

SAOIRSE

IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT



UIMH 245 MEÁN FÓMHAIR — SEPTEMBER <http://saoirse.info> 1.50 (£1stg, USA \$30 p.a.)

EDENTUBBER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION

50th ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 4

Assemble: The Border
Inn, 2.30pm

Óráid: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh,
Uachtarán, Sinn Féin
Poblachtach



Hunger Strike martyrs remembered in Bundoran

WE OWE THEM IRISH FREEDOM

LARGE crowds of people gathered in Bundoran, Co Donegal on August 25 last to salute the H-Block Hunger Strikers of 1980-81, ten of whom laid down their lives 26 years ago rather than be criminalised by the British government led by Margaret Thatcher.

Prominent in Bundoran this year (and every year since 1981) were the families of the hunger strikers, as they were throughout the public protests across Ireland and overseas during the H-Block crisis of March to August 1981 (full reports on pages 8-9 inside).

The presence of the families of hunger strikers, Kevin Lynch, Francis Hughes, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson and Frank Stagg (who died on hunger strike in an English prison in 1976) and of so many nationally-minded people shows that the Republican prisoners' struggle is remembered and honoured in 2007.

It also shows that the objectives for which the hunger strikers fought and died have not been achieved in our post-Stormont Agreement, still partitioned and still occupied Ireland.

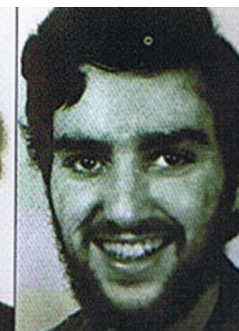
As Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin said in her address to the hunger strike

commemoration: "They gave up their lives not just for political status but for the restoration of the All-Ireland Republic to which they had sworn an oath to defend.

"Each of those young men was possessed of an unshakeable belief in the rightness of the Republican struggle otherwise they could not have carried it through. We salute them and their families, especially the mothers, of Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee and Micky Devine."

Those who honoured the hunger strikers in Bundoran represent that prominent body of political opinion in Ireland today who still have an unshakable belief in the Republican project: a New Ireland free from English political and military occupation.

The importance of Bundoran is that, like all Republican public demonstrations of opinion, it shows that not all the Irish people



• The first four hunger strikers who died in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in 1981: (left to right) Bobby Sands (May 5), Francis Hughes (May 12), Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara (May 21).

have been fooled by the Stormont Agreement.

These people do not accept that Irish history came grinding to a halt in 2007, as the supporters and signatories to the Stormont Agreement would have us believe. They do not believe that the existence of the Six-County State is no longer the question but instead how it will be governed under British rule.

As 32-County Republicans they do not accept the Unionist Veto that allows an artificial 'majority' in six north-eastern counties to decide that they

should remain under Westminster control. They support All-Ireland democracy and a British withdrawal.

They represent that section of the Irish people who do not, and will not into the future, accept British police, British courts or British laws in Ireland.

As Cathleen Knowles McGuirk stated in her Bundoran address: "The hunger strikers will always be with us. Therefore we must ensure that the goal for which they gave their lives will be achieved. We owe them nothing less."

90TH ANNIVERSARY

THOMAS ASHE COMMEMORATION
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2.30pm

KINNARD, LISPOLE, CO KERRY

Organised by Republican Sinn Féin, Kerry

Republican Sinn Féin will also hold wreath-laying ceremonies at his graveside in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, the Thomas Ashe Memorial Hall, Trá Lí and Páirc an Asaigh GAA grounds, An Daingean, Co Chiarraí. Republican Sinn Féin in Kerry also intend to place a picket on the Melville exhibition in the Thomas Ashe Hall, Tralee

Tuesday, September 25.



REPUBLICAN RALLY

**EVE OF ALL-IRELAND
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 15**

Assemble Garden of
Remembrance,
Dublin, 1.45pm



**Support
POWs in
Maghaberry
jail**

Provo collaboration will not be judged kindly

RICHARD Walsh, Derry Ard Chomhairle member and PRO of Comhairle Uladh (Ulster Executive), Republican Sinn Féin, condemned Provo collaboration with British Crown Forces.

On August 8 he said: "Despite RUC Chief Hugh Orde being unable to visit Derry recently due to the level of opposition in the city, the Provos have sought a photo opportunity – ostensibly to raise concerns in relation to an upcoming loyalist parade – as part of their ongoing attempts to pressurise nationalists into collaborating with the British Forces of Occupation. And comments made by the Provo Stormonteer for North Antrim, Dáithí McKay, objecting to the continuing activities of the British Crown Forces in the area are hypocritical in the extreme given his membership of the RUC Board.

"The Brits' 'Operation Banner' may have been

renamed 'Operation Helvetic' but the stark reality of British Occupation continues unabated. Five thousand British soldiers remain in Ireland with the power to assist the British Colonial Police as and when necessary. The RUC is to provide the first line of defence for English rule in Ireland.

"The Provos should drop all pretence that they are acting in the interests of Irish Republicanism, and should also have the honesty and decency to cease all use of the name Sinn Féin – an organisation which their party parted with nearly twenty-one years ago. They should also realise that history does not judge those who collaborate with enemy forces kindly."

In a statement on August 26, Richard Walsh, said that what Conor Murphy had described as a "critical engagement" with the RUC in Crossmaglen had more typically been described as an act of collaboration with the British Crown Forces.

"Whilst last Friday's meeting was billed as a response to criminality in the South Armagh area, the simple fact remains that the greatest crime perpetrated against the Irish people is the ongoing British Occupation.

"Those who occupied the local GAA pitch for many years have only ever demonstrated bad faith with the community in Cross and further afield. Whilst spy-posts may have been removed in South Armagh, technological advances had long rendered them obsolete.

The following day he said that John Hume's claims that we have finally "turned the

corner" on the darkest days of Ireland's past wilfully ignored the fact that the British Occupation of the Six Counties continues.

"History shows that whilst this remains the case, the Irish people are certain to endure further conflict. "The former SDLP leader's belief that progress has been made towards the creation of a new Ireland is equally flawed. This can only be brought about following a British declaration of intent to withdraw from Ireland, giving the Irish people the opportunity to draft a new Constitution for the New Ireland.

"Republican Sinn Féin's ÉIRE NUA proposals recommend a Federation of the four Provinces, with maximum decentralisation of power to local communities. This would truly enable all of our people to work for their common good."

Gearrscéalta Adams confronted at Belfast Féile event

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle member Geraldine Taylor from Belfast confronted Provo leader Gerry Adams at a Belfast Féile event at St Mary's University College on August 11.

Participating in a public interview with journalist Anne Cadwallader, Adams was asked by Geraldine Taylor how he could reconcile his and his organisation's acceptance of British police, British courts, British laws and British rule in Ireland with his claim to be a Republican.

"Republican Sinn Féin is the oldest political organisation in Ireland; we never have and never will accept British rule and occupation in Ireland," Geraldine Taylor said. During the interview Adams referred to the British government playing a 'benign' role in Ireland.

He said his vision of a united Ireland now was somewhat different to that of 30 years ago and just like de Valera advocated entering and participating in the partitioned assemblies, the 'fighting from the inside' argument.

He was also questioned about his willingness to meet US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair despite the continued Anglo-US occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

RSF protest against RUC GAA match in Newry

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin held a protest against the presence of a team representing the British Colonial Police at a hurling game in Newry's Páirc Esler on Saturday August 18.

The match was staged on the back of the Under 21 Hurling Semi-Final clash between Derry and Dublin. This protest – organised by the Joe Conway Cumann, Newry, and attended by Republicans from Newry, South Armagh and Derry – highlighted the fact that there are those who remain opposed to English rule in Ireland.

The match was a cynical attempt to bolster recent moves to make the RUC more acceptable to people from the Nationalist community. Nonetheless, the organisers clearly sought to keep details of the match outside of the public domain until the last minute.

In a statement, Comhairle Uladh PRO and Ard Chomhairle member Richard Walsh said:

"Republican Sinn Féin congratulates genuine supporters of the GAA for boycotting this spectacle, which was left devoid of spectators. We are also aware of a number of people who felt unable to turn out to support the U21 Semi-Final teams owing to their revulsion at the presence of the British Crown Forces' team at the stadium. Although Rule 21 was removed despite overwhelming opposition in the Six Occupied Counties, there are still many who will never tolerate enemy forces playing our National Games."

RSF members threatened in Co Armagh

IN A statement on August 21 a spokesperson for the Liam Lynch/Armagh Martyrs Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin in Armagh City/Keady said that much had been made of past collusion between the British Crown Forces – particularly the RUC – and loyalist death squads in the media lately.

The statement continued: "However, recent events in County Armagh provide further evidence that this practice continues unabated. At a time of heightened loyalist activity, two members of Republican Sinn Féin have been warned that their lives are under threat.

"Approximately a fortnight after a series of raids in Co. Armagh, during which the RUC took notes of the minutes of the Liam Lynch/Armagh Martyrs Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin in Armagh City and Keady, two members of the Cumann – both former Republican prisoners – were informed that intelligence suggested that Loyalist death squads planned to attack them. When pressed, the British Colonial Police were unwilling to divulge which organisation they believed to be responsible for the threats or the nature of any imminent attack.

"We urge our members and supporters to remain ever vigilant, and call on anyone with reason to believe that those who continue to pursue the freedom of Ireland might be under threat to immediately report this to the Republican Movement."

British troops train in Six Occupied Counties

THE Occupied Six Counties is to be used increasingly to train British soldiers before they are sent to Afghanistan and Iraq. Training troops will become 'a regular sight' according to a spokesperson for the British army as helicopter activity is stepped up in Rasharkin, Co Antrim. Training, including the use of helicopters, is set to become commonplace. Nationalists from the Glens of Antrim, Loughgiel, Glenravel and Dunloy claimed that since the beginning of August British army activity in their areas has actually increased.

Results of Dublin raffle

AUGUST results: 1st prize ticket no 204; 2nd prize no 368; 3rd prize no 129; 4th prize no 198; 5th prize no 241; 6th prize no 381; 7th prize no 267; 8th prize no 355.

**SAOIRSE October edition
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Provos condemn flying of Tricolour in Banbridge

A REPORT in the Banbridge Leader of August 7, stated that a James McPoland contacted the paper to complain about the erection of Tricolours in Edenderry Park, Banbridge where he lives.

He branded the flying of the Tricolour as 'a disgrace'. There is no local Catholic resident in Edenderry Park called James McPoland. Further investigation has proved this to be the sister of

a well-known LVF murderer involved in the Poyntzpass killings (Alan McClean).

At a community meeting Provo councillor Dessie Ward asked local residents to condemn

the flying of Tricolours. Two women refused as this was their national flag and there was nothing political about it.

When the RUC/PSNI came to remove the Tricolours locals had tried to get in touch with Dessie Ward who lives in Edenderry Park but his phone was switched off.

Tricolours were put up in the Banbridge and Laurencetown two weeks after Dessie Ward

criticised the flying of the Union Jack in Banbridge. However he is quoted in the paper (August 7) as saying that "Sinn Féin don't want to see any flags in Banbridge, whether they be union flags, Ulster flags or Tricolours."

The RUC/PSNI tore down the Tricolours but not the Union Jack or the Ulster flags.



- is committed to supporting prisoners for which CABHAIR is responsible
- is generating publicity in support of Irish national independence.

**We need your support. Our website address is:
<http://irishfreedom.net>**

I would like to join Republican Sinn Féin

Ba mhaith liom bheith i mo bhall de Sinn Féin Poblachtach

Ainm

Seoladh

Tel: Age (if under 21)

Send to:

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

or 229 Falls Road, Belfast
e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie
<http://rsf.ie>

or contact your local paper seller for details

**JOIN
REPUBLICAN
SINN FÉIN**



OUR AIMS

For a full British withdrawal from Ireland . . . The establishment of a true 32-County FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC . . . The establishment of a new all-Ireland parliament, completely outside the present partitionist set-up, to oversee the running of the new neutral non-aligned Ireland . . .

OUR HISTORY

Formed in 1905 . . . We are the oldest political organisation in the country . . . Organised throughout the 32 Counties . . . We have continuously rejected the failed political entities of the Six and 26 Counties in existence since the British partitioned our country . . .

For a full British withdrawal from Ireland

Gearrscéalta

Sectarian assault on teenager

A REPORT on August 31 said that a nationalist youth, Matthew Brannigan, (16) was threatened with flick-knives during a brutal sectarian attack at a motocross event on the weekend of August 24-25.

Matthew, from Crossgar, Co Down, was at Moneyglass, near Toome, Co Antrim with friends when the incident occurred.

Matthew suffered a swollen, bloody face as a result of the punch. Had his friends not grabbed him and started running, he might have suffered worse.

'Loyalists threatened to burn us out'

A NATIONALIST man, who claimed he has been threatened by loyalists in the Waterside area of Derry, said on August 20 that he now plans to leave Derry and move to England.

The man, who did not wish to be named, said the threats started when he planned to move into a house in the Nelson Drive area with his wife. He claimed his wife, a Protestant, was told that they would be "burned out" if they moved into the area. The man, who is originally from Strabane, but now living in Derry, said that he believed the threats came from the UDA.

"I believe that we have been threatened simply because I am a Catholic and my wife is a Protestant. They don't like Catholics moving into Protestant areas and that is why we have been threatened," he said.

Whitehead families intimidated

SIX families in County Antrim said on August 26 that they had received warnings from the police that they are under threat from the UDA. The families, who all live in the Whitehead area say they have no idea why they have been singled out.

One family told a TV station that the RUC/PSNI visited her home in the early hours of August 24 and told her "that there had been a death threat, from the UDA, on my husband and that we were to organise security."

British soldiers granted special powers

NEW legislation effective from July 31 gives soldiers in the Occupied Six Counties greater powers than in England, Scotland and Wales. The move came as Operation Banner — the British army's support role for the British colonial police — ended at midnight after almost four decades.

The new powers under Operation Helvetic allows British soldiers to stop and question anyone about their movements and hold them indefinitely until they answer. Anyone refusing to co-operate could face fines of up to £5,000. The RUC/PSNI will also be granted similar powers. A spokesperson for the British Northern Ireland Office said the special powers were necessary because the Army could still be called in to support the RUC/PSNI.

Jane Winter of British Irish Rights Watch described the move as ironic: "There's a definite irony in having the troops move out on July 31 giving them powers for arrest on August 1. On the face of it, there's no rationale for that," she said.

Operation Banner, an emergency measure introduced in August 1969 became the British army's longest continuous campaign. It brought almost a quarter of a million troops onto the streets of Six Occupied Counties, 763 of whom were killed by the IRA. A garrison of upwards of 5,000 remains in 10 bases in the Six Occupied Counties.

British police attacked in Derry

IT was reported on August 11 that members of the British colonial police were attacked with petrol bombs after the Apprentice Boys' annual parade in Derry. Eight people were said to have been arrested. In the main parade, about 15,000 Apprentice Boys and spectators accompanied by 120 bands marched through the city centre. Earlier, local Apprentice Boys marched around the city walls before laying wreaths.

Stormont staff 'double No 10'

A REPORT on August 24 said that an investigation into staffing levels in the Office of First and Deputy First Minister in the Stormont Assembly had been called for, after it emerged that it employs around twice as many people as the office of the British prime minister at 10 Downing Street. The office employs 415 staff, costing some £14.1 million a year. This compares to a Downing Street staff in the region of 200 people.

MI5 HQ to be operational by the autumn

THE building of MI5's new £20 million headquarters in the Six Occupied Counties is understood to have been completed. The British intelligence service will begin

operations in early autumn.

The facility at Maryfield, near Holywood, is believed to have room for 400 staff and it will be MI5's biggest facility outside of London. MI5 will assume overall responsibility for national security in the Six Counties.

Primarily it will be the lead agency in counter-terrorist activity and intelligence gathering which had been in the hands of RUC/PSNI Special Branch who will, however, continue to have a role in local anti-terror operations and close liaisons with MI5.

Lurgan Republican function

THE spirit of resistance was alive and well in Lurgan at a recent function held by the Thomas Harte Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin in support of the prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons.

Over 400 people packed the Irish

National Foresters Club for a night of song and dance. Music on the night was provided by a local man who played his heart out to the large crowd. He was followed by the Foggy Dew.

Six of the prisoners currently in Maghaberry come from the Lurgan area and all the families were present along with the families of Volunteers who lost their lives in the struggle for Irish

freedom.

A statement from the Officer Commanding CIRA POWs was read by the mother of one of the prisoners to loud applause. A local Cumann member spoke and said that the struggle for Irish freedom will continue until the Brits have been driven from our shores.

The function closed with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

PANA calls for All-Ireland referendum on EU Constitution

IN A statement on September 3 Roger Cole, Chair of the Peace & Neutrality Alliance (PANA) called for an all-Ireland referendum on the proposed EU Constitution Treaty Mark 2 (the Reform Treaty) in 2008.

He said: "The referendum on the EU Constitution Treaty Mark 2 (The Reform Treaty) will be held in 2008, the year which marks the 90th anniversary of the 1918 election held on an All-Ireland basis in which the Irish people voted for the First Dáil.

"The last survey on Irish people's attitudes on the EU Constitution in the

Republic by TSN/MRBI was held in June 2005. An analysis was done by Prof Richard Sinnott of UCD.

