



# REPUBLICAN NEWS

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## 'IRISH NEWS' NOTHING BUT A MOUTHPIECE FOR BRIT PROPAGANDA

The Leadership of the Republican Movement in Belfast have launched a scathing attack on the IRISH NEWS. The Donegall Street based paper has among its leading shareholders, members of the SDLP and the Catholic Hierarchy.

British Government officials recognised, long ago, the value of the IRISH NEWS as a vehicle for propagating — out-Republican views. Advertisements extolling young Nationalists to join the RUC UDR NI PRISON SERVICE are a daily feature of the paper. Republican policy adheres firmly to the basic right which upholds freedom of the press. All Unio-

contrast to the British policy of arresting and or harassing sellers of Republican publications. The attack, by the Belfast Brigade on the 'Irish News,' comes after plea's by the relatives and friends of Republican POW's who have been urging firm action to be taken. The Brigade statement reads:

“Belfast Brigade regret to note the ever increasing evidence, in the 'Irish News' of a predominating political policy of collaboration for the British Government occupational forces. The paper has deteriorated in to becoming another mouthpiece of British propaganda, but a more insidious vehicle because of its establishment with a largely Nationalist readership.

The criteria for this collaborationist policy is based on the ideological opinions of its middle-class shareholders, the influence of certain clerics, and its editorial support for — and letter censor-

ture, the concentration camp system and the state forces.

In whose name does the Irish News recruit for prison jailers, the RUC and the UDR? From whose opinions does it decide

print an Easter advertisement carrying the names of those imprisoned by corrupt State Courts, and the censoring of the political activities of other Republican bodies. This is in sharp contrast to the paper's policy of printing full page advertisements propagating the views of the British Government and its occupational army.

### The Irish News

1st YEAR

AND BELFAST MORNING NEWS

ESTD. 11

No. 3224

BELFAST, THURSDAY APRIL 22

ing in favour of—the views of the British SDLP.

The paper has departed from its relatively objective reporting in 1971-72 and now fully embraces British imperialism and its appendants . . . oppression, tor-

that captured Irishmen are 'criminals'? None other than the British Government.

Further substantiation of this collaboration is the paper's refusal to carry statements from the political prisoners, its refusal to

One Sinn Féin member in Belfast told REPUBLICAN NEWS that the feelings of the relatives of Republican POWs, towards the Irish News was one of uncontrollable fury. "Theipval Barracks has nothing to worry about while the Irish News continues to do their propaganda work," he said.



The are in one

One of the ads. for the Orange militia which daily appear in the pages of the collaborationist IRISH NEWS

RUC

We're on your side... get on ours!

The Royal Ulster Constabulary

## CAMPAIGN OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE HITTING BRITAIN HARD

Bomb attacks against economic targets are on the increase according to figures released by the British administration here.

Following Britain's tacit admission that troops are to be withdrawn from the occupied area the latest figures are sure to cause a storm of controversy in loyalist circles.

Figures show that this year there have been an average of 120 attacks a month, compared with an average of 52 a month last year.

Average figures since 1970 are: 1970: 14 attacks a month, 1971: 126 attacks a month, 1972:



attacks a month, 1974: 92 attacks a month, 1975: 52 attacks a month, 1976: 120 attacks a month.

During the past seven days the economic hearts of both Belfast and Lisburn have been ripped apart by bombs. Bow Street, in Lisburn, was destroyed by a 200 lb 'block buster' car bomb. This was the third such attack on the street since 1973. Royal Avenue in Belfast's city centre now resembles Beirut following another incendiary attack. The 'Picnic' building was gutted leaving set

fast throughfare.

Meanwhile, the Northern Ireland Office revealed that they have 24,000 claims for damages still outstanding.

A spokesman said today that the campaign had already cost

Britain '£1491/2m since 1968 and outstanding claims had an estimated value of £48m.

### Error

Last weeks paper was priced on the folio as 10p. This was a typographical error and the price of REPUBLICAN NEWS remains 7p.



Before I get started here, you'll have to excuse me for a minute or two while I have a quick word with my good wife and young son. Just skip the next paragraph - it's personal.

Well love, I'm sorry about having to write to you like this, but you know the score. Since the screws stopped our letters, parcels and visits, I've no other way to get a letter out to you. This will be the first word you've had from me since last Tuesday so, first of all, I'd better tell you that things are sound enough in here and that your mad and nutty husband is alive and well. I hope that you and the child are both warm and well and that you are keeping as cheerful as can be. That last visit of ours was great crack. I enjoyed acting the fool and it is fantastic when the three of us get together like that. What did our son say about his Easter Egg? I'm glad I was able to give it to him myself 'cos the way things have turned out, I'm not sure he would have got it at all! Me and the boys would have had it well eaten! Yahoo! Did you get to Milltown okay today? I haven't heard the news yet, but I'm sure there was a big crowd. Everyone in here is

waiting for the six o'clock news to see how it went. And that, comrade wife, brings me to my wee article. I'll see you again when I've finished. Sound, love? If I keep writing like this, I'll never get it done and then won't even have these few wee lines to tell you I'm thinking about you, so I'll see you again at the end of this effort.

