



republican NEWS

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**The message is loud and clear to everyone
who desires Peace with Justice**

ALL OUT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23rd 1976

BELFAST EXECUTIVE SINN FEIN, ASK YOU, THE PEOPLE OF BELFAST, TO ATTEND THE BIG 'PEACE WITH JUSTICE' RALLY WHICH BEGINS AT NORTHUMBERLAND STREET/FALLS ROAD, THIS SATURDAY, 23rd OCTOBER, AT 1.30 p.m.

THE 'PEACE AT ANY PRICE' BRIGADE, AFTER THEIR STATEMENT LAST WEEK, ARE IN EFFECT TURNING THEIR MARCH INTO A SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR THE R.U.C. AND BRITISH ARMY.

IN EIGHT WEEKS WE'VE EXPERIENCED THE MURDERS OF 12-YEAR-OLD MAJELLA O'HARE, 13-YEAR-OLD BRIAN STEWART, THE ATTEMPTED KILLINGS OF KATHLEEN DOHERTY, SANDY LYNCH, A TAXI-DRIVER AT LENADOON, AND A PREGNANT WOMAN AT THE WHITEROCK GARDENS. THERE HAS BEEN A DELIBERATE INCREASE IN HARASSMENT, RAIDS IN DAWN SWOOPS, AND MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARRESTED FOR INTERROGATION, ONLY TO BE RELEASED A FEW DAYS LATER. A NEW INTERROGATION CENTRE OPENED AT CRUMLIN ROAD JAIL. BRITISH SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY BURNING DOWN SOCIAL CLUBS.

THE WILLIAMS/CORRIGAN/McKEOWN TRIO HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE R.U.C./BRITISH ARMY, HAND-IN-HAND WITH THEIR CALLS FOR 'PEACE' AND WE KNOW THE PRICE OF THEIR PEACE - THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE R.U.C., A RETURN TO CONDITIONS AS UNDER 1968 STORMONT RULE. NO! WE WANT PEACE WITH JUSTICE!

ALL OUT ON SATURDAY

'I SAW A SURVEY THE OTHER DAY AND....'

We were having a bit of crack the other day when Duice John with great skill managed to divert us into wireassing on the subject of the Irish language.

"Do you know," he said, "that the Free State government did a major survey into Gaelic in 1974 and that they still haven't published it."

Must be something important in it," Alex suggested.

"Well I read a wee bit - an inspired leak would you believe - and it says that a majority of the population favours government support for Irish on TV and the radio."

"That's why they didn't publish it," your man exclaimed, "sure they have ruined the language - do you know that the number of fluent Irish speakers is declining and that the Gael-tachai (Irish speaking areas) are becoming more depopulated and Englished."

"Well I think the report said that Irish would never die out completely and that about 70% of the people have some knowledge of it," said Alex.

"I don't think it will ever die out myself," Duice suggested, "everybody has a wee bit of it." Take our house for example. There used to always be a wee bit of Irish spoken there when I was a wee lad. Not an awful lot, just a touch of - Oiche mhaith, Slan leat and Dia duit. When I was at school we were taught how to say - Anseo - when we were present and - As lathair - when we weren't."

He continued, "you know the sort of stuff, like - Druid an Doras - and - I remember one old battle-axe of a lady teacher, telling us how to get permission on what we wanted to do. Like, I have to admit it was all pretty functional Gaelic, just enough to avoid accidents. I realised then, that we had a language of our own, which if nothing else was useful for saying rude things nicely and later on at the Christian Brothers they impressed it upon us as a direct line for contacting God during classroom prayers."

"That's what was wrong," your man declared, "what did Donal call it? Jam Ja' Irish. There was no effort to make use of it outside schools. Now I can see an excuse for that in the North, where it wasn't usually taught in schools but in the Free State I think the government did it deliberately."

"But sure the dialect is coming down with Irish expressions. Especially the Bel-

fast dialect. Wait till I tell you. How many times do we use the expression - Ach? Do you see when I first learned it as Irish for - but - well I had quare crack. We used to go around, dead clever and all, explaining all sorts of constructions and words to grown ups.. You know when your Da would tell you to stop gurning for example. Well I'd tell him that came from - ag Gearaint - the Irish for complaining.

There were a million things like that. For example gansy being Irish for pullover or Barnbrack coming from the gaelic - Bearn Breac - meaning spotted or speckled loaf. The expression - "put on you" is a direct reconstruction of "Cuir ort do chuid eadaigh? They're all Belfast expressions."

"And place names," Alex exclaimed, "Most of Belfast's place names are from the Gaelic. Ardoyne comes from - Ard Eoin - meaning Owen's Height and Clonard gets it's name from - Cluain Ard - which means the High Meadow. Sure Ballymacarret, Ballymurphy, Owenvarragh, Glenalina, even the Falls itself. Shankill, funny enough means the Old Church or the Old Cell from the Irish - An Seán Cill. The whole country is coming down with it. You have Lisburn, Dunmore, Dundrod, Ballymena, Ballymore, even Long Kesh, not forgetting Belfast itself."

"I know all that but when you left school I bet you forgot about it," Egbert countered, "Everyone does and its hard to convince people of the need to have our own language alive and in common use."

"I don't think you will ever do that until the Brits are out. Sure even Conradh na Gaelige, and I haven't much time for them, state very explicitly that the language will never be revived until Ireland is politically and economically free. Once that's done I think we can put the language in its proper place, other countries have done it. I read recently that places like the Faroes, Slavania, Estonia, Albania, Rumania, Finland and many more revived their own language and replaced the foreign languages which had been imposed on them."