"To quote him: 'On the basis of the current attitude and state of knowledge of the electorate, the proposal to adopt the new EU Constitution would in all likelihood be defeated.

"One can also note that the balance of current voting intentions — 30% for, 35% against and 35% don't know — is considerably more negative than the balance of voting intentions in the final Irish Times poll prior to the first Nice referendum."

"He goes on to write: 'The magnitude of the challenge facing supporters of the

constitution is further indicated by a glance at the trend in Irish attitudes as measured by the 'unite fully' versus 'protect independence' question used in the series of Irish Times to track underlying attitudes to integration over time. Chart 1 shows that at 45% (36% for 'unite fully') support for the protect independence option is higher in the current poll than at any previous time."

"So even if the poll was held on a 26-County basis we could win, but if it was held on an All-Ireland basis, PANA is totally confident of a massive victory and a humiliating defeat for the emerging EU Empire."

William Wallace remembered

ON August 25 the annual commemoration was held to mark the 702nd anniversary of the martyrdom of Scotland's patriot and hero William Wallace.

Members of the Francis Hughes Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach marched alongside Scottish Nationalists to the Wallace Memorial in his native Elderslie. At the memorial a rally was held at which several speakers recalled the words and deeds of the Liberator of the Scots and their relevance today.

The patriots of every land have acclaimed Wallace as their inspiration and model hero in the fight for freedom. His life was the textbook of the Ulster heroes of 1798 and it was fitting that in his address to an Easter Week Commemoration in Glasgow in 1926, the President of Sinn Féin, Father Michael O'Flanagan noted that: "The greatest man in the history of Scotland and the tradition of the people is not Andrew Carnegie but William Wallace".

Wallace was not inclined to compromise on matters of essential national importance. For him there could be no bending of the knee to a ruthless imperialism or ignoble bartering of principle.

The SNP Government faces many challenges and dangers. The party hopes it can convince the people of its ability

to govern successfully, contrary to the barrage of unionist propaganda which predicted disaster for Scotland if the Nationalists won.

As we know to our cost the Brits are ruthless and it is likely that nearer the end of the parliamentary term, they will unite to go in for the kill, probably on the issue of the Referendum Bill. Alex Salmond and his colleagues will use their skills to try and create the

conditions under which the Scottish people will opt for independence.

The SNP is only as strong as the people make it and freedom will come when the people not only demand it but also are prepared to fight for it. In the struggle that lies ahead, the people of Scotland have the magnificent example of Wallace to look to for inspiration.

SINN FÉIN POBLACHTACH



National Private Members

DRAW N° 784

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

Extra prizes

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

For The Record

MON. JULY 30: The Garda Ombudsman is to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of a man in Galway who was struck by a car driven by an off-duty garda.

Marcin Libicki, chairman of the EU Petitions Committee, wrote to John Gormley, Environment Minister in the 26 Counties, urging him to immediately halt existing work on the M3 motorway in the Hill of Tara region.

TUES. JULY 31: The Law Reform Commission in the 26 Counties called for the introduction of legislation which would allow criminal records for minor offences to be deleted from a person's record.

WED. AUGUST 1: Thomas Gilmore, arrested during a loyalist feud in Carrickfergus, Co Antrim last month was refused bail. According to figures released to a Belfast newspaper, the loyalist feud is costing an extra £100,000 a year to police.

Nationalists called on the Parades Commission to ban Orange marches past two Catholic churches in Co Antrim on August 25.

The New-York based human rights group, Human Rights Watch, called for the immediate release of the 21 remaining South Korean hostages held captive in Afghanistan and accused the Taliban of committing war crimes by taking and killing hostages. Two of the 23 hostages were shot dead.

Up to 900 jobs are under threat in north-west Dublin at the Zerox call centre.

THURS. AUGUST 2: The Gaelic Players Association condemned the sectarian abuse of GAA player Darren Graham. Darren, a Protestant, plays for Lisnakea Emmets and left the pitch during a match on July 29 as a result of sectarian abuse. Darren's father and two uncles who were in the UDR were shot dead in the early 1980s.

A report by the [British] Department of Social Development titled *Households Below Average Income* showed that 120,000 children in the occupied Six Counties 'suffer hardship from poverty'.

Singer/songwriter Tommy Makem from Keady, Co Armagh died in the US. Tommy came from a musical/storytelling family and was recently honoured by the University of Ulster for his services to Irish traditional music and song writing.

SUN. AUGUST 5: A pipe bomb was found in the garden of a house in the Steeples estate, Antrim town. It is believed to be connected to the ongoing feud in the UDA.

Nationalists are to meet with the RUC to discuss the August 12 Apprentice Boys march in Derry in which 125 bands are expected to take part. Over the weekend paint bombs were thrown at the Apprentice Boys hall in Derry.

MON. AUGUST 6: Justice Weatherup, a High Court judge in the Occupied Six Counties, refused to grant leave for a legal challenge linked to the inquiry into the death of LVF leader Billy Wright. The legal bid was brought by six serving and former employees of the Prison Service who expressed fears that they could end up in court as a result of the terms of reference of the inquiry. The Wright enquiry is due to resume in Banbridge, Co Down on September 10.

According to an official report published in Washington, the US has lost track of almost 190,000 weapons issued to Iraqi security forces since the 2003 invasion.

The family of murdered solicitor Rosemary Nelson, Lurgan, Co Armagh, said that victims' relatives were being vilified for seeking the truth about collusion between loyalists and members of the British security forces in murders in the Occupied Six Counties. Rosemary Nelson died when a bomb, planted by loyalist, exploded under her car outside her home in March 1999.

TUES. AUGUST 7: The cost of last year's fire bomb attacks in Newry was reported to have reached £10,000.

A 'huge haul' of explosives was discovered in Drumbeg, Craigavon, Co Armagh.

The Irish Human Rights Commission warned that the new DNA database being considered by the 26-County Administration lacked sufficient safeguards to protect people's rights.

WED. AUGUST 8: Fermanagh GAA stated that they will 'severely punish' any clubs or players involved in sectarian abuse and apologised to any player subjected to 'inappropriate remarks'.

Reg Empey called for the scrapping of the d'Hondt system of elections in the Stormont assembly.

The Department of Justice in Dublin said it was still finalising plans for a national DNA database.

The Irish Human Rights Commission criticised the proposed plan.

THURS. AUGUST 9: Internment was introduced into the Six Occupied Counties on August 9, 1972. Tommy Makem, the musician, storyteller and ballad singer from Keady in Co Armagh was buried in Dover, New Hampshire, USA.

The 26-County administration is to erect a plaque on a house in Harcourt Street, Dublin to Edward Carson, one of the founding fathers of Ulster Unionism.

The public inquiry into the death of Robert Hamill is to go ahead after the last legal obstacle was lifted. Robert Hamill was kicked to death in



• The MI5 headquarters at Holywood Barracks outside Belfast in the final stage of being fitted out. The building has a bullet-proof and bomb-resistance frontage.

Portadown, Co Armagh in 1997 by loyalists while four members of the RUC sat in their car and watched the attack but did not intervene.

FRI. AUGUST 10: A group of eight anti-war activists, charged with breaking into Prestwick airport, Scotland and boarding a US plane last August, were cleared of trespassing charges.

George Galloway, the Respect MP, announced he would stand against a Labour minister in the next Westminster election.

Over 600 workers will lose their jobs with the closure to Jury's Hotel/Towers and the Berkeley Court in Ballsbridge, Dublin.

Margaret Ritchie, British social development minister in the Six Occupied Counties, gave the UDA 60 days to begin decommissioning their weapons or else forfeit the £1.2 million in funding for loyalist areas.

SUN. AUGUST 12: A delegation of leading tourist figures travelled from Shannon to the US to meet with the Irish American business community to promote the use of Shannon Airport by Americans.

John Dallat, SDLP, Assembly member for East Derry, received a death threat from loyalists.

One hundred and sixty-five children and teenagers were sent to adult prisons in the 26 Counties in 2006, in contravention of international treaties.

MON. AUGUST 13: The Dublin based airline CityJet confirmed it is considering starting routes from Shannon airport to London and Paris. This follows the closure of the Aer Lingus route to London.

A former junior minister in the 26 Counties, Chris Flood, called for a 'hardship fund' to be set up to assist Irish prisoners abroad with food and medical care and stay in closer contact with their families. It is estimated that there are 800 Irish citizens in foreign jails – some of which provide very little for prisoners even in the way of food.

TUES. AUGUST 14: The family of Charlie and Tess Fox, murdered by the UVF in their home in The Moy, Co Tyrone in September 1992, called on the Provisional movement to reveal what it knows about British agents within the movement "helping and advising the Crown Forces at the time". In a letter to the *Irish News* the family said that "We would like to know what role Denis Donaldson and the agent known as Stakeknife had in the targeting innocent of Catholics...Given that British intelligence was directing the UDA/UVF in the early 90s, and these agents were advising British Intelligence how to break the Republican Movement at the time, it is accepted generally that Donaldson, Stakeknife and other agents or assets, were directing British Intelligence that the best way of neutralising the like of east Tyrone was by targeting Republican families."

A recent study by The Census of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services in the Occupied Six Counties shows that teenage addiction is 'spiralling out of control'.

A loyalist who shot dead 20-year-old James Griffen in Lurgan in 1975 said he now regrets his actions. Alistair Little, who served 13 years for the murder, said on BBC Radio 4 that it was the death

of Bobby Sands that changed him.

Professor John Horgan, former politician and journalist, was named as the first Press Ombudsman in the 26 Counties.

Stones and bottles were thrown at fire fighters on Lenamore Drive in the Shantallow area in Derry.

The North Mayo Shell to Sea campaign called on Shell E&P Ireland to disclose details of its sponsorship of local organisations in Erris, following the controversy over funding of the Féile Iorrais Arts Festival.

Alex Salmond launched a white paper calling for 'conversation' on independence for Scotland.

WED. AUGUST 15: Rescuers in north-west Iraq



• The MI5 headquarters at Holywood Barracks outside Belfast in the final stage of being fitted out. The building has a bullet-proof and bomb-resistance frontage.

uncovered 200 bodies as they dug through collapsed clay houses after a suicide bombing. They were members of a Yazidi (Kurdish) sect.

THURS. AUGUST 16: A group of youths ages between 12 and 16 set fire to the Skipperstown Community Centre, Co Down where a group of pensioners were playing bingo inside. There were no injuries.

Three hundred and thirty-seven people were killed and 1,300 injured when an earthquake hit Peru.

The United States sealed a deal with Israel to provide them with \$30 billion in defence grants over the next ten years. America said it would help Israel 'maintain a military advantage over foes ranging from Iran and Syria to their proxies in Lebanon and Palestinian territories'.

As bodies continued to build up all over Iraq, the Sunni refused to join the new alliance of Shia and Kurds to prop up the Iraqi 'government'. At least 500 people died in north western Iraq since Tuesday.

FRI. AUGUST 17: A fire started deliberately in the early hours of the morning damaged the Lindsay Ford premises in Portadown, Co Armagh. At the same time four derelict house in the Moy Rafferty area were set alight. No one was injured in either incident.

A London court ruled that two men and a woman, allegedly members of the Basque Movement ETA, be extradited from Britain to Spain. The three are appealing the ruling.

MON. AUGUST 20: Loyalists were believed to be behind a spate of attacks in Carrickfergus over the weekend. Four men were due to appear in court over the attacks.

Three Derry men were remanded in custody in connection with arson attacks in the city over the weekend. Inflammable liquid was poured through the letterbox of a house where a woman and her 10-year-old son lived.

Clashes took place between riot police and protesters at the Camp for Climatic Action at Heathrow airport. Campaigners are opposed to a third runway at Heathrow.

President of the 26-County Human Rights Commission, Maurice Manning, said the Gardaí were slow to introduce changes that would make it fully compliant with its human rights obligations.

TUES. AUGUST 21: Wendy Alexander, a Paisley North MSP, will be formally confirmed as the new leader of the Labour Party in the Scottish assembly in September.

Prof William O'Brien, department of archaeology at Cork University said a 3,000-year-old pre-Celtic hilltop fort near Knockavilla, Innishannon, Co Cork should be declared a national monument and preserved as such. The fort was built about 1200BC, making it the oldest known prehistoric hillfort in Ireland.

WED. AUGUST 22: TaraWatch, the environmental group, are to take their fight to save Tara to Europe. The announcement comes after An Bord Pleanála approved the controversial M3 motorway through the 2000-year-old newly

discovered ruins at Lismullen near the Hill of Tara.

Denis Bradley and Robin Eames spent the last four days in London speaking with John Stephens about alleged collusion between Crown forces and loyalist death squads and looking into how Britain conducted its so-called 'dirty war'.

THURS. AUGUST 23: Pat Rabbitte resigned as Labour Party leader in the 26 Counties.

Shots were fired at the home of a man on the Lonemore Road, Derry whose son is a serving RUC/PSNI member and an attempt was made to burn his car.

Kenneth Bloomfield, former head of the Civil Service in the Occupied Six Counties said that Irish unity was not unthinkable 'in principle'.

FRI. AUGUST 24: Up to 260 jobs are at risk in Co Antrim after Tyco Health Care said it would begin to shut its Ballymoney plant in February. The plant manufactures medical equipment.

Conor Murphy, Provo British MP for Newry and Mourne, led a delegation of local people from Crossmaglen, south Armagh in a meeting with the RUC/PSNI.

The Basque separatist movement ETA was suspected of planting a bomb outside a barracks in Durango near Bilbao, Spain in which two civic guards were injured.

MON. AUGUST 27: Tensions were still reported to be high in Maghaberry jail after clashes between two factions of loyalist last Friday night. The trouble arose when one group of UDA prisoners refused to allow three prisoners, connected to the south-east Antrim group, access to Bush House where 40 loyalist prisoners are housed.

Fermanagh man Darren Graham, who suffered racial abuse while playing Gaelic games, returned to play with his club Lisnakea Emmets over the weekend.

A house in Dunclogh Park, Ballymena, Co Antrim was petrol-bombed over the weekend. A few hours later the house was again attacked when the back window was broken and a fire started in the house.

A state of emergency was declared in Greece as fires continue to spread across forests and villages. To date at least 49 people have died in the fires, most of which fire chiefs believe were started deliberately.

The Irish Human Rights Commission is to investigate the poor [and in some case no] pay and conditions endured by people with intellectual disabilities who work in sheltered workshops. Up to 4,000 people work in sheltered workshops and have no employment rights.

The 26-County Labour Court ruled that decentralisations plans by FAS cannot make promotions conditional on staff agreeing to relocate from Dublin.

TUES. AUGUST 28: A male red kite, a rare protected species of bird, was shot dead in Wicklow. It was one of 30 released in Wicklow just six weeks ago. On August 17 white-tailed eagles were released in Killarney after an absence of 80 years.

Members of the Atlantic Connectivity Alliance warned of significant job losses if the Shannon-Heathrow route is not maintained.

WED. AUGUST 29: A new report by the Environmental Protection Agency states that Ireland is warming up at twice the rate of the rest of the world.

The closure of the Coca-Cola plant in Drogheda will result in the loss of 256 jobs next September.

THURS. AUGUST 30: Tom Munnelly, a man responsible for compiling the most comprehensive collection of traditional folk songs in Ireland, died. The remaining seven South Korean hostages were freed in Afghanistan.

FRI. AUGUST 31: The Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal reported that the number of complaints against solicitors about their professional conduct rose to 104 last year. This is an increase of 25% since 2005.

Dublin's Merchant Quay Ireland Project (the largest voluntary drug treatment centre in the 26 Counties) said that if the State set up needle exchanges – which it is considering – it would encourage more drug users to come forward and begin interacting with treatment services.

The death took place of Riobard Mac Góráin, a leading member of the Irish language movement and a founder member of Gael Linn in Cork in 1953.

Euro Coach Builders, Gweedore, Co Donegal went into liquidation with a loss of 45 jobs.

The British Army retracted their claim that Daniel Hegarty (18) shot dead by one of their members on the morning of Operation Motorman in 1972, was a 'terrorist'.

A fire at Seagoe Orange Hall, Portadown, Co Armagh was being treated as arson. A fire at the office of Michelle Gildernew in Lisnakea, Co Fermanagh, was also being treated as arson.

Amnesty International linked Irish companies to the supply of deadly weapons to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East. It claims that key components for weapons are being manufactured in Ireland.

MOD withdraws Operation Banner document

IN A statement on August 31 the Pat Finucane Centre in Derry said that the British Ministry of Defence had agreed to temporarily withdraw and amend its controversial military analysis of Operation Banner, the British Army codename for operations here between August 1969 and July 31, 2007.

Stephanie English of the PFC explained: "The decision was prompted by a complaint we lodged on behalf of the family of Derry teenager Daniel Hegarty who was shot dead by British soldiers during Operation Motorman in the early hours of July 31, 1972 in the Creggan estate, Derry.

"In July this year the Pat Finucane Centre alerted the media and public to the existence of the military document and highlighted a

number of serious errors and gaps in the document. These included a reference to Operation Motorman where it was claimed that Daniel Hegarty, an unarmed 15-year-old teenager, was a 'terrorist'. "We wrote to Defence Minister Des Brown in July and called from the document to be withdrawn and the reference to Daniel Hegarty corrected. We pointed out that (then NIO Minister) Des Brown had actually written to the Hegarty

family in 2003 and had expressly clarified that 'neither I nor the Government have ever said that Daniel was a terrorist'.

