WHILST IN THE PRISON HOSPITAL).

AS OUR OTHER STATEMENT FROM ANOTHER ANDERSONSTOWN MAN, SEAMUS KEARNEY, SHOWS, THE SCREWS WILL USE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK REPUBLICAN PRISONERS. ON THIS OCCASION THE PRISONERS WERE BEING REMOVED FROM ONE BLOCK TO ANOTHER, AND KEARNEY WAS ISOLATED.

THIS ATTACK WAS WITNESSED BY TWO OTHER PRISONERS, ONE UNNAMED (WHOSE STATEMENT WE ALSO PRINT BELOW) AND PAT McMAHON. BOTH THESE MEN WERE VICIOUSLY ATTACKED BY THE SCREWS.

ALL THREE WERE THEN SENTENCED TO THREE DAYS IN THE PUNISHMENT CELLS ON NUMBER ONE DIET AND 28 DAYS LOSS OF REMISSION. WHEN PAT McMAHON WAS BROUGHT BACK TO THE H BLOCKS FROM THE PUNISHMENT BLOCK HE WAS IMMEDIATELY BEATEN UP AND TAKEN BACK TO THE P BLOCK. FOLLOWING THE SECOND ATTACK HE NEEDED 9 STITCHES IN HIS LIP.

SUCH BRUTALITY IS THE TRUE MEANING OF BRITISH JUSTICE TODAY AND DAILY FOR THE HEROIC BLANKET MEN INCARCERATED IN THE H BLOCKS OF LONG KESH.

"Doused with disinfectant"

LAST WEEK we carried a statement from the PRO of H 4 Long Kesh. The following statement is a follow-up on the developments within this new block, and outlines in detail the recent attacks on the Republican prisoners being held there.

"Today, 18.6.78 in 'B' Wing H 4, harassment was stepped up by the screws. (There are only 6 Republican PoW's in this wing). After the screws had doused the cells with strong disinfectant two young lads were physically sick. The lads found it almost impossible to breathe. The stench of the cell and then the amonia disinfectant was so overpowering that they became violently sick. Both later described it as "like being put into a box after a cannister of C.S. Gas went off". When they pressed the emergency bell to see a medical officer, the screws ignored them. Being denied medical attention and seeing his mate in an almost unconscious state the other prisoner broke the cell window to get some fresh air. There was no other step to take. As soon as the window was broken, the screws came to the cell with the intention of giving the lads the customary beating, but upon seeing how sick one of the lads was, they sent for the medical officer. After receiving treatment both lads were charged with wilfully damaging prison property and were about to be moved to the punishment block when in protest to this and in solidarity with the two prisoners, the rest of the Republicans in the block smashed their windows. While writing, both lads are still in the block".

P.R.O. H3,H4 and H5 Blocks.

"23 CUTS AND BRUISES"

(B Wing H 5, 6.6.78)

TWO SCREWS came round inspecting cells and giving verbal abuse to everyone. When they got to our cell, myself and my cell-mate were lying on our mattresses on the floor. We were called tramps, etc. One screw then kicked over our chamber pots, the urine went over us and our bedding.

We jumped up to avoid being soaked. Then one of the screws accused us of throwing urine round him and he punched and kicked us. We could not defend ourselves. After about one minute they left.

Later we went to the cell door to lift our food off the trolley. Several screws were there. My cell-mate when lifting his food was thrown to the ground and beaten by two screws (Murphy and Hamilton). I was then pushed into my cell and while I tried to get up with my mate two other screws (Kennedy and Courtney) threw the breakfast over us.

We were then taken to the punishment cells, on arrival we were beaten by four screws (Jamison, Kennedy, Courtney and Savage).

I was dragged into a cell by the hair and found myself unable to stand up. I was on my knees, I was covered in blood and couldn't see out of my left eye.

Later four more screws dragged me off to bathe my head under the cold tap to stop the blood. I was covered in bruises, when I saw a doctor he took a record of 23 cuts and bruises. The worst were on my face. Then I was charged with assaulting an officer and throwing urine around him.

I was in the punishment cell six days before being charged. When I saw the Governor he sentenced me to three days in the punishment cells on number one diet and 28 days loss of remission.

Paddy Wilson (Andersonstown)

H5 man beaten and charged

(B Wing H 5, 6.6.78)

At 2.30 we were told to collect our personal belongings (we have none). When the screws came to our cell they called us Fenian bastards. There were several screws. Some of them were drunk. I was the last man to be shifted and the screws taunted me. They were very aggressive. One of them called me a tramp and spat on me. The rest of them came in between the grills and started to beat me, one held me and the others beat me up. The rosary beads I had were trampled into the ground. I was brought to the punishment cells and charged with assaulting an officer. I got three days in the punishment cells on number one diet and 28 days loss of remission.

Seamus Kearney (Andersonstown)

ATTACK WITNESSED

(B Wing H 5, 6.6.78)

While being shifted to another block I saw Seamus Kearney being beaten by a crowd of screws. He was being kicked, punched and his head was being banged off the grill. When the other screws saw us they attacked us. Pat McMahon got a severe beating. I was taken to the punishment cells where I was told to take a bath, I refused and was dragged into a cold bath by three screws. I was covered in bruises and cuts. I was charged with assaulting an officer, I got three days in the punishment cells on a number one diet plus 28 days loss of remission. The screws were — Jamison, Cooke, and Courtney.

(Name of prisoner not available)

Support
the
PoWs

DIVIS FLATS MUST ORGANISE



IT IS now widely recognised throughout the world that multi-storey flats are one of the causes of many social problems for the unfortunate people who have to live in them.

The Divis Flats complex and the Turf Lodge flats are two areas which have been in the news lately. This is because the people living in both areas have organised themselves into action committees to pressure the British administration into demolishing the flats and to build houses for the inhabitants. Up to now the action committee have confined themselves to road blocking and demonstrating.

The history of one of the controversial areas, Divis Flats, is typical of how our "rulers" exercised their authority in the days when

the people acted like sheep and were afraid to look out of the side of their eyes at their masters.

In the early sixties the people of the Lower Falls first heard about the idea of redevelopment from the pulpits of their churches. They were told by the local clergy that wonderful things were afoot. They were all to loose their two-up and two-down houses for a 4 bedroom centrally-heated house.

Naturally the people, most of whom lived in overcrowded conditions, were happy about the idea. They thought "It must be good, the local Father says so".

But a small group of activists mainly connected with the Republican Movement decided to campaign against the building of these flats. They produced leaf-

lets and posters, called public meetings and canvassed the local people to oppose the building of multi-story flats.

Their arguments were explained to the people in detail. Who would look after the old people? What facilities would there be for the young children? The effects of living on top of each other over a period of years would be depressing, especially for women because they spent most of their time at home! Nervous anxiety and suicides were the likely outcome. The young protestors told the people.

The local clergy recognising that the opposition to the building of the flats was steadily growing decided to do a bit of protesting themselves.

They denounced the

agitators as "communists", anti-christ, and shouldn't be listened to. They were up to no good with their alien ideas!

Needless to say the agitators lost the day. The bull-dozers moved in and the multi-storeys went up.

TODAY

Today the people of Divis Flats are experiencing all the problems the young agitators said they would encounter, and more. The burden on the families has been increased by the actions of a few who are engaging in petty criminal activity.

The majority of the people are frightened to speak out against this anti-social element because they feel isolated and some people have been beaten up at night by this group.

These people have grown up within the complex. They are the products of an environment which is repressive and indifferent. They might feel they are

being wrong done by society in general so they've decided to take it out on their neighbours. This claim may very well be valid but their actions cannot be tolerated.

During the present struggle for liberations, conditions for self-gain have been made favourable by the IRA's actions against occupation forces. This element within Divis Flats are exploiting this situation.

The people of Divis Flats need the protection of the IRA and as the statement on this page shows they will receive it.

But this protection is subject to other pressures.

The people of Divis must realise the power they have as a body. They must use it. Co-operation on the issue of demolition has created a base for a community spirit.

The next step should be to organise against all forms of repression and that includes abuse from local gangs.