"Well," said Duice, "with tongue flicking in cheek, "Do you think language is important?"

"On it's own no, no!" Joe interrupted, "but as a symbol, a badge of people's nationality. Culture is important because it shows the



CAGE COMMUNIST

distinct Irishness of the nation. You know the character, customs, music, moral code, way of life. It shows people's outlooks and can only be defined by the quality of life, by a country's attitudes and by the needs of the people. That's why the Brits went to so much trouble to destroy it. Ireland had a society completely and utterly different from England's, and in order to suppress Ireland the Brits had to get rid of that Irish society. Gaelic is a symbol of that society.

English is a symbol of the society she coerced into its place. That's why the Free State Government is so down on any suspicion of national awareness, on the language and on Republicanism. They are intent on Anglifying or Eurofying the 26 counties so all traditions, values or culture must be made subordinate to British Imperialism.

If we are all to become British or European the Free State government sees no reason why we should seek a separate identity."

"It's a fact I suppose that colonial powers, as England used to be, always implant their own culture," Duice conceded, "but recently its got more complicated. Donal used to talk about the Radio One Murder Machine, I'd call it a process of Tele-Colonialism. We haven't just got English culture here. This last 20 years the country has been knackered and swamped with Coca Cola culture - a bubble gum system of living."

"And where do Republicans fit into all this?" I asked.

"Well for a start they should try to promote the language. Republican Papers

should carry pieces or lessons in Gaelic (gabh mo leith-sceil, a Eagathoir) and for instance the new Cumann Gaelach in Rodney is a good start. You have to remember that Ireland is politically and economically suppressed by British Imperialism and that's why people find it hard to see the importance of striving for cultural independence.

by Brownie

We have to oppose the Brits on all fronts. On the political and military fronts O.K., but also on the cultural and if possible on the economic front. Like that's the way the Brits suppress us so its only natural that we should oppose them in the same way."

"And where does that leave us now," I asked.

"About ten minutes of lock-up," your man suggested, "Come on, and we'll get a few laps of the yard. We've been talking here for two hours."

"Well it wasn't entirely a waste of time," Duicey John Retorted. "You know what they say - not Gaelic merely, but Free, not Free merely but Gaelic. Grab your coat. Here, do you know that despite the strong Irish oral tradition that Gaelic was the world's third written language; I saw a survey the other day and

Sin e comrades. Another night over us, Slan agus beannacht, Long Kesh.

SYMPATHY

The Officers and Volunteers of the

BELFAST BRIGADE,
Oglaigh na hEireann.

Extend deepest sympathies to the wives and families of
Staff Officer PAUL
MARLOW,

Staff Officer JOSEPH
SURGENOR and

Lieut. FRANK
FITZIMMONS

who were killed while on Active
Service against the occupational
troops.

The Director and staff of
the REPUBLICAN PRESS
CENTRE offer heartfelt
condolences to the wives
and families of Volunteers
PAUL MARLOW
JOSEPH SURGENOR and
FRANK FITZIMMONS.

Who gave their lives
that others may live in
an Ireland free from
war and strife.

'Induibheagan an Gheimhridh
Cianthinnis ar theacht an
Earragh' *From the graves of Ireland's
patriot dead will spring a
living Nation.*

EVERYONE ON THE STREETS, UNITE AND FIGHT

As expected, the arrival of British warlord Mason, has heralded the "re-adaption" of tough, hardline policies by the Brit army in regard to the Nationalist population of the 6 occupied counties. This policy is to run parallel with a similar policy to be implemented by the fascist Free State Government in the South. Despite repeated denials by the British and Free State propaganda machines, it has become increasingly obvious to everyone. Especially in the Nationalist ghettos of the North, as the level of Brit violence against the working class people of the ghettos escalates day by day. There have been no fewer than six indiscriminate shootings of innocent civilians, by these latter-day black and tans within the past fortnight. These shootings have had, at the most a two day interval between each incident and in conjunction with this murder policy, the systematic, dawn raids, harassment and brutal attacks on young and old people in the ghettos continues to accelerate an alarming rate. In one week alone recently, 51 people in Andersonstown were arrested 20 in the Ballymurphy area in dawn raids and brought to the various torture centres in and around Belfast, and interrogated and tortured for a minimum of 3 days in bids to extract "confessions." One young man from the Ballymurphy area, was so

brutally beaten, that he was black and blue from the back of his neck to his legs.

Unprovoked Attack

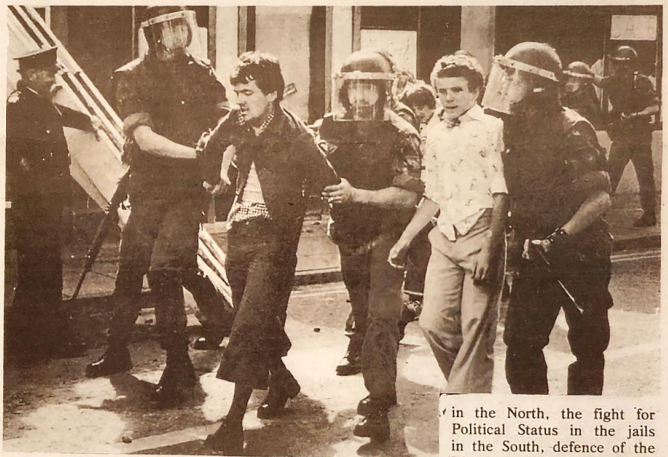
The murderous and unprovoked attack by Brit mercenaries upon innocent people enjoying a quiet social evening in the "Michael Sloan" club, Ballymurphy recently, was another example of this blatant "jackboot" policy. Everyone in the area now knows the truth of what happened in that incident, despite the attempted cover-up in the pro-British "Irish News" the following day. The truth being, that the Brits came into the club in their usual provocative and insulting manner and while one Brit was provoking a couple of young people another just opened with a plastic bullet. Eye witnesses stated "The Brits just started to shoot plastic bullets and rifle fire indiscriminately all over the place, it was a miracle no one was killed." Two lorry-loads of Brits in full riot gear, immediately arrived on the scene and proceeded to brutally attack everyone in the club. To the credit of the people in the club, they resisted as best they could, in fact, they gave as good if not better than they got. After the attack on the club, empty bullet cases and bullet holes were found in the ceiling and walls of the club and 17 plastic bullets (the Brits

