

# An Phoblacht

Iml. 7. Uimhir 21. 8p. Bealtaine 28, 1976.

## TORTURE DEAL London - Dublin

IS A Dublin-London "deal" on the Strasbourg torture cases coming? Maybe. The major obstacle in the way of such a "friendly agreement" was the batch of seven cases brought independently of those put forward by the Dublin regime, both being serviced, however, by the Association for Legal Justice (it is understood that, but for the A.L.J. Assistance, Dublin's lawyers and civil servants would have been unlikely to have been able to present such a convincing case for consideration before the Human Rights Commission).

But last weekend a spokesman for the Commission said that, although the cases of the seven had been under consideration since May, 1972, it was only recently that the Commission had decided that, under Article 26, it was not entitled to consider them further.

Article 26 rules that all means to obtain redress from the responsible government must be exhausted before recourse is had to Strasbourg, in the case of complaints brought by individuals (where the dispute is between governments, however, this is unnecessary, hence the Dublin accusations stand ... for the moment).

### FAR AS LORDS

A report of 86 pages explains the present position, which is that the seven must make their complaints in British courts and, if necessary, follow them through to the House of Lords, before being entitled to raise the matter at Strasbourg.

Newspaper reports, however, to the effect that the complaints of the seven have been "rejected", are inaccurate. The files remain open, for re-activation, if necessary.

A representative of the Association for Legal Justice told us: "Our Association, with some backing from the Northern Ireland Civil Liberties Association and the (English) National Council of Civil Liberties, processed some of these complaints indirectly — those for the Dublin government — and the seven directly."

"The weekend decision does not preclude us going on with the seven cases. We will have to consult the persons concerned before taking any further action or making any further statement."

### SEVEN TORTURED

The seven persons involved are: Gerard Donnelly, Gerard Bradley, Edward Duffy, John Carlin, Francis McBride, Anthony Kelly and Thomas Kearns. All were arrested in the Six Counties in April or May, 1972, and say they were tortured while being questioned.

The A.L.J. spokesman added: "It was no slip on our part that we did not try to exhaust all the remedies available. The climate at the time in the Six Counties was such that we believed we were unlikely to get justice for the seven. The evidence of torture was overwhelming. We believed it best to go ahead and file the evidence."

The Strasbourg Commission emphasises that the quality of the evidence is not being questioned and that the suspension of any further Strasbourg action is because of the technicality of Article 26 not having been observed.

The Strasbourg spokesman did not say so but it is understood that British pressure, insisting on exact observance of the Convention, resulted in the suspension of the seven cases.

The British are understood to have pointed out to the Strasbourg Commission that, when ex-internees took their cases to the courts in the Six Counties, and documented them to the satisfaction of judges, compensation was paid by the Crown.

It is true that some cases were taken to the courts and that compensation was paid. But the compensation was paid without admission of torture.

### AVOIDED TAIN

As a result, the Crown received the minimum publicity for the barbaric acts committed in its name and avoided the taint of being found guilty of torture in Strasbourg (whether the compensation was adequate, or whether any compensation in such cases could be considered adequate, is another question).

The most important point, however, is that, until the Crown admits the torture, or is found guilty at Strasbourg of torture, the level of pressure used against the Crown to cease using torture, and to give an international promise never to use it again, will be unavailing. Only a Strasbourg conviction, it would appear, could bring such a pressure.

On Sunday night last the Sinn Féin vice-president, Mrs Maire Drumm, disclosed that torture was continuing in the RUC station in Castlereagh, Belfast. She said that Mr Terence Magill (20), Turl

Lodge, Belfast, had been tortured with cigarette burns on face and body by policemen.

The objective was to get Mr. Magill to confess his alleged involvement in particular incidents. And this came during a campaign aimed at convincing the Irish-orientated population that the RUC was a reformed body!

Irish Lawyers, and others, are concerned not only that torture shall cease in Ireland but that the stigma of a Strasbourg conviction of British will bring pressure on other states not to use torture, or to end it, if they are doing so.

Thus, the Irish fight for a conviction of Britain is based not only on Irish suffering: it is part of the international campaign to end torture and a vital part of it.