RATES STRIKERS ATTACKED

IT HAS BEEN brought to our attention that the Housing Executive and the Electricity Board are pursuing a nasty and vindictive policy of retribution against those people who owe them money as a result of the Rent and Rates Strike against internment. Over the last two years the British House of Commons have armed the Bureaucrats of both these groups with punitive legislation designed to inflict economic hardship on those people who opposed repression, by deducting on a weekly basis a sum of money from their unemployment benefit, supplementary benefit or their wages.

CUT OFF

Now the British Government have authorised the Electricity Board to cut off supply if the people who owe them money don't pay it back in a manner satisfactory to them.

Judging from the attitude of members of the Electricity Service in particular it would appear that they are now only interested in punishing those who owe them money by demanding from the people ridiculous sums of money. On several occasions they have demanded lump sum of £200 and in one case £1,000.

THOSE RESPONSIBLE

One person was asked to mortgage his house for a loan to pay back money owed to the Electricity Service!

It is worth remembering that the originators

of the Rent and Rates Strike have found comfortable and lucrative positions inside the SDLP and other reformist parties.

These same people encouraged mass civil disobedience in the form of rent strikes, and the people responded.

Now however the unemployed and poorly paid, are suffering in silence as week after week they loose between £5 and £20 from their income.

We don't hear any calls from the "respectable" politicians to the British Government to stop this cruel policy, in fact when the SDLP were in the Executive they imposed a 25p levy on those who refused to end their Rent and Rates Strike.

It can be clearly seen that once again the anti-unionist working-class people are left to fend for themselves. Faced

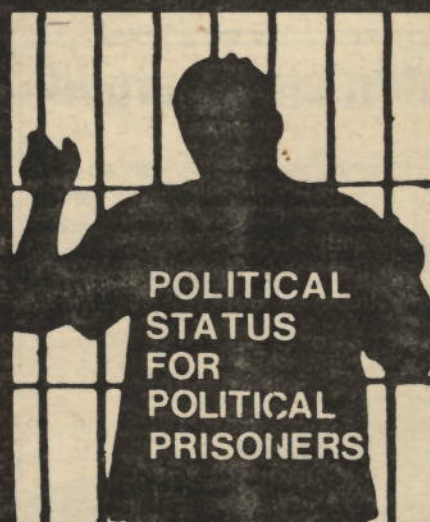
with the crippling burden of an economic depression, resulting in high prices, mass unemployment and public spending cutbacks, they are now living in fear of the Electricity being cut off or being evicted from their homes.

The Republican Movement will not stand idly by and permit the Housing Executive or Electricity Board to attack our people in this manner. The use of the RUC or British Army to threaten the victims will be met by the resistance of the people. A public meeting will soon be called to discuss how best to resist this type of state repression.

IRA statement

IN A supplied statement the Belfast Brigade of the IRA warned the criminal element in Divis Flats.

"Following representation made to us by the people of the Divis Flats complex, the Belfast Brigade Irish Republican Army, hereby issues a final warning to the armed criminal elements in the above area. As from the time of issue of statement, the Irish Republican Army gives 48 hours to those involved in criminal activity to leave the country. If this warning is not acted upon by these people they will be shot on sight. This decision has been taken because passed warnings have been ignored and these elements have made life unbearable in this area. They operate with immunity of the British Army, and have shown no consideration for the mercy they have received from us in the past," the statement concluded.



UNITED LABOUR PARTY

Socialist or sectarian?

IT IS amazing how some people will spout forth all kinds of rubbish about the possibilities of "democracy", "peace", and "socialism" being achieved within the (sectarian) confines of the six-county statelet. The Sticks are the prime culprits in such futile exercises of blind stupidity. But Paddy Devlin sometimes tries hard to match up to their worst standards! And such people take themselves so seriously!!

Only two weeks ago, on Saturday, June 24, Devlin and some other wild dreamers ("top trade unionists" we are informed) were at it in fine style when they got together in Bangor to form (yet another) new party. The party is not due to be launched until September but Saturday's meeting adopted a policy framework and set up a number of committees to deal with party organisation and policy development.

This 'new' party is apparently to be called the "United Labour Party", (ULP), to indicate its supposed non-sectarianism. The policy framework states that the constitutional position of the six counties, "should only be char-

ged of that which would further political stability and enjoy the support of the majority of the electorate"; and the party's basic declared aim (dream!) is to establish a six-county government "based on the principles of democratic socialism".

Such basic positions, far from being non-sectarian, democratic and socialist are their very opposite. They are non-democratic in decrying the right of the whole of the Irish people to self-determination; they are sectarian in elevating the loyalist 'majority' in the six counties into a position of privilege (the right of veto against national unity and national independence); they are openly pro-British and pro-



Former SDLP man Paddy Devlin now backing a new horse - the 'United' Labour Party.

capitalist, for what else is meant by "furthering political stability" other than "in the continued interests of British capital".

The ULP appears to be another element lining up for a possible British 'solution' day the kind of a six plus twenty six Federal Ireland or an Independent 'Ulster'. Now it may well prove poss-

ible to establish governments of slightly varied complexions within this stunted six-county statelet; but of necessity they will all have one thing in common; they will basically be coloured Orange (be it light or dark). Of that much we can be sure. For Orangism is historically and irremarkably built into the very structures of the statelet from the grass-roots upwards.

Both democracy and socialism will only be achieved in a United Ireland. Partition is a Brit-imposed mechanism to block the development of democracy and socialism throughout Ireland — North and South: until partition is smashed neither democracy nor socialism can possibly be won in any part of the country. Their placid acceptance of partition reduces to empty phrasemongering the United Labour Party's so-called 'socialist' stance on questions of education, health and social services, housing and economic and industrial policy.

Even more telling is that despite all their fairy talk of "social democracy" the hardness of their Orange core shines clearly

through on the question of 'policing' and the RUC. Do they call for the disbanding, or disarming, of this sectarian band of Loyalist thugs, torturers and killers? or perhaps a softer position: do they restrict themselves to "weeding out the bad apples"? No! Not at all! Instead the party is openly calling for an increase in RUC strength "in order to protect the citizens of Northern Ireland.



Former UDA and UWC leader Glen Barr is expected to join the 'Non-sectarian' ULP later in the year.

RUC FOUND GUILTY YET AGAIN



LAST WEEK the RUC was found guilty of torture yet again. This time by a judge at the Belfast City Commission. Over recent months such a verdict has been recorded there regularly about once a fortnight — (even though the 'polite' legalistic phrase used is "inhuman or degrading treatment"). Such judgements can hardly be brushed away (even by the lying Mason) as mere Republican propaganda!

Last Friday (June 30) the judge ruled out statements of admission (to membership, possession and bombing) alleged to have been made by nineteen-year-old Gerard Murray from Omagh. Finding Murray 'not guilty' the

judge said: "the accused sustained bruises to the head and neck entirely consistent with allegations of ill treatment made by him".

The judge went on to describe one statement al-

leged to have been made to a detective by Murray as "an amazing document". In it Murray was alleged to have said that after being arrested on May 31 last year and spending the night in a cell he felt sick and when he got up to vomit he fell and hit his head.

Murray was also alleged to have said in his statement that during questioning he kept dozing off and one RUC man slapped him on the head a couple of times to waken him up.

This was a bit much even for the judge (his intelligence insulted, perhaps) who said: "I dismiss this statement out of hand". The peelers inventiveness evidently could not match their brutality, exposed is doctor's evidence of marks on Murray's neck and tenderness on his head.

The judge dismissed the prosecution's contention that the injuries could have been caused accidentally or that they were self-inflicted.

NO SURPRISE

Such revelations of RUC torture obviously come as no surprise to us! Yet we will continue to expose such reality of Brit rule to an even wider (national and international) audience — by such means we can limit the depravities of the Brit-torture-machine and contribute to the Republican effort of driving out the invader and establishing a torture-free Ireland.

THE MARCHING ORANGEMEN

(Continued from page 1)

ascendancy which grants marginal privileges to the Loyalists; and the essential prop of the ascendancy is the Brit-partition system.

This means division between Nationalist and Loyalists can only be removed by breaking the Union and smashing partition.

An independent united Ireland is therefore the only way to unite the people, not just

north and south, but also within the Six Counties. A struggle for a united Ireland which is openly a struggle for a socialist republic is not only a worthy ideal but will also be easier to achieve.

For a socialist republic provides the only banner behind which (former) Loyalist workers will be won away from the likes of next Wednesday's Orange processions to unite with the rest of the Irish people.