had claimed only 3 plastic bullets were fired and never mentioned the firing of "live" rounds in their statement). Seven local people were later arrested after brutal beatings and charged with various "conjured" up offences. One young girl being charged with "attempting to take a rifle of a soldier." Incidentally, one of the brave Brits fired one of their now famous "aimed shots" and killed a sleeping dog in the club.

Ireland. One of the main 'planks' in this strategy is the removal of Political Status from Republican POWs in jails throughout Ireland especially in the North. They think that by labelling the Republican POWs as 'criminals,' 'terrorists,' 'thugs,' and 'gangsters,' that this will lead to rejection of the freedom fighters by their people and also depoliticize the struggle in the eyes of the world. In conjunction with

should succeed. Truly, peace at any price. Meanwhile the loyalists have been sufficiently "shaken" by the threat of prolonged Direct Rule, and are ready to accept any thing to save their privileged positions even the "dreaded Coalition." The SDLP? They were never any problem in the British plans. Completely without scruples, as they have proven time and again, they are prepared to sit back and let our people be slaughtered, so that they can get their wee jobs. Hume, Fitt and Devlin are not naive, they know why the Brits are applying the jackboot and are content to sit back and do nothing.

What must be done:
A mass mobilisation of the people North and South is needed immediately, coupled with the assured military operations of Oslaigh na hEireann, the Brit strategy will crumble. The Brits will be reduced to a stumbling child scout. All true anti-imperialist groups in Ireland and Britain must be united, to organise this mass mobilisation. Anti-repression must be the rallying cry. We must organise around such issues as dependent Political Status



in the North, the fight for Political Status in the jails in the South, defence of the Murrays (abolish capital punishment) human rights for the Republican prisoners in Britain and against the jackboot tactics of the Brit troops in the North. We must get organised to face the immediate threat and once that is done we can consolidate that mass support, through the "peoples' councils" and "Assemblies," and never losing sight of the ultimate aim a United Democratic Socialist Republic. We need people on the streets now! In Belfast, Dublin, every part of Ireland. Organisations in England such as T.O.M. must be urged to demonstrate on behalf of Irish POWs and every other sympathetic revolutionary group in Britain. In the North it must be defence of Political Status and the repression in the ghettos. In Dublin and the Free State in General, it must be human rights in the jails, support for the Murrays, abolition of hanging, oppressive laws etc. ALL of these are inter-related and cannot be treated as separate issues. Every one must be out on the streets. Unite and fight!

10,000 GERMANS DEMAND REPRIEVE FOR MURRAYS

To:
The President of the Supreme Court
Phoenix Park
Dublin
Ireland.

We, the undersigned, demand the immediate suspension of the death penalties for Marie and Noel Murray. We know, that Noel and Marie Murray signed their confessions only after being tortured and that the sentence was pronounced by a special court.

With this kind of justification Ireland follows the long legal tradition and practice of fascist states.

We appeal to you to suspend the death penalties and release Noel and Marie

Murray and Ronald Stenson immediately.

Prof. Dr. Ernst Bloch, Tubingen.
Heinrich Boll, Nobelpriesträger, Koln.
Prof. Dr. Serh. Schneider, Frankfurt.
Peter Hanoke, Autor, Kronberg.
Prof. Dr. Peter Bruckner, Hannover.
Hans. Magnus Enzensberger, Autor.
Jean Paul Sartre, Paris.
Prof. Dr. Alexander Mitscherlich, Frankfurt.
and 10,000 other German people. The lists with their names were given to the Irish Ambassador in West Germany.

The catalogue of similar incidents throughout the North are endless, New Lodge Andersonstown, Derry, Crossmaglen, Newry etc. Facts which further endorse the evidence, that this is deliberate British government policy and not some unrelated acts of indiscipline on the part of British troops.

All of this however, is only part of an overall British strategy, to crush once and for all, the resistance of the Irish people in the North. The same applies on a lesser scale to their lackeys in the Free State. The British and the Staters have obviously decided that the time is right for an all out assault on all anti-imperialist forces and in particular, the supporters and activists of the Republican Movement.

The decision to replace Rees with Mason plus the emergence of the present continuing hard military line is timed to coincide and interrelate to another number of tactics in this joint Brit Free State strategy to crush all anti-imperialist forces in

this black propaganda they have also embarked upon a systematic programme of harassment, intimidation and degrading treatment against the Republican POWs in an all out attempt to bring about a confrontation inside the jails. A confrontation in which the helpless prisoners will be slaughtered in order to crush resistance within the prisons. Republican prisoners in English jails are already being slaughtered, six prisoners including Fr. Fell are in the prison hospital on the Isle of Wight with broken arms and legs and various other injuries after a more recent and particularly vicious attack.