An important question arises at this point: Does the Commission in Strasbourg regard a successful claim for agreed damages in the Six Counties without admission of torture by the Crown as an end to the complaint, not justifying consideration by the Commission?

Another important question: If the Crown admitted torture, and paid agreed damages would this end the complaint, as far as the Commission is concerned?

Both questions need to be viewed against the reputation of the Crown. Since the paying of compensation torture has continued: the Association for Legal Justice, and other bodies, have evidence of such torture, in the Six Counties, in Britain and, lately, in the Twenty Six Counties.

A growing practice in the Six Counties, followed by Britain and, latterly, by the Twenty-Six Counties, is to beat suspects until a "confession" has been obtained.

This, latter, is presented as "evidence" and, although the rules of evidence have not been changed (publicly, at any rate), and although they prohibit "evidence" of this nature, in many cases such evidence, despite protests, have been ruled as "admissible."

### SEVEN-DAY JAILING

In Ireland and in Britain, many men are serving lengthy sentences on such "evidence." In the Six Counties and Britain the law allows men to be held, virtually incommunicado, for seven days, facilitating torture.

In the Six Counties and in the Twenty-Six Counties, the abolition of trial by jury makes conviction easier on flimsy evidence. In the Twenty-Six Counties there is no appeal from the Special Criminal Court except on technicalities.

Obviously, it is in the interests of both the Crown and the Harp to reach a "friendly agreement" on the Strasbourg torture cases remaining.

The major obstacle — the batch of seven "individual" (i.e. non-state) complaints — has been put aside: Will the Crown now let it be known that generous compensation will be paid to all complainants on the understanding that this will close the matter?

Does this offer the basis for the "friendly settlement" with Dublin?

The suggestion is not so cynical as might be thought, against the imperial background. Men have been bought before. The temptation will be great.

The spoils for the Crown (and the Harp) would be tremendous. They would be just as tremendous for all the other sick, western European states, particularly the EEC powers, of being allowed to deal ruthlessly with dangerous dissidents, the only price being a paltry payment of some few thousand pounds for leaving people in pieces, with little hope of their being re-assembled into normal human beings.

**Footnote:** Messages have been forwarded to the Republican Movement through lawyers to the effect that the Special Branch of the Garda Síochána "has had nothing to do" with the recent spate of Garda tortures, that the Branch "regrets" and "resents" them. Readers may care to comment on the Branch record though it appears to be true that recent torturings have been the work of "volunteer" members of the Garda Síochána in Dublin, often known, appropriately enough, as the "Murder Squad." If Gardaí wish to object effectively at their force being turned into a carbon copy of the RUC they should do so en masse, in the accepted way and with the maximum of publicity. The method used this far neither impresses nor convinces.

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical, mental and well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland. (1st Dail Eireann)

## Sinn Féin Organisers arrested

DESPITE PROTESTS and nightly pickets, by Trade Unionists and Sinn Féin members from Luton, London, High Wycombe and the Bletchley areas, outside Paddington Police Station, four men held for a week under the "Prevention of Terrorism Act" were charged with various offences in connection with arms and radio equipment.

Eddie Caughey, Birmingham was arrested in his home and John Higgins, Luton, was arrested in London. Also arrested, held and charged were Gerald Smiley and James Davison.

Luton Sinn Féin in a statement claimed that Mr. Smiley was not one of their members, nor had they any knowledge of him.

Initially, Mrs. Maureen Higgins, John's wife, was



John Higgins

refused permission to visit him in the police station, but after representation from the MP for Hemel Hempstead, it is believed that she finally did succeed in seeing her husband. Mrs. Caughey is also believed to have seen Eddie.

Both Caughey and Higgins have been held several times under the "PTA" within the past eighteen months.

## Robbing Hoods

THE SPATE of reports in the papers this week about robberies by Brit soldiers would seem to confirm the rumour that the Chief Liar in Lisburn has got the flu and that his second-in-command is on leave.

It is not news in the Six Counties, anyway, to disclose stealing, thieving, robbery (with or without violence), breaking-in, burglary and similar crimes having been perpetrated by those who grace the Crown's uniform.