Where was I there? Aye, East Parades... like, you can read on now, anybody wants to... We had our own parades here today: I'm not mad about parades at the best of times, but the British Army paid our's flying visit, just to add a touch of sedition to the proceedings. They used two of those new French helicopters (the kind the boys shoot down in Crossmaglen a week ago) and the noise was fierce. The parades had formed up in most of the cages and, just as the Proclamation was being read, down clattered the chopper!!!! It hung above us as we commemorated our comrades, drowning out the speakers and bringing a bit of reality to our prison world. It was all a bit silly, when you think of it, but I'm sure that only someone who has been in gaol could visualise the scene. It's strange enough to see gaol'd I.R.A. volunteers formed up into a colour party, dressed in Combat Jackets, Black Berets and dark trousers, the National Flag and the flags of Na Fianna Eireann, the Citizen Army and Cumann na mBan unfurled above their heads. I tried to detach myself from it to look down into our barbed wire arena, but I've been here so long (dry my eyes - ahh ahh) that I don't think anything in here could surprise me now. The barbed wire, the grey walls, the screw towers, the Brit gunposts and the two noisy hovering helicopters seem to form the perfect backdrop for our little ceremony.

Afterwards, when the choppers had fled from our wee grey patch of sky, we filed into an empty hut and the statement from the Army Council was read again. This time we could hear it properly and then, as everyone stood

in meditative silence, the Roll of Honour was read over. Faces from the near past crowded into our minds, as the names brought back sharp memories of fellows and girls we knew. I'm sure that every one was alone those few minutes with the people from their Battalion, their Company and their own areas. That's something that no amount of helicopters can prevent. What was it Pearce said? "...the fools, the fools, the fools..." He was right, you know. 'Cos the fellows in Brit uniform here made right cedjits of themselves. Anyway sure na bac leo.

I tried to explain it all like this. Rightly or wrongly, I'm an I.R.A. Volunteer and, rightly or wrongly, I take a course of action as a means to bringing about a situation in which I believe the people of my country will prosper. I believe firmly that the course of action I take, rightly or wrongly is the only one open to me because those who have a vested interest in exploiting my people leave me no choice. The course I take involves the use of physical force, but only if I achieve the situation where my people genuinely prosper can my course of action be seen, by me, to have

I will not think like this. I only know that I think like this now and that I believe rightly or wrongly, that I'm right. Like this wasn't the only thing we discussed of course. Both of us speculated a bit (in typical Long Kesh fashion) about what exactly this present effort by the screws is about. Are they being manipulated by Merlyn Rees into eroding Political Status under the guise of an 'industrial action'? Are they, for once, taking militant action on their own initiative in protest at the killing of one of their fellows? Or are they, regardless of Rees or anyone else, intent

If people can be convinced that Long Kesh is a necessary evil, that screws are community workers, that Republicans are gangsters, that innocent Irish people can be framed and then tortured in prisons in England, then those who cannot be conditioned will be coerced into acceptance, albeit hostile acceptance, of the Brit presence in Ireland. If all depends on what we accept or what we can be conditioned into accepting as normal.

Merlyn Rees claimed a hit in South Armagh this week in a statement, which, word for word, could have been written by the I.R.A.'s much

## DOUBLE TALK

I had a priest in with me last week. I think it was Thursday, but that's not important. The thing is, he was asking how I thought this business with the screws would go. I suppose he asked everyone the same thing, but I ran off a bit at the mouth with him. Like we had a friendly enough conversation, but he seemed to be taking the attitude that things were pretty hopeless and that the lads outside shouldn't be threatening screws. He reckoned it was pointless and it could only lead to a worse situation than the one in which we now find ourselves. I tried to explain to him that it wasn't us who created the issue. Republicans involved in physical force in Ireland are always portrayed as if they, and they alone, are the men of violence. Sure, we use force, but it's not a role we choose, nor a conflict we welcome. The I.R.A. aren't the cause of violence in Ireland. They are a symptom of it. If this was a normal society, we wouldn't have the violence we are now having to endure. I asked the priest if he accepted it as normal to lock up men and women, or to keep them in conditions our prisoners in England have to endure. He told me that gaols would always be needed, no matter what country we lived in and although I didn't want to divert into arguing about that, I had to ask him if it was normal to have English gaols in Ireland or Irish people in gaols in England.

I think it's all a question of what we accept as normal. If somebody thinks that we have a normal society in Ireland, that is, if they think that a partitioned country, an exploited and divided working-class, a garrison of armed British forces, and places like Long Kesh are all normal parts of a normal society, well then, that person cannot condone the use of physical force to change this society. If screws are normal-type community workers and if torturing and imprisoning Irish Republicans is part of normal community work, well then, that person could not condone the use of force against these community workers. "Like, let's put it to the test," I exclaimed. "Let's go home together. You and I will dander out and you can drop me off at our house." "The screws won't let you out," he replied slowly. "What's normal about that?" I asked. "Why should they prevent me from going home?"

been justified. In taking this action I also take certain risks. I have to accept these risks. They are a consequence of my actions and I cannot complain if I am hurt, if I am killed or if I am imprisoned. I must consider these things as possible and probable eventualities. I don't want to be hurt or be killed or imprisoned, but if I am, I have no-one to blame but myself. I at least have more freedom of choice than the civilian casualty or the victim of a sectarian murder. I have the same freedom of choice as a screw. I can risk hardship or death by being a Republican. I can avoid it, if I am lucky, by not being a Republican. He can avoid it, if he's lucky, by not being a screw. He runs the risk because he gets paid. The choice is his, as the choice is mine, but while we continue in our respective roles, we must accept these risks as possible and probable consequences of our actions. Once we have taken sides, we cannot complain. If we move against the Brit presence, they play an active role in the system which maintains it. It is that system which creates the present conflict in Ireland. It is that system which makes the screws targets, because it creates the screws and the I.R.A. men.