"The Ministry of Defence have now replied and confirmed that: " 'As you state in your letter the Secretary of State has previously written letters to the effect that Daniel is considered innocent and we continue to stand by those comments. The paragraph in question is inaccurate and this should have been picked during proof reading, but unfortunately was not.'

"The MOD spokesperson continued: 'I recognise the considerable distress this must have caused the family and I have instructed the report be

removed from our website and an amended version produced. I would also like to offer my sincere apologies to Daniel's family.'

"Daniel's sister Margaret Brady has welcomed the belated recognition of the hurt caused to the family. 'I welcome the fact that this document is to be amended. Its wrong that we should have to fight to clear Daniel's name when the wrong was done to us in the first place.

"I only wish they would accept that the British Army shot many many people without justification and where they posed no threat. Young Seamus Bradley was shot that same night and his inquest found that he was unarmed."

CALL FOR INQUIRY

Also in Derry, a call was made on August 25 for an inquiry into the shooting dead by the British army of IRA volunteer Éamonn Bronco Bradley on August 25, 1982.

Éamonn Bradley had been playing pool with friends minutes before being gunned down without warning by British soldiers. He died instantly in the carpark of the Shantallow House on the Racecourse Road in Derry.

Paul McCool, who had been with him when the shooting occurred, described the actions of the Royal Anglian Regiment soldiers that day as "cold blooded murder". Republicans and the Bradley family have since maintained that the killing was proof that the

British Army officially employed a shoot to kill policy in Derry during the Troubles.

People in Derry still believe that the IRA/INLA supergrass Raymond Gilmour may have been partially to blame for the death of Bronco Bradley, who had just been released from prison for hijacking and IRA membership.

His sister Catherine told a Derry newspaper: "We knew at the time that it was shoot to kill, it was obvious. At the time Raymond Gilmour was working as an informer and a lot of things were going on. A lot of people in the area were being lifted before my brother was shot dead. People later believed that Raymond Gilmour had something to do with it."

Lismullen site to be built over

EXCAVATION work at the national monument found in the path of the M3 motorway began on August 7. Archaeologists began preliminary work on the site after protesters, who had blocked their way, were moved aside.

The stand-off began on the road leading to the Lismullen site at around 7.30am on August 7. A group of around 20 protesters linked arms and refused to let vehicles pass onto the site. Gardai from Navan were called and after a discussion the protesters stood aside and let the vehicles and the archaeologists pass.

Protesters maintained a vigil at the scene for around three hours before dispersing. They claimed the excavation of the site

and its 'preservation by record' amounts to destruction, which they say is illegal under EU law. The site at Lismullen consists of the remains of two large circular enclosures which was originally made from wood.

EU officials called on the Dublin administration to halt work on part of the M3 motorway after concern was expressed about the impact on newly discovered ruins at the Hill of Tara, it emerged on July 30.

In a letter to Minister for the Environment John Gormley, chairman of the EU union's petitions committee Marcin Libicki said that in light of the 2,000-year old ruins found at Lismullen, work on that section of the project should be halted and a route review carried out. The committee received a number of protest letters about the motorway route from Irish environmentalists.

The Lismullen site, thought to be more than 2,000 years old, was discovered during work on the road project in April and was later given national monument status. In one of his final acts of office, former Minister for the Environment Dick Roche controversially signed an order of 'preservation by record' for the site, meaning the prehistoric henge would be photographed, sketched and measured before being razed to make way for the motorway.

Meanwhile a US academic, Dr Ronald Hicks of Ball State University, Indiana, said on August 21 that the newly discovered 2,000-year-old ruins at the ancient Hill of Tara must be fully preserved because of their unique size and character. He argued that it is part of a larger ancient ritual complex and



• Protesters blocking archaeologists attempting to enter the Lismullen, Co Meath site to begin recording the finds on August 7.

must be preserved in situ. "This independent report proves the national monument is much more significant and substantial than the National Roads Authority have reported," campaigner Vincent Salafia said. "In light of this report, the minister should halt the demolition works until An Bord Pleanála concludes its current deliberative process."

Dr Hicks previously endorsed the nomination of Tara to the World Monuments Fund List and issued an earlier report about the area's archaeological significance.

In this latest report, he argues Lismullen is comparable to ceremonial enclosures found at

Tara and other royal sites in Ireland, but is twice as large as any other.

He added the structure was part of a larger complex. The semicircular enclosure, which lies across the northbound lane of the proposed motorway, is 80 metres in diameter and dates from between 380BC and 520BC.

On August 22 An Bord Pleanála decided to allow the M3 motorway to be built over the newly discovered Lismullen national monument.

TaraWatch stated following the decision that an immediate appeal would be made to the European Commission.

"A copy of today's decision is

being sent to the European Commission who have already initiated legal proceedings against the Irish Government and sent a Reasoned Opinion to Minister Gormley, regarding the National Monuments Act 2004, which the Commission believes is in breach of EU environment directives.

"TaraWatch is currently taking legal advice on how to make a direct application to the EU, and ask them to step in and bring the demolition works to a halt. Members are also taking legal advice on whether it will be possible to get an injunction in the Irish courts, to give time to the EU to pursue their legal action."

charges of attempting to procure and ship arms and missiles to the Continuity IRA.

At the time of Tony's death the four were still engaged in

attempts to be compensated for damage and loss resulting from these false charges.

Tony is survived by two sons and grandson and family

Development Fund Special Appeal

Republican Sinn Féin

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



considerable amount of money.

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

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

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

Account number: 15411-097.

All donations will be appreciated and acknowledged.

Tony McCormack

THE untimely death of Tony McCormack, a native of Larne, Co Antrim took place in Chicago lately where his cremated remains were interred on August 28.

Tony was one of those who were jailed in Coventry, England with Frank Staggs in the 1970s because of his efforts in the fight for Irish freedom.

On his release he returned to Ireland and took up residence in Croom, Co Limerick where he joined the IRA in West Limerick. He later transferred to North Tipperary and continued service in the Nenagh area for three years before emigrating to Chicago

in the USA.

He was present at a meeting of Friends of Irish Freedom in Chicago when it was raided by the FBI. He and three other members, Chris Fogarty, Mary O'Sullivan and Frank O'Neill were framed by the FBI on a trumped-up charge. These charges were dropped when it was proved that the charges were based on the fabricated tape recording used by the FBI to arrest and detain the four on

Beannachtaí

GET well wishes to Declan Curneen, Glenade. From exiled Leitrimman Micheal Ó Lógain, England.

GET well wishes to Dan Keating, Kerry. From the Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dean Coleman and Timmy King on their excellent Leaving Cert results achieved in Portlaoise prison. From Des and Annette and Niamh Long, Limerick; Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick and Joe and Nora Lynch, Limerick.

Buíochas

NORA Lynch, Limerick would to thank all those who sent notices of sympathy on the death of her brother Paddy, especially the Continuity POWs, Portlaoise jail.

Guth na Mumhan: Inniu is Inné

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

Republicans in the Kerry area and beyond have expressed disgust and anger that a public hall dedicated to the first Republican soldier to die on hunger strike in an English jail in the 20th century is being used to celebrate the life and times of William Melville, the Sneem, Co Kerry founder of the British intelligence service MI5.

An exhibition is being staged in the Thomas Ashe Memorial Hall in Tralee. Thomas Ashe died following force-feeding while on hunger

strike in Mountjoy jail in 1917.

In an open letter to the Mayor of Tralee and the elected members of Tralee Urban District Council, Matt Leen, Republican Sinn Féin, Tralee, said:

"As an Irish Republican and citizen of Tralee I find it most reprehensible that any room or rooms of the Thomas Ashe Memorial Hall be used to promote or commemorate the activities of the renegade William Melville.

"He and his cohorts spent their lifetimes subverting the

authority of the 32-County Irish Republic and, up to this day, still occupy six of these counties.

"Lest we forget, patriot Thomas Ashe died on September 25, 1917, after forcible feeding by British Occupation Forces.

"I would urge Mayor McGillicuddy and the elected members of Tralee Urban District Council to read this letter and perhaps, in their collective wisdom, consign this exhibition to the dustbin of the empire."

The *Kingdom* newspaper in Kerry noted that there hadn't been a murmur from the Provos about the exhibition and went on to say "But the [Provisional] Sinn Féin party now tightly locked into both the Irish and British political establishments, appears to have no problem with the

Anger over use of Thomas Ashe Hall to celebrate MI5 founder



• The Thomas Ashe Memorial Hall, Tralee, Co Kerry.

exhibition. [P]SF has gone soft on the Brits and the party has come a long way down the constitutional road."

In contrast to Tralee Urban District Council's exhibition to William Melville, Dingle Library will host an exhibition

during the month of September to the memory of Thomas Ashe, to commemorate the 90th anniversary of his death.

The library will display archives and other materials related to the patriot, in

addition to the permanent memorabilia that is on display at the library, which includes photographs, printed works and a bust of Thomas Ashe, his watch chain and comb.

The display will also include letters and other manuscripts written by Thomas Ashe during his time in prison, his family genealogy, his mortuary card and the report on his inquest.

On Sunday, September 23, Republican Sinn Féin will hold a commemoration at Kinnard, Lisperole, Co Kerry and wreath-laying ceremonies will be held at his graveside in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, the Thomas Ashe Memorial Hall, Trá Lí and Páirc an Asaigh GAA grounds, An Daingean, Co Chiarraí. Republican Sinn Féin in Kerry also intend to place a picket on the Melville exhibition.

Gaelscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge nua

FÁILTÍONN Gaelscoileanna Teo roimh oscailt 4 bhunscoil lán-Ghaeilge agus 4 iarbhunscoil lán-Ghaeilge mí Meán Fómhair 2007 a bheas ag oscailt a gcuid doirse don chéad uair i mbliana.

Is iad na bunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge atá i gceist ná:-

Gaelscoil Chluainín, Cluainín Uí Ruairc, Co. Liatroma (gur scoil le sainmheon caiteiceach í).

Gaelscoil na bhFilí, Gort Inse Guaire, Co. na Gaillimhe,

Gaelscoil an Bhradáin Feasa, An Inse, Co. na Mí, atá faoi

phátrúnacht Foras Pátrúnachta na Scoileanna Lán-Ghaeilge, agus

Gaelscoil Chionn tSáile, Cionn tSáile, Co. Chorcaí, scoil Chaitliceach faoi phátrúnacht Easpag Chorcaí & Ross.

Is iad na h-iarbhunscoileanna nua a bheas ag oscailt ná:-

Gael-cholaíste Phort Láirge, Cathair Phort Láirge,

Meánscoil Charman, Inis Córthaidh, Co. Loch Garman, Gaelcholaíste Bhun Cranncha, Bun Cranncha, Co. Dún na nGall, agus

Gaelcholaíste an Inbhear Mór, Co. Chill Mhantáin.

Fáiltítear go mór freisin roimh na scoileanna nua lán-Ghaeilge ó thuaidh, atá ag oscailt le cabhair agus tacaíocht ár

gComhpháirtithe Oideachais ó thuaidh. *Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta.* Is iad na

scoileanna seo ná Gaelscoil Éanna, Glean Ghormlaith. Co.

Aontroma agus Coláiste Spéirín, an Chorr Chriochach, Co. Thír Eoghain.

D'fháiltigh Ard-fheidhmeannach Gaelscoileanna Teo, Bláthnaid ní Ghréacháin, go mór roimh an dul chun cinn seo atá mar cheiliúradh ar an méid atá bainte amach ag na coistí bunaithe agus in earnáil na gaelscolaíochta. Deir sí,

"Tréaslaím leis na coistí bunaithe as a ndíograis agus as a gcuid tiomántais thar cuimse ó thúis go deireadh le blianta beaga anuas agus iad ag gniomhú leo go dían

agus ar bhonn deonach chun a chinntiú go ndéantar soláthar d'oideachais lán-Ghaeilge dá bpáistí." Dhearbhaigh sí go bhfuil éileamh agus fás leanúnach agus méadaitheach tagtha ar an ngaoloidheachas ag an dá leibhéal le blianta beaga anuas agus nach raibh an fás chomh mór le beagnach 10 mbliana anuas, nuair a d'oscail 11 scoil i 1998.

Ach ar an drochuair, shoiléirigh sí gur i gcóiríocht shealadach a bheas na scoileanna seo ag feidhmiú go ceann roinnt bhlianta, ar aon dul le beagnach 50% d'iomlán na mbunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge sa tír, idir nua agus sean-bhunaithe. Deir sí fáach ina thaobh, "go leanfaidh Gaelscoileanna Teo i mbun stocaireachta ar an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta chun staid na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge a fheabhsú, idir cóiríocht chóir agus acmhainní cuí a thagann le hardchaighdeán an chórais gaelscolaíochta."

"Gníomh gach rath ar na scoileanna nua, na Príomhoif agus múinteoirí maraon leis na daltaí atá ag tosú amach i ré nua

thábhachtach ina saol agus a dtuismitheoirí ar an ócáid bhrodúil seo. Guimíd gach rath freisin ar gach scoil lán-Ghaeilge atá ag ath-oscailt na doirsí agus ag tabhairt faoi bhliain trí scoile agus iad ag saothrú leo ar gcur sároideachais ar fáil trí Ghaeilge."

Is í Gaelscoileanna Teo eagraíocht chomhordaithe na scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge.

Cabtraíonn sí le tuismitheoirí agus le grúpaí áitiúla scoileanna nua a bhunú agus tacaíonn sí leis na scoileanna atá bunaithe cheana féin. Tá 168 lamscoil agus 43 iarbhunscoil lamscoil den Ghaeltacht (ar bhonn 32 contae) ag cur oideachais lán-Ghaeilge ar fáil faoi láthair.

GAEISCOILEANNA TEO is the national co-ordinating body for schools teaching through the medium of Irish. It helps parents and local groups to set up new schools and supports the established all-Irish schools. There are 168 primary schools and 43 secondary schools outside the Gaeltacht (32 County) currently providing education through the medium of Irish.

IMEACHTAÍ

SEMINAR ON FLIGHT OF THE EARLS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 7.30pm
CENTRAL HOTEL, THE DIAMOND, DONEGAL TOWN
Speakers include Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Seoirse Ó Dochartaigh, Eunan O'Donnell.

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 12.45pm, GPO, Dublin

EVE OF ALL IRELAND RALLY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

GPO, DUBLIN

Assemble: Garden of Remembrance, 1.45pm

UNVEILING OF MONUMENT TO EDENTUBBER MARTYRS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE, WEXFORD TOWN

Speaker: Seán Ó Brádaigh

Assemble: Bullring for march to Garden of Remembrance, 2.30pm

Organised by: Wexford Republican Graves Association

90TH ANNIVERSARY

THOMAS ASHE COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 3pm

KINNARD, LISPOLE, CO KERRY

Organised by Republican Sinn Féin, Kerry

Republican Sinn Féin will also hold wreath-laying ceremonies at his graveside in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, the Thomas Ashe Memorial Hall, Trá Lí and Páirc an Asaigh GAA grounds, An Daingean, Co Chiarraí. Republican Sinn Féin in Kerry also intend to place a picket on the Melville exhibition.

BOBBY SANDS LECTURE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 7pm-9.30pm

WYNN'S HOTEL, DUBLIN

Theme: *The Fenians and the Manchester Martyrs*

JAMES DALY COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2.30pm

TYRELLSPASS, CO WESTMEATH

Speaker: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

EDENTUBBER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Assemble: The Border Inn, 2.30pm

Speaker: Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

O'SULLIVAN/ENRIGHT CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry

Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-1204592

KERRY COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR RSF

can be contacted at:

<http://www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinkerry/>

ROGER CASEMENT/FRANCIS HUGHES CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown

Anyone wishing to join should contact Ard-Oifig, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Mac CURTÁIN / Mac SWINEY CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Cork

Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-3352006 or visit our website www.rsfcork.com

BRUGHA/SABHAT - HURSON/SANDS CUMAINN

Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick

Anyone wishing to join should contact

Ken at 087-9531249

www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinlimerick/index.htm

COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR ÁTHA CLIATH RSF

Anyone wishing to join should visit our website:

www.freewebs.com/rsfdublin

JAMES MCDAID CUMANN, REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN

Anyone interested in joining in the Midlands, England, should contact: Ard Oifig, 223 Parnell St, Dublin 1, Ireland,

Dublin 8729747 or saoirse@iol.ie

Paisley to block Irish language act

THE Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) will block any bid to have an Irish Language Act passed in the British assembly at Stormont, according to a letter signed by party leader Ian Paisley.

A report on August 15 said that in the two-page letter, written to mark the first 100 days of the Stormont executive, the First Minister assured party members that the DUP would oppose any legislation that was would enshrine the rights of Irish language speakers.

A language act is a key demand from Irish language advocates who say it deserves the protection granted to other minority languages across Europe.

Earlier this year, the Council of Europe called on the British government to develop a comprehensive Irish language policy, including measures to meet the increasing demand for Irish-medium education "as a matter of priority"

On August 24 that East Derry DUP MLA Gregory Campbell said

that his party did not agree to Irish language legislation during the negotiations prior to the St. Andrew's Agreement. He made the remark after his party leader Ian Paisley said that he was not consulted about the proposed legislation during the talks in Scotland last year.