Some thirty members of the Argyll and Southern Highlanders, recent guests of the Shankill in Belfast, are being questioned by detectives about burglaries, we are told, following their recent stay.

But after virtually every Brit unit leaves an area, and more often before it quits, complaints are made to the police of similar activities by optimists.

Occasionally soldiers caught with the stuff on them are convicted, fined or imprisoned. Usually, they get away with it. Often it depends on the area and who processes the complaint.

Neither is it very news to report that the Brit officer class is corrupt (except during this summer silly season), ready to accept bribes from local tradesmen in return for commercial favours.

Nor does the corruption end there. Nor is the identity of so much of the clientele of the massage parlours a mystery to Falsheis an Airm ... Nor to the Rev. Ian Paisley.

After Ogligh na hEireann units bombed the enemy headquarters in the Grand Central Hotel some years ago, the military sealed the city centre ... and then proceeded to loot it. This is believed to have been the greatest large-scale looting by enemy troops of any area in the Six Counties.

One store owner calculated the cost of looting in his premises alone at £12,000. The total, according to one source, came close to £200,000.

## Six RUC in eight days

A MEMBER of the RUC, shot dead on Saturday night, May 22, brings to six the total killed in eight days. He was John McCambridge (21) and he was shot as he left his car in the unit yard of a friend's house near Dungannon.

A policeman and a policewoman were shot and wounded when patrolling in Chapel Road, Waterside, Derry

city, late on Sunday night, May 23. The condition of the woman was described as "critically ill," that of the man, "comfortable." In Belfast City Hall, at a banquet, on Saturday, May 22, the Northern Gauleiter, Merlyn Rees, confirmed that his office was still committed to the primacy of the police and that this meant increasing the range and effectiveness of the RUC.



# An Phoblacht

Imleabhar 7. Bealtaine 28, 1976. Uimhir 21.  
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THE NORTHERN Secretary, Mr. Rees, has declared, despite protests, that the withdrawal of British troops will continue. The policy is "Ulsterisation" just as, in the latter years in Indo-China, the policy there was "Vietnamisation."

The imperial intention is to end "military operations," not only because they look unpleasant, lending credence abroad to the freedom fighters' accusations of troop bullying of the native population in Britain's first—and last—colony, but also because the military occupation is too expensive, too inefficient and politically unpopular at home.

The imperial enemy seeks to disguise the colonial repression as a "police operation." Political category is to be phased out. Henceforth, all persons convicted, even when, in fact, they are political activists, are to be known officially and treated as "common criminals."

In order to be in a position to paint the situation in the Irish north-east thus, the imperial government in London had to have the full co-operation of the Dublin puppet assembly and to save something vital from the Sunningdale shambles.

That something was the Criminal Justice (Jurisdiction) Act, now declared constitutional in the Twenty-Six Counties, leaving only one possible appeal, to Strassburg. Criminal Justice: seldom has an act of parliament been more aptly named. The legislative lead, as usual, came from London, the controlling body.

In both the Six and the Twenty-Six Counties, as well as in Britain, a ruthless use is being made of police and courts to fill the prisons, increasingly through "framing" political enemies, following

## Criminals in uniform

torture, by the use of forced "confessions," agents provocateurs and the many other techniques of the police state.

It is against this background that the present intensified campaign against those torturers and murderers in uniform, the unreformed and unreformable members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary must be viewed.

They have been put into the front line by their imperial employers. They are allowing themselves to be put into this position as long as they continue to follow their London orders, trying to return to areas where they were never wanted, where they never will be tolerated.

Given their role, their history, their background, their record (condemned even in a Crown survey, the Cameron Report), their key position in the deliberate divisive politics of imperial rule, it would be nothing short of madness for a liberation army to act otherwise than shoot them on sight.

But for those of them who have the sense to realise how ruthlessly they are being used and exploited by their masters there is still a way of escape open: resignation. The same applies to the key civil servants, the judges, the prison warders, to

all who are delaying the liberation and preventing a permanent peace based on justice.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party has now come down decisively and unambiguously on the side of the uniformed torturer and murderer members of the RUC.