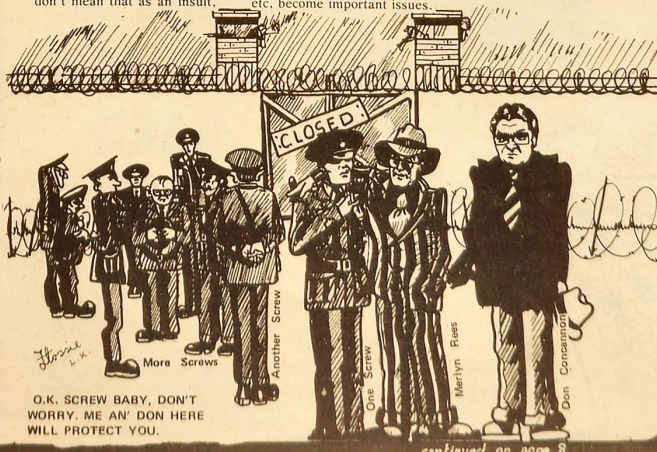
I can see the priests' point of view if he believes that all violence is wrong and if he accepts that the present violent resistance is bred from repression, maybe in ten years time, if all this has achieved nothing, I'll wonder why I wrote all this and why I thought like this. Maybe when I'm as old and as wise as the priest, and I don't mean that as an insult,

themselves on taking Political Status or at least the ingredients of 'Special Category' Status away from us? We came up with no firm conclusions of course, because our speculation, like most gaol speculation, lacked facts, but I formed an opinion that, either way, the present lock in will suit Rees. If the screws with or without his assistance erode Category Status it simply brings the process he initiated on a little more quickly than he could have hoped for. If they don't succeed in this at least he has had an enlightening dummy run which will be of immense value to him when he does get down to bringing the much publicised de-politicising process to its planned and hoped-for conclusion. It can be only of benefit therefore, to the Brit and we must be wary of anything which is to his benefit.

Political Status, from the Brit or public recognition of the political nature of our campaign by him, are not important issues of course. The Brit knows that we are political, that we are striving for political objectives and that we are motivated politically and patriotically to oppose their presence in Ireland. Recognition of Political Status and of the political nature of our campaign by ordinary people is the all-important issue. The Brits are not trying to convince us, or themselves of anything. We, and they know the real issues. The people are the ones for whom all the conditioning is intended and for this reason screws, Political Status, etc, etc, become important issues.

maligned Director of Publicity (poor old P.O'Neil). The S.A.S. (like, it was probably the Paras, but it suits. Rees to claim a hit for the S.A.S.) claimed responsibility for the shooting of an I.R.A. volunteer. He was unarmed, of course, and his name was Peter Cleary and he was shot three times 'trying to escape'. He will be described as a terrorist by the Brits and Rees will pontificate about terrorism and gangsterism from the safety and respectability of his comfortable and well guarded Stormont Office. Peter Cleary was on the wanted list and that explains everything. Rees had a contract out for him and the trigger-men made the hit last week. That wasn't terrorism of course. That was preventing a 'wanted' man from escaping. Listen to that, kind of double-talk long enough and it becomes accepted as a normal kind of thing. It is normal, of course, for I.R.A. men and they accept it as a probable consequence of their involvement in the present struggle. Peter Cleary knew that he was dead as soon as the Brits caught him, but for all that, his murder was blatant terrorism. He was murdered because he fought for his people. He was killed by people who are paid to murder, people under contract to kill, people who kill for money and for vengeance. Would the real terrorists stand up please??? Peter Cleary will be remembered long after they have departed from Ireland. A Mhuire na Gaedhal cadargai ar anam diis.

And so it's almost time, for this Easter Sunday night, for



continued on page 8



THE FOLLOWING THREE PAGES ARE DEVOTED TO PICTURES TAKEN AT THE EASTER SUNDAY DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMEMORATION IN BELFAST. OVER 20'000 SUPPORTERS OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT TURNED OUT TO DISPEL ALL DOUBTS CONCERNING THE SUPPORT ENJOYED BY THE IRISH FREEDOM FIGHTERS. BRITAIN'S TACIT ADMISSION THAT HER TROOPS WERE TO WITHDRAW FROM IRELAND COMES AFTER THE MASSIVE CEREMONIES, CLIMAXED BY THE DUBLIN G.P.O. BLOCKBUSTER' ATTENDED BY OVER 50'000 PEOPLE.

## LONDON SINN FEIN COMMEMORATE IRELAND'S DEAD



Despite the repressive laws which Roy Jenkins framed in an effort to suppress Republican opinion in England, many hundreds of supporters turned out for the Easter commemoration ceremony in Kilburn. A heavy force of Metropolitan police were present throughout the march, and following speeches, in an effort to intimidate those present. We lift our hats to the organisers of the successful commemoration to Ireland's dead.







## 20,000 IN BIGGEST EVER EASTER MARCH

*'The Republican Movement grows stronger with every passing day. No one present on the Falls Road to-day will doubt the determination or the ability of the Freedom Fighters to finish the last phase in Ireland's struggle for self-determination'*

RUARI O'BRAIDAIGH

A SALUTE TO FALLEN COMRADES



The helicopter, shown right, hovered over the Republican plot throughout the entire ceremony. Visible in the picture is the T.V. and sound recording equipment used to flash the scene at Milltown direct to Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn. The gear used in the helicopter is a modified version of the U2 surveillance monitors employed by the Americans in Vietnam.







FIFTEEN Marine Commandoes are clearly visible in the picture above storming Milltown Cemetery in pursuit of 4 schoolboys. Some forty other soldiers were involved in the 'operation' which was designed to start a large scale riot.