"The issue of Irish language legislation may have been discussed with other parties involved in the negotiations at St. Andrews but it was not discussed with us, most likely because both governments would have known what our response would have been. The first we heard of it was when the two governments eventually revealed their St Andrew's Agreement. We made it clear to them that we would not support it," he said.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TARGETTED IN ARSON ATTACK

A Belfast Chronology

Monday, July 31, 2007. The taxi firm of Jackie Mahood was badly damaged in an arson attack in north Belfast. Mahood is understood to be involved in the continuing loyalist feud. The business was due to reopen having been closed for more than two years.

Thursday, August 2, 2007. Alice McNally, north Belfast, speaking to the *Irish News* (Belfast) said that a pregnant woman and a disabled teenager were sprayed with CS gas by the British colonial police outside her home during an incident last weekend.

Saturday, August 4, 2007. The family of Thomas 'Kidso' Reilly, who was shot dead by members of the British Light Infantry on the Springfield Road in Belfast in August 1983, want answers in relation to the murder. Private Ian Thain served just two years in jail for the murder when he was released and taken back into the British Army.

The mother of Peter McBride, murdered at 18 years by members of the Scots Guards in the New Lodge area of Belfast in 1992, said that the picture of the Irish Guards wearing sashes and holding Twelfth celebrations in Basra showed exactly what nationalist communities were up against. "These picture ... just confirmed that British troops were never in Ireland to serve both communities. What chance did nationalists ever have when soldiers can stand proudly wearing sashes," she said. Two soldiers, Mark Wright

and James Fisher, were convicted of the murder but released after six years and rejoined British Army.

Sunday, August 5, 2007. Windows were broken in several houses in the Twaddell Avenue area of north Belfast as up to 30 men attacked their homes.

Monday, August 6, 2007. A photographic exhibition by *Irish News* (Belfast) photographer Jonathan Porter, telling the stories of 11 families whose relatives were killed in Ballymurphy, west Belfast after the introduction of internment in August 9, 1971, opened at St Mary's College on the Falls Road. Many of the relatives are still searching for the truth surrounding the deaths of their loved ones. Up to 7,000 people were forced to flee their homes during the rioting that followed internment.

Thursday, August 9, 2007. The Sacred Heart Primary School in the Oldpark Avenue, north Belfast was badly damaged by fire. It is thought the fire started when a rubbish bin was pushed up against the school and set alight.

A young Protestant man was beaten up in the Shankill area of Belfast because he did not know the words of *The Sash*. He was lying on the ground having been injured in a hit and run accident.

Monday, August 13, 2007. The mother of Thomas Devlin, murdered in August 2005 as he walked home in Sommerton road, north Belfast, appealed to the people of Mount Vernon to come forward if they have



• The four shop stewards sacked from Belfast Airport because of their political beliefs who were reinstated following the findings of an industrial tribunal.

any information on her son's killers.

Tuesday, August 14, 2007. A man escaped serious injury after a petrol bomb was thrown through his bedroom window at Erris Grove, off Blacks Road, in west Belfast.

Thursday, August 16, 2007. The RUC/PSNI tried to recruit a community worker from Ardoyne as an informer for the second time. He contacted a solicitor as he believes his life and that of his family is in danger.

Sunday, August 20, 2007. The UDA was blamed for the tarring and feathering of a man in south Belfast.

Monday, August 21, 2007. Four sacked airport workers who went on hunger strike over their dismissal won their case. The four were among a group of 23 Belfast International Airport workers who were "unlawfully dismissed because of

their political beliefs" according to an industrial tribunal.

Andree Murphy, deputy director of Relatives for Justice, called for action to be taken against a self-confessed 'hitman' for the south Belfast UVF. Paul Beattie, Belfast, claims to have carried out a number of murders for the UVF between 1991 and 1994.

Tuesday, August 22, 2007. Petrol bombs were thrown at a north Belfast interface as loyalists and nationalists clashed in the New Lodge/Tigers Bay area.

Róisín McAliskey was not in Germany at the time of the Osnabruck bombing in 1996 a Belfast court was told. The extradition hearing was provisionally fixed for October 23.

Thursday, August 23, 2007. A Belfast journalist, Peter Cassidy, was murdered in South Africa. He was a

former teacher in St Augustine's in south Belfast.

Father of one, Sean Donnelly, was shot in the leg by ball-bearings in west Belfast.

Saturday, August 25, 2007. Up to 400 members of the Royal Black Institution and six loyalist bands took part in a parade and played *The Sash* as they passed St Matthew's Church on the Newtownards Road, close to the Short Strand in east Belfast, contrary to a Parades Commission ruling.

Monday, August 27, 2007. The family of John Slane, murdered in 1997 by loyalists at his west Belfast home, are to approach the Ombudsman to have the murder re-investigated after one of the chief suspects, Willie McClatchey was murdered in Belfast last week.

1981 Hunger Strikes remembered in Mooncoin

REPUBLICANS gathered in Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny on Saturday August 18 at 3pm to mark the 26th anniversary of the 1981 hunger strikes.

The commemoration was organised by the Mooncoin Liam Lynch/Bobby Sands Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin. Republicans from Kilkenny, Waterford, Carlow, Dublin, Kildare and Wexford took part in the commemoration which paraded through Mooncoin led by a colour party to the local cemetery where the ceremony took place at the grave of veteran Republican Josephine Foran. The commemoration

was chaired by Ger Foran, of Mooncoin who called on Matt Conway, Kildare to lay a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement, Finbar Kissane of Waterford laid a wreath on behalf of the Liam Lynch/Bobby Sands Cumann.

In his oration the Vice President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton said: "As Irish Republicans we are inheritors of a proud and noble tradition, we are custodians of a cause which has inspired generation

upon generation of Irish people. In the words of Roger Casement "We are in goodly company and a right noble succession." However as Irish Republicans we cannot be content to be merely custodians of an historic and noble cause, we must be activists, it is our duty to hasten the day when those ideals which inspired our patriots are finally realised, when we have driven the last British soldier from the soil of Ireland, when we have begun the work of building a new Ireland based on justice, freedom and democracy for all of the Irish people.



• Des Dalton

"Today the cause of a free and independent Ireland has

never been more under threat, every where we look we can see the agenda of normalising British rule in Ireland at work, only today a hurling match involving the RUC/PSNI is being played in Newry, Co Down as a curtain raiser to the All-Ireland U21 Hurling Semi-Final between Dublin and Derry. 26-County President Mary McAleese has already said that the time for a visit by the Queen of England to the 26-Counties was never better. British military to the 26-Counties become more commonplace.

"We pledge our 'eternal hostility' to British rule in

Ireland. The political climate for Irish Republicans has seldom been more difficult, however as Irish history teaches us whilst English rule in Ireland remains it will be met with resistance. There always has been and remains a section of the Irish people who will never accept British police, British courts or British laws in Ireland. The task of Republican Sinn Féin is to provide organisation and leadership so that a mass movement of the Irish people can be built capable of ending the centuries long English occupation and creating a New Ireland."

Mid-West paying economic price for normalising British rule

IN A statement on August 8 Republican Sinn Féin deplored the decision to downgrade Shannon Airport further by the ending of the direct Aer Lingus connection to London Heathrow.

The statement continued: "Services to Luton, Gatwick or Stanstead are not an adequate substitute as industrial interests at Shannon have already pointed out. We have no objection whatever to Aer Lingus providing services from Belfast to London.

"What we do object to

most strongly is the taking of the Heathrow access slots from Shannon. If such slots must be found for Belfast, let them be taken from another quarter, for example, Dublin.

"The whole western region is being made to suffer once more in the interests of east coast development. Is Shannon to be compensated

by an increasing use as a staging base for imperialist wars regardless of the damage being done to industrial and business development?"

On August 8 Des Long, Limerick Ard Chomhairle member and Cathaoirleach, Comhairle na Mumhan (Munster Executive) Republican Sinn Féin, said that the decision to end of Aer Lingus to end the Shannon to Heathrow service was akin to an act of national

sabotage.

He said that the future of the Airport is now at a crucial stage but is being abandoned by regional strategic policy.

"With the ending of the Shannon to Heathrow service next year, the accessibility of many international firms located in the Free Zone will be adversely affected.

"This retrograde move by Aer Lingus comes less than six months after the ending

of the Shannon stopover which signalled a change in regional development policy.

"Shannon has proved to be a regional magnet attracting not only passenger numbers but industrial development and providing thousands of jobs for Limerick, Clare and the mid-west in general.

"All this is now threatened because the removal of the Aer Lingus service. Such moved threaten the viability and long-term future of

Shannon. The time has come for a concerted marketing campaign to ensure that Shannon does not lost its international gateway status.

"This latest blow is directly linked to the political plans of Dublin, Belfast and London and it is the people of the mid-west, Limerick Clare, Tipperary and Kerry who are now paying the economic price for the normalisation of British rule in Ireland."

'We must let no

THE 26th annual H-Block commemoration took place in Bundoran, Co Donegal on August 25.

The parade formed up at the east end of the town and led by a colour party carrying the National Flag, the flags of the four provinces and the flag of Na Fianna, the large crowd marched through the town.

Relatives of the hunger strikers who were in attendance were members of the McDonnell, Lynch, Hughes, Hurson, O'Hara and Stagg families.

Three bands were in attendance, the Kevin Lynch Band from Dungiven, Co Derry, the Dr Arthurs Memorial Accordion Band, north Antrim and the Tunnel Band from Portadown and Seán Doyle, the piper from the Glens of Antrim also played at the commemoration which he attends every year.

At the Republican Garden of Remembrance the parade halted and Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President, Republican Sinn Féin, laid a wreath on behalf of the organising committee.

The parade then marched back to the end of the town where the platform had been erected. Joe O'Neill, Republican Sinn Féin National Treasurer and Chairperson of the Bundoran Organising Committee, chaired the proceedings. He welcomed all who had travelled to the commemoration and called on Ruairí White, Newry to speak.

Ruairí said that we were here to honour the hunger strikers and the sacrifice that they made to defend the right of the Irish people to fight for freedom and independence.

He said: "The refusal of those brave and honourable Prisoners of War to be criminalised was testament to their dedication to the principles of Irish Republicanism. By their sacrifices they defended all those patriots who had gone before them from the label of criminal and they showed to the world that the soldiers of the Irish Republic are just that — soldiers. They asserted their right to defend their country by whatever means necessary.

"In the words of Bobby Sands '... I believe and stand by the God-given right of the Irish Nation to Sovereign Independence and the right of any Irishman or woman to assert this right in armed revolution. That is why I am incarcerated, naked and tortured. Foremost in my tortured mind is the thought that there can never be peace in Ireland until the foreign, oppressive British presence is removed ..."

"Republicans will always remember the sacrifice of the men we commemorate here today and the sacrifice of all those who fell in the fight for Irish freedom and independence. They made the supreme sacrifice for a cause we all believe in. They would not be blinded to the fact that their country was occupied, they could not be beaten into submission and all the horrors of the H-Blocks did not deter them. We must not be blinded by the British-backed media who would have us believe that all is rosy in the garden. We must not be tricked into submission by those masquerading as Republicans. And we must let nothing deter us.

"The sacrifices made by the Hunger Strikers demonstrated the strength and conviction that is inspired by a true belief in the principles of Irish Republicanism, and while we Republicans will never forget, others have. England still lays claim to part of

our country and the British government now appear confident that they have bought the spirit of the Irish people with well paid jobs in Stormont. They think that with a few tons of concrete they have buried the right of the Irish people to fight for their freedom. Let our presence here today send a clear message to them: The spirit of the Irish people is not for sale. The right of the Irish people to fight for their country cannot be decommissioned!

"While we remember today the Hunger Strikes and the sacrifices made in the H-Blocks we must also remember the POWs still incarcerated in Maghaberry jail. On June 19, 2006 the brave volunteers of the IRA in Maghaberry prison began to protest to regain the political status that was signed away with the stroke of a pen under the Stormont Agreement.

"Free association is restricted and a policy of controlled movement is in place while searches, including strip searches, are still all too regular. Restrictions are in place on the POWs' access to education and prison craft facilities creating a situation where political prisoners have a status in Maghaberry that provides even less than that which is available to non-political prisoners.

"The Hunger Strikers fought for their right to be recognised as POWs and sacrificed their lives to have that right

constituency of Fermanagh-South Tyrone. The reason for this was to highlight the on-going torture and inhuman treatment of himself and his comrades. It was also felt that if elected the Brits would see that the prisoners had the support of the people and surely to God could not stand by and let them die on hunger strike. It was not, as Gerry and the sell-outs would like us to think now, a forward-thinking step towards manipulating the Republican Movement into a constitutional party. The Republican Movement was then and is now a revolutionary movement and while England remains in occupation of part of Ireland it will always be a revolutionary movement.

"Finally I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the candidates in this year's Stormont elections that stood for on an abstentionist platform. The election results may not have been what we hoped for but the presence of these candidates demonstrated that there are those who are not prepared to conform to a normalised Six Counties under British rule.

"The election results also serve as a reminder that Republicans cannot rely on elections alone to rid England from our land. No election in any manufactured state on either side of the British imposed Border can remove the right of the Irish people to be free.



• A section of the crowd marching through Bundoran at the 26th Ann



• Joe O'Neill introducing some of the relatives of the hunger strikers who attended the commemoration.

asserted for those POWs who came after them. Political status is a right, not a privilege.

"The attempted criminalisation of Irish Republican POWs will be resisted today with the determination and the strength that has always been exerted by the Irish in defence of their own.

"Sadly the British prison system continues to persecute the families of the POWs. Visitors are denied access on a purely arbitrary basis with the use of the prison drugs dog, even though no trace of drugs has ever been found on the Republican wing.

"The protest in Maghaberry has shown the screws, the front-line of the Brit prison system, that their efforts to break the spirit of Republican prisoners are as futile today as they have ever been. Our prisoners stood together, they showed the dignity and discipline of soldiers and despite the conditions in the jail, morale is high.

"Shortly before his death, Bobby Sands was put forward to stand in a Westminster by-election in the

"We will continue to resist British occupation because it is our duty as Republicans to do so. The same spirit of resistance has spanned centuries and the H-Block hunger strike showed to the world that in every generation the Irish people will assert their God given right to rise up and be free."

Briege O'Connor, Belfast, mother of Maghaberry POW Joe O'Connor read a statement from the Republican POWs in Maghaberry jail.

The statement read: "On behalf of the Republican POWs incarcerated here in Maghaberry jail I send you warm and comradely greetings of solidarity on this occasion of the Bundoran 26th Anniversary commemoration of the 1981 hunger strikers.

"We salute all of you here present and in particular we salute and send warm greetings to the families of our honoured 1981 hunger strikers and the families of Frank Stagg, Michael Gaughan and Pat Ward, whom we also remember here today. "We also today

remember with pride all who have given their lives throughout the decades and the centuries of our struggle to end British colonial rule in our country.

"For us here in this internment camp the heroic sacrifices of the men of '81 shall always be a great source of inspiration and steadfastness in the face of the British aggressor. The men of '81 gave their lives in the battle with a vicious colonial government who sought to criminalise the Republican struggle on the outside. In this they did not succeed and Thatcher and her fellow-band of bloodthirsty murderers were branded the world over as nothing more than the scum of the earth.

"It is an affront, and indeed it is an outrage, to read recently where Crown minister and arch-collaborator Martin McGuinness praised this vile woman for her contribution to the beginning of the treachery carried out by him and the corrupt leadership of the Provos. Shame on him, but then all have seen this Quisling knows no shame as he cosies up to the arch-bigot and his new found boss Mr Paisley.

"The British did not succeed in their efforts to subdue the Republican struggle in 1981 and we must ensure that they will never succeed in quelling the campaign of resistance to their colonial rule on this island.

"Here in this jail, whilst we have succeeded in bringing about some changes in this regime as a result of protests, the Brits are now seeking to place on our wing criminals who have no connection with the Republican struggle. We will resist such back-door attempts to criminalise our wing and we warn the Brits that we will not, under any circumstances, comply with such practices. The sacrifices made in the jails here in Ireland and abroad by Republican POWs throughout our history were made in a noble cause, we will never allow that noble cause to be sullied by our enemies.

"Those sacrifices were never made to resurrect Stormont or to normalise British colonial rule in Ireland. Shame on those who have used these sacrifices to collude now in that rule. Shame on those who now ask our people to support and become informers for the RUC, the armed enemy of Republicanism.

"Today we are faced with an unprecedented array of enemies but Republicanism must remain defiant and uncompromising in the face of this. We must reject the collaborators and quislings who have sold out the 'patriot game' and the struggle for national liberation must remain alive. We here in the jail will play our part in whatever way we can, we implore you on the outside to do the same. Let our contribution be a fitting tribute to the men of '81 and all those who have laid down their lives in the cause of Irish freedom.

"Finally I pay tribute to Joe and his committee for ensuring that this event is kept alive every year despite at times the best efforts of our enemies to disrupt it. On behalf of the POWs I thank once again the PRAG and RSF for continuing to highlight the issues surrounding our incarceration here in this internment camp.

Nothing deter us'



ual Hunger Strike commemoration on August 25.

"Neither the Brits, the Freestaters or the Provos will ever succeed in extinguishing the right of the Irish people to national self-determination.

"Go raibh maith agáibh.
O/C IRA POWs, Maghaberry jail, August 2007."

Matt Conway read a statement from the Republican prisoners in Portlaoise jail:

"Solidarity greetings are extended to all honourable Republicans gathered here today to commemorate the 26th Anniversary of the H-Block martyrs.