The SDLP is standing four-square with the seven-day torture sessions and the forced confessions, with the labelling of their political enemies as "criminals," with their being sent away for long and savage terms of imprisonment.

Certain of the SDLP leaders have been referred to as "elected representatives." Elected to what and for what purpose? Elected to an assembly which was ordered by the Westminster government to agree to a form of sub-government alien to the principles and practice of the parent assembly so as to subvert democracy once again.

The SDLP was only too willing to do anything its paymaster ordained. Those who opposed that, and the Westminster scheme in general, whatever their other faults at least refused to descend to those depths.

And what was the mandate of this parody of Redmondism? Did they tell those who voted for them (about 40 per cent of the Irish orientated people boycotted the election) that they backed RUC torture, RUC murder, RUC harassment, RUC frame-up, RUC conspiracy with their worst enemies?

The time has come for the SDLP to meet the people and explain their backing of the RUC, hear what the people have to say and act accordingly—change their minds publicly while there is still a little time left—or face the inevitable consequences. The people are waiting but their patience is not endless.

# Cinnirí Fhine Gael agus a meas go poiblí agus ar dhli agus ar cheard

DLÍ AGUS ceart is mana d'Fhine Gael. Ba mhaith lena chinnirí (b'fhéidir) go gcreidfeadh formhór na ndaoine gur fíor é sin cé gur minic a dhéanann na cinnirí céanna magadh faoi.

Ag an ardheis i nGaillimh ar na mallabhair rinne siad—agus formhór na dteachtaí in éindí leo—magadh faoi. Magadh poiblí. Magadh le foréigean. Magadh trí bhrúidhreacha a imirt ar dhúine síochánta, dúine gan airm, dúine anarach, dúine gan cois, mar atá *Donncha Ó hEallaíne*, bainisteoir ar iris *Ghluaiseacht Chearta Sibhialta* na Gaeltachta, "Tuarisc."

Minic go leor tá Donncha cáinte agam anseo, go díreach nó go hindíreach, ach go hionraic, tá síl agam, agus go hoscailte, ach go focla amháin, focla a thuill sé, measaim, tar éis dó ionasáit le bhíocha a dhéanamh ar chomhréadaithe liom nar thuill a leithéid d'fide. Roinn méise le Donncha sa chaoi chéanna, mórán, is a roinn seisean le daoine eile; agus tuigeanm Tadhg Taidhghin.

Ag an ardheis dhí i nGaillimh bhí Donncha i lathair ar son na hirise agus d'fhan sé ina thost ag breacadh nótaí go dtí gur inis *Tomsa Ó Donnchall* bréag a shruigh na bréaga tá a n-inis aige ó rinneadh aise ríe.

## Poblacht Arann Bhig ?

Dúirt an Dálach gur theastaigh ó Ghluaiseacht na gCeart "poblacht Ghlaigh" a bhunú sna ceantair Ghlaigh. Faraor gear nach fíor sin. Faraor gear nach bhfuil aon cheantar, Glaigh nó eile, sásta a leithéid a fhógairt, mar lathair oifigiúil an náisiúin go dtí go mbeidh an tír uile saoráithe.

Chuir an bhréag úd muiasam agus cuthach feirge in éindí ar Dhonncha bocht agus níor fhéad sé smacht a choinneáil air féin, gur sheas sé, gur rinne iarracht faoin Dálach briotách camchainteach a bhréagán agus cúspóir na Ghluaiseachta a chur in iúl.

Ach, mar a mbeadh muidiní Cholaíste na Tríonóide sna nuachtáin dúinn i ndiaidh na hardheise (baill d'Fhine Gael), ní cead cainte, ná saoirse cainte, na saoirse teanga, i réim ag ardheis na léinte gormá, ná baol air.

Céad a rinne madaf latháigh Chonamara agus na Gaillimhe ach a screadaid amach: "Sinn Féiner. Prove." Agus ba leor sin chun go ndéanfaí ionsaí fíochmhair air go dtí cuid d'achadh cruaise a tharraingt amach óna cheann.