Another Brit observation post bites the dust. Two spies, 'Alpha 1-7' was their code name, had to flee for their lives as the flames licked around them.

Several young women remonstrated with the Britishers for smashing down the Cemetery gates and were threatened with guns.

In five dramatic pictures the invasion of Milltown Cemetery by gun-wielding Britishers is captured. A Humber armoured car was used to smash down the gates when four small boys threw stones at the soldiers of the Marine Commando. The NEWS LETTER, in their story of the incident the following day, said that the gates had been 'slightly damaged' by the troops. Our picture (below) tells the true story.





# WEST GERMAN SOLIDARITY GROUP SUBJECTED TO POLICE TERROR

Ireland Solidarity Committee in West Germany were raided and plundered by the West German police. The three German comrades were all detained, one of them still being kept on remand. The excuse was that they represented a "danger of prejudicing the course of justice." This is the second time within a short period of time that the West German Ireland Solidarity Committee is exposed to police terror. May last year the excuse was "suspicion of support of a criminal association." However, this time the public persecutor did not even look for a political excuse, and no warrants were given beforehand! Material and equipment to a value of several thousand DM was confiscated together with archives and all important correspondence. It has been proved that the political police collaborated closely with the fraud department in this case.

The West German Ireland Solidarity Committee itself comments on this event as follows: "last year those gentlemen first voiced a suspicion of 'support of a criminal association' which couldn't be artificially based on anything, even though they got an enquiry running now for nearly a whole year. But now they are keen on another trickery: on the one hand, they intend to combat the WISK's political work just for another try, on the other hand, they want the politically counter-revolutionary motive of their behaviour to be dropped from public scrutiny. Therefore they transfer their task, namely to hinder and harass political solidarity work for the struggling Irish masses, to their accomplices of the fraud department, under whose management the whole affair apparently shall be staged as a constructed fraud matter."

The West German Ireland

Solidarity Committee is the greatest and most active solidarity committee in Europe for the struggle of the Irish people against imperialism, and the interest of the political police in their activity is obvious. On several occasions we have seen good examples of the fact that the military authorities and the political police in various

## COLLABORATE UNDER NATO

countries collaborate under the management of NATO in order to crush the active struggle of the Irish people against imperialism and the British occupation forces, because they are quite aware that a victory for the Irish people would mean the greatest threat also to the ruling classes of their own countries.

An example of this collaboration is when the French Government allows the British

to train soldiers that are to be set into service in Northern Ireland on areas which the farmers in Southern France under strong protests are driven away from. In return, the French police is abundantly supplied with experiences which the British Army harvests in their repression of the Irish people, so that they can again be used against striking workers in France, of which we have had several instances. These experiences which could, under the shelter of NATO co-operation as well be used against Norwegian workers tomorrow.

Therefore the suppression of the Irish people concerns the working class of the whole of Western Europe, and every attack on the international solidarity work for the Irish people is an attack on us.

DNS (The Norwegian Stu-

dent Society's) meeting 3/4/76 condemns the annoyances that the West German Ireland Solidarity Committee has been exposed to by the West German political police and the West German authorities, and claim that the comrade who is still under arrest must be released immediately! At the same time we want to express our full support of the active fight of the Irish people against British imperialism. The heroic death of Frank Stagg after a two month's hunger strike for better judicial and material conditions for the political prisoners in English and Irish prisons throws a new light upon the inhuman conditions under which 1,300 Republican Prisoners still suffer in these prisons, but it also clearly shows the courage and the firmness by which Irish Republicans are always ready to fight their rights through to victory.

## NORWEGIAN STUDENTS SUPPORT IRISH STRUGGLE

A Chara.

Enclosed you will also find a resolution which was passed by a meeting of the Norwegian Student Society, which is the greatest and most important student forum in this country, on our initiative 3/4-76. The first part of the resolution expresses support for our sister organisation, the West German Ireland Solidarity Committee, which has recently been exposed to vexation and harassment from the West German police, the second part expresses full support for the active fight of the Irish people against British Imperialism, and reads as follows:

"We (The Norwegian Student Society, DNS) want to express our full support to the active fight of the Irish people against British imperialism. The heroic death of Frank Stagg after a two months

hunger strike for better judicial and material conditions for political prisoners in English and Irish prisons throws a new light upon the inhuman conditions under which 1300 Republican prisoners still suffer in these prisons, but it also clearly shows the courage and firmness by which Irish Republicans are always prepared to fight their rights through to victory."

We also enclose an English translation of the whole resolution. Please accept our best wishes for the Easter Commemorations, which we all hope can be celebrated in a United Ireland, free from all foreign intervention and exploitation in too far a future.

With fraternal greetings  
Harold Støren (Secretary)  
(For Irlandskomiteen i Norge)  
(The Ireland Committee,  
Norway)

## Cumann Describe Britishers Behaviour

A spokesman for the O'Carroll/Tierny Sinn Féin Cumann in the Andersonstown area has described the behaviour of the Marine Commandoes as 'disgusting'. The regiment is based out of Fort Monagh and have been involved in numerous assaults. The Cumann spokesman accused the Marines of waging a war against the women of the estate. 'Last Wednesday a young housewife and her four children were held at gunpoint in pouring rain after the woman refused to lift the baby from the pram. Several other women who left their homes to comfort the children were told to "... off and mind their own business' by the commander of the patrol', he said. 'Later on that same day a woman, visibly pregnant, was struck by a soldier when she refused to open her coat for him'.

The Cumann are documenting the incidents involving the Marine Commandoes and have appealed for anyone who has been assaulted, or abused in any way, to contact Sinn Féin or the Association for Legal Justice.