The "blank cheque" which has been handed to the British Warlords by the pseudo peace - women, the SDLP and the Catholic hierarchy, whereby the British army can launch a naked policy of repression is being acted out at this moment.

These attacks on the national minded community, are seen to be "justifiably necessary" in order that the pseudo-peace movement



Over 1000 delegates attended the 1976 Ard Fheis of Sinn Féin which was held in the Mansion House Dublin last weekend. President, Ruairi O'Bradaigh received a standing ovation from the Cumann members who had gathered from all 32-Counties.

In his speech Mr. O'Bradaigh slammed the British Government for their weakness in backing down to reactionary political elements last year.

He said that it was the British Government who finally bowed before all the

Part of the massive crowd which made Ard Fheis '76 the biggest in living memory.

destructive criticism of the bilateral truce in the North and had closed down the truce incident centre network.

This destructive criticism came from the Dublin Government and Opposition, the SDLP, the British Tory party, the UDA and many shades of Loyalism.

TALKS RESUMPTION

"As is well known, the talks between the representatives of Her Majesty's Government and of the Republican movement continued into early 1976. The Republican representatives were prepared to meet formally with the British representatives and

have discussions with them on the basis that the talks could go on while the war continued. We are still prepared to meet them, that is whenever they have something worthwhile to say to us," he said.

A further deadly blow was aimed at whatever vestiges of a truce remained, when the British Government, deliberately and in a calculated fashion decided to allow Frank Stagg to die on hunger strike in Wakefield Prison. Mr. O'Bradaigh continued. This happened despite the fact that his repatriation to an Irish prison had been agreed at a meeting with British representatives in August, 1975.

"The British may have taken his life and the Free Staters his body, but we, his Republican comrades, have his spirits." His remains lie, like Roger Casement, in a concrete-lined and closed grave, the dying wish of both as to their last meeting places frustrated by petty politicians whose defence of one political status quo and their own careers is their only concern."

BANNED CEREMONY

Mr. O'Bradaigh received a standing ovation when he referred to this year's banned 1916 Commemoration in Dublin and the subsequent jailing of some members of the organisation for five days.

On Wednesday they had seen the spectacle of 84-year-old Maire Comerford and 82-year-old Fiona Plunkett, sister of Joseph Mary Plunkett, executed leader, being fined and threatened with imprisonment for sitting on the platform outside the GPO.

"Are there no depths of shame and national degradation to which the Free State will not descend to save their own political skins? But then, Dr. Cruise O'Brien, their official 'culture-maker', revealed their true intentions when he said, repeatedly this year, that he wished 1916 had never happened.

"Easter, 1976, showed clearly to the world that the Republican movement today is the true successor of the men and women of 1916."

Mr. O'Bradaigh then went on to speak of the inevitable British withdrawal:

BRITISH AWAKENING

"The message is clear to the world. The writing is on the wall for British domination in this country. The more observant British commentators are saying so.

British establishment politicians themselves say so in private but desist from a public declaration because of the fears of devolution in Scotland and Wales, and because Leinster House has clung to an irresponsible silence.

"We say to the British Government: do not be so callous as to engender further hatred between our two islands for narrow political advantage. Do not add to the litany of irresponsibility in your dealings with Ireland.

On this final occasion, do the right thing, something which will help to undo, in some small way, the litany of crimes you have committed against this nation. Declare your intentions to get out.

Abandon the war of brutality against the risen people which is doomed to failure in any case, and which even your own hard-headed generals now realise you cannot win, and set about paving the way for your departure from the shores of this sorry land.

"You know that if you do this - if there is a clear change in the direction of British policy towards Ireland - we will give you every assistance to leave with as much grace and as little trouble as possible.

If, on the other hand, you refuse to come clean to try to establish a new means of retaining your immoral interference in our affairs, then we will continue to oppose you with all the determination and might at our command," said Mr. O'Bradaigh.

CONNOLLY'S WORDS

Replying to the presidential speech, Mrs. Nora Connolly O'Brien said that it was appropriate to quote the words of her father as he was propped up in a hospital bed to face a court martial after the Rising, he had said that England had no right to be in Ireland and never had a right to be in Ireland.

She said that she praised God that she had lived in to see the day that thousands of Irish men and women, boys and girls were standing, and ready to stand, to prove the truth of that. The struggle in the North was merely a continuation of what had been started in Easter Week, 1916. Northern Ireland was the last British foothold in Western Europe

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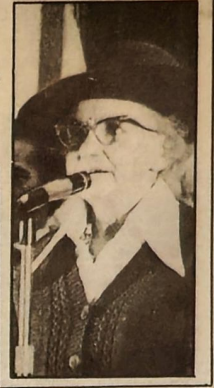
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Nora Connolly O'Brien, daughter of Irish revolutionary socialist James Connolly. Mrs. Connolly O'Brien said that she praised God that she had lived to see thousands of Irishmen and women standing firm against British rule in Ireland.



they were prepared to pay to retain that foothold. said that it wouldn't be before she could again see the sight of British troops leaving this country and that she believed she would live long enough to see it happen.

It also called for education of members and followers of the party in these matters, and especially in the proposed future role of the New Ireland in world affairs.

CLERGYMEN'S CRITICISM

Mr. O Bradaigh explained that when representatives of his party met Protestant clergymen from the Council of Churches in Feakle almost two years ago one of the criticisms of the clergymen levelled at them was that while Provisional Sinn Fein had worked out the kind of

as it will shortly be known.