Dá n-iarrfaí ar Dhonncha imeacht go deas cinntí taim cinnte dearfa go bhfuil an oiread sin léile aige go ndéanfaid sé amhlaidh. Táim omh cinnte céanna nar arduigh sé lámh in ian duine ar bith go dtí gur féim na léinte rma air. Ansin, ní d'fhearr ná ach iarracht lag in é féin a chosaint.

## Débe

Ba leor, i gcomhlúadar sibhialta ar bith, greim a fháil air agus é thionlacan go dtí an doras agus a chur amach. Sin is ciall leis "an oiread sin éigin a bhfuil glé leis" a úsáid, rud a bhfuil bonn faoi sa mhóraltacht agus sa dlí, i dtír ar bith, nó i bpáirtí, tá ag maiomh as a bheith sibhialta (nó daonna, más fearr libh an focal sin).

## Lásán sa mbairille

Anois, maidir le Donncha bheith ina bhall de Shinn Féin, nó bheith ina "Shealadai," is bréag é. Ní Donncha ina bhall de Ghluaiseacht na Poblachta.

Dúradh faoi, cheart go leor, uair amháin, go raibh sé ina bhall den NLF. Ach tá cúis na Gaeltachta—agus cúiseanna móra eile—tréigthe chomh mór sin ag an NLF le blianta beaga go bhfuiliom go mór in amhras go bhfuil baill ró-áidh ag Donncha leis an dream céanna, anois.

Ach dá mbeadh—agus seo an prionsabal—níor thuill sé a bhfuair sé as ucht cead cainte a lorg nuair a bhí an Dálach ar a sheacht ndícheall le daoine a chur amú faoi chuspóirí Ghluaiseacht na gCeart.

Is eol do dhaoine i nGaillimh agus i gConamara cé hiaid na madaf latháigh a chuir tús leis an bhfiach ar Dhonncha ó hEallaíne, cé na hainneacha agus na sloinné tá acu, cén áit a bhfuil cois ar fad. Dearmad ní dhéanfaí, más beo fós d'achmhain chothrom na Féinne, i measc na nGael thair.

Maidir leis an Dálach briotách bréag, bíodh sé cífadaithe le francaigh an chraobhach sibhíne feasta, agus le saighdiúraf, agus le heitléilín, gach uair a thugann sé cuairt ar cheantar ar bith den Ghaeltacht feasta, oir tá a fhios ag na daoine cé tá ann, anois, má bhí dallamullóg orthu go nuige seo, mar bhualai cruthnata, mar ghaleitir de chuid na léinte gorma.

Bíodh "fiach Uí Dhomhnaill" ina mana feasta ag muintir na Gaeltachta... agus as muintir Luimnigh, bhí dhonn aon mhianach uasal fana sa daoine, má theastaíonn uaithe an cac seo a bhaint dá dhí.

Agus maidir le *Ó Foighill*, atá sásta buinneach a li ó thoin an Dálaigh ar mhaith le deontaisí dá cholaiste agus dá "chomharharcumán," fágaimis in ag na deachmhái agus ag aoir na bhfíil.

## Na craobhacha bunaithe

I RATH Cairn an tsheachtain seo caite dúradh liom gur tháinig daoine ó Dhonnchadh Phádraig isteach agus gur bhunadh an dá phobal craobh de chuid Ghluaiseacht na gCeart.

Tá craobh eile fós bunaithe i nGaeltacht Chiarraí agus ní raibh Baile na Finne i dtír Chonaill chun deiridh, ach oiread: tá craobh láidir bunaithe ag na daoine bréatha sin, fresin.

Chual mé rálla ó Ghaith Dóbhair, náir éirigh go rómhaith leis an gcead iarracht faoi chraobh a bhunú, ait go leor. An uair dheiridh, agus más san áit, bhí fuilollach i lathair ar cruinnítí agus go daingean faoin gceuspóir.

Beidh mé ag súil le scéal cinnte ó Ghaith Dóbhair, scéal eile ó Chúil Adha, agus scéal eile fós ó na Déise. Ach déarfainn go bhfuil an obair déanta agus go nloite i Rinn ó gCuanach agus sa Seana-Phobal. Ach an bhfuil aon scéal ann ó Ch. Mhaigh Eó?