EMERGENCY

LAST WEEK'S issue of this paper saw the conclusion of our five part series of extracts from the book 'War on the Mind'. This series was intended as a 'counter-interrogation' aid for those of our readers unfortunate enough to fall into the brutal hands of the RUC Special Branch torturers.

The interrogation chambers of the RUC form a vital part of the Brit conveyor-belt transporting victims from the streets of the six counties, via signed 'confessions', under the rubber stamp of the Diplock Courts and into the Hell Holes of the Kesh.

For the sake of appearances (of 'normality') this conveyor belt is dressed-up in as many of the formal ritualistic trappings (wigs, gowns, certificates) of 'legality' and 'neutrality' as possible. But for an (arrogantly) accurate des-

cription of the underlying reality we have to look no further than a famous quote from Brit counter-insurgency expert General Kitson.

In his book "Low Intensity Operations: Subversion, Insurgency and Peacekeeping", he points to how:

"the law should be used as just another weapon in the government's arsenal, and in this case it becomes little more than a propaganda cover for the disposal of unwanted members of the public. For this to happen efficiently, the activities of the legal services have to be tied into the war effort in as discreet a way as possible...."

In the article below we take a brief look at the two main pieces of Emergency legislation which to-day form the legal arm of the Brit war-machine in the six counties. This legislation is the Northern

Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (formerly called the Special Powers Act) and the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1974.

But there can be no doubt that Britain's six county Orange state is not IN a state of emergency but IS a state of emergency. Since the foundation of this state in 1921 (to protect British imperial interests through institutionalised sectarianism) 'British Law and Orange Order' have only been maintained by using a gigantic repressive apparatus of state violence.

From the A, B and C Specials of the early days down to the (polished-up) RUC of today, "unwanted members" of the nationalist population have been "disposed of" (in Kitson style) by the 'official' gangs of heavily armed Orange thugs masquerading as 'neutral' policemen.

THE INFAMOUS Special Powers Act was replaced in 1973 by the Emergency Provisions Act (EPA). The EPA is now the centre-piece of British 'emergency' legislation in the six counties.

However the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) certainly plays a crucial role in the Brit 'conveyor-belt' into the Kesh. For it is Section 12 of this Act which provides for 7-day detention (48 hour plus 5-day extension) which is so essential for the Brits in producing signed 'confessions'.

Yet the PTA was originally introduced in 1974 in Britain only (i.e. it did not apply to the six counties for its first two years). It was only in 1976 with the ending of internment and the beginning of 'criminalisation' that the Brits realised the tremendous 'interrogation' potential in 7-day detention; therefore they extended the Act to the six counties.

It is not difficult to see that in providing the interrogation period necessary to obtain forced 'confessions' PTA Section 12 is central to the Brits' policy of 'criminalisation' of Republicans.

POLITICAL ENDS

Yet the PTA and the EPA both contain the central definition that "terrorism" means the use of 'violence for political ends'. So even by the definitions enshrined in their own Emergency legislation, according to the British those convicted in

non-jury (Diplock) courts have committed political offences; logic surely dictates they must be political prisoners.

Whilst 7-day detention is the PTA's main function in the six counties, its main purpose in Britain is to intimidate Irish people from engaging in political protest under threat of deportation, and to provide a protective net' (exclusion orders) which blocks entry into Britain of anybody with the wrong address (i.e. from any nationalist working-class ghetto in the six counties).

PROVISIONS ACT

The EPA is not applicable in Britain and part I of the PTA is not applicable in the six counties. The effect of this is of interest. Whereas there are seven proscribed organisations in the six counties; namely, the IRA, Cumann na mBan, Fianna na hEireann, Saor Eire, the Red Hand Command, the UFF and the UVF.; in Britain the only proscribed organisation is the IRA.

Such a variation may well indicate that proscriptions are brought in more as political gestures (rude as a sop) than for any other reason.

The Emergency Provisions Act undergoes continual refinement and updating to suit the Brits' new needs as the war develops. The Act was last amended on 23rd March of this year.

The Act itself is divided into

four parts plus a number of attached schedules (detailed statements).

Part I covers scheduled offences. A scheduled offence is an offence which is included on a list (a schedule) and covers all those offences which could be considered "terrorist" or to have "political ends" (to quote the Act). Examples are murder; assault; offences concerning firearms, explosives, prisons and destroying or damaging property.

But "Murder, manslaughter or an assault occasioning actual bodily harm is not a scheduled offence in any particular case in which the Attorney General for Northern Ireland certifies that it is not to be treated as a scheduled offence". Also where "a person charged with a scheduled offence is also charged with another offence which is not a scheduled offence, that other offence shall be treated as a scheduled offence."

This means that in practice the Brits (through the office of the 'Attorney General for Northern Ireland') decide whether or not someone is to be treated in the courts as a political prisoner. If they so decide then their victim is ensnared in the tight provisions of the emergency legislation through the net of "scheduled offences"; thus the victim can be brought before a (Diplock) non-jury court ready for rubber-stamping away. (Section 7).

LOOP-HOLE CLOSING

Also in this part I of the EPA is a good example of loop-hole closing:

"where the court trying a scheduled offence or indictment - (a) is not satisfied that the accused is guilty of that offence, but (b) is satisfied that he is guilty of some other offence which is not a scheduled offence, but of which a jury could have found him guilty on a trial for the scheduled offence, the court may convict him of that other offence".

These Brits certainly want to win it all ways, - 'neutral' laws

Finally in Part I there is a section (section 9) which reverses the whole basis of 'normal' British requirements of justice! This section changes the onus of proof (in relation to offences of possession) from the person charged having to be proved guilty to the accused having to prove their innocence! (This is applicable where the person charged and the 'proscribed article' "where both present in any premises.")

SECTION II

Part II of the Act deals with "Powers of Arrest, Detention, Search and Seizure, etc." granting widespread powers to the military and to the RUC.

Included in this part is section II, (previously numbered section 10) an infamous section covering seventy-two hours detention. Whilst the Brits have

no (legal) right to photograph or fingerprint their captives "where a person is arrested under this section, an official of the RUC not below the rank of chief inspector may order to be photographed and to have his fingerprints and palm prints taken by a constable, and a constable may use such reasonable force as may be necessary for that purpose".

A piece of legislation which gives the RUC the clear-ahead to brutalise their victims if they refuse to be photographed or finger-printed!

To move on. Section 11 the one giving the Brits 'legal' right to hold people for four hours. They need give no reason. A Brit "effecting arrest under this section complies with any rule of requiring him to state ground of arrest if he states he is effecting the arrest of a member of Her Majesty's Forces".

Section 18 specifies that a Brit "may stop and question any person for the purpose of ascertaining that person's identity and movements." means that all anyone has in the street needs to do (legally) is their name, address and where they are coming and going to. This is sensible advice but sometimes difficult to stick to. (e.g. the Brits usually forcibly demand at least date of birth, as well, when they do a P-check).

Part III of the Act covers "Offences against P

ons Act & and the Prevention of Terrorism Act

LEGISLATION



Since the violent imposition of partition by Britain these various 'police' forces have required permanent Emergency legislation (the world-wide envy of many a fascist dictator) to repress popular and just aspirations towards equal civil rights and national self-determination.

In this article we intend to help expose some of the contradictions of today's Emergency legislation; to show the Brits' hypocritical and cynical manipulation of supposedly neutral 'Law'; and to help educate our readers on what limited rights they still retain — or at least would do if the Brits followed their own Laws.

Security and Public Order". The most interesting section is number 21 which includes the provision that "the possession by a person of a document" emanating from a 'proscribed organisation' "shall be evidence of that person belonging to the organisation at the time when he had the document in his possession."

This is ambiguous enough to include IRA statements directed to the media. Journalists beware!

The final part of the Act, part IV covers "Miscellaneous and General" matters of no particular interest; but, as already mentioned, attached to the Act are various schedules.

Schedule I includes the whole 'legal' machinery of fourteen-day 'interim custody orders' and 'detention orders'. At the whim of Mason (or his successor — Tory bigot Airey Neave, perhaps) internment is still with us!!