"The H-Block Martyrs and indeed all those brave soldiers of the Irish Republic who sacrificed their lives for Irish freedom have inspired and will continue to inspire true Republicans in our aims to end British occupation of the Six Counties.

"All Continuity POWs acknowledge the hardships the hunger strikes had on the H-Block martyrs and their brave families and we reiterate that we will not abandon the struggle in which these brave soldiers engaged in.

"We seek independence for our country and not the reformation of the root cause of the problem like former comrades have done.

"The H-Block martyrs died for Irish freedom. They did not sacrifice their lives for the resurrection of Stormont or the destruction of weapons procured for national liberation and they did not sacrifice their lives for former comrades to inflate their egos and participate in cull-de-sac politics.

"True Republicans must get behind the leadership of the Republican Movement and embark in administering infinite resistance against British occupation.

Victory to the All-Ireland Republic.
"Tíocfaidh ár lá.

"CIRA POWs, Portlaoise prison."

Joe then called on Bob Loughman of the Emerald Police Society in New York to speak. Bob reminded those present of the sacrifices of the hunger strikers and said that there were still loyal Republicans in the US who supported the true Republican Movement. Bob Loughman has

attended the Bundoran commemoration since 1984.

The final speech was delivered by Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Joint Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin who spoke of the dreadful months from March to August 1981.

"The hunger strike, as a weapon, has been used time and again in Ireland's struggle to gain her freedom from England and was part of the revolution that was taking part outside the prisons. It was usually the last weapon in the prisoners' arsenal. From the beginning to the end of that heart-wrenching prison protest in 1981 we watched their pain and suffering and the terrible agony and loneliness of their last journey.

"Political status was denied them because of Margaret Thatcher's malevolence but let us be very clear about one thing – they gave up their lives not just for political status but for the restoration of the All-Ireland Republic to which they had sworn an oath to defend. Each of those young men was possessed of an unshakeable belief in the rightness of the Republican struggle otherwise they could not have carried it through.

"We salute them and their families, especially the mothers, of Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreech, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee and Micky Devine. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nanamacha. In their deaths we saw once more the reality of British rule in Ireland.

"The signing of the Belfast Agreement resulted in the revocation of political prisoner status and thus an attempt to criminalise those who continue to resist. As one Six County minister said: **"Provisional Sinn Féin has made a historic commitment to support policing and the rule of law, it is actively encouraging people from its communities to report criminality to the police..."** Dammning evidence of the depths to which they have sunk, and for what? Civil rights under British rule. They turn a blind eye to the fact

that in joining the RUC albeit under the new title of PSNI they are giving support to the very same sectarian bigots who beat Samuel Devaney to death while wearing the uniform of the British state. A leopard does not change its spots nor does the RUC and those same bigots are alive and well within the ranks of today's re-badged force.

"Attempts have been made to make people forget what went on in Castlereagh Barracks and in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh where not only civil but human rights were violated, by giving those places new names. But the stench of corruption will remain for all time. Those crimes can never be wiped from our collective memory.

"Operation Banner is the title given to the almost 40-year occupation of the Six Counties by British forces and the lie comes with it that those same forces were on Irish soil for the purpose of keeping the peace.

"But we know its real title to be England's 'dirty war'. The British establishment had one agenda all along and that was to defeat Irish Republicanism. If the British Government think that by giving the Six Counties a make-over we will forget Bloody Sunday, the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, Loughgall and the dead who died for Ireland under British rule, they should think again.

"The decision by Aer Lingus to pull its Heathrow service from Shannon and to fly instead from Belfast is part of the quid pro quo for the Provos' surrender, not only of their arms but of their once dearly held Republican principles. We may now ask the question, did they really have Republican principles or was the Brits Out campaign actually not an end in itself but a means of gaining some parity of esteem? In other words they were never serious

"By resurrecting Stormont, the Provisionals have indeed copper-fastened partition. The Border remains despite attempts by big business, the clergy, Westminster, Bertie Ahern and the media, who have a huge influence, to blur that Border by backing every cross-border body no matter how insignificant, the implication being that we are all together in a united country. Alongside all of this is the fact that we are now in a period of neo-colonialism in Ireland as witness the proliferation of British-owned outlets in our cities and towns down to the smallest of villages while millions of euro in profit leave the country annually. It is time that the Irish people did something to address the situation.

"When nationalist and separatist Ireland began to assert itself towards the end of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century, a new and powerful movement was born. It was called the Irish Ireland Movement and was spearheaded by Douglas Hyde who believed that Ireland must be de-Anglicised and democracy brought into Irish life. Perhaps that is what Ireland needs today before we see the prefix 'royal' begin to appear on hotels and other establishments. It is not too far-fetched to suggest such an outcome in the future.

"How has this state of affairs come about? If we ask ourselves who was running the military wing of the Republican Movement since the 1981 hunger strikes we will find the answer. Without a doubt British intelligence had penetrated deeply. Denis Donaldson and 'Stakeknife' were not the only highly-placed informers. As



• Ruairí White addressing the crowd.



• Cathleen Knowles McGuirk speaking at Bundoran.



• Briege O'Connor read a statement from the POWs in Maghaberry.



• Bob Loughman of the Emerald Police Society, New York.

time goes on many more will be exposed. The intervention by the clergy from an early stage not long after the hunger strikers died was a major factor in bringing about the Provisionals' surrender. Fr Alex Reid in his secret letter written in May 1986 to the then Taoiseach Charles Haughey said it all. According to Ed Moloney, author of *A Secret History of the IRA*, "Fr Reid spelled out in considerable detail the history and motives of what he described as a church initiative for peace, aimed primarily at ending IRA violence". It is significant that this letter from Fr Reid was written three days after the Loughgall massacre in which eight East Tyrone Volunteers were ambushed and ruthlessly slain by the SAS.

"We regard and reject Stormont as an obstacle to Irish Freedom. Stormont is a British institution and all those who eagerly climb the steps to take up their well-paid positions are nothing less than British ministers implementing British laws under the British Crown. However they have to face the fact that real power in the Six Counties still resides with Westminster. Stormont can never represent anything but local politics.

"At the end of the day we have but one enemy – British government policy in our country coupled with relentless Unionist opposition to the very existence of the true Republican Movement. Former revolutionaries, sworn to rid Ireland of British rule and end their occupation of the Six Counties, now willingly join a British police force while still occupied.

"Three categories of people remain in Ireland today. The first, those who have always, and will always, support the union with Britain; secondly, those



• Matt Conway reading a statement from the Republican Prisoners, Portlaoise jail.

one-time revolutionaries who have lain down their arms and have surrendered to the enemy and thirdly, Republicans who have never, and will never, be appeased by flattery, wealth or celebrity and will continue in the pursuit of Irish freedom. We have our role models in those who went before us and in the ten hunger strikers who gave their lives. Their legacy will always be with us. Therefore we must ensure that the goal for which they gave their lives will be achieved. We owe them nothing less."

Cathaoirleach Joe O'Neill said that the Provo leadership had not told the truth about what happened within their organisation over the past 20 years. He said that they had covered up the links between the British authorities in the Six Counties and spies such as Stakeknife and Denis Donaldson. He concluded proceedings by thanking all who attended.

RSF solidarity with Miami Five

A LETTER expressing solidarity with the Cuban POWs known as the Miami Five, penned by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach was handed into the Cuban government in May of this year.

Seán Ó Sé, Dublin RSF member was part of an Irish Trades Union Solidarity group which travelled to Havana on a fact-finding mission. Met by Cuban Party officials the group was guided through hospitals, schools and government buildings. At the Department of International Relations Seán presented the letter from Ruairí Ó Brádaigh to Teresa Trujillo, department head.

The highlight of the visit was receiving a special invitation to a seat at the official reviewing stand in Revolution Square for the May Day parade. One million people participated.

Five Cuban POWs are serving long sentences in US jails for defending their people from terrorism. More information can be got at www.freethefive.org. Write via www.freethefive.org/writethefive.

British call for return of five men from Guantanamo

ON August 7, the British Government called on the US to return five British residents held without charge in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and admitted the decision had come after relentless pressure from the men's families and legal team.

The five men, who are all residents of Britain but are not citizens, come from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Ethiopia and Algeria. They claim they suffered torture and ill-treatment in their five years of detention.

And though the men are no longer regarded as 'a threat to national security' their return to Britain will take some time'.

The High Court in London was due to rule on the status of Mr Banna (the Jordanian) and according to British MP Sarah Teather: "The government were frightened of losing the court case. Abandoning British residents to indefinite imprisonment in obscene conditions was a gross dereliction of duty by the government".

WORLD NEWS



• Relatives of the Miami Five, together with those of victims of anti-Cuban terrorism, at the Flag Memorial.

Erin Brockovich helps Australians resist mining giant

IT was reported on August 7 that Erin Brockovich, the American who won a case against Pacific Gas in the 1990s for polluting the water in the small town of Hinkley in California, is assisting the people of Yarloop, a small community south of Perth, Australia against Alcoa, an international mining giant. The community claim they suffer a range of health problems which they attribute to emissions from the Alcoa bauxite refinery. The company denied that it posed any health risks.

CIA missed crucial opportunities

A REPORT by the CIA into the 9/11 bombings in America released recently stated that 'the CIA bosses failed to use their available powers, never developed a comprehensive plan to stop al-Qaeda and missed crucial opportunities to thwart two hijackers in the run-up to September 11'.

Derry anti-war coalition visit to Lebanon

DURING the first week in August, 12 members of the Derry Anti-War Coalition (DAWC), including the Raytheon 9, visited communities in southern Lebanon which were devastated by the Israeli war last summer.

They visited Bint Jbail and A'ita al-Chaab near the Israeli border, both of which received heavy bombardment from Israeli airstrikes and incursions from armoured bulldozers, tanks and troops, reducing civilian infrastructure to dust and pebble. In addition to this, the DAWC protested outside the obliterated Palestinian refugee camp Nahr-al-Bared near Tripoli in Northern Lebanon.

The primary purpose of their visit was to lay a commemoration stone at Qana site of a brutal Israeli massacre of innocent civilians one year ago. A ceremony took place on August 6 with families of the deceased, local community leaders and Lebanese media.

According to the group "one hundred and twenty-three Lebanese Army personnel and countless numbers of Fatah-al-Islam fighters, as well as scores of innocent refugees have been killed over the past 70 days. Over 50,000 innocent civilians have fled the battleground, the majority of whom were already displaced Palestinians many times over, forced to take up temporary shelter in the tiny, under-resourced and over-populated Baddawi camp, about 7 kilometres away". This refugee camp, approximately 1.5 square kilometres in area, houses up to 56,000 Palestinian refugees. Electricity cuts are frequent, safe drinking water in short supply and serious sanitation problems.

As part of their journey through Lebanon the DAWC held a series of high profile meetings with anti-war academics, resistance fighters, as well as spiritual and political leaders from the Lebanese community. The whole trip was facilitated by Irish peace activists Caoimhe Butterly and Michael Birmingham.

Michael can be contacted at michaelbirmingham1@gmail.com. Caoimhe can be contacted at sahara78@hotmail.co.uk.

1916 leader commemorated in Dublin

REPUBLICANS gathered in Crumlin, Dublin on Sunday, August 19 to pay tribute to Éamonn Ceannt, one of the leaders of the 1916 Rising after whom the park is named.

The assembled crowd marched along Sundrive Road behind a colour party and members of Na Fianna Éireann in uniform. Tony Kennedy of the Joe McDonnell Cumann, Crumlin chaired the proceedings. He welcomed all those present and Dan Donohoe, Chairman of Comhairle Ceantair Átha Cliath, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, laid the wreath after a minutes silence was observed for all those who died in the fight for Irish freedom.

Josephine Hayden, Ard Chomhairle, who gave the oration began by outlining the objectives of the Irish Volunteers of which Éamonn Ceannt was a member: 'To secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to all the people of Ireland; To train, discipline, arm and equip a body of Irish Volunteers for the above purpose; and to unite for this purpose Irish men of every creed and of every party and class'. Their aim was the attainment of political freedom and the establishment of an Irish Republic

She said that Éamonn

Ceannt, "along with his comrades, continuing in the tradition of those before them, set in motion a movement which gathered a momentum that survives to this very day. We salute their courage and bravery in taking on the might of a vastly superior British Army in military terms. But what the Irish lacked in military hardware they more than made up for in a belief and a determination to rid the country of British occupation. This was their chance to prove to themselves, to the Irish nation and indeed to the world, that Ireland was not a willing member of the British Empire. Many before them had fought to win independence for Ireland, and while they did not succeed they did not fail either – they kept the flame alight for others to follow. This too could be said of the nationalist/Republican men and women of 1916.

"That spirit of resistance to British rule was passed down with the memory of men like Éamonn Ceannt to sustain those who took up arms to free their country from foreign



• Tony Kennedy, Dublin RSF, chairing the Éamonn Ceannt commemoration in Dublin on August 19.

occupation. And that resistance to British rule continues to this day.

"But listening to and reading the media today one would be forgiven for thinking that the British no longer occupy six of our 32 counties. One would be forgiven for thinking that normalisation has returned "to the troubled province" according to one

politician. That everything is normal, that the Stormont assembly is normal; that it is normal to have the RUC/PSNI walking around the nationalist areas handing out mobile phone numbers and involved with the playing of our Gaelic games while still members of the British security forces. That the British army has gone back to Britain and no British

soldier remains on Irish soil.

"But we resist that normalisation policy being implemented by the British government, the 26-County administration and the Provisionals. We resist all attempts to sweep the illegally imposed British Border under the carpet and we will continue to resist such acceptance of British rule".

She continued: "We salute the men in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails who prove the legitimacy and continuity of our war against the British and we pledge them our continued support. They are the proof that there are still brave men and women willing to give their all to secure an Ireland free from British rule".

She was very critical of the road the Provisionals have taken: "... others got rich on the backs of the Republican Movement when they took the Saxon shilling and sold out their comrades. Those who publicly criticised the Free State regime and its politicians for years (but privately coveted the status they thought the politicians had) are now part and parcel of the establishment on both sides of the Border. They worked hard at lying and cheating and finally broke the Sinn Féin Constitution to take

part in the partitioned assembly in Leinster House.

"From there it was only a short hop to Stormont, to the surrender of the weapons procured for the freedom of Ireland and acceptance of the RUC. And they have the nerve to still call themselves Republicans while serving the British Crown. Stormont is anathema to Republicans and those loyal to the Republican Movement cannot or will not have any part of it. Today we call on the Provisional Movement to drop the honourable name of Sinn Féin – an organisation which was founded to rid the country of the British, not to take part in British and British-backed governments".

She concluded: "Éamonn Ceannt ... died in the defense of the Republic that he himself declared along with his comrades. They took up arms against the British and went to their deaths with their heads held high, just as all those others before and since who have given their lives. It is not an easy road we are going down but it is the only road. Men and women of courage and bravery such as Eamon Ceannt fought the British militarily and politically, we must do the same".

WHAT THEY SAID

This year's Labour alliance with [Provisional] Sinn Féin was the surprising development. It secured Labour an extra seat and it ensured [Provisional] Sin Féin got Pearse Doherty into the Senate.

— Sunday Business Post, July 19, 2007, "Inside Politics: Back Room" column.

The system sucks parties inexorably into its arena and away from the dogmatic paramilitarism of [Provisional] Sinn Féin.

— "Inside Politics: Back Room".

A feud that has been simmering within the Ulster Defence Association for months burst to the surface in Antrim last week in dramatic fashion, with a Police Service of Northern Ireland officer being shot in the back as hundreds of loyalists gathered on the streets of Carrickfergus and the Rathcoole estate.

— Sunday Business Post, July 29, 2007, article by Colm Heatley in Belfast entitled "UDA feud proves loyalism has a long way to go".

John Stalker, the English police chief who originally investigated shoot-to-kill allegations in the North in the early 1980s, has said he is willing to help the fresh inquiry by the North's Police Ombudsman into a series of RUC killings which left a number of Republicans dead.

— Sunday Business Post, July 29, 2007, article by Colm Heatley.

The Ombudsman said that "shoot-to-kill allegations — particularly the 1982 killing by the RUC of three unarmed IRA men, Gervaise McKerr, Seán Burns and Eugene Toman — would be re-examined following a directive from the Council of Europe.

— Colm Heatley.

The report shows that the police were a shamolic mess and that senior officers should be held to account. We have had to wait for two years and it is so painful to hear that senior officers deliberately lied. This is a damning report and it must be acted upon.

— Irish News, August 3, 2007, Alessandro Pereira, cousin of Jean Charles de Menezes, a Brazilian tourist shot dead by British police at Stockwell tube station on July 22, 2005, commenting on the report by the [British] Independent Police Complaints Commission. The IPCC found that "allegations against [Assistant Commissioner] Mr Hayman were substantiated by the evidence they heard". Hayman failed to keep the Met Chief Ian Blair "almost totally uninformed of events following the death of Mr de Menezes" and he misled senior officers by failing to tell them the dead man was not one of the bombers on the run in London after the botched July 21 attacks.

No one has been held responsible for anything, no-one is going to be prosecuted. Police have been allowed to get away with murder.

— Patricia Armani da Silva,

another cousin of Jean Charles de Menezes in Irish News, August 3, 2007.

So who won the war ...?

The violence had its origins in unionist opposition to the non-sectarian civil rights movement of the 1960s.