"Yet is not this very same principle of majority rule the sure basis for peace in Ireland with local communities governing themselves?"

In supporting their liberation struggles, they looked to the Organisations of African Unity, a regional body of the United Nations Organisation embracing 47 States, the Conference of Non-Aligned Nations with a membership of 85 States and the "Group of 77" at the United Nations, as progres-

Rhodesia, and Brian Faulkner, in the North, found, the Government here would soon find they were on a downward slippery slope.

The West British politicians of Leinster House were determined not just to crush the Republican Movement and all resistance but they aimed to destroy the whole concept, feeling and pride that went with being Irish.

"We say to Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien and Dr. Garret Fitzgerald, that they can brandish their degrees and doctorates as much as they wish around the world but they cannot stop the march of truth," he added. "We are dedicated to change and the overthrow of English rule and its vile aspects in Ireland and we will not rest until that is achieved."

Officers elected were presi-

dent, Ruairi O Bradaigh; vice-president, Daithi O Conaill and Joe Cahill; general secretaries, Walter Lynch and Niall Fagan; joint treasurers, Tony and Charles McGlade.

There were 54 nominations to the ard-chomhairle. Those elected are: Sean Keenan, Maire Drumm, J.J. McGill, Gerry Adams, Joe O'Neill, Mary Ward, Andreas O Callaghan, Daithi O Hogain, Ruairi O Bradaigh (president) Sean O Bradaigh, Joe Cahill, Niall Fagan, Walter Lynch, Tony Ruane and Charles Mc Glade.

Observers at the Ard Fheis commented on the political consciousness shown by the younger members of the movement. A member of the Belfast Educative, Sinn Fein, said that the energy demonstrated by the speakers with the Ard Fheis augured well for the future.

Life-long Republican activist, Joe Cahill, who was elected the new vice-president of Sinn Fein following Maire Drumm's resignation on health grounds.

"The message is clear to the world. The writing is on the wall for British domination in this country."

tion groups in other parts throughout the world during the past year.

will operate under the banner of our ard-chomhairle and add a global dimension to our own liberation struggle," said Mr. O Bradaigh.

proposing the foreign resolution, Mr. O Bradaigh said that Sinn Fein believed that the only real future for Ireland in relation to the world at large lay in disentangling our country from economic and political power blocs and the military alliances like NATO, and joining with the post-colonial and non-aligned countries of the Third World in Africa, Asia and Latin America in their struggles against all forms of imperialism and in their efforts to build a new world economic order.

resolution called for a re-orientation of the party's strategy for those throughout the world engaged in the struggle for national liberation and an invitation to their explicit support in the struggle in Ireland.

Ireland they wanted, they had not worked out the relationship of that New Ireland with the world at large.

Since then, however, he and his colleagues had attended several international conferences throughout the world where they had met everyone they could from Third World countries, the representatives of the various liberation movements as well as representatives of countries which had already thrown off the colonial yoke.

"The world does not begin and end with England, the EEC and America," said Mr. O Bradaigh. "The Third World countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, colonised and exploited like ourselves, are emerging into liberation and national independence. They have shared our experience and we have many friends among them."

MAJORITY RULE

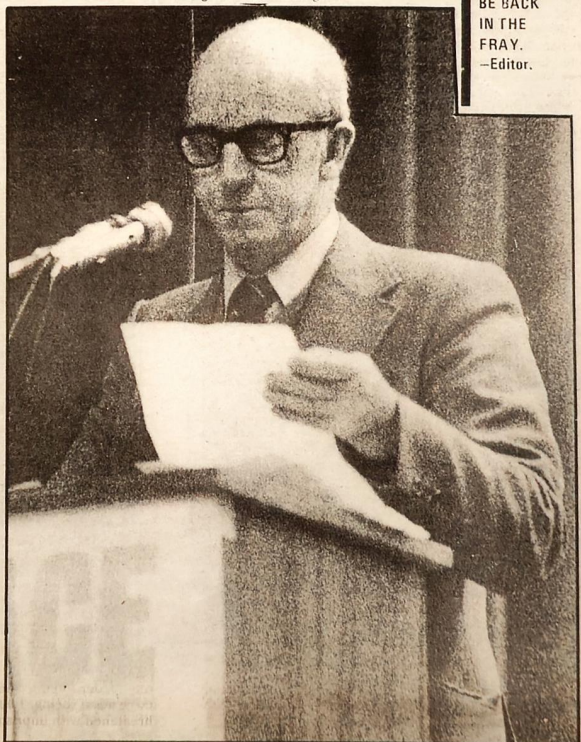
In this connection, he said, it was interesting to note that majority rule was now universally accepted to be the only basis for peace in Rhodesia - or Zimbabwe,

sive and anti-imperialist forces in the world. Taking the longer view, links forged now would serve the New Ireland of the future well in the quest for trading partners and economic arrangements to mutual advantage.

CULTURE

Proposing a resolution under the section in the clar devoted to culture, Andreas O Callaghan, of the Ard Comhairle, said the Twenty-Six County State claimed for itself the mantle of Pearse and Connolly, but everybody knew the amount of damage the politicians of leinster House had done to Pearse's ideals of a 32-county Ireland and a Gaelic Ireland. Their pronouncements throughout the years were based on hypocrisy.

It must be clear, he said, that they would not just move Leinster House to Athlone. They would trample it into the dust and build new institutions for all Ireland. His party took it as a compliment that the Government declared a state of emergency and were building new prisons. But just as Ian Smith, in



REPUBLICAN NEWS WERE SADDENED TO LEARN THAT MRS. MAIRE DRUMM WAS NOT SEEKING RE-ELECTION AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN

WE WISH MAIRE A SPEEDY RECOVERY AND ARE CONFIDENT THAT SHE WILL SOON BE BACK IN THE FRAY.
-Editor.