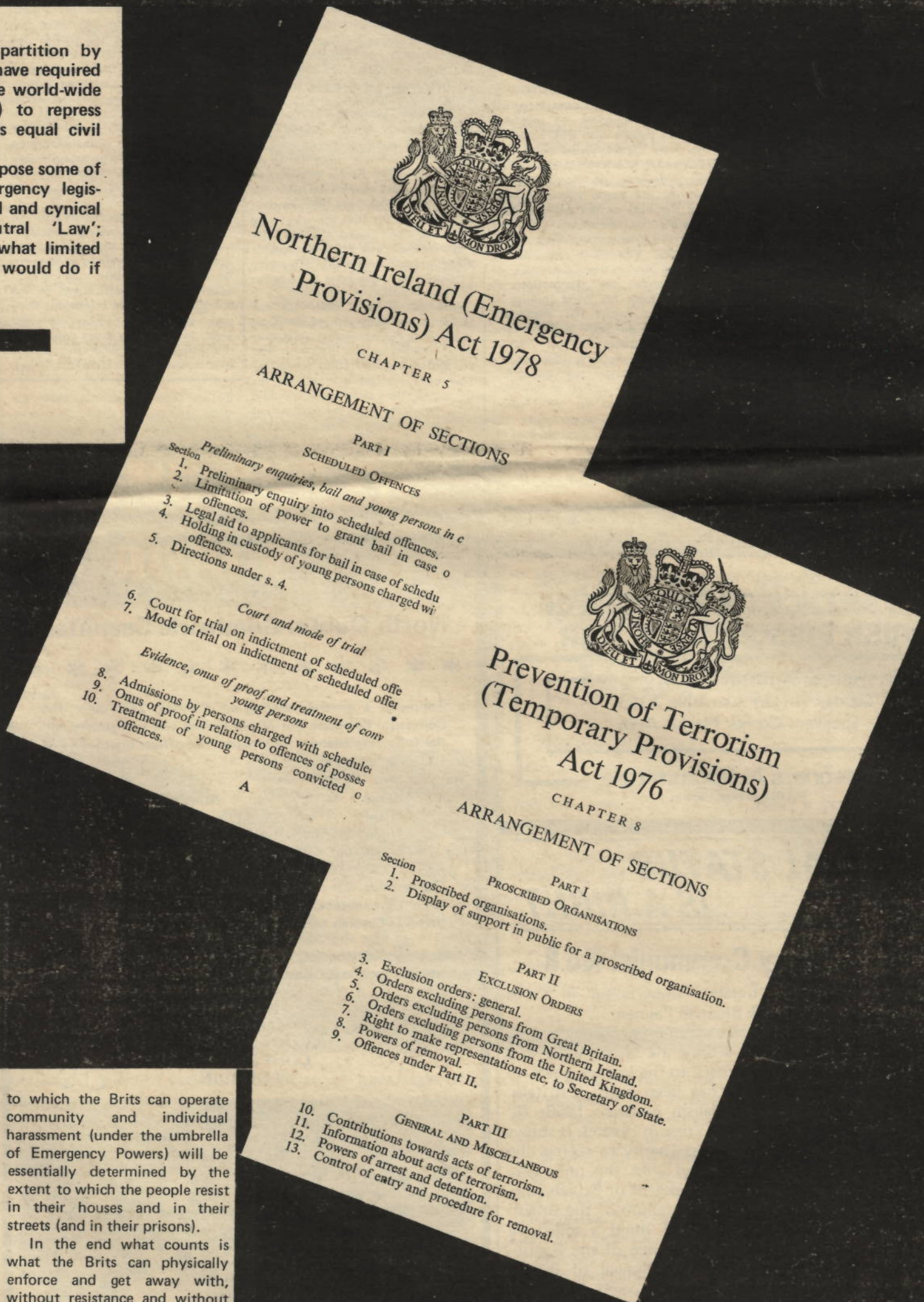
In conclusion the EPA and PTA are certainly both worthy of study by readers of this paper. For although these Acts are obviously extremely wide-ranging and viciously dictatorial, it can give a captive confidence to at least know within what rules his or her captors are meant to be acting.

Captives who are ignorant of their (limited) rights and allow themselves to be unnecessarily easily pushed around are on the slippery road to 'breaking' under interrogation.

However the ease and extent

to which the Brits can operate community and individual harassment (under the umbrella of Emergency Powers) will be essentially determined by the extent to which the people resist in their houses and in their streets (and in their prisons).

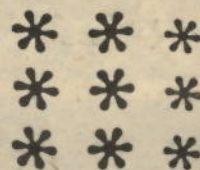
In the end what counts is what the Brits can physically enforce and get away with, without resistance and without protest; what counts is not what is written down in pamphlets produced by "Her Majesty's Stationery Office"!





POST BAG

All letters should be addressed to
the Editor at 170A Falls Road, Belfast.



Gift wrapping from the EEC

A Chara,

The next ten years are crucial for Ireland and the world, as far as human life is concerned. Wise council thoroughly briefed in international politics are greatly perturbed at the alarming increase in offensive armaments.

Europe in particular under the umbrella of the EEC is dangerously showing a military interest of an aggressive nature into the affairs of former black African colonies.

Recently, the military planners of Europe's protective screen NATO were approached by so-called Brussels-EEC ministerial officials to prepare a quick analysis on the West's striking capability within the continent.

Within seven days of the Brussels-EEC request to NATO the military survey was completed. According to NATO general staff, if copper and atomic bomb ingredient uranium interests are efficiently safe-guarded by Africans themselves then the need to conscript people of EEC countries in the event of attack subsides.

Seemingly prosperity, if it comes, isn't the only gift wrapping the EEC is prepared to offer the Irish people for fulfilling its membership duty while participating in Brussel's parliament.

Obviously, in a nuclear holocaust, the so-called freely elected eurocrats of EEC member nations, such as John Hume will detest being partner to a joint EEC-NATO approved official document which gives authorisation to Brussels to militarily enlist the working class of affiliated members.

Nevertheless, it happened before

in countries where grand alignments of mutual benefit had been supposedly devised to eliminate poverty and failed disastrously in working class blood.

History repeated, no doubt the Irish people will discover the Humes no different than their predecessors who signed the death warrants of working class millions in World War One.

The EEC fraud of union, peace and prosperity must be exposed and opposed by all responsible political groups who sincerely believe that life is sacred and on no account is available as cannon fodder to feed capitalist ambitions.

Time and again the Republican Movement has commented about the serious consequences of involving the Irish people with EEC imperialism. They clearly stated before the EEC-NATO-AFRICA profit affair that Eurocrats of no recognised integrity are more willing to sacrifice the lives of the working class in order to rescue vast deposits of enriched uranium in Africa.

Under Eire Nua the people shall be truly free. Conquest of other lands, the destruction of other cultures or blood spilling of people for profit has absolutely nothing to do with a Democratic Socialist Republic.

On the contrary, the poorer exploited countries will appreciate the high human values of liberated Ireland, in return the Irish nation will heighten its opportunity for respect amongst the oppressed of all five continents.

Brian MacGill Aolain, Doire.

Selective Church silence questioned

IN JUST what way does the Catholic clergy distinguish one brand of violence from another? I can't see any difference but apparently Archbishop O Fiaich can. His continual condemnation of the I.R.A. and branding of them as cowards speaks for itself. Perhaps he has another name for those that drink with their intended murder victim before beating him to death, leaving him unrecognisable to his family and wife.

What does he call those so-called marksmen that have to fire over 200 rounds into the bodies of four unarmed men, I should imagine they had ample opportunity to capture these men alive but chose not to do so. Could there be an explanation other than "an innocent passerby was caught up in the cross fire", since it has been proven that the men were unarmed, and maybe the passerby was a witness that the SAS couldn't afford to leave alive, I didn't hear any Statement we have been listening to from his Lordship on this issue.

Why is it that both Bishops O Fiaich and Daly remain silent on H Block. Is this not violence also, but state inflicted on over 330 men that are protesting for political status? Why can't we get a mass said for these protestors and I mean a public mass. In a letter from the Archbishop of Glasgow he says he is very concerned for all political prisoners, when questioned about the political situation in Chile, yes in the North of Ireland too, but can't denounce the

WOMEN AGAINST IMPERIALISM

A Chara,

We read with interest the letter in last week's "Republican News", and agree with most of the points the writer made.