It was opposed by successive unionist governments to preserve power and privilege. It was also confronted by Ian Paisley who, it is now clear, was seeking power and privilege.

The first violence came from the RUC and Paisley's supporters in opposition to Civil Rights Association (CRA) marches.

When this violence ultimately evolved into anti-Catholic pogroms in Belfast in August 1969, the British Army arrived on the streets.

— Irish News, August 4, 2007.

Patrick Murphy column.

It [the 1974 Sunningdale Agreement] offered joint north-south cooperation in everything....The Provos ignored it and Paisley set out to destroy it - 30 years later they both bought into that same proposal.

The British had won the long war.

But while they were the overall winners, a special award must go to Paisley.

He helped to depose three Stormont prime ministers and a first minister, so that he could implement what he has called their sell-out policies.

— Patrick Murphy.

The award for the most inventive use of vocabulary goes to the PIRA. Its war for an all-Ireland republic disintegrated into a demand for the right to administer part of Stormont.

This, they suggested, was worthy of victory celebrations in black taxis.

— Patrick Murphy.

What began as a struggle for civil rights was hijacked into a war to end British rule in Ireland. It ended in an argument over how British rule in Ireland should be administered. On that basis it is not difficult to conclude who won the war.

— Patrick Murphy.

The purpose of the walk is to raise awareness about the problem of homelessness in Ireland today.

It is hard to believe that such a services this is still essential in the 21st century but the numbers attending for help are increasing rather than decreasing....

Our clients come from every part of Ireland.

— Ms Paddy Pender speaking to the Irish News. She and Joan Nevin (who work in the Capuchin Day Centre for Homeless people in Dublin) will walk 92 miles from Roscommon to Dublin - starting September 1 - with no money, no food, water or shelter. They will depend on the public to provide food and shelter every night as they raise awareness of the plight of the homeless.

"We are no longer going to be part of the security forces in Northern Ireland, we are going to be part of the community," Lt-Gen Nicholas Parker, commander of British forces in Northern Ireland. The British army has ended military operations in the North after 38 years.

— Irish Times, August 4, 2007, in This Week They Said column.

Makem and the Clancy Brothers, knew exactly what

the audiences wanted — both in Ireland and America — and whether it was rousing rebel songs, sea shanties or wistful ballads, they gave it to them with gusto and professional panache. Their position, it could be said, was at the pinnacle of the Irish cultural firmament of the time.

— Irish Times, August 4, 2007, Editorial headed "Bard of Armagh".

Those audiences were never more enthralled than when he was performing his own composition *Four Green Fields*, and through a whole legacy of other songs with which he will always be remembered — *Red is the Rose*, *Gentle Annie* and *The Winds are Singing Freedom* — he certainly enriched the folk repertoire.

— Irish Times Editorial.

Far from being silent, Catholic bishops have been forthright in their comment on the use of Shannon Airport by military personnel.

At their general meeting in June the bishops called for prayers for Christians in Iraq and also for a resolution of the conflict which has caused so much suffering and death.

— Irish Times, August 4, 2007, letter to editor from Martin Long, Director Catholic Communications Office, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

The late pope John Paul II went to great lengths to prevent this war. He personally met former British prime minister Tony Blair and sent an envoy to plead with US President George Bush. The late pope prophetically commented that it would lead to disaster.

— Irish Times letter to editor

B'é a leithéid sin (Two Shillelagh O'Sullivan", he Bing Crosby) a dhibir Tommy [Makem] agus na Clancys. Murad iad d'fhéidir nach mbéadh ann do na Dubliners, do Skara Brae, do Jimmy Crowley, do Christy Moore, do Fíleá Cheoil na hÉireann mar cheiliúradh coitianta seachas mar cheiliúradh i gcúlshéomraí.

— Irish Times, August 9, 2007, Alan Tildley in omós do Tommy Makem ina a cholún Crobhinge.

Sheas Tommy Makem i dtobar an traidisiúin. Tá saibhreas an traidisiúin sin léirithe ag Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin ina seodleabhar *A Hidden Ulster: people, songs and traditions of Oriel*.

Bhí Peadar Ó Dóirín agus Art Mac Cumhaigh roimhe ag cogaraigh sa ród. Ní h-ea amháin gur chuir sé seacch i mbearna an traidisiúin sin, chuir sé cúpla bláth agus finíle agus lus ainm ag fás ann chomh maith.

— Alan Tildley.

Relatives are calling for an investigation into the deaths of 11 civilians shot by British soldiers in Ballymurphy in 1971, reports Susan McKay.

— Irish Times, August 11, 2007.

By this stage, an intense gun battle was going on in the area [August 9, 1971], with loyalists firing into Catholic homes, IRA men firing at the Henry Taggart base, and British soldiers firing from that base and two others in the area, as well as from the roofs of a local block of flats.

Terrified Catholic families were trying to move out of the area. The soldiers were shooting at civilians.



• Singer/songwriter Tommy Makem who died on August 2.

— Susan McKay.

The British Ministry of Defence claimed that those it shot in Ballymurphy, including Joan Connolly, Danny Taggart and Father [Hugh] Mullen, were armed. There is no evidence to support this.

Relatives for Justice, the group which organised the meeting next week, called for "an independent, transparent investigation linked to a truth commission".

— Susan McKay.

The Parachute Regiment was moved on to Derry. The events of January 30, 1972 [Bloody Sunday] are as notorious as the events of August 9, 1971 have been unknown.

But listening to the voices of witnesses to the internment day killings was like listening to an account of a malign dress rehearsal for Bloody Sunday.

— Susan McKay.

Kevin Skelton, a father of four whose wife, Philomena, was killed in the Real IRA bombing [at Omagh], described the trial of Seán Hoey, an electrician from South Armagh, as a "farce" and a "show trial". "I wouldn't convict him on the evidence that was presented to the court."

Skelton said that, since the bombing, the British and Irish governments had been more concerned about "covering up what took place, rather than trying to solve it".

— Sunday Business Post, August 12, 2007, article by Colm Heatley.

The ordinary people of Galway are definitely being treated differently to those invited into the Fianna Fáil tent [at the Galway Races].

This annual display of wealth and influence is in stark contrast to the treatment of the people of Galway by the local authority who cannot even provide a basic necessity like clean water.

— Sunday Tribune, August 12, 2007, letter to editor from Joe Lynch, Vice-Chairman, Comhairle Chúige Mumhan, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

Sooner or later, Irish people will grasp a fundamental aspect of democracy that has long remained beyond our comprehension. There is, amazingly enough, a connection between what you vote for and what you get. The people of the broad Midwest region voted in their droves for the parties that implemented and supported the privatisation of Aer Lingus.

— Irish Times, August 14,

2007, Fintan O'Toole column.

Scottish National Party leader's White Paper calls for "national conversation" on proposals for independence.

— Irish Times, August 15, 2007, report by Frank Millar, London Editor, in Edinburgh.

The White Paper, entitled *Choosing Scotland's Future, A National Conversation*, states: "On independence, her majesty the queen would remain the head of state in Scotland. The current parliamentary and political union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would become a monarchical and social union — united kingdoms rather than a United Kingdom — maintaining a relationship first forged in 1603 by the union of the crowns."

— Irish Times, August 15, 2007. But the "union of the crowns of England and Scotland was extended in 1707 when the Scottish Parliament was abolished altogether. Wolfe Tone, on the other hand, said "break the connection with England".

Subtracting Scotland from the UK would have unpredictable repercussions for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Depending on how it worked out politically, moves towards Irish reunification could happen much sooner than generally expected or preferred. Not for nothing does the White Paper open with a quotation from Parnell. [No man shall fix the boundary to the march of a nation ...]

These changes should be kept high on the political and civic agenda of all jurisdictions in these islands.

— Irish Times, August 15, 2007, editorial headed "Salmond's Move". (Alex Salmond is leader of the SNP and First Minister in the Holyrood Parliament.)

the North's Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie is to review the £1.2 million (£1.78 million) grant made towards loyalist community projects aimed at encouraging the UDA away from organised crime.

Her decision follows the serious rioting in the Kilcooley estate in Bangor, Co Down, late on Wednesday [August 1] in which the PSNI came under fire and a crowd of up to 200 threw petrol and paint bombs and set cars alight.

— Irish Times, August 4, 2007, Dan Keenan, Northern News Editor/

Eunan O'Halpin, professor of contemporary history at Trinity College, said de Valera had "savagely repressed" the IRA during the Second World War "to show the British that he could control the country — fearing that otherwise the British might invade". But he had also used internment to "threaten people who wanted to help Britain's war effort".

— Irish Times, August 18, 2007, report of a symposium in Kilkenny on "Éamonn de Valera — Statesman".

A Police Ombudsman report on the murder of human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson is expected to be highly critical of the RUC's investigation into death threats made against her by police officers.

— Sunday Business Post, August 19, 2007, article by Colm Heatley in Belfast.

The inquiry (recommended by the Cory Report in 2003) is due to start in October but it has been delayed three times. One of the officers who made

the death threats is a serving member of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and has since been promoted.

The Ombudsman's report will be made public by the end of the month.

— Sunday Business Post, Colm Heatley, August 19.

Naming the event as the "Flight of the Earls" was "pandering to the English interpretation" of what had happened, suggested Prof John McGurk of the University of Ulster.

He suggested that the departure of the earls — who had intended to return — could have been termed a "strategic regrouping".

— Irish Times, August 20, 2007, report on "an international conference attended by up to 200 historians and academics in Letterkenny".

Aer Lingus is a private company. It is a private company because Bertie Ahern and Willie O'Dea and the rest of the Fianna Fáilers running the country sold it.

Those who opposed privatisation pointed out that there were extremely high risks for the government in letting go a national airline with public service responsibilities towards the region.

— Irish News, August 21, 2007, article by Susan McKay.

They set sail for Spain, where they tried in vain to muster support from the Catholic King Phillip III and return to liberate Ireland from the English.

— Irish News (Belfast), August 25, 2007, report on a film documentary marking the so-called "Flight of the Earls" 400 years ago in the Irish Film Institute this month.

When a Democratic Unionist Party power-septic [David Simpson] alleged that a [Provisional] Sinn Féin figure was a British agent, his intention was almost certainly to cause difficulties for [Provisional] Sinn Féin.

— Sunday Business Post, August 26, article by Colm Heatley in Belfast.

In a wider sense, the allegations are proof that the "dirty war" waged in the North is not yet over.

— Colm Heatley.

The former Force Research Unit (FRU) member ("Martin Ingram"), who helped to reveal Freddie Scappaticci as an informer believes he has evidence crucial to the inquiry. He alleges that the garda, who some suspect of providing the IRA with a tip-off, was being "handled" by Scappaticci for the IRA.

— Colm Heatley.

"So this goes to the top of thinks in terms of the British army," Ingram said.

"They would have been told by Freddie what was going on, I strongly believe, and yet no action was taken to prevent the two policemen [top RUC men Breen and Buchanan] being killed."

— Colm Heatley on the Smithwick Tribunal into the deaths.

One of the two RUC men killed, Harry Breen, is alleged to have had links with loyalist paramilitaries.

RUC whistleblower and convicted loyalist paramilitary, John Weir, told the *Sunday Business Post* last year that Breen was present when guns were handed over to the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Provos Hypocrisy On Collusion

A chara

Another example of a political about turn by the present Provisional leadership can be seen in that they have been openly canvassing for foreign multi-nationals to invest in the Occupied Six Counties while at the same time preaching in the 26 Counties about the nationalisation of the banks, no to water rates, no to bin tax etc. This is exactly what Ruairí Ó Brádaigh stated in 1986 when he said "you can't ride two horses that are going in opposite directions".

Not too long ago the present Provisional party were wearing their socialist hat and all this would be in direct contrast to these beliefs. Indeed it is no wonder that Pearse Doherty got elected to the Seanad (another about turn) with the help of some ex-Stickies in the Labour Party who also abandoned their socialist principles.

Martin McGuinness has stated that 'there will be no shrine at Long Kesh to the hunger strikers'. One must assume that this is because it would be a constant reminder of the sacrifices that were made by the men who served time and died there for the full freedom of their country.

The curtain has supposedly fallen on Operation Banner after 38 years of occupation. Britain illegally occupied Ireland for over 800 years, not 38. The fact that 5,000 British troops are still based in the North (and are going nowhere soon) seems to have been forgotten. Millions are being invested in an MIS spy centre in the Six Counties. These are not the actions of a country that intends to disengage by 2016 as some of the Provisionals would have us believe.

Yet again this is a tactic to draw the Republican base into political apathy so as when 2016 comes and goes, a new date will be thought up to appease the grass roots. This long 'peace strategy' is intended to starve out any opposition to showing an alternative to the failed Stormont sell-out.

It is not that long ago that the Provos were preaching that the RUC/PSNI were an unacceptable police force, now all of a sudden the people who refuse to accept any colonial police force are backwoods men and women or living in the past.

Principles are only tactics and tactics are expendable. A new tactic is thought up and before you know it is involved in the partitionist parliament that you set out to destroy; putting representatives in the Seanad that you said was illegal and sitting down for meetings with the British-installed head of paramilitary police – but that's tactics for you.

All this poses questions: Are the current Provos socialist or capitalist, Republican, or Brit-paid constitutionalists? How can they accept 5,000 British soldiers in their own country and at the same time administer rule for them while also calling the war in Iraq illegal? But the biggest piece of hypocrisy is using a hunger strike commemoration to highlight collusion while they themselves collude with the Brits to illegally rule part of this country.

JOE O'NEILL
BRENDAN CASEY
Ballyshannon/Bundoran
Republican Sinn Féin
Co Donegal

Newry RSF Commended For Picket

A chara

In regards to a recent hurling match in Newry on August 18 between a British Telecom (BT) works team and the RUC/PSNI. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the local RSF Cumann in organising and mobilising a good crowd at short notice for a protest picket outside the county ground under the watchful eye of the RUC/PSNI.

There must be opposition at every venue the length and breath of Ireland where the armed wing of occupation turns up.

This is all part of the normalisation policy of British rule in Ireland. No doubt it is being supported and upheld by the Provisionals. In Newry not one spectator went through the turn-styles to watch this sham game.

Let Newry be the beginning of a concerted campaign of rejecting RUC/PSNI at Gaelic games. Already we have heard the calls for the name change of clubs called after Irish patriots. The GAA was founded on the principle of preserving everything Irish through her games.

Not even the might of the British Empire could break the spirit of the GAA and its members from the outside (including mass murder) and we sure as hell won't allow them to do it from within our games.

It should also be pointed out that no one from the local Newry Shamrocks participated with this match. For that they must be commended.

NEWRY REPUBLICAN

Hunger Strike March Success

A chara

The annual function after the hunger strike march in Bundoran on Saturday, August 25 was a great success with people in attendance from all



• Members of Newry Republican Sinn Féin who placed a picket on Páirc Esler in Newry when the RUC/PSNI played a hurling match there on August 18. (see letter on left)

over Ireland and also from England, America and Germany.

The Fenian Four played some rousing songs and were followed by a young man from Lurgan Martin McG. We would like to thank everyone for coming, especially those who travelled long distances. But we would mostly like to thank the fact that the hunger strikers and all those who gave their lives for Irish freedom were honoured with dignity and respect.

We would like to thank their families for travelling to the Commemoration and we hope to see everyone back again next year.

THE BUNDORAN COMMITTEE

Support The Republican Prisoners

A chara

The fight for political status has been a fight that has run side by side with the struggle for Irish Freedom down the generations when people today think of political status they tend to think of 1981 and the hunger strikes — Bobby Sands and his brave comrades

No one thinks about today's POWs, no one thinks about the men in Maghaberry jail being held in conditions that Bobby Sands died fighting to remove. Most people do not think about Maghaberry because they are ignorant to these facts, blinded by British propaganda or Gerry and Martin's spin.

Indeed Martin would rather raise his voice in support of the British soldiers being killed in Iraq than to raise it in support of Republican prisoners who are held for the same reasons our brave hunger strikers were held and who suffer the same as they did. I ask all who

consider themselves Irish Republicans to pause and ponder this question — do you agree that these men should have the political status won for them by the men of 1981 or do you believe they deserve the conditions they now face and if you do believe the latter it would be safe to say you are no longer an Irish Republican.

These men are Irish soldiers cut from the same cloth the brave men of 1981 were cut from. They believe the same things they believed and are jailed for the same things and if you cannot find it in your heart to support them now as you did Bobby and his comrades it is you that have changed and you who are the dissident Republican, distanced from Republicanism by supporting the British Establishment supporters. Join the RPAG. www.powstatusnow.net.

PACKY CARTY
Tyrone RPAG

Object to Plan to Redevelop GPO

A chara

Plans for "Dublin's GPO to close only to rise again as a smart shopping centre", which was reported in the Sunday Independent (July 15) have not yet been formally registered with Dublin City Council.

Any such application for planning permission can be found in the Public Notices sections of newspapers and at www.dublincity.ie. Find the section on weekly planning applications, check the many pages for each week by location. If such a plan is there, members of the public have only five weeks to lodge "observations and submissions" and thus be allowed to appeal against it. If

no one does this, there is considered to be no objection.

I spoke with Kevin Duff, a volunteer at An Taisce, 01-454-1786, who has appealed the associated Arnott's development because of its impact on the GPO.

Keep watch or the GPO could become Dublin's next "smart shopping centre".