## SENATOR ATTACKS O'BRIEN'S CENSORSHIP POLICIES

The policy of censorship of political broadcasts on RTE television was a persistent anomaly. Senator Augustine Martin told the seminar on television in St. Patrick's Colleg Maynooth last night.

Speaking as a chairman of Citizens for Better Broadcast, Sen. Martin said: "We can switch to Northern Ireland's Scene Around Six or ITV's Weekend World and get a far more immediate and vivid sense of what is happening in the North, than we can get from our own television news or current affairs service."

"Last week we had the ludi-

crous spectacle of our Minister for Post and Telegraphs sharing a programme with Provisional spokesman Dáithí Ó Conaill while forbidding and prohibiting by legislation any such appearance on RTE.

"The only conclusion one can draw," said Sen. Martin, "is that Dr. O'Brien considers the RTE broadcasters more able and responsible than their RTE counterparts, or that the Irish viewers within the multi-channel area are more mature than those beyond the pale."

## LAST JOURNEY FOR A PATRIOT SUPREME



Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President of Sinn Féin, accompanied by the two vice-presidents, Maura Drumm and Dáithí Ó Conaill, walk solemnly behind the hearse carrying the remains of their departed comrade Joe Clarke. Joe was described as a 'patriot supreme in the annals of Irish resistance' by Mrs. Drumm. Joe, who was made an honorary vice-president for life in 1972 at the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis, will be sadly missed by everyone in the Republican Movement.

## Sympathy

The Editor and Staff of REPUBLICAN NEWS regret the death of Jimmy Thomas, committee member of the Cathal Brugha Accordion Band, and offer his wife and family our deepest sympathy.

'Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him.'

## Relatives' Action Committee

# TAKE-OVER OF THE IRISH NEWS OFFICES

The people present at this take-over are the relatives of the political prisoners at present held in British and Irish jails. We are protesting along with other interested parties at the horrible treatment being meted out to our defenceless relatives who are in prison. As you all know the prison wardens at Long Kesh and Crumlin Road have withdrawn certain rights from our men and their action has caused untold suffering. In fact none of us have seen our people for the past month.

## Reason

The reason for the take-

over of the Irish News Offices are:

(a) the lack of publicity from this so-called Nationalist Newspaper as regards the plight of our imprisoned people.

(2) the acceptance by this Nationalist Newspaper of advertising from the RUC and the N.I. Office, in particular advertising which promotes employment for the sectarian R.U.C. and for Prison Warders who are at present inflicting torture on defenceless prisoners. Also the

acceptance by the Irish News of advertising which calls our relatives 'criminals'.

We are ordinary people who are in a state of distress and frustration at what is happening to our menfolk, our husbands, brothers and friends. We want their rights restored to them, we want publicity for what has been happening to them.

The only 'criminals' here are those who walk our streets wearing the khaki uniform of the British Army. We will continue our protests until civil rights are restored.

## STATEMENT



NEWINGTON ARDOYNE NEW LODGE

# RAIDS, ARRESTS, HARASSMENT INCREASE

House raids, arrests and harassment continue to increase in the Newington, Ardoyne and New Lodge Areas. Every day houses are being raided in some cases twice and three times a week. Young boys and girls, men and women are being stopped and 'P' checked by Brits who already know their names and addresses. Dozens of young girls and women are being arrested and held for up to four hours for refusing to open their coats without the presence of a policeman.

In the Newington area on Saturday night two young boys were badly beaten by Brits after being stopped and asked their names and addresses.

Arrests were made before and after protests on behalf of the Republican P.O.W.s in the Newington and New Lodge areas on two consecutive Saturdays. In the first incident two members of the Sinn Féin and a female member of the Prisoners' Relatives' Committee were arrested while touring the area with a loudspeaker announcing the protest. All three were held

for four hours and released unharmed. Obviously the intention of the Brits was to attempt to disrupt the protest and ensure that none of the Irish took part. Nevertheless the protest went ahead and successfully blocked the Antrim Road at New Lodge and Atlantic Avenue. After the protestors had dispersed another member of Sinn Féin and a few others were also arrested and held for four hours. One of these a pregnant woman was cursed out to the foulest language imaginable.

Last Saturday a protest was again held at the same venues. During this protest the local Brit major, the infamous Major Smith, known locally as the Pink Panther but now commonly referred to as the 'mad major,' ordered traffic to drive through the line of women and children. One Ulsterbus driver took him at his word and attempted to drive on. A Sinn Féin member lay down in front of the bus and it was only the screams of panic from the women that stopped the driver going any further. Realising that he wasn't going

to be able to stir up trouble the mad major went looking elsewhere. This time he chose the incident centre. Now for some time local people had a sneaky suspicion that this character was insane and badly in need of psychiatric treatment. These suspicions were confirmed by his next actions. He burst into the incident centre. Of course there was no-one about at the time and he held the three occupants at gunpoint. He punched one of our members and threatened another

boy's ordeal did not end here. Once inside North Queen Street Police Station he was again attacked by this sadistic bull in a china shop. He was continually punched against a rough concrete wall with the result his knuckles were badly bleeding and swollen. His head was repeatedly banged against the wall and he has since been suffering from dizzy spells. He was treated by a doctor and handed over to the RUC.