However we would like to question the analysis put forward that the existing womens' movement in Ireland is middle-class and pro-British, and that it has done more harm than good to the womens' question. Although we agree that until recently there was a middle-class orientation, it has to be remembered that the womens' movement in Ireland is relatively new and like all other movements takes time and discussion before developing.

There are different trends within the womens' movement at present. We ourselves are an anti-imperialist group, opposed to the British presence in Ireland and support the liberation struggle. Our base is in the working class areas of West Belfast.

We find it strange that the writer offers a blanket criticism of the womens' movement, but has made no effort to contact womens' groups working in Belfast. Our group would have welcomed any contact from the writer to discuss the issues raised by her/him in the letter.

We agree with her/his criticism of the Republican movement concerning its attitudes towards women. They see women merely as supportive and do not realise their contribution as active participants in the struggle for peoples liberation. They have consistently failed over the years to raise any issues concerning the problems of women in capitalist society, and have offered little sup-

British Government publically for their actions as it would be considered partisan. How's that for another kind of cowardice.

K.Knight,
Old Park Road, Belfast 14.

port to any initiatives taken by women. However, we disagree with the writer when she/he suggests that the lead for the womens' movement must come from Sinn Fein.

We believe that it is women organising and raising their own demands which has raised the political awareness of women in Ireland, and which will force all revolutionary groupings to take the problems of women seriously and not as something which can be dealt with after the war has been won.

The attitudes of Sinn Fein will not change overnight and only through constant pressure, exerted by women themselves on their own behalf, will effect change. An autonomous womens' movement is a necessary element in safeguarding the advances made by women in the struggle for total liberation.

Any women wishing more information about the ideas in this letter, or our group in general, can contact us at the address below.

"There can be no liberation without revolution. There can be no Revolution without liberation"

P.R.O. Women Against Imperialism,
7 Riverdale Park Drive, Belfast.

END SILENCE ON TORTURE OF IRISH PRISONERS OF WAR

Demonstration

Sunday 9th July Assemble 2.30pm
Speakers Corner Marble Arch

Prisoners Aid Committee

P&P 182 Upper Street London N1

POLITICAL STATUS IS A RIGHT

Revolutionary Communist No.8

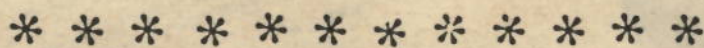
MAJOR ARTICLES: 'Ireland: Imperialism in Crisis 1968-78'. Terry Marlowe & Stephen Palmer.

For ten years now the Irish people have been fighting British rule in Ireland. This is only the latest phase in a struggle which goes back 800 years. In the last ten years no effective solidarity movement has been built in Britain.

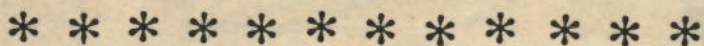
The article 'Ireland: Imperialism in Crisis 1968-78' examines the development of the crisis in Ireland. It shows how British imperialism's role is necessarily to repress the struggle for self-determination, and that the only way forward for the Irish people is the defeat of British rule. It further reveals the reasons for the failure of the British left to defend the Irish people and build a solidarity movement. The article argues for defence of the Republican movement, the immediate withdrawal of British troops, and the right of the Irish people to self-determination.

Plus: 'Imperialist War and the Question of Peace' Roman Rosdolsky; reply to Gerry Laversha; review of *Capitalism in Crisis* by Gamble & Walton.

Price 50p + 15p p&p. From RCG Publications Ltd (RN); 49 Railton Road, London SE24 0LN.



North Dublin Comhairle Ceanntair



Following a general meeting on Tuesday, 26th June, the Comhairle Ceanntair for North Dublin was reorganised and the following changes took place. The officer board is now:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Cathaoirleach: | Niall Taylor |
| Leas Cathaoirleach: | Dave Power |
| Runai: | Aingill Nic Giolla Phoill |
| Cistoir: | Tom Donovan |
| Finance Officer: | Phyllis Lynch |
| Education Officer: | Vincent Devlin |
| P.R.O.: | Cora Marshall |

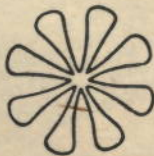
The meeting was presided over by George Lynch, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Cuige Laighean and was addressed by Ualtar O Lysnigh and Runai Sinn Fein.

Blanket protestors at American AOH Killarney Convention

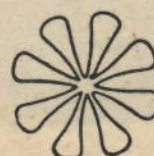
TWO BELFAST women, Maura McCrory of Central R.A.C. and Lily Fitsimons mother of one of the men on the blanket addressed about 300 delegates of the AOH in the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, last week.

Both women stressed the very real dangers facing the men in the H Blocks and Crumlin Road jail, both physically and mentally. They appealed to the Irish Americans to highlight the tortures and inhumanities perpetrated against the men in H Block daily.

After explaining in detail the methods of community harassment, arrests, interrogation, and finally locked away in the H Blocks and jails. The women asked the AOH to put pressure on their senators and congressmen, to speak out against the British policy in the six North-East counties of Ireland, and to demand a declaration of intent from Britain to withdraw from Ireland.



H-BLOCK PROTESTORS AT CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN



THE YANKEE CARROT - Part II

The following article is the second in our series "The Yankee Carrot". The author explains the reasons why both the American government and American industrialists are now taking a keen interest in Ireland.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS have emerged in recent times in relation to the current War of National Liberation and it would seem that together with the slogan, BREAK THE CONNECTION WITH ENGLAND, we must begin to understand an equally dangerous development, which I refer to as THE YANKEE CONNECTION.

Wolfe Tone and his contemporaries had only the British connection to sever, we, from this date forward will have to analyse and understand its U.S. counterpart, if we are effectively to defeat both in struggle, for it would seem clear that the giants of international capitalism have linked together in alliance to destroy our efforts for freedom and socialism in Ireland during this generation.

The strange bedfellows are not U.S. and British Capitalism who have shared many a pig-sty of bloody exploitation in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East and whose joint efforts have for many a decade stifled human progress in the four corners of the globe. The bedfellows I refer to include many Irishmen and women, who together with the most extreme right-wing loyalists and reactionary elements in the British House of Commons and U.S. Government, are engaged in the greatest sell-out of our people's democratic struggle since the Act of Union was established in 1901, by all manner of threat and corruption.

by An Seancaide

The most contemptible of all is unfortunately a Bogsider, and later-day guru of the S.D.L.P. John Hume. This political animal has done more to stab the republican socialist forces in the back, than the whole collection of Masons, Cosgraves and Conor Cruise O'Briens rolled into one. The very fact that he is a Bogsider in origin, although not in spirit, he has been used in America to distract Irish-Americans from the true reasons for the war, and to leave them almost totally confused as to where they should place their support, financial and otherwise. If the S.D.L.P.'s guru is successful in being elected to Brussels, then he will be given an even larger arena to spread his falsehoods and poisonous pro-imperialist slavish philosophy.

These elements include John McKeague of the Ulster Independence Association (U.I.A.), as well as others south of the border, but many as yet remain 'unseen' for only a corner of the political blanket has been raised to give us a quick glimpse, and it will be sometime before all these bedfellows expose themselves. Corrigan, Williams and Kieran McKeown (soon to take up a position in Africa) are all in there under the covers, groping tentatively to find a "solution" which will undermine the heroic struggle of the working class people within the National Liberation movement.

UNCLE TOMS

Influential senators from the U.S. and the 26 Counties have been engaged in talks with all these bedfellows who are on the verge of making a "big-push" to persuade the British Government to make a deal for "independence" within a Six County context. 'Secret' talks have been going on for many months, at such venues as Corrymeela, the Belfast Peace H.Q., and the Everglades Hotel in Derry. Included in such have been Fergus McAteer and others of the "Irish Independence Party" (see Republican News 18/3/78).

Some spokespeople have described their progress as having led to "spreading interest" among top Government officials. Within the next week or so the U.I.A. plans to remove another corner of the political blanket and give us an even longer glimpse of their activities and desires. What they describe as "a radical discussion document" will be put on public view via the media showing, they claim, that "independence" could work.

about why the British labour movement and left groups repeatedly let the Republican Movement down, and how these failures can be reversed.