NOTES FROM NOWHERE

A THOMPSON SPLUTTERS AND JAMS

One of the best Brit papers to read for coverage of the current War of Independence is the Daily Telegraph.

Reading the Daily Telegraph is like reading Republican News or An Phoblacht. Unlike the Guardian, the Irish Times or other so-called liberal papers, the Telegraph - edited by Tory ex-Cabinet Minister William Deedees, and with former Unionist candidate T.E. Utley as leader writer - has a tendency to call a spade a thaig. No beating about the impartial bush here; they wanted the defeat of the Irish Republican Army and the defence of the Union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Year in year out, the Telegraph's Defence Correspondent, Brigadier Thompson has predicted the imminent defeat of the Republican Army.

'Then, at home suddenly, a terrible silence was born.'

Like a maniac-depressive in need of friends, the Ministry of Defence in London forced the brave and gallant Brigadier with phoney statistics proving that victory was just around the corner. In turn the top-brass like Brit Army chief Sir Peter Hunt quoted these statistics from the Telegraph to Army Minister - and erstwhile CIA agent - Will Rogers. Month after month in the basement cinema of the MOD or in nearby clubs, the Defence Correspondent congratulated the Army Minister who then congratulated the Army Chief of Staff, who in turn congratulated the Defence Correspondent

Then, at home suddenly, a terrible silence was born. No more brilliant rewrites of Army Press Office handouts.

Like the dog, who as Sherlock Holmes pointed out, failed to bark in the night, the Brigadier has fallen silent.

No more we hear the hollow boasts from Horse Guard's parade. No more the ritual presentation of the premature victory fanfare. No pipe, no drum, no battle hymn sounded its last tattoo. But Britannia's hacks faded out into the foggy dew of Whitehall.

Contrary to rumour, and despite his recent mishap in a Brit helicopter "somewhere in the middle-east" I must assure my readers that old soldier that he is, Brigadier Thompson has not died! He just faded away as Brit victory hopes joined the pound sterling in its downward plunge. Like an old Thompson gun, the Brigadier just spluttered, jammed, and fell silent.....

CIARAN McKEOWN

Either Brit sabotage or Republican gremlins have been work on the first edition of these notes from nowhere.

It's not, as my readers may have got the impression, Ciaran "peacenark" McKeown who is writing the expose of student politics during McKeown's days at Queen's. The magnum opus "All the President's Boys" is to be the work of a much more talented writer,

Paddy Lynch.

Meanwhile I would like to thank all those who have started to inundate this office with their reminiscences of Mr. McKeown. Prize this week goes to the one about McKeown flashing a Fianna Fail membership card when he first got his job on Burgh Quay with the Irish Press.

This should prove interesting to members of the Dublin Labour Party, where I hear the brave McKeown who has left the press has recently

been casting lace-curtained eyes about for news of a possible soft Dail or Senate seat. I would not be surprised if the nice gentlemen from the so-called "Militant" grouping who are stuck with their declared support for the "peace" movement decided to support him when he retreats across the waters of the Boyne.

I'm sure Ciaran will prove as fast a runner as James II, and like him will win the race with his deluded supporters.

LATE NEWS

SAVAGE beatings in CRUMLIN JAIL

As we prepare to go to press we learn, in a letter smuggled out of Crumlin Road Prison, that Republican armed prisoners have been subjected to a reign of terror within the walls of the jail. Defenceless men have been beaten unconscious by groups of Prison Officers who have admitted their connections with Loyalist murder gangs to the prisoners. One young man was kicked and beaten until he collapsed and was then locked up in a bare cell without facilities for sleeping. In the letter from the jail the commander of the Republican remand prisoners says that if the PO's continue with their present actions then someone will be killed. We will carry a full report of the Crumlin beatings in next weeks REPUBLICAN NEWS, plus comment from the relatives of the prisoners.

"Talking of birds"

BROWNIE'S article of two weeks ago, 'Pigeons', really hit a sore point with some of our readers. We have been indulged with offers of birds from readers who were outraged at the actions of the Long Kesh prison authorities in evicting the feathered friends of the Republican POW's. One old woman came into our office with a lesser spotted Vachetii and, with tears in her eyes, asked us to send it to Brownie on the first available LK minibus. A member of the Republican Press Centre said, after reading of the pigeons, 'If they're looking for birds they can have mine.' S'll vious plat.....



Farewell to our Comrades



Despite the efforts of the RUC and the British army, the last remains of Volunteers Marlow, Surgenor and Fitzsimmons were given the full military honours they deserved. RUC militia attempted to have the national flag removed from the coffins of the Short Strand martyrs as the funeral party prepared to leave the area, but despite the massive intimidatory show of strength by the Orange police the tricolours remained in place until the funeral reached the Republican plot. The funeral was one of the biggest ever seen on the Falls Road, testimony to the love and respect that the dead Volunteers were held in by the people of the occupied areas. Pictured above, comrades in a last farewell to their fellow Volunteers, killed in action against the British forces.

(Tribute and oration on page 7)

'TO-DAY RUARI (BLEEP), PRESIDENT OF (BLEEP-BLEEP), SAID THAT THE (BLEEP) PROPOSALS FOR A FEDERAL (BLEEP) SHOULD BE



Enquiries about the Gerry Adams pamphlet, PEACE IN IRELAND, continue to flood the offices of the Republican Press Centre. A second print is now on sale in all areas. Information can be obtained by dialling Belfast 46841 and asking for Mr. O'Neill.