Ó rinneadh aire den chollach muice úd ó Luimneach d'éirigh leis "gaeltachtaí" nua a aimsiú ar imeall na Gaeltachta.

Beidh sé fíorspéisiúil bhí dhonn ceathrar i nGaeltachta le bhí dhonn sásta seasamh le muintir na Gaeltachta ar son an Udarais, trí chraobh de Ghluaiseacht na gCeart a bhunú. Seo teit. Agus céard faoi Ardraithe, a Chonallaght?

## Siúlóid ar son saoirse

MÁS Gaeleoir thú, cuma cárbb as duit, ón nGaeltacht nó ón nGaeltacht, ach cónaí ort i nBaile Átha Cliath Dúbhline, beifear ag súil leat i máirseáil síochánta tráthnóna Déardaoin, Bealtaine 27, ó áras Chonradh na Gaeilge go dtí Roinn na Gaeltachta.

Faoi Ghluaiseacht Chearta Sibhialta na Gaeltachta atá an agóid síochánta seo. Béim ar shíocháin. Sin fógrúithe go foirmidil. Éinne a dteastaíonn na h-ádh, fanadh sé amach uaithe.

An uair dheireannach, más buan mo chiumhne, ar eagair Ghluaiseacht na gCeart agóid dá leithéid (rinne daoine dá cuid síúlóid ó Chonamara go dtí Baile Átha Cliath) thug oifigeach mire de chuid na nGardai ordúithe uaidh agus d'ionnsuigh na Gardai muintir na Gaeltachta lena bhéanch agus go deirtheach—ach go daingean—a dtuairim faoi Udarás na Gaeltachta agus a ndaoirítheas ar an gceonús na gceannas ar Roinn na Gaeltachta.

Tá Conradh na Gaeilge ag seasamh go dlúth le Ghluaiseacht Chearta Sibhialta na Gaeilge san achainí faoi údaráis daonlathach cumhachtaí bheith ag muintir na Gaeltachta. Ait go leor, tá Fianna Fáil ag seasamh le Ghluaiseacht na gCeart sa mhéid sin, leis (ach an mbeidh a chuid baill ag máirseáil?).



Cill Mhic Dara, ar Oilean Mhic Dara, in aice le Carna, Conamara, mar a bhíodh an seipeal. Ach ta díon curtha air agus deanaidh Carna an ocaid a cheiliúradh mí Iúil óna 16 go dtí an 18. Deantar cinnte de, anois, faoi loistín nó ionad campala, oir beidh an saol Gaeilge agus a mhathair i lathair don bhfeil. Agus baill ó Dhiáir d'heasún Ó Fionnghaile a chuir tús leis an obair agus leis an gceiliúradh.

Ina éadan tá, ar ndóigh, na léinte gorma ach freisin an páirt a bhunaigh *Séamas Ó Conghaile* ach a chlis chomh dona sin air, mar an Drom Lucht Oibre.

## Bothan na saoirse

IS FADA, anois, Débe beo sa pháipéar seo, é ara shaindeicéall chun Gluaiseacht na Poblachta a dhúiseacht faoi thábhacht na Gaeilge, seanhport, mar a léirí, é ina leadránai faoi.

An d'áim, dá bhrí sin, ná chuir na címí i gCampa Chluais Céis cóip dá n-iris, "Ar nGuth Fhéin," chugam, ná aon eolas faoin gceonús a bhfuil an teanga ag dul chun tosaigh san áit uaigneach chéanna.

Agus is fíor sin. Tá bothán amháin ann, anois, nach labharthaí ach Gaeilge ann. Tá na címí ag súil le go mbeidh an tarna ceann acu sa i bhfad agus go mbeidh an campa ar fad Gaeilgeach aoi faoi dheireadh na bliana seo, baíl ó Dhiáir thra.

An tsheachtain seo caite a chuir *Padraig Ó Baoghilla* ar an eolas mé in aiste ar "Seála an Tráthnóna." Seo an nuafocht is fearr dá bhfuil cloiste agam ó chuireadh tús leis an gceogadh thuaidh.

Agus *Máirín Ó Cadhain* i gCampa an Churraigh sna daicheadaí d'éirigh go rí-mhaith le scéim an bhotháin Ghlaigh. B'amlaidh a rinneadh ollscoil de, ar baíl.