The meeting was one in a series organised jointly by the Prisoners Aid Committee and the RCG. These are working meetings as well as forums for political discussion. There was therefore a report on prepar-

Briefly what they are pressing for are declarations of intent from both the Free State and British Governments. These are: (1) a declaration of intent by the British Govt. to withdraw from "Ulster" (British-Occupied Ireland) as soon as an independent government can be established there. (2) A declaration by the Free Staters to respect the sovereignty of an independent and peaceful N. Ireland "and if necessary to seek a declaration from the 26Cos. Supreme Court that articles 2 and 3 of the Free State Constitution does not preclude the "right" of the people of 'the north' (6Cos.) to "self-determination".

The document will be entitled "A STUDY OF NEGOTIATED INDEPENDENCE" and a leading U.I.A. spokesperson, Sam McClure remarked, "We have been getting very favourable response from many of the politicians, particularly from the south".

LOSE OUT

There are a number of factors worrying the drafters. Firstly they hope to make it clear to people in the 6 Counties that they will not lose out financially through "independence".

McKeague who recently has been trying to sound-off like an intellectual, and a moderate one at that, has this to say to the masses: "When the Americans are finished with the 'Rhodesian Problem' we believe it will throw a lot of influence in this direction to solve the Irish question". Meanwhile Corrigan is back at the ranch, chatting up the U.S. Federation of Labour President, George Meaney.

Afterwards she makes the claim to the press that "the Provos funds are drying up thanks to the peace people"... she forgot to mention John Hume and the help of the other Uncle Toms. She then told the scribbling pressmen that the masses would welcome her home with open arms now that she had the good news that eight top U.S. Uncle Sam Senators were planning a visit which "might help" lower the unemployment figures. All this is part of a fact-finding mission (a hunt for higher profits) in a bid to persuade American firms to invest in the 6 Cos. Even Jimmy Boy Carter thought it would be worth his while to deliver a note to Corrigan... "We are 100% behind you" and asked her to come to lunch.

Like the Irish stew, the plot already thickens, but it is becoming obvious that in spite of the political bed coverings, what is going on under the blanket is gradually becoming transparent.

ation for the demonstration in London called by the PAC for July 9th which will demand Prisoner of War status for Irish political prisoners and an amnesty in the context of British withdrawal. Further work for the demonstration was organised at the meeting, all those present taking away leaflets and posters. A collection for the PAC and the RCG raised £18.

SOUTH AFRICA The Poetry of Struggle by Eldrida

SOUTH AFRICAN writer Alan Paton wrote this poem as a protest against the death of Imam Haron in a Capetown prison in September 1969. According to the authorities he 'fell down the stairs'. More recently Steve Biko, and countless others opponents of the racist regime have been murdered in detention.

This poem could equally apply here in Ireland to the recent death of trade unionist Brian Maguire in Castlereagh, and Republicans Frank Stagg, Michael Gaughan, Tom Smith, Hugh Coney.....and all the others.

Most Honourable I knock at your door
I knock there day and by night
My knuckles are raw with blood
I hope it does not offend you
To have these marks on your door.

I know you are there Most Honourable
I know that you hear my knocking
But you do not answer me
Pity my importance: I cannot reach your power
I cannot bring you my tale of sorrow
You may die and never know
What you have done? or you may fall
And leave no chance of its undoing.

Most Honourable the sorrow is not my own
It is of a man who has no hands to knock
No voice to cry. A sorrow so deep
That if you had it for your own
You would cry out in unbelieving anguish
That such a thing could be.

Most Honourable do not bestir yourself
That man is dead
He fell down the stairs and died
And all his wounds can be explained
Except the holes in his hands and feet
And the long deep thrust in his side.

IN South Africa too, the families of political prisoners know the same agonies as the families of those in Long Kesh, Crumlin Road, Armagh, Portlaoise and elsewhere. The following is written by a young black South African:

I stand at the gate,
School's over and smoke fills the location
Tears come to my eyes and I wipe them away.

I walk to the kitchen
to see my mother's black hard-working hands,
and her forceful smile from a tired face.

We sit and have supper
I pick up a photo of my father and look,
My mother turns away, tries to hide memories.

I'd like to see my father,
At least to grip his hand and comfort him,
or at least to tell him he'll return some day,

My father left
My mother in his arms
He was roughly separated from her
She watched the van take him away
Bravely enough
I, as a child, did not understand.
But I do now, my heartaches.



Steve Biko

London meeting

A DISCUSSION meeting on Irish republicanism was held in London on 23rd June. The main speaker was Jim Reilly of Sinn Fein. He outlined the course of Republicanism from Wolfe Tone through Emmet, the Young Irelanders and the Fenians to the Easter Rising and the emergence of Sinn Fein. He explained to the audience of British socialists how the Republican Movement today is carrying on the struggle for a United Socialist Republic of Ireland.

A speaker from the Revolutionary Communist Group, Jennifer Tait, then explained what socialists in Britain must do in order to support Irish Republicans. This entailed more than just words, she said. It meant working to build demonstrations called in Britain by the Republican Movement and arguing in the British Labour Movement about the slanders against Republicans.

A lively discussion followed in the course of which Jim Reilly made it clear that the Republican Movement is the leadership of the nationalist population in the Six Counties. There was also a discussion

THE BRITS' YELLOW CARD

WE REPRINT opposite an article in last week's 'Socialist Challenge' paper produced by the (British) International Marxist Group.

The publishing of the Brits' Yellow Card could mean a court case by the British Ministry of Defence against the paper, under the British Official Secrets Act.

In an accompanying article, Geoff Bell reported on the killing of the three unarmed volunteers and a passer-by, by an undercover Brit/RUC squad at the Ballysillan Telecommunications Depot on June 21st.

The 'Socialist Challenge' article clearly illustrates, by way of quoting the relevant sections of the Yellow Card, the deliberate breaking of the British military of their own rules governing when to open fire.

The article points out that soldiers who break the rules, in theory at least, can be prosecuted; however in practice this is a rare event.

The article then quotes from the Brit statement issued to the London 'Daily Telegraph' on June 22nd, which claimed that "three men got out of the car with bombs" and when challenged "the IRA men fired about four shots at the security men and then ran off in different directions".

The Brit statement claims that it was only then that their forces opened fire killing a passerby in the process.

This statement proved to be an embarrassment to the Northern Ireland Office.

The Yellow Card states (Rule number 8): "You may fire against a person carrying what you can positively identify as a firearm". Given the time of night it would've been virtually impossible for the Brits to identify either a firearm or a bomb. An additional problem for them arose when it was established that there weren't any firearms found. The Brit propagandists then issued a contradictory statement through the RUC stating "There was no record of anyone seeing the bombers getting out of the vehicle before the shooting".

This was an obvious cover-up attempt to float the idea that a fourth man got away with the guns, whilst the Brits/RUC poured a fusillade of shots down a four foot wide entry.

Again the Brits disregarded the ruling laid out in section 3 of the Yellow Card "Do not fire more rounds than are absolutely necessary to achieve your aim". On this occasion the aim of the Brits was to wipe out the volunteers unit. They could've quite easily captured them.

Also worth looking at as 'Socialist Challenge' points out is Rule 5 of the Yellow Card, "Because automatic fire scatters, it is not to be used where persons not using firearms are in, or may be close to, the line of fire".

The killing of passerby William Hannan falls into this forbidden category.

The wounding of yet another man because he failed to stop at a road check breaks Rule 20, "At a road block/check you will not fire on a vehicle simply because it refuses to stop. If a vehicle does not halt at a road block/check note its description, make, registration number and direction of travel".

The RUC's response was to riddle the car seriously wounding the occupant.

In West Belfast over the past eighteen months two young men have been shot dead by British troops who arrogantly disregard

this ruling. On both occasions those shot dead were joy-riding. Others have been seriously wounded because the Brits fail to carry out Rule 20 of the Yellow Card.

The 'Socialist Challenge' article concludes: "Thus even by their own version of the events of June 20th the Army/RUC broke their own rules three times, by firing more rounds than were necessary, by firing while an innocent person was in the line of fire, and by firing at a car."

In opening fire at Ballysillan the Brits/RUC broke (at least) Rules 3, 5, 7, 8, 14, 17 and 20. We can assume that the Yellow Card is merely for public display and not to be acted upon.

Some previous killings where Brits disregarded their yellow card were also detailed in 'Socialist Challenge':

August 1974. Patrick McElhone shot dead by British troops in a field adjoining his farm in County Tyrone. His 'crime' was that he panicked and ran when a soldier called him to halt.