On Saturday evening another member of Sinn Féin was badly beaten outside the incident centre. No doubt the Brits concerned took their example from their major and decided they too would have a bit of fun. Our member went to the assistance of his brother, who was shot by loyalists a few weeks ago and who still has a bullet lodged in his back, after he was hit with a rifle butt. He too was punched, kicked and dragged along the ground to a waiting jeep. At one state the Brits threatened to shoot him. A crowd gathered and tried to prevent

the Brits, who by this time had sent for reinforcements, beating the lad. The jeep sped off and stopped on a road for a moment and started beating him again, deliberately increasing the crowd. He was held for four hours in North Queen Street Police Station before being released. His hand was badly swollen and the ligament in two fingers, torn, he had a bad gash on his forehead, and teethmarks on his hand where he was bitten by one of the attacking Brits.

There is a notable increase in the harassment of Sinn Féin members. Four of our members were arrested within a few days and two others twice in one week. Local people coming to the centre with complaints or looking advice are also being harassed. They are being stopped, asked their name and addresses and what they are doing at the centre.

Recently seven young boys from the New Lodge area were arrested and held seven days in Castle-reagh under the Prevention of Terrorism act. During this time their relatives were refused visits even a solicitor was not allowed to see them.

## GROSS INDECENCY

Reports are coming in of gross acts of indecency toward the people of the Whitecock, Westrock and Springhill area, the local Patrick Campbell Sinn Féin Cumann have received many statements from women and the mothers of young girls who have over the past few weeks been subjected to vile and obscene gestures from soldiers patrolling the district. We couldn't possibly describe in print the sordid details of these attacks - such as the extent of the perversion, it is suffice to state that in many of the statements we have obtained from the injured parties, they tell of the most vulgar acts of exposure directed to the young girls of the area, the mothers and women. The ages of these females range from 10 years of age to 50 years of age, and when one recalls the two recent cases of rape by British soldiers, one on the Antrim Road, the other at Hollywood, it is horrifying to think that it is only a matter of time that these sex predators in

British uniform will physically attack the women of the area. Two weeks ago at the top of Springhill Avenue an incident passed without much comment; that was the attack on two young girls by figures come from the darkness of the waste ground. The girls assumed that it was sectarian attackers from Springmartin as did many people, but surely the weapon of the assassin is the gun, it is now believed that the attackers were motivated sexually rather than sectarianism, and as we state, the people committing such crimes at the moment is the British Army. It is apparent that we, the residents, will have to exert much caution after the hours of darkness, and many people are suggesting that girls or women should not be on the streets at night alone - for the streets of our area are stalked by Sexual Fiends in uniform. The Patrick Campbell Sinn Féin Cumann endorse the "Don't go about the area unaccompanied at night" sentiment.

The women who furnished us

with written statements detailing the acts of indecency, also approached local community leaders but sadly they received an attitude of total indifference; do they care? Well, we care, and we will be taking a line of action on the matter.

An official complaint has been made to the superiors of these sex fiends and it is hoped that they will be disciplined; allegations have been made from many quarters that the British Army have a free hand to carry out any sort of crime, oblivious of the Morals and Legal laws of the land. This we put to rest.

We hope that the residents will report to us any further vile actions of these degenerates. At the moment we have a full description of at least one degenerate as well as other items of evidence.

Patrick Campbell Cumann, Whitecock, Springhill.

## ★★★★★★ MURPHY'S SILENCE

Sir,  
Once again I am writing to you about the article in the Republican News on Canon Murphy and St. Thomas' School.

I would like to know if he has taken funds intended for St. Thomas' school and used them for the build-up of St. Louis.

Is he also selecting the best pupils and putting them in another school, thus running one school down.

We would all like to have an answer from Canon Murphy on these allegations as he has made no denial of these in the past.

PRO, O'RAWE/BYRON Sinn Féin Cumann.

## Greater Support in Future

A meeting of the Fitzsimon/O'Hanlon Sinn Féin Cumann, High Street was held on Wednesday, April 21st.

The main purpose of the meeting was to elect new officers and they are as follows:  
Chairperson: J. Sealy.  
Secretary: J. Kegan.  
Treasurer: F. Duffy.

PRO: S. Painter.  
Members present pledged to give greater support in the future, so that we may have a far more active and successful cumann.

We are holding a dance on May 21st and a large-scale raffie is being organised. Other Cumann in England will be asked to help us by selling raffie tickets. Their support will be much appreciated.

S. PAINTER, PRO.

## OPEN LETTER TO MR REES FROM REPUBLICAN P.R.O.

Mr. Rees,

Having listened to you very carefully and with great interest over the past few months, I have become apparent to myself and my imprisoned comrades, that you have become obsessed, even dangerously so, with the thought of ending Political Status. Special category. You have talked incessantly of ending Political Status for "thugs and murderers," and that your method of phrasing it is not the best way. Your claims that the surety of being caught and going into a cell, rather than a compound, is the way of combating "criminals," and to be heard now almost daily on the TV and radio or to be read in press statements emanating from Stormont Castle.

This preoccupation of yours, Mr. Rees, with 'cellular accommodation' has given me much food for thought. Your self assurance that the thought of being caught and going to jail is the means of deterring the Irish Republican Army, has especially been in for some close scrutiny.

On a personal note, I cannot remain her giving much thought to the possibilities of internment or imprisonment. I do not deny that it crossed my mind, after all no one likes the thought of spending an amount of time locked away from family and friends. However the thought of imprisonment whatever the type of accommodation, whether cellular or compound, whatever the conditions, did not prevent Republican prisoners at no time played a role in my decision to fight British Imperialism in my country, and having talked at considerable length with others of my comrades both in Crumlin Road Prison and here in Long Kesh, I

can say without fear of contradiction that what was true for me was true for them.