Poverty Shoved Into Closet

A chara

Poverty seems to be a word that has now been deleted from the policies of the main political parties on both sides of the border. The people who are forced to live in poverty have now been shoved into a closet and all the elected politicians hope that they will disappear from the face of our society. Even the so-called left wing parties, do not acknowledge that poverty exists anymore. The people who are unemployed and the other different forms of social welfare have become the forgotten members of society.

Because of the electoral system, these people have no one to speak for them either in Leinster House, or the House of Commons. It is open for anyone who wants to see, that any group that cannot give publicity to any government minister, then that group of people will not gain the attention of any government department. The silence of government ministers on this matter is a sign of their knowledge of their failure to take proper care of the people in their constitution area.

Surveys taken by poverty groups continue to show that poverty continues to exist. From data taken from a recent survey taken in certain areas of Belfast, the data shows that there are up to eighty percent of children living in poverty. On the day the survey was released the main political parties in Belfast had nothing to say on the matter. Is this what the politicians were elected for? Is that their main aim, to see who could get the biggest amount of media headlines, while ignoring the plight of poverty in their own backyards. These politicians need to stop putting themselves into the headlines and start to work for the people in their areas. That is what they are paid to do, to improve the lives of the people, not to spend all their time looking for media attention.

MICHAEL ROONEY
Mayo

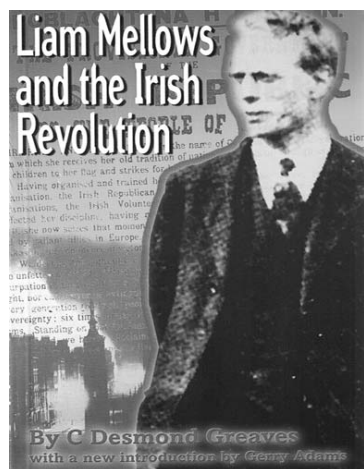
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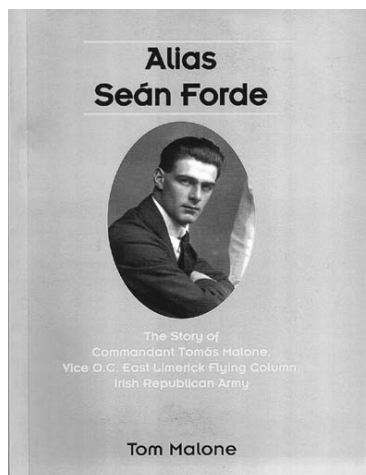
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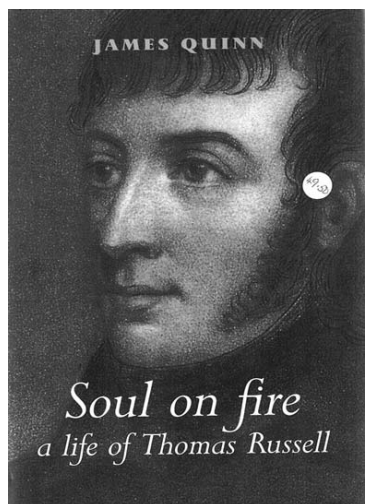
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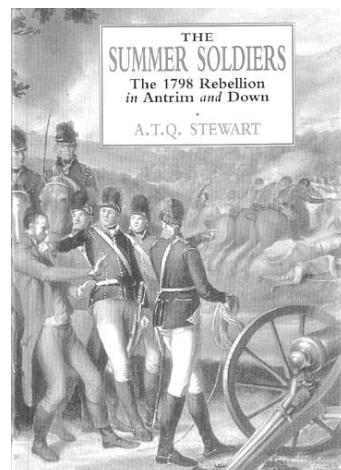
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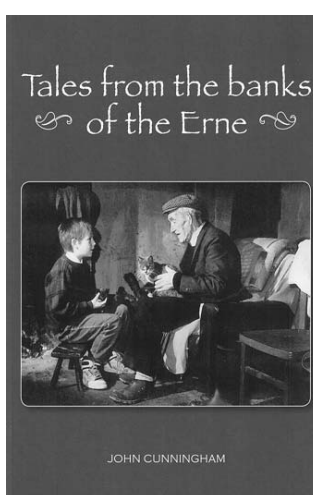
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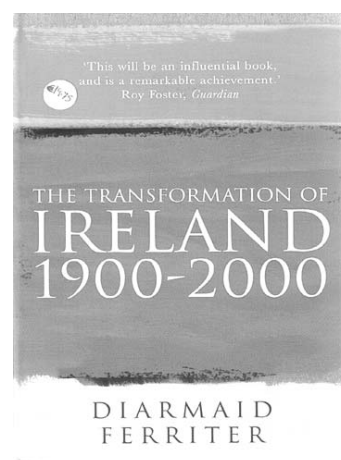
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MILITARY OPERATION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND A WEDDING

**50
Years
Ago**

AT the end of August 1957, guerrilla attacks against British installations in the Six Occupied Counties continued.

In Derry city, the Brookhill District Telephone Exchange was "wrecked by an explosion" the *Irish Times* of August 31 reported. The automatic dialling equipment was put out of action.

A British Post Office garage at Fogle Road, Derry, was set on fire according to an *Irish Times* report of August 26. Eleven vehicles were contained in it where formerly it housed over 30. Following the burning of the GPO garage in Newry a number of lorries had been dispersed.

A British Customs house at Lifford Road, Strabane, Co Tyrone was blown up, according to the RUC Inspector General's HQ in Belfast. "The force of the explosion was such that some windows in the gas office, Strabane, about a quarter of a mile away were broken", their statement said.

Then in the *Sunday Press* of September 1 reported: "The biggest explosion so far in the Six Counties wrecked the main transformer of the electricity network at Newcastle, Co. Down, at 11.20 last night.

"Several towns were plunged into darkness and the power supply to Belfast – 30 miles away – was affected. Flames leaping from the blasted transformer were visible for miles around.

"Immediately after the explosion, police sealed off the park (Donard Park at the foot of the Mourne Mountains) and mounted machine guns at the entrances. A number of young men were questioned but no arrests were made".

The *Sunday Independent* of the same date carried a speech by Mr. Brian Faulkner, Unionist Chief Whip at Stormont, at one of the six demos held by the "Orange Black Preceptor".

"The drastic measures already taken to stop incidents in the Six Counties were 'only a sample'", he said.

"No consideration of convenience will prevent us from taking whatever further steps may be necessary to stamp out this evil thing".

A resolution was passed welcoming "the belated steps now taken by the Irish Government following representations by Britain". They would never "sever the British connection or surrender any part of this legally constituted area of Northern Ireland to Irish Republicans".

On September 9, the Stormont imposed curfew in Newry was ended and the lights went on again. It had lasted just four weeks in comparison with the three months of curfew in the Lower Falls area of Belfast in 1942.

In 1957 there was wide public resistance to the measure. Similarly the closing of cross-border unapproved roads by the British Army had antagonised local people on both sides of the frontier.

British courts were busy handing down sentences to Irish Republicans. Éamon Timoney (30) of Derry city received four years and at a later court 10 years. From the dock he defied the whole apparatus of English rule in Ireland.

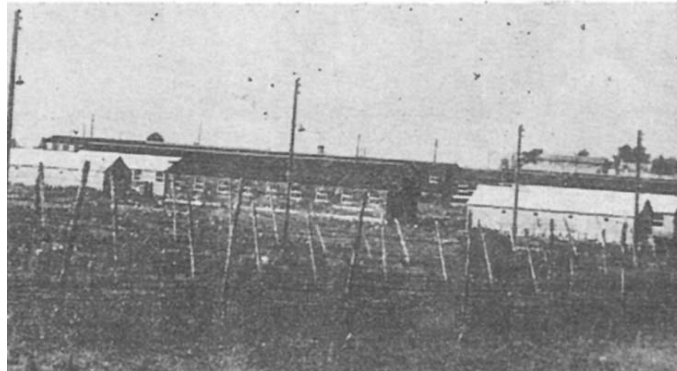
Patrick J Fox (23) had 10 years imposed on him; Mathew Monaghan (19) and Lawrence McGowan (18) got 6 years each. All three were from Derry city.

P.J. O'Kane (33), Dungiven received 10 years for possession of documents and explosives. He refused to plead in court but conducted his own cross-examination of witnesses.

Three Cork youths, Tony Cooney, William Patrick Gough and James Joseph Linehan were held by RUC at Torr Head, Co Antrim following a brief gun-battle and were sentenced to 12, 10 and 10 years each.

Near Armagh city, Séamus Heuston of Keady and James Oliver Smith of Bessbrook got 10 years and eight years. Leonard Magill of Lurgan, arrested near Dungannon was given 18 months.

Seven men were captured at Clonallon, Warrenpoint, Co. Down by British military in a comb-out of the Mourne Mountains on January 4,



• One hundred and fifteen prisoners were held in the Curragh Concentration Camp without charge or trial.

1957. They received eight years each.

They were Christopher Loy, Bernard Loy and Thomas Kearns of Newry; Séamus Hand, Peter Duffy and Pat Shaw of Dundalk and Paddy Constantine of Dublin.

On December 30, 1956, three men were held in the Dunamore area of Co. Tyrone. They were John Kelly of Belfast, John Oliver Madden of Cork and David T Lewskey of Lurgan, Co. Armagh. They were sentenced to eight years each.

Peter Monaghan of Dunamore, Co. Tyrone, was charged with aiding and abetting them and received three years. Two men were captured in a cottage near the Glenshane Pass, Co. Derry on January 15, 1957; Piaras Ó Dúill (later an t-Athair Piaras) and Pat Hodgins, both of Dublin, were given six years and five years.

Phelim McStravick of Lurgan got four years. He told the court an RUC Head Constable had asked him who his confessor was and what the priest's politics were after offering him money to become an informer.

Thomas O'Malley (55) and Patrick Collins (48) two Belfast men, fathers of large families, who were arrested in Bangor, Co. Down and charged with putting up a Resistance Proclamation were sentenced to six years and four years each.

The only evidence against them was the statement of an RUC Sergeant that "their hands were sticky". The listing of those sentenced which is given here is not intended to be complete.

Also at the end of August came the long-awaited Cuthbert and Isles Report commissioned by Stormont in 1946 but its publication was repeatedly held up over the intervening years.

It ran to 648 pages under the title "An Economic Survey of Northern Ireland" by Professor K.S. Isles of Queen's University and Mr. Norman Cuthbert, also of Queen's.

The *Irish Press* of August 29 says: "The North needs more independence in its monetary policy and more positive help from Britain if it is to overcome its chronic unemployment problem and build up a standard equal even to the least developed areas of Britain, states the Report, published yesterday.

"The Report points out that because of the Government of Ireland Act (which set up the Six-County and 26-County States in 1921), the Six Counties has no control over its own economic financial policy.

"A number of recommendations to improve the existing position are, however, made". The *Irish Press* lists nine of these.

The *Irish Times* of August 29 commented in an editorial: "The Isles Report keeps within its terms of reference and shuns mention of the rest of Ireland like the plague. It brings home the lesson that there is less difference between the problems of the Six and 26 Counties than between those of the Six Counties and Britain".

It also states: "It becomes increasingly apparent that the economic problems of the two separate parts of this country differ only in degree".

The editorial went on: "There has been abundant evidence expanding over the years that 'the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' is a convenient term of politics, but does not extend to the sphere of full economic unity".

Meanwhile, south of the Border the *Longford Leader* of July 27 reported remarks made by the 26-County Minister for Lands, Mr. Childers when he addressed the Roadoff Cumann of Fianna Fáil: "Referring to Sinn Féin he said the Government would put it down if they were to fill every jail and barracks in the State".

Sinn Féin in reply quoted Mr de Valera's statement of July 22: "Whatever the true character of Sinn Féin, no one has been arrested because of membership of it".

Sinn Féin asked which of these Ministers of State "is to be believed"? Is it that the latter (Mr Childers) is the more honest?"

The *Longford Leader* the following week, August 3, headlined a speech by General Seán Mac Eoin, Fine Gael TD for Longford-Westmeath. Speaking at Granard he said: "How long are we going to intern people? Will they repent while in confinement? He then quoted Mr Childers' remarks and said "I want to warn the Minister, and the Government, that threats and internments are no solution to the problem".

Mac Eoin continued: "Offenders should be tried in court and given a chance to defend themselves. Let them know the charge and, if found guilty, let the punishment fit the crime. But unrest and internment never ended anything – and everyone knows that".

A chance meeting between Seán Mac Eoin and Seán Ó Brádaigh soon after the *Sunday Independent* of August 18 carried the large advertisement on conditions in the Curragh Concentration Camp (see last month's SAOIRSE) clarified Mac Eoin's thinking. They met outside Clarendon St Church, off Grafton Street.

Having asked about Ruairí Ó Brádaigh TD (then in the Curragh whom he knew well), he went on to give his views on the campaign in the Six Counties.

General Mac Eoin did not contest the right of young Irishmen to attack British military and police barracks north of the Border, but having attacked them they must stay in the Six Counties, he said.

The Border was an "international frontier" and had to be respected. In other words no help could go to those fighting British rule in the Six Counties.

This, of course, was at variance with his own position as G O C Midland Division, Irish Republican Army in February 1922 when he stood over an operation into Co Fermanagh from Swanlinbar, Co Cavan to seize hostages in view of the imminent execution of three Republican prisoners in Derry jail.

But there was a happier side to events, too, in that month of September 1957, Wexford Corporation, North Tipperary Co Council and Westport, Co Mayo town council among other local bodies called for the release of Sinn Féin prisoners in the Curragh".

The *Irish Times* of September 17 reported that a young Curragh internee from Newport, Co Mayo was given fourteen days parole to enable him to get married and have a honeymoon. He was named Donal Hoban (22).

"His marriage will take place at the Catholic Church at the Curragh Camp to Teresa Murray, of Rosslave, Newport, Co Mayo. Another internee Peadar Murray, a brother of the bride may be best

man".

The report went on: "Miss Murray is a keen camogie player, while Mr Hoban is a well-known Mayo footballer".

Next day the *Irish Times* reported again: "There were about 65 people in the (Garrison) Church, most of them members of garrison families, when the bride arrived – 15 minutes late – on the arm of her father, Mr Edward Murray.

"The church was familiar to Mr Murray he was interned during 1922-23 and again during WWII when he was interned for four years.

"Following the ceremony, with Nuptial Mass and Papal Blessing, the 11 members of the wedding party drove four miles to a reception in a Newbridge hotel".

Of course when Dan Hoban was being released at 8.15am his comrades in the camp put on a show as he approached the gates. They formed a Guard of Honour for him and required him to walk under a canopy of bed boards on his way out. This was not reported in the newspapers!

Earlier on August 1, the *Irish Times* had reported: "Mr Denis Gallagher, chairman of West Mayo divisional board of the GAA protested at a meeting of the board, at the arrest and internment of three members of Newport, Co Mayo GAA club. (They were Dan Hoban, Peadar Murray and John Joe Monaghan).

"He said that he did not want to introduce politics into the GAA, he thought a person should have a chance of proving his innocence before a civil court before being interned.

"Mr O. Dawson agreed and said it was very unfair of the law to intern young men without a trial".

Also during September a case was being taken by an internee, who was not a member of the Republican Movement, to the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

He was Gearóid Ó Laighléis (Gerry Lawless) of Dublin and he began by "exhausting all domestic remedies" first and applying to the Curragh Commission. Then he applied to the Dublin High Court.

He was represented by Seán Mac Bride, SC, Séamus Soraghan BL and Ciarán Mac Anailí, solicitor (of the office of PC Moore and Co solrs)

It was not the first approach to Strasbourg. Following Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's election to an AI-Ireland Parliament in March, his election agent Mary Delaney, notified the Human Rights Commission of his imprisonment.

With his internment, the Commission was again notified, but as a member of the Republican Movement he could not "exhaust all domestic remedies". However, much correspondence with the Human Rights Commission ensued.

The *Irish Independent* of August 26 noted the transfer from Limerick of "five well-known members of the Franciscan Order in the city". Four were sent to other places in Ireland but one was exiled to the Holy Land.

He was Father Athanasius MA, known as an t-Athair Athanáis, close friend of Seán Sabhat. He made no secret of his admiration for the young Republican.

An t-Athair Athanáis was uachtarán of Dáil na Mumhan of Conradh na Gaeilge from its reformation in 1952 and one of the founders of ROSS, the bilingual paper of Conradh.

He spoke feelingly of Seán Sabhat as he obeyed the Order's instructions to go to Palestine. "Faighinís luach a chúid fola" (let us get the price of his blood), he is quoted as saying as he left Ireland.

Rosc, Meán Fómhair 1957, gives a comprehensive account as Gaeilge of his work throughout Munster for the Irish language in the early and mid 1950s.

Then at the end of August 1957, Sinn Féin announced that it would contest the Dublin North-Central by-election. The vacancy was caused by the death of a Fianna Fáil TD. Sinn Féin had not contested that constituency before.

(More next month. Refs: An t-Éireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman, September 1957; *Irish Times*, August 1, 26, 29, 31; September 17 and 18; *Sunday Press* September 1; *Sunday Independent* August 18 and September 1; *Irish Press* August 29; *Irish Independent* August 26 and *Longford Leader*, July 27 and August 3; *Irish Times*, August 30).

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

AMERICANS, from the beginning, valued their rights above all else and reduced them to writing so there would be no misunderstanding. They believed that the people were the dispensers of those rights as well as their guarantors.