At no time was it argued that McElhone had a gun, a bomb, or was about to endanger life. According to the Yellow Card, there was no excuse to fire on him.

Indeed McElhone's killer was later brought to court. He was found not guilty.

September 1975. Leo Norney, shot dead by soldiers of the Black Watch. The soldiers claimed at the time that Norney was carrying a gun and that he was given the statutory Yellow Card warning.

Despite the attempted cover-up the Army was finally to admit in April 1977 that Norney was a 'totally innocent party'. Leo's mother was awarded a paltry £3,000 compensation. No soldier was ever prosecuted for this breach of the Yellow Card instructions.

April 1976. Peter Cleary, shot dead by the Army in Forkhill, Armagh. Eyewitnesses stated that Cleary was arrested in his house, beaten up, taken to a field and shot.

The Army said that Cleary was killed 'attempting to escape'.

The Brits did not state Cleary was armed or that he had a bomb. Under the Yellow Card there was no justification for shooting Cleary.

August 1976. A volunteer was killed after refusing to stop a car he was driving at a road block.

When the driver was shot the car veered out of control and ran into three children. They died.

According to the instructions on the Yellow Card the Army had no right to shoot at the car driver in the first place. The Card states explicitly that failure to stop at a road block is no reason to open fire.

February 1978. Paul Duffy, shot dead by the Army in Killygonland, East Tyrone. Paul was a member of the IRA and was shot by members of the SAS who waited outside a barn for him.

The victim's companion said that when he and Paul emerged from the barn they raised their hands in surrender, but that Duffy was shot. The Army's excuse was that the dead man was 'handling bombs'.

Under the Yellow Card this is insufficient reason for opening fire. This did not apply in Duffy's case.

HOW BRITISH TROOPS IN IRELAND BREAK RULES

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE publishes here the 'Yellow Card' instructions given to every British soldier serving in the North of Ireland. These instructions are meant to govern when soldiers are allowed to open fire.

Exclusive

Publication of the 'Yellow Card' has been banned in Britain. An attempt by the National Council of Civil Liberties to publish the card in its book *The NCCL Guide to Your Rights* was prevented by the Government in August 1977.

Publication, said the Government, was a breach of Crown copyright.

But a report on the banning in the *Irish Times* added that the document was 'restricted' under the Official Secrets Act, and that printing the card is prohibited under the D Notice system.

Socialist Challenge publishes the Yellow Card in the aftermath of the killing by British troops of three members of the

IRA and a passerby in Belfast last week.

There is conclusive evidence that these killings broke the Yellow Card rules in at least three ways. But people in this country have been denied such information because publication of the rules themselves are banned.

Instructions by the Director of Operations for opening fire in Northern Ireland.

General Rules

1. These instructions are for the guidance of Commanders and troops operating collectively or individually. When troops are operating collectively soldiers will only open fire when ordered to do so by the Commander on the spot.

2. Never use more force than the minimum necessary to enable you to carry out your duties.

3. Always first try to handle the situation by other means than opening fire. If you have to fire: a. Fire only aimed shots. b. Do not fire more rounds than are absolutely necessary to achieve your aim.

4. Your magazine/belt must always be loaded with live ammunition and be fitted to the weapon. Unless you are about to open fire no live round is to be carried in the breech and the working parts must be forward. Company Commanders and above may, when circumstances in their opinion warrant such action, order weapons to be cocked with a round in the breech where appropriate and the safety catch at safe.

5. Automatic fire may be used against identified targets in the same circumstances as single shots if, in the opinion of the Commander on the spot, it is the minimum force required and no other weapon can be employed as effectively. Because automatic fire scatters, it is not to be used where persons not using firearms are in, or may be close to, the line of fire.

Warning before firing

6. Whenever possible a warning should be given before you open fire. The only circumstances in which you may open fire without giving warning are described in paras. 13, 14 and 15 below.

7. A warning should be as loud as possible, preferably by loud-hailer. It must: a. Give clear orders to stop attacking or to halt, as appropriate. b. State that fire will be opened if the orders are not obeyed.

You may fire after due warning

8. Against a person carrying what you can positively identify as a firearm but only if you have reason to think that he is about to use it for offensive purposes and he refuses to halt when called upon to do so and there is no other way of stopping him.

9. Against a person throwing a petrol bomb if petrol bomb attacks continue in your area against troops and civilians or against property, if his action is likely to endanger life.

10. Against a person attacking or destroying property or stealing

firearms or explosives, if his action is likely to endanger life.

11. Against a person who, though he is not at present attacking, has: a. In your sight killed or seriously injured a member of the security forces or a person whom it is your duty to protect and b. not halted when called upon to do so and cannot be arrested by any other means.

12. If there is no other way to protect yourself or those whom it is your duty to protect from the danger of being killed or seriously injured.

You may fire without warning

13. When a hostile firing is taking place in your area, and a warning is impracticable, a. against a person using a firearm against you or those whom it is your duty to protect or b. against a person carrying what you can positively identify as a firearm if he is clearly about to use it for offensive purposes.

14. At a vehicle if the occupants open fire or throw a bomb at you or those whom it is your duty to protect or are clearly about to do so.

15. If there is no other way to protect yourself or those whom it is your duty to protect from the danger of being killed or seriously injured.

Action by guards and at road blocks/checks

16. Where warnings are called for they should be in the form of specific challenges, as set out in paragraphs 17 and 18.

17. If you have to challenge a person who is acting suspiciously you must do so in a firm, distinct voice saying 'Halt — Hands Up'. a. If he halts you are to say 'Stand Still and Keep Your Hands Up'. b. Ask him why he is there and if not satisfied call your Commander immediately and hand the person over to him.

18. If the person does not halt at once, you are to challenge again saying 'Halt — Hands Up' and if the person does not halt on your second challenge, you are to cock your weapon, apply the safety catch and shout: 'Stand Still I Am Ready To Fire.'

19. The rule covering the circumstances for opening fire are described in paragraphs 8—14. If the circumstances do not justify opening fire, you will do all you can to stop and detain the person without opening fire.

20. At a road block/check you will NOT fire on a vehicle simply because it refused to stop. If a vehicle does not halt at a road block/check note its description, make, registration number and direction of travel.

21. In all circumstances where you have challenged and the response is not satisfactory you will summon your Commander at the first opportunity.

Revised November 1972.



MARGARET THATCHER'S BELFAST VISIT

CERTAIN SECTIONS of the English press may try to project British politicians as "bored neutrals in conflicting nationalisms" in the Six Counties. The recent visit to Unionist Party Headquarters in Belfast by the British Conservative Leader hardly helped that image. Mrs. Thatcher's visit, like the reaction of her competing colleagues to that visit, certainly confirmed strong motivation and partisanship — if such confirmation were needed.

She came to bargain openly for electoral support from the Unionists. She said nothing, offered nothing that has not already been said and offered by other political leaders for a similar purpose. But so fine have the divisions now become at Westminster Parliament that the result was a dog fight.

Tory spokesman, Airey Neave had been comparing the British Labour Party to Hitler's Nazi Party and the British Liberal Party to the German Centre who helped Hitler to power. The Liberal spokesman, John Pardoe, compared Mrs. Thatcher & Co. to the forces of Big Business and the Radical Right who toadied to Hitler in pre-

war Germany.

Mr. Pardoe extended his view of the Nazi circle to include the Unionists— "Mrs Thatcher's visit (to Belfast) was one of the most despicable by any British politician since Chamberlain's last trip to Munichshe needed the votes of the Ulster Unionists for a majority in the next election and had

gone there to forge an electoral alliance with the representatives of religious bigotry in Northern Ireland, appropriately accompanied by that most contemptible of her henchmen, Airey Neave".

The newly expressed insights seem a bit clouded for Mr. Pardoe whose Liberal Party has been involved with the Unionists in a voting alliance at Westminster to maintain a majority for the Labour Government. Perhaps the Unionists recent breaking of the pact, rather than their religious bigotry, was what proved offensive to the British Liberal mind. No less for S.D.L.P leader, Gerry Fitt, faithful retain-er of the British Labour Party. He had no words strong enough to condemn Mrs. Thatcher "who would deal with the devil". The lady in question was at no loss for words in describing such a comment "as more reflecting the person by whom it is made".