Staff Officer Paul Marlow, Staff Officer Joseph Surgenor, Lieut. Frank Fitzsimmons

KILLED IN ACTION

The deaths of three Volunteers on Saturday night has numbed the entire Republican Movement. Staff Officers Paul Marlow and Joseph Surgenor, and Lieut. Frank Fitzsimmons were killed while preparing to attack a British army base situated within the City Gas works in the Ormeau area.

Volunteers Surgenor and Fitzsimmons came from the tiny Short Strand enclave of Ballymacarret. An area which has suffered frequent, and vicious attacks from Loyalist and British army killer gangs.

Volunteer Marlow was a Falls Road man and had seen some of the worst atrocities of the present war committed against his people. All three were former internees, locked up for varying spells without charge or trial in both the Maidstone Prison Ships and Long Kesh concentration camp. On their release the trio had reported straight back for active service and resumed their roles in the liberation struggle. Not for them the tranquility of a lengthy holiday or the excuse to opt out of the struggle claiming to have 'done their bit.'

Paul Marlow, Joseph Surgenor and Frank Fitzsimmons were acutely aware of the nature of the Irish Struggle. They accepted the



Pictured left, Staff Officer Joseph Surgenor, right, Lieut. Frank Fitzsimmons, below, Staff Officer Paul Marlow.



fact that an imperialist power never gives freedom, freedom must be taken. The efforts of the Volunteer soldiers of Oglai na hEireann has brought the British Government and its mercenary army to their knees. While the Republican Movement grieves at its great loss it draws strength from the sacrifice of its martyred Volunteers.

The road to Irish freedom is stained with the blood of

generations of men and women who walked the path of Volunteers Marlow, Surgenor and Fitzsimmons. To the wives families and comrades of three noble soldiers we offer our heartfelt condolences.

'Revolutionary conduct is the mirror of revolutionary faith, and when someone calls himself a revolutionary and does not act as one, he is nothing more than a heretic!'



ORATION AT THE GRAVESIDE

Many, many times before, we have stood here, for this sacred grave is the place where rests the mortal remains of the dead soldiers of Oglai na hEireann.

Today, we have the sad task of laying to rest, three of Ireland's bravest soldiers, Vol's, Fitzsimmons, Surgenor, and Marlow, and our hearts are heavy in sorrow. Their comrades here gave them full military honours and paid their last respects with the final salute. So many graves have been filled - so many orations given that it would be virtually impossible for me to say something that has not already been said. What could I say here today at the graveside of these noble men? They have given everything, even their lives, no words that I could utter in Humble tribute would be worthy of such sacrifice.

It has been said that no country is worthy of freedom and no people deserves freedom if they are not prepared to make the necessary sacrifices to obtain it, even if it means the laying down of their lives for that end. Thank God, in every generation we have had the faithful who fought and died to prove that the people of this country are worthy of

freedom. What is this freedom that they have died for?

Today we have the leaders of the so-called peace movement proclaiming to the world that they would die for peace, maybe they would - I don't know, but I know that the Vol's whom we lay to rest here today died for peace - peace with justice that will mean the end, not the beginning of oppression and tyranny in our country.

They have dreamed their dreams and now they are dead, but we know their dreams for it was the dream of countless Irishmen of every generation; it was Lalor's dream, it was Connolly's dream and it was Mellow's dream. Now it is our dream. What person worthy of the name of Irishmen would not wish that dream to be a reality, what men worthy of the name of Comrade would leave this holy place today with out resolving in his heart that he would never desist in his efforts until he won the freedom that his comrades died for. We know that we will, one day, achieve that freedom and then we will return here to this grave and we will say that we have raised to our comrades a monument, not in stone or in marble, but in the noblest monument of all - The Free democratic Socialist Republic of Ireland.

FACE OF A RUC SPY

Reproduced below is the photograph from the Driving Licence found in the car of RUC man Alfred Belford. If this man has visited your home pretending to be an 'Assistance man' you should report the matter to the nearest Advice Centre.



IRA INTELLIGENCE SMASH RUC COVER

A First Battalion, Belfast Brigade Intelligence Unit have uncovered a 'front' being used by the RUC for surveillance in Nationalist areas. Following the funeral of young Brian Stewart, murdered by the British army, Republican personnel in the Turf Lodge area approached a suspicious car parked near Fort Monagh. When asked to produce his identification the driver ran off into the Fort. IRA Intelligence took possession of a driving licence, a Walther pistol, and a phony identification. The licence belonged to a Constable Alfred Henry Belford, 41, Mar Road, Bangor. The IRA issue and the I.D. was made out to an

"A. Belford, Ministry of Health and Social Services." It was established from a book, taken from the car, that Belford was posing as an "Assistance man," the name commonly given to inspectors from Social Security. It is not so long ago since it was revealed that British intelligence in the Irish war zone were using false N.U.J. cards as I.D. Pressmen kicked up such a storm that the British Government announced that the practice was to be discontinued. It is thought that the National Union of Public Employees will be just as vehement in their demand that the RUC desist from using their union as cover for intelligence gathering.

ARDOYNE NEWS

ADVICE CENTRE
WORKERS TARGET FOR
BRIT ABUSE

Sinn Féin personnel in the Ardoyne Advice Centres have been the target of abuse by British soldiers in the area, every patrol which passes the premises hurls insults at the workers inside. People entering or leaving the centre are stopped and asked for their names and addresses and warned not to come near the premises again. Despite the intimidation the flow of

people seeking assistance has increased dramatically.