Céad faoi Champa Mhic Ghiollaigáin? Nó an amhlaidh a mhaireann Gaeilgeoirí ansin beo? Cuirtear sceala chugam agus foilsíodh mé iad, faoin dá champa gífíbhinn, chun a fhógairt don saol Gaeilge, chun éirí chomh fíor agus go mbeidh Eire fós ag Cáit Ní Dhuibhir (ádhlaigh den chéad scoth agus Gaeilgeoir chomh maith). Cúit abúl



## Political Notes

# Rabbit shooting perhaps?

by Maren

LIFE on the political front is not wildly exciting following the Government's "we banned, we did not ban" about-face on the Sinn Féin Diamond Jubilee of the Easter Rising march in Dublin.

We are back to the hum-drum of basic politics with Deputies reverting, in the main, to parochial questions in Leinster House. There was, of course, that pat everyone on the back Fine Gael Convention in Galway. What a grand job those fellows at Leinster House are doing — proves you can fool some of the people all of the time.

Flóir Crowley did get himself into a spot of bother by claiming that the Cruiser was a member of the Communist Party and refusing to accept a denial in the House.

O'Brien showed his sensitivity to such cracks by having the matter discussed by the Committee of Privileges with the predictable result that the question must be talked about again.

And there was the little matter of those machine-gun toting British tourists being arrested by the gardai and charged.

Some nasty political pundits are saying that it was the gardai getting their own back for being blamed for carrying out non-existent Government orders on the Dublin march. Shame on them.

However, the event did get a reaction from the Brit politicians who were aghast at those nice, friendly, boy-next-door, SAS men getting themselves clobbered for operating in a foreign country.

Things have come to a pretty pass, indicated Marilyn Rees, when a few tourists cannot cross the border to shoot a few rabbits or some such innocent animals.

Arresting them and charging them was definitely not cricket and positively not British.

Word around Leinster House was the Government had ordered the release of the Omeath eight but the gardai dug their heels in and refused to comply.

However, the "tourists" did get a fine dinner, courtesy of the Government before embarking in their Brit helicopter for a heroes welcome in South Armagh.

Don't suppose they will get a private tete-a-tete with the Queen and a spot of din-dins at Buckingham Palace. Unlike their predecessors in Derry they didn't blood their weapons in Irish gore. Bit of hard luck on the chaps, that.

There was a little spat in the Dail about an editorial in the Garda Review and the absence of garda foot patrols in Dublin urban areas after 6.00 p.m. which brought an illuminating comment from Paddy Cooney.

Nobody, except a few obsessed Government Ministers and their lackies, accepts that there is an overt or covert threat to the State from within — but Cooney carries his obsession to a remarkable degree.

Charlie Haughey asked Cooney if the first fundamental of law and order should not be the protection of ordinary citizens and their property by the police.

Cooney replied: "The first fundamental of law and order is that the State is secure from subversive attacks within it. That is the first fundamental of law and order and I would remind the Deputy of that."

So there you are. It doesn't matter a damn about your lives and property as long as the Government has the wherewithal to put down its political opponents.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Quote from Vol. 290 No. 5 Parliamentary Debates, the official report of Dail Eireann, dated Wednesday 5th May, 1976, Page 758, Employment of School Leavers: Motion (Resumed):

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: "The Deputy must not allege that a Member of the House was deliberately misleading the House."

Mr. Dowling: "If the Minister comes in here and tells a deliberate untruth, he is misleading the House, and that is what he did last night."

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: "The Deputy knows this is accepted practice in the House."

"Nice to have that on record, not that it is any news to us, of course. The Minister involved — the Minister for Labour."

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

I'm told that Liam Cosgrave is known as "the wicked chicken" in Dun Laoghaire. Does anyone know why? Please tell us!

## Ballad Session

in  
The Embankment, Tallaght

Thursday, 27 May, 1976.  
8.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Music by: "Platform"  
and "Hatch" etc., etc.

Taille 60p

Proceeds in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach.