Prior to the American ideal of individual rights, were the privileges dispensed by monarchs through their claim to divine right. America turned the world upside down. When those rights were threatened, people were able to speak out in dissent and opposition.

Civil liberties, civil rights and the Bill of Rights are what the United States is all about and when leaders attempt to abridge those rights in any way, the credibility of the United States is brought into question.

Too often leaders use fear to influence the population into accepting an abridgement of their rights for they say self-protection. Those who would change a right usually say the change is temporary. This is never the case.

A new law has taken aim at peoples right to privacy. Bush has requested a change in the way people are wiretapped. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) requires a warrant to be obtained for eavesdropping on people in the US.

Which was meant to protect civil liberties while still seeking to protect civil liberties while still seeking to protect the national security of the United States. This balance does cut rights.

Recently, Bush signed a bill that expands the government's power to eavesdrop without warrant. The changes could lead to increased spying by US Intelligence agencies on American citizens which ignores the Bill of Rights.

There are so many denials of this that we have to be suspicious and the Bush record of secrecy and abuses is not good. Some senators claim that the law does not contain adequate safeguards to protect the rights of Americans.

The history of the Bush administration is utter secrecy and the ability to spy on alleged terrorists, however, the direction it has taken has gone beyond terrorists to include

dissidents, political opponents of Bush and/or his policies.

Bush claims the new law closes gaps in intelligence gathering activities. This is certainly true, but the gaps are not truly defined.

The new law gives broad power to the National Security Agency (NSA) to collect intelligence without taking individual cases before the secret national security court (FISA) established in 1978.

There used to be a requirement to get a warrant from the FISA, but now federal agents need only show that the suspect is "likely" to be outside the USA to begin surveillance of phone calls and emails that pass through the USA.

Likely is a flexible word and leaves too much leeway for the Bush spies to delve into the lives of those who are considered political enemies. Why not definite rather than merely likely?

Supposedly, if the intercepted call or email involves a person in the USA, a warrant must be sought. Bush officials declined to provide details about how the new capabilities might be used by the NSA and other spy services.

They rejected assertions that the new capabilities would enable the government to cast electronic "drift nets" that might ensnare US Citizens, even if by accident. We know that nothing is by accident in this regard because US citizens are some of the main targets.

Bush people feel they do not want Americans having political contact with so-called dissidents abroad. They assume there is foul play afoot. Dissidents want America to be what we learned it is supposed to be in our history classes in school.

The Bush Bill permits the "vacuuming of all international communications of Americans." The bill would permit wholesale vacuuming of the international communications of American individuals and businesses by the NSA without judicial approval under the FISA.

For the content of domestic communications, these would require a warrant under FISA, if the government



has "reason to believe" the sender and all recipients are actually located in the US.

It is very noteworthy that Bush officials have said in recent testimony that there are no zip codes on the world wide web and that a cell phone is made so the administration may intend this new language to support a presumption that the senders and receivers of some number of domestic emails and cell phones are not located in the US and thus not subject to the warrant requirement.

THE presumption is stretching matters in favour of spying without warrant no matter where the targets are situated. In effect, the bill's changes are not modest updates to modernize FISA and increase privacy, but would significantly change the law and weaken civil liberties protection under current law. It is always the government spinning the truth to a lie.

The new law gives Bush authority to do far more than simply intercept foreign communications abroad, but it expands the surveillance program beyond terrorism to encompass foreign intelligence and whatever else it may pick up.

It permits the monitoring of communications of a US person as long as he or she is not the primary target. This is a stretch once again giving them a free hand in monitoring anyone.

Under the new law, US spy agencies are free to intercept the emails and phone calls of any person "reasonably believed to be located outside the United States", even if the target is a US citizen or is communicating with someone within US borders.

It is easy to deduce the opportunity for abuse of what is stated and what is carried out. As we are told, court approval is required for Bush to target an individual located in the USA, but officials did not go into details on how foreign targets might be defined or identified. The loopholes just keep getting bigger.

A Bush official said that information

inadvertently collected for or about US residents would be removed from intelligence reports, but they never said they would destroy it. It could be used for other purposes.

All of this is to justify what Bush did after 9/11 which was illegal. He secretly authorized warrantless wiretapping after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, but after accusations of possible unconstitutional orders, Bush agreed five years later to obtain warrants, but demanded Congress change the law to legitimatise his prior illegal activity. Congress did pass a law doing just that which is good for six months then to be reviewed, and probably renewed.

There is general outrage among civil liberties groups who believe this entire scenario is an invasion of the privacy of American citizens despite what flimsy assurances come from Bush officials.

Bush is again engaged in a campaign of fear and lies. This is how he ratchets things up to get more spying power when it is not necessary to combat terrorism only to pursue those who oppose him.

The law is not a tool for electronic surveillance of Americans as it provides the exclusive rules for secretly monitoring Americans' conversations and emails and searching homes or offices in the name of foreign intelligence.

Bush has violated all requirements meant to protect rights in the past five years through the NSA's warrantless surveillance program used as unchecked presidential power which has been proven illegal.

FISA has not protected intrusions into Americans' civil liberties as was spun by Bush, because it was not followed and treated as optional not constitutionally required.

Now they want Congress to rubber stamp their illegal activity and they offer no apology in their utter arrogance. They now demand unchecked power to justify the now admitted White House's illegal warrantless wiretapping. It is clear the bill is designed to allow much wider acquisition and mining of conversations and communications of Americans without warrants.

The bill allows Americans' international calls and emails to be scooped up en masse through any means so long as a particular American was not a target of the surveillance. I beg to differ since there are specific as well as general targets and these are

flagged through sophisticated technology.

Originally, all the surveillance was to be for calls initiated outside the US by foreigners, then the calls might include Americans and now they can aim at Americans. There is enough spinning that when it finally stops, Bush can wiretap anyone he chooses no matter who they are or where they are and this was the original intent that was attained by degrees.

The new bill seeks to shut down all inquiry by providing blanket immunity from all civil or criminal penalties for any companies or individuals who may have violated the law before the facts are even established about their conduct.

This immunity should not be necessary because Bush claimed he had the executive authority to order warrantless taps and his whole program was legal. If it had been legal he would not need a law to protect operatives engaged in legal activity.

The people who are breaking the law are now having their rights guaranteed, but the American people whose rights are supposed to be protected are the targets of all this activity. The innocent are again the victims.

The Bush Bill allows extremely widespread surveillance of anyone, not on any suspicion of terrorism, espionage or any crime at all, but simply on the basis that the individual might know "foreign intelligence information" of interest to Bush and his henchmen.

SUCH information is not limited to information about sabotage or international terrorism but includes broad information about the conduct of US foreign affairs or defence. In other words opponents of Bush are the real targets and this has been the intent from day one.

We Irish in the States have spent many years and words to draw attention of the world to the draconian laws the British and Free State used against the Republican Movement and now we have the same in our own backyard.

The British created an atmosphere of fear so they could justify brutality and pass laws and now we have the same use of fear in the United States to justify the denial of basic protection of rights in the name of our need for security. And the fools do not see what is being done to them.

— Peadar Mac Fhínnín

Comhbhrón

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and Seán Convey on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Lita Ní Chathmhaoil, Dublin.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and Seán Convey on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Cumann na mBan, Cork.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and Seán Convey on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From the Executive, Cumann na mBan.

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CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and Seán Convey on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Kitty and Finbar O'Brien, Cork.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and Seán Convey on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Joan Kennedy, Cork.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and Seán Convey on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Margaret and Saoirse Walsh, Dublin.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and the Convey family on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Comhairle Uladh, Republican Sinn Féin.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and the Convey family on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Thomas Harte Cumann, Lurgan.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and the Convey family on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Joe Murphy, Michael Hannily and Stephen French, Co Roscommon.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and the Convey family on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Kevin Coen Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Co Roscommon.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Geraldine Taylor and the Convey family on the death of their mother Beatrice Convey and to their children and grandchildren. From Rafter/Mellows Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Enniscorthy.

CONVEY. Sincere sympathy is expressed to the Geraldine Taylor and family and Convey families on the death of Beatrice. From Ruairí and Patsy O'Brádaigh.

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CONVEY. Sincere sympathy is expressed to the Geraldine Taylor and family and Convey families on the death of Beatrice. From the Kilcullen Cumann, Co Kildare.

CONVEY. The Carroll O'Donovan Cumann, Dublin offers its condolences on their recent bereavement to Geraldine Taylor and family, Belfast on the death of her mother.

CONVEY. Deepest sympathies are extended to Geraldine Taylor and family on the recent death of her mother, Beatrice Convey. From Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearaill, Loch Garman.

Mac AN ULTAIGH. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Michael Mac An Ultaigh, Liverpool and Dublin on the death of Michael on August 30. From Josephine Hayden, Dublin.

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MILLS. Deepest sympathy is expressed to the Mills family, Limerick on the sad death of their mother Zitta. From the Republican Movement, Limerick.

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I gCuimhne

LONG — 10th Anniversary. In proud memory of Vol Ruairí Long, Limerick Brigade CIRA who died on September 3, 1997 aged 35 years. Remembered with pride by his comrades in the Republican Movement, Limerick.

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LONG — 10th Anniversary. In loving memory of a dear son and Volunteer Oglagh na hÉireann, Limerick Brigade CIRA, Ruairí Long who died on September 3, 1997. Always loved and never forgotten by his mother Annette, father Des, brothers and sister Niamh, Limerick.

McGRATH — 11th Anniversary. In proud memory of Vol Derek McGrath, Limerick Brigade, CIRA who died on September 6, 1996 aged 18 years. Remembered with pride by his comrades in the Republican Movement, Limerick.

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WILLIAMS — 65th Anniversary; HARTE — 67th Anniversary; McGRATH — 67th Anniversary; NOBLE SIX — 85th Anniversary; McDONAGH — 87th Anniversary; GILL — 87th Anniversary.

GLAVEY — 87th Anniversary; KEANE — 87th Anniversary; GLYN — 87th Anniversary; ASHE — 90th Anniversary. Volunteer Tom Williams, Belfast Brigade IRA,

hanged by Crown forces in Belfast jail on September 2, 1942; Volunteer Tom Hogan, North Antrim Brigade IRA, murdered by Free State forces on September 6, 1940; Volunteer Paddy McGrath, murdered by Free State forces on September 6, 1940; Volunteers of the North Sligo Brigade IRA who were murdered by Free State forces on Ben Bulbin, North Antrim, September 20, 1922; Séamus Devins O'C, Joe Banks, Henry Benson, Peter Burns, Todd Burns, Tom Lanagan, Brian O'Neill and Pat O'Carroll; Captain Tom McDonagh, south Sligo Brigade, IRA killed in action at Ratra, Tibohine, Co Roscommon on September 1, 1920; Volunteer Pat Gill, Kilmore, North Roscommon Brigade IRA, murdered by Crown forces at Drumsna, Co Leitrim on September 11, 1920; Lieut. Michael Glavey, 1st Batt. South Roscommon Brigade IRA, killed in action at Ballinlough in September 1920; Volunteer Michael J. Keane, 1st Batt. South Roscommon Brigade IRA killed in action at Ballinlough on September 14, 1920; Volunteer Pat Glynn, O'C 1st Batt. South Roscommon Brigade IRA, killed in action at Ballinlough, Co Roscommon, September 14, 1920. Always remembered by members of the following Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach: Kevin Cohen, Sligo; Michael Mullolly, Elphin; Cull/Tymon, Arigna; Frank O'Donoghue, Kilelesh; Seán Sabhat-McNeela/Gaughan/Siagg; by the Comhairle Ceantair of Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Leitrim and Longford Comhairle Ceantair; by Comhairle Chéige Connacht; by the Roscommon Commemoration Committee and the South Sligo Republicans.

Let's paint Free Derry Corner pink!

(Was it just for a laugh?)

THE people of Derry just thought Martin McGuinness was having a laugh when he painted Free Derry Corner pink and asked a few decent (but naïve) members of the Gay community to allow themselves to be associated with the act.

The Gay community went off into the distance as people do but the corner remained pink and the joke was on all those who died for freedom not those Gays who demanded recognition of *their* own rights.

Like many other Irish people before them they found that the perversity of the chosen few in the leadership of the 'new' Provos includes humiliating even the most vulnerable in our society.

For anyone who ever had any doubts this recent action indicates just how low Martin and Gerry and the 'boys' will stoop.

You see, the truth is that the Provos have reached a point in their 'development' that coincides with the need to drag everyone else down to their level.

This example of honest, decent Gay people attempting to assert themselves and demand their rights but finding

themselves associated with the desecration of a monument is just the latest in a long line of groups and individuals who find themselves marginalised and divided by the manic and selfish pursuit of power the Provos are engaged in.

Martin and the boys will tell us how annoying this action was to homophobes like Ian Paisley and the wee son, Ian Jnr. Of course, the true 'outing' of homophobes was among the Provo leadership.

You see if Martin had suggested painting the monument Orange and placing a Union Jack on top of it people would have questioned what he was about. If he had suggested painting it Green,

people would have said 'leave it as it is ... good enough for our fathers, why change?'

It has to be suspected that Martin painted the monument pink – not in support of Gay Rights, but rather, because he believed people would think he was just having a laugh at the expense of the Gay community.

WHATEVER the motives of the Provo leadership, the outcome for gay people is that they will be associated with this damage to a national monument. Martin and the 'boys' will desert them if things get rough. The incident itself will rank higher than the lowest actions of the British

army when they deliberately damaged monuments and graves of IRA volunteers. Why?

Because this monument is to the will and the courage of all Irish people in their fight for true Irish democracy. This monument is to all those who stood against repression. To single out any particular group or gender and make them special is contrary to what that Free Derry Corner monument stands for. But then again, the Provos at this stage probably intend to place a statue of Martin and Gerry and John Hume there anyway ... you're right, I'm just having a laugh ... or am I?

One thing is for sure I'm not

prepared to have a laugh at what the Provos tried to do to our smallest and most vulnerable community.

If you have doubts, remember the fellow who described what happened in Nazi Germany ... "when they came for the Gypsies I was glad it wasn't me and I remained silent ... when they came for the Catholics and then the Jews I was glad it wasn't me and I remained silent ... when they came for me there was no one left to speak ...

— Mac Cool

Goss, Gaughran remembered in Dundalk

ON August 12, 2007 Republicans assembled at the Lisdoon Arms, Dundalk and marched behind a colour party to the grave of Richard Goss and Liam Gaughran in St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk to pay their respects to two Volunteers of the Irish Republican Army.

Three members of Na Fianna Éireann walked behind the colour party carrying the wreath. Among those present was Rosemary Doran, a sister of Richard Goss, and her husband Tom who was interned with Richard in the Curragh Concentration Camp.

The proceedings were chaired by Josephine Hayden, Dublin who welcomed all present. The wreath was laid by Aislinn White, Newry and Róisín Hayden, Dublin recited a decade of the rosary as Gaelté.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Richard and Liam and all those who gave their lives in the fight for Irish independence. Tom Doran spoke of the times he spent with his comrades in the fight and in the Curragh and of his sadness that he is now almost the sole survivor of the group. But he remembered them with pride and said he was very glad to see so many people turn out for the Commemoration thus ensuring the men who gave their lives were not forgotten.

Ruairí White of the Joe Conway Cumann, Newry gave the oration in which he outlined the life of Richard Goss whose



• The memorial to Richard Goss and Liam Gaughran in the Republican Plot, St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk.

father Pat was a member of the IRB. He reminded those present that Liam Gaughran is buried here beside his comrade in arms. Liam was captured in England early in 1939, was sentenced to 10 years and sent to Camp Hill prison on the Isle of Wight. He contracted TB there and was released in 1946. Liam returned home to Dundalk and died in August 1947.

Ruairí read began his oration by reading the words written by Richard Goss on August 1, 1941 having been sentenced to death by the Special Military Tribunal in Dublin:

"Inspired with a desire for the liberation of my country I joined

the Irish Republican Army, and anything I have done as a member of that Army, I have done in pursuance of orders received by me, and you gentlemen being a Military Court will understand that I did my duty in carrying out my orders. I express my regret that Lieut Houlihan and Private Kelly should have been wounded in this affray.

"I had no ill-feeling towards them or any other members of the party when I fired. I know that they did their duty as soldiers as I was doing mine. The liberation of the Six Counties from Britain and the securing of Irish Freedom was my sole

motive. I regret that circumstances should have brought about the clash for which you have tried me; I hope that the future will witness the bringing about and the realisation of the ideals of Irish Freedom. That is all I have to say to you."

He then went on: "We honour two Dundalk members of the Irish Republican Army who took on the might of the British Empire and died for a 32-County All-Ireland Republic based on justice and equality and an Ireland Gaelic and Free. They did not pay lip service to the Republican cause and then sell out to the highest bidder. Because Britain took, held and maintained the Occupied Six Counties by force they believed that they had to fight force with force.

"The political climate has come full circle and we have another de Valera - a Republican leader gone bad - Adams. They left the Republican Movement in 1986 and since then have turned themselves inside out to please their British and American paymasters. They threw in their lot with the British security forces and hooked up with the RUC/PSNI.

"Richie Goss and Liam Gaughran too stood up for their rights, their right to national freedom. And so we too must continue the fight because the root cause of the problem is still here and that is the Irish presence."

REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN CO DONEGAL

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

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

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

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

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

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



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