Only the Official Unionists appeared pleased at being so purposely courted and publicly "appreciated". Why the Thatcher visit should be considered anymore or less cynical and despicable is difficult to see. Being sharper and more direct in approach doesn't make her any more dishonest.

If the the British Conservatist leader "guarantees no break in the Union without the consent of the Unionist majority, calls for the establishment of an upper tier of local government in the Six Counties, defers any discussion of devolved government there, agrees to drop the idea of power-sharing 'for the present', promises to implement decisions to establish extra seats for the Unionists at Westminster, cracks the whip at the Dublin Government over matters of security and extradition and admits to having no ultimate solution for the problem of the Six Counties" — then there is little change in the political ad-man routine jingled out in recent years.

Buying the support of Unionist politicians is a long established custom. Having it up for auction alters nothing.

(Article courtesy of Irish Republican Information Service Bulletin).

Assassination attempt on Lurgan Republican

ON TUESDAY last 27th June an attempt was made on the life of 28 years old Jim Byrne at his place of work in Lurgan. Fortunately he escaped death at the hands of a pro-British/Loyalist murder gang. As is usual in cases like this the R.U.C. are keeping an "open mind" as to what group was responsible for the shooting.

Jim Byrne is an ex-Republican Prisoner, having spent several years in Long Kesh. So it doesn't take a genius to guess who was responsible for the attempt on his life.

At the time of the shooting every news bulletin said that his condition was not serious. The fact is that this young man is in a critical condition and escaped death by inches due to his alertness.

As for the R.U.C.'s "open minded" attitude to the shooting, this is nothing new in Lurgan. The same was said when Jim Breen was murdered on his doorstep, when young Eamonn McMahon was brutally murdered, when young Jimmy Griffin was shot in his home. We could go on and on as the list is unending but we all know what group was responsible for these murders and this latest attempted murder.

If any of these acts

had been carried out by the Irish Republican Army they would at once have been blackened by the R.U.C. and condemned by church and state and would have been classed as murderers and cut-throats. We all know who the real murderers and cut-throats are and we don't need the R.U.C., the Catholic Hierarchy, nor the so called 'Workers Party' to tell us. The people of this area have come a long way and have suffered a lot and will not be fooled by the R.U.C.'s "open minded" approach to the slaughter of members of the nationalist population.

MOTHER IRELAND

OH IRELAND, MOTHER IRELAND
THEY'VE CUT YOUR HEART IN TWO
YOUR SOUL CRIES OUT WITH PAIN AND
RELIEF
YOUR BODY IS BLACK AND BLUE

BEFORE THE SAXON STAINED YOUR SOIL
YOUR HEART WAS LIGHT AND GAY
BUT THEY LOCKED YOU IN A PRISON CELL
AND STOLE YOUR HEART AWAY

YOUR CHILDREN TRIED TO FLEE YOU
OH! SO MANY TIMES THEY TRIED
BUT THE TYRANTS SWORD JUST CUT THEM
DOWN
AND THEIR BLOOD TEARS YOU CRIED

BUT YOUR FIRE OF FREEDOM STILL BURNS
AND THEY'LL NEVER QUENCH ITS FLAME
FOR ITS FUELLED WITH THE BLOOD OF
YOUR MILLIONS
WHO LOVE YOUR HOLY NAME.

Demand PoW status

DO YOU FEEL GUILTY ... WHEN YOUNG IRISH PATRIOTS DIE?

When a young man dies for his country, what does he die for?

He dies not for green fields, silvery lakes, purple mountains, white farmhouses or city streets of pleasant memory. He dies for a people.

You may question his wisdom. You may condemn his methods. You may hint that he was, in his own way, seeking excitement or that he was dreaming romantic dreams of glory

But in these days, there are plenty of ways of seeking excitement, without seeking death. And in these days, the romance of swirling flags and glittering swords is gone.

When young men risk death, they do so for what they consider a worthy cause, the cause of their nation. And in that word NATION they wrap up the ideas of "a people", they want these people to have liberty to govern themselves properly. They want the people to live in comfort in their homeland, enjoying justice and equality of opportunity.

You may question the wisdom of a young man's methods. You may condemn them. But you cannot question or condemn the dream for which he died.

If you are anything other than a complete self-centred moron, or a despairing cynic, YOU, too, have that dream in your heart for your people and your children.

And whilst you discuss the young man who dies, does it occur to you to examine your own attitude to the dream?

You may praise or criticise him. But what, beyond discussion, are you DOING for the dream?

You watch the young people moving out to England, Canada, Australia, and America.

You fume about the overall disease of "patronage" and "influence". You rant about Governments and Civil Service.

You complain bitterly about the country's lack of money, of production and prestige. You talk and debate energetically. But how much do you DO?

When young Irish patriots die, how guilty do you feel? How much have you done or sacrificed to remove the obstacles to the dream - the obstacles that build up complete frustration in so many young people?

The obstacles and the sense of frustration which cause some of our best young men and women to emigrate or despair - and which cause others to seek drastic solutions.

When a young man dies for his country, he dies for a dream that is YOUR dream. If you believe his methods are wrong, it is up to you to demonstrate what methods are right.

How far have you progressed - or even tried?

(Courtesy "Shantallow News", Derry)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

RAYMOND HOLMES
Gartree Prison (Life)

Birthday Greetings, love and
God bless on your 30th Birthday
(22nd June).
From: Mother, brothers and Sis-
ters.

★★★★★★ SPECIAL GREETINGS

to Sandy Lynch,
Republican Prisoner of War,
Crumlin Jail.

Cheers mate!
From all the gang in Corby, Eng-
land also hello to all the boys on
the blanket B Wing.

☆☆☆ Congratulations!

☆☆☆

To our wee mate Wee Ali Logue
a cracking wee girl who's recov-
ered from recent ill-health.

CHEERS LOVE!
See you around! From all the
gang in Corby, England.

IN MEMORIAM

In Proud Memory of
Vol. Francis Jordan,
Jonesborough.

South Armagh Brigade
Oglaigh na hEireann

Killed in action 4th June 1975

*In life you went faithful, noble
and true.*

*Serving your land in weal and in
rue.*

*Wedded to her in fulness of
youth.*

*Symbol of freedom, honour and
truth.*

*In death thou art noble, valiant
and brave.*

From: Family, friends and com-
rades, Jonesborough.

SYMPATHY

Jacki Mailey, Dennis Brown and
Jim Mulvenna.

Paul Holmes and comrades,
Gartree Prison, England, offer
their sincere and deepest sym-
pathy to the wives and families
of their dear friends and com-
rades, Jacki, Dennis and Jim,
who while on active service,
were captured and brutally mur-
dered in cold blood by British
Occupying Forces.

*We take our strength from the
example and dedication which
they have shown.*

Notice

TO ALL RELATIVES OF PRISONERS
ON THE BLANKET OR ON REMAND
WHO ARE FROM
ANDERSONSTOWN

TWINBROOK

OR

TURF LODGE

PLEASE CONTACT ANDERSONSTOWN SINN FEIN
ADVICE CENTRE

Cumann na nUaigheann Náisiúnta

NATIONAL GRAVES' ASSOCIATION

Tours of patriots' graves

THE ANNUAL NATIONAL GRAVES' ASSOC-
IATION TOURS OF IRISH PATRIOTS' GRAVES
AND MEMORIALS WILL TAKE PLACE IN GLAS-
NEVIN CEMETERY, DUBLIN, ON THE FIVE SUN-
DAYS IN JULY OF THIS YEAR.

THE CONDUCTED TOURS WILL COMMENCE
ON EACH OF THE SUNDAYS AT 11.30 a.m., AND
WILL INCLUDE VISITS TO REPUBLICAN AND
YOUNG IRELANDERS' PLOTS AND THE
GRAVES OF ANN DEVLIN, FINTAN LALOR,
JAMES CLARENCE MANGAN, THE TALLAGHT
FENIANS, NOEL LEMASS, JAMES FITZHARRIS
(KNOWN AS "SKIN THE GOAT"), CHARLES
STEWART PARNELL, PLUS MANY MORE OF
HISTORICAL INTEREST.

VISITORS TO DUBLIN ARE ESPECIALLY WEL-
COME.