Repression in the Ardoyne area continues unabated. Beatings and arrests are a daily occurrence as men, women and children come in for Brit army attention. Several young men, arrested this week, have been threat-

ened that they "will be dropped off in the Shankill Road," if they are seen near the Advice Centre. Two houses were raided and Father and daughter arrested in both. The men were released shortly afterwards but the girls were held for 24 hours.

Warning
to
Hoaxers

In a supplied statement the South Down Command, Ogligh na hEireann, have admitted responsibility for the bombing of the Belfast Telegraph officers recently.

The Command say that the premises come within the scope of their list of economic targets. They have also hit out at the people behind the

recent spate of hoax bomb calls which, the Command say, pose a grave threat both to IRA Volunteers and innocent civilians who could well be falsely lured into the area of combat by such calls. The statement concludes by warning those involved in the hoax calls to desist or face the inevitable consequences of their actions.

KISSINGER COMES
TO HIGH WYCOMBE

The Fitzsimmons/O'Hanlon Cumann, High Wycombe are happy to report on a most successful weekend.

It began with a dance on Friday night, attended by a good 200 people. Once again our grateful thanks to friends from Luton, Hayes, Bletchley and High Wycombe to mention but a few.

It was also a great pleasure to welcome Eddie, up specially from the West Country for the weekend. Eddie, a Cork man, was a freedom fighter of the 40's and later a prominent speaker and singer in London. He is now an honorary member of our

Cumann and we look forward to welcoming him on many occasions in the future.

Our other most welcome visitor was our very own Jimmy Kissenger who flew in specially from Luton for the weekend talks.

On Saturday afternoon he set the ball rolling for diplomatic negotiations between several factions of the working-class majority.

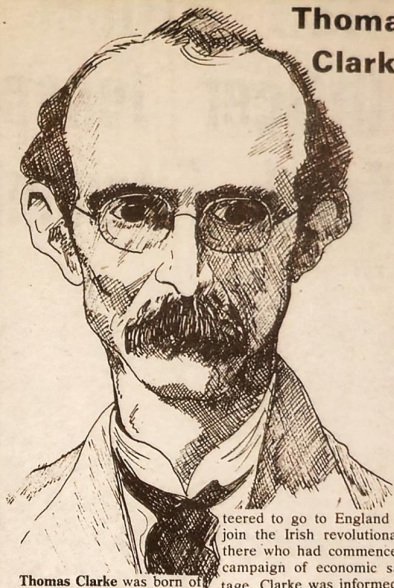
Jim brought together round the table, members of Sinn Féin, International Socialists as well as supporters of T.O.M. Not content with such breakthrough our diplomatic envoy pushed further, by suggesting the Asian and

West Indian population of High Wycombe should be encouraged to join this broad front of socialism.

The policies of each group present were outlined and shades of opinion voiced. All delegates pledged themselves to a truce over any differences in policy in order to work towards majority rule and the downfall of capitalism.

A further meeting will be arranged and it is hoped to form an action committee.

Thanks Jim from all of us - this is one Kissenger we would always welcome to High Wycombe.

REVOLUTIONARY
PEN PORTRAITS NO. 9Thomas
Clarke

Thomas Clarke was born of Leitrim-Tipperary. Protestant/Catholic stock. His father, James Clarke, a bombardier in the British army, married Mary Palmer of Clogheen, Tipperary, while stationed in Ireland. Soon afterwards he was posted to the Isle of Wight where Thomas was born in March 1858. He was twenty when his father retired and came to live in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, which was then a centre of strong nationalist feeling. He was already committed to the Irish cause when, in 1878, John Daly, Irish Republican Brotherhood organiser, came to Dungannon. Daly and Clarke immediately became friends. Tom Clarke and five others came to Dublin where they were sworn into the Fenian Brotherhood. In 1881 Clarke went to America where with other emigrants he became one of the Irish American Organisation which was linked with Clan na Gael and the IRB. Clarke volun-

teered to go to England and join the Irish revolutionaries there who had commenced a campaign of economic sabotage. Clarke was informed on and was followed, arrested and condemned to penal servitude for life. He spent fifteen and a half years of his sentence under the most brutal conditions; but though some of the fifteen sentenced with him were driven insane by inhuman treatment given them, Clarke preserved his sanity and was eventually released in 1898. Ireland, and in particular Limerick, gave him a great welcome home. His friend, John Daly, was then Mayor of Limerick and Clarke was given the Freedom of the City. Shortly afterwards he married Daly's niece Kathleen, in New York. Clarke and his wife lived in America for seven years but the thoughts of Ireland were always with them. They kept in touch with the revolutionary movements at home and eventually returned in 1907. Back in Dublin Clarke became active in contributing propaganda articles to many papers and magazines. He became a member of the supreme council of the IRB and had a big part, behind the scenes, in the founding of the Irish Volunteers in 1913.

FIRST NAME ON THE
PROCLAMATION OF
EASTER WEEK

Tom Clarke had a tobacconist shop in Parnell Street which was a renowned meeting place for the Volunteers and the IRB. The leaders of the movement respected his judgement and experience so much that when the time arrived for action they insisted that his name should be first on the Proclamation of the Republic. He was one of the leaders in the GPO and after his capture was court-martialled and sentenced to death. He was executed at Kilmainham Jail along with sixteen of his comrades and was buried in the plot at Arbour Hill beside the other patriot leaders.