As a point of information Mr. Rees, I might add an important point which you seem to have forgotten over the years: I would like to remind you that Political Status was not won by Republican Prisoners until after a prolonged hunger strike in the summer of 1972. Up until that time not only were Republicans classed along with other prisoners as "criminals" but they wore prison clothes, and engaged in such activities as was common to a normal prisoner, for example, working in the laundries and the various workshops.



This classification by the British government and its native minions, nor the oft forgotten fact that Republicans were incarcerated at the time in "cellular accommodation," did not prevent Republican prisoners from regarding themselves as Political Prisoners, nor from preventing the people on the outside from regarding them as such. It should also be said, as it is one of your most common reasons for end-

ing Political Status, that at no time did the type of accommodation used by the British government in housing its captured enemy ever hinder or play even a minor part in deterring Republicans or the Republican Movement from continuing the war for the liberation of Ireland.

Therefore to you Mr. Rees, I would suggest the following in all sincerity, apart that is from getting out of Ireland, take another, good long look at your decision on the ending of Political Status. If your intention is, as you say, to end violence in Ireland you are most definitely taking the wrong road; indeed you are only adding to the many reasons the Irish people have for continuing this war.

Finally, I would like to add Mr. Rees, that a few weeks ago A.J.P. Taylor, the very eminent British historian diagnosed Ireland's problem as being the presence of the British. Mr. Rees, be honest with yourself, with the British people, and the Irish people, and make use of the great awareness you are supposed to have for the Irish question.

Pack your bags, take home your army, and leave our country. You are always saying that the Irish people must solve their own problems, will get out and let us! For only when the British leave this island will we have a "cessation of violence," then and only then will the people of this island really know peace.

Is Mice,  
R.E. McAULEY,  
PRO, Republican Prisoner of War, Long Kesh Prison Camp.

Back copies of REPUBLICAN NEWS, some dating back to early '72, are available. A bumper parcel of Ireland's leading Republican publication is available for £3, post free.

Name  
Address



## Steele Band Open For New Members

Hughie McShane (left) a popular figure at Republican parades and rallies has appealed for new members for the popular Seamus Steele Memorial Band. Any boy or girl between the age of 10-16 who can play an accordion, side-drum or base drum is invited to contact Hughie at 47 Rodney Drive. The Steele band have travelled the length and breadth of Ireland and are looking to play in Canada next year. Hughie tells us that donations are always welcome, the cost of running the band is, of course, phenomenal.



## Kissinger's Primary Concern is for Zionists

NEWS FROM AMERICA  
By John Ronan

The recent announcement that the American government would send custom agents to Belfast in an effort to cut off alleged supplies of arms from the United States to Republican forces, is another instance of president Ford's anti-Irish position. He has adopted the policy of former President Richard Nixon in this regard. It is interesting to note that a high official of the American government has publicly testified before the U.S. Congress that America's position on Ireland is pro-British and no statement of criticism of the British government should ever be made. This disturbing statement was made by Mrs. Rita Hauser, a former U.S. representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. She gave extensive testimony outlining the fact that she was under orders never to criticise the British government. Her testimony is summarised in a report issued by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. The report states in part:

"Mrs. Hauser cited the case of Northern Ireland as an example. She reported that while serving as U.S. Representative to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights she urged the State Department



to take a position against violations in Northern Ireland, but was told that our government would not take a position offensive to the government involved, the United Kingdom, because of our traditionally friendly relations with it."

Meanwhile, the U.S. government has criticised other governments for pursuing the same policies employed by Britain in Northern Ireland. This double standard employed by President Ford may well be remembered in the forthcoming national elections next November. His Irish record is a pretty deplorable one. He recently joined in a condemnation of the Republican movement in a statement issued jointly with Prime Minister Cosgrave. Meanwhile, anti-American feeling is building up in Europe, Africa and Asia because of present State Department policies. Even in Northern Ireland, there is a groundswell of anti-American feeling because of the biased handling of the present problem by President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger whose primary concern seems to be that of Israeli Zionists.

# SUN IS SETTING ON BRITISH EMPIRE'S LAST COLONY

Historians agree that the choice of Easter for the 1916 Rising was decided upon by the Leaders because many of the British Army officers would be out of Dublin at that time. Most of them would be taking the opportunity to have a day out at the races.

Furthermore because it was a holiday time the buildings earmarked for occupation would have only a limited number of employees in them, thus making the task of taking them over so much easier.

denied. Not even the gallantry of those involved could withstand the overwhelming forces ranged against them. The real victory was, as Pearse so often emphasised in the Resurrection of the spirit of Revolt in the Irish people. During Easter week-end for a period after, the insurgents were condemned by all and sundry.

Had the British been content merely to imprison those whom they had taken as prisoners and held them until the end of the War it is doubtful if Easter Week

with all the modern weaponry of warfare.

The lesson was not lost on the new leaders of the I.R.A. as the insurgents were to become known. They developed new techniques which were to become a familiar pattern. The most daring and effective of these were the Flying Columns and the Active Service Units.

They were adapted not only by guerrilla armies but also by the major powers during World War II. Against such tactics the British were powerless. Mobility was the

There is only one time to talk of peace and that is when the war has been won

Military considerations aside, my own personal view is that Easter was also decided upon because of its association with Death and Resurrection. Pearse in particular was concerned that only by the sacrifice of human life could the Irish people be resurrected from the grave of apathy and despair in which they had lain for so long.

How often in his writings, poems and speeches had he stated time and time again that from the graves of dead patriots would spring living men ready and willing to take up arms to drive the oppressor from our shores once and for all.

Whatever the hopes and aspirations of the Volunteers may have been the leaders of the Rising were under no illusions as to the ultimate outcome. They were also resigned to the fact that their lives would be forfeit when the Rising had been crushed.

The failure of the Rising in military terms cannot be

would have become anything more than a talking point. Instead they decided to execute those they regarded as the principals. The effect on the Irish at home and abroad was dramatic and far reaching.

Their sympathy and ultimately their support went to those who had but a short time previously been the objects of their scorn and hatred. Eventually their sympathy and support was to be a deciding factor in the years to come.

Pearse's dream was to become a reality and the Risen People were to become an example to oppressed nations everywhere. One very important lesson was learned from the military failure of Easter Week.

The Insurgents, by their decision to fight a "stationary war," had in effect doomed themselves to failure. Besieged in their positions they were denied that mobility which is so vital to an army fighting against vastly superior forces and equipped

new factor and one against, which, large modern armies have no answer save of course to saturate whole areas with men and materials.

This in turn is answered by a switch in the area of operations. Thus the initiative lay always with the IRA. They chose the time and place, the enemy could only hope by large scale movements of troops to deter their opponents, never to defeat them.

## Leo MacLiam

The weakness of the IRA at that period was that instead of pursuing the war to its bitter end come what may, they allowed unscrupulous politicians and the so-called Peacemakers, to gain the upper hand.

The result was the betrayal of the Fight for Freedom, followed by a vicious and brutal Civil War and of course Partition.

It is to be hoped that the lesson of that period will not be lost on today's leaders.

There is only one time to talk of peace and that is when the war has been won, not while it is still raging. The time to talk peace is when the British have left Ireland otherwise they will find some excuse for remaining.

Easter Week and its aftermath have been the inspiration for the young men and women of Ireland for the past 60 years. The IRA of today has shown that it has learned and learned well. It will continue not only to learn but to teach Britain that her days in Ireland are numbered.

Just as the Rising foreshadowed the beginning of the collapse of the once mighty British Empire, today's struggle will, with God's help usher out the last remnant of that same Empire on which it was said 'The Sun Never Set.'

## MANY LOYALISTS BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND REALITY OF SITUATION

A Chara,

Over Easter I read in some of the papers a speech made by UUM leader, Mr. Ernest Baird, to an audience of Apprentice boys in Larne. He asserted in the course of his speech that the aim of the IRA is to "drive the Protestants out of Ulster."

I do not expect many Protestants to believe what I am about to write but it is the truth and close examination of the facts will substantiate this.

The Republican Movement (Provisional) is a socialist movement dedicated to the establishment of a democratic socialist Republic in Ireland. We do not wish to see the genocide of one section of the community by another, nor do we intend pushing the Protestant population out of Ulster. Not only would this be immoral but economically disastrous. All major industry in the 6 counties are controlled in the main by the Protestant working force, or to force them out would only necessitate the closure of these firms, as the Catholic work force has not the skilled men to operate them.

As a socialist movement we wish to see the working class in Ireland regardless of religion unite and destroy the corrupt and evil system of capitalism which holds this island in a vice-like grip. As Republicans and Irishmen, we recognise that as long as Britain remains in Ireland and therefore as long as the artificial border which divides our country remains, this is impossible. Why you might ask should the border prevent Protestants and Catholics coming together? After all there are other Republican groups which say it can be done. It is very simple.

As in the past at the first sign of Catholic and Protestant working class people coming together, those groups wish to exist in this part of Ireland and who have a vested interest in keeping the working class divided and therefore weak, would again raise the terrible spectre of a United Ireland with its "Rome Rule" undertones, and the pogroms would begin again.

Many Loyalists are now coming to understand the reality of the situation and are talking terms of Independence, and working class solidarity. However Independence for 6 counties is just not feasible but a 9 county province within a Federal Ireland, with a system of government based on Socialist principles is most definitely feasible. What Ireland needs is a workers state, where the wealth of the nation and control of the nations destiny is in the hands of those who create the wealth and power.

The Republican Movement firmly believes that it is fighting in the long run, for the good of all the Irish people and not just one section of it. We have no intention of pushing out our Protestant neighbours, we have every intention of forcing out Britain and her corrupt system.

Is Mise,  
F. LOWRY,  
Republican Political Prisoner,  
Long Kesh Prison Camp.

Continued from Page Two

## Double Talk

me to sign off again. The late night news is just over and it raised an important question about the kind of conditioning I've mentioned here. When does a British Army billet become a derelict house? When somebody butts it down, of course. You'd think everyone would know that, wouldn't you? Yahoo! We'd better watch out or Rees will be telling us that the Cemetery gates knocked down that Saracen. I hope you all had a good Easter anyway. I'm going to have another wee word with my good and patient wife, so can you skip the next bit. Sound?

Well love, I know we can't go on meeting like this, but it's better than nothing. Take care of yourself and our eldest lad until I see you again. Don't be worrying as I'm okay-doke. Tell your mammy and daddy

and my mammy and the da and mor' from mise. Don't forget your prayers and tell the child soxoxox. God bless you both. You are the only P.O.W.'s wife to get a letter this week. "Yeuk", sez you. Na bac love stay cheerful. I love you and our wee son.

And now I'm off to bed with a blanket for putting over the head. I don't know when I will get another one of these out, but I'll be here anyway until I do. I do. Until that happens, don't be forgetting about the prisoners in England. Rees will tell you that they have no connection with Ireland. I wouldn't pay much heed to him of course. What connection has he with Ireland??

Slán agus beannacht,  
Brownie,  
P.O.W.,  
Long Kesh.