# S.F. picketed F.G. Ardfeis



Members of Galway Sinn Féin picketing the Fine Gael Ardfeis, last weekend.

One boastful delegate shouted at the picket — "We will find out where you work and see you lose your job." Now that's what being in power is all about, isn't it?

## Political Status fight will be won

THE British Government will be fought resolutely on the question of political status for prisoners "and will be defeated", the Ulster Executive of Sinn Féin said in a statement issued last week.

"Political prisoner status was granted by the British Government in June, 1972 following a protracted hunger strike by Republican prisoners in Crumlin Road Jail," a statement by the Executive said. "This was the final acknowledgment of the fact

that the conflict going on in the partitioned Six-Counties was a political one. The withdrawal of this status from March 1 this year by the same British Government has not made one iota of difference to the overall situation.

"The removal of political status is being fought at the present time. Throughout the province support for the Republican prisoners of war is gathering momentum and already the storm-clouds of protest are looming. This issue, which is a highly emotive one, will never be allowed to peter out."

"Sinn Féin has already made its views on the removal of political prisoner status quite explicit. We will not under any circumstances permit the British Government to remove this status from our imprisoned people. Relatives Action Committees have now been formed in all areas of Belfast, and to date they have made their opposition to this British ultimatum quite clear on the streets of this city."

"The British Government will be fought resolutely on the question of political status for prisoners and will be defeated. There has been, and always will be Irish political prisoners while the British maintain control over part of our country. There will always be war and unrest until Britain finally makes public her intention to withdraw from this country," the S.F. statement ended.

## British withdrawal apparent

IN A press statement, Clonard Martyrs Cumann Sinn Féin says that the economic withdrawal of the British from Northern Ireland was becoming more obvious as each day passed. Thousands of redundancies had already taken place and more were planned over the next year. The military withdrawal had also commenced, troop numbers had now decreased steadily. The reality of a total British withdrawal was apparent.

In the Nationalists areas they had seen an upsurge in the activities of the RUC and in some areas of West Belfast people had observed foot patrols of UDR, says the statement. The people of this area had not forgotten August, 1969, the flames of Bombay Street, the murder of Gerald McAuley and Patrick Rooney, and the indiscriminate firing on Divis Flats. The streets of Belfast and Derry were a constant reminder of the activities of this loyalist police force.

"The RUC was set up as a fascist organisation to put down any revolt against the partition set-up in the North. This job they continue to do."

We put the RUC out of this area in 1969, they will not be permitted to return," the statement ended.

## Another shock jobs for North

Northern workers were shocked last night by more grim reports on the economic situation. A Loyalist M.P. warned that the shirt and clothing industry was on the verge of collapse, with the loss of more than 10,000 jobs, and at Besbrook, Co. Armagh, 120 people heard they would be out of work by the end of the year.

Rev. Robert Bradford, Unionist M.P. for South Belfast, called for immediate steps to be taken to restrict imports of cheap shirts and other clothing into the UK and warned that there could be large-scale redundancies in the North.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Joe Clarke R.I.P.

Clarke: The wife, sons, daughter and sister of the late Joseph (Joe) Clarke, wish to thank those who sympathised with them in their recent bereavement, those who sent Mass cards, floral tributes, telegrams and letters of condolence, to the clergy, the various organisations who attended the removal, and remains to the Church and Funeral.

The holy sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for their intentions.



Vol. Michael Gaughan R.I.P.

For his land he lived; her sorrows touched him; And fired his heart with a holy flame That burned to ashes its earthly casket, Nor ceased to glow till the ending came.

For his land he died — and his young life's teaching Shall gleam like a beacon in Memory's sky; Guiding his race to where he would lead them Perhaps 'twas better that he should die.

Fondly remembered by the members of London Sinn Féin, 28, Elford Road, London, N5.

## Another Fitzgerald blunder?

Carver Fitzgerald has been badly misled by his officials into making a factually inaccurate appeal on the promoters of Irish nationalism. There are no genuine "regulations" which prevent his intervention and the decisions in this matter are his and his alone.

"The so-called 'regulations' to which his officials refer are not based on any Act of Parliament and are nothing more than a statement of the Minister's thinking. As such they are subject to alterations in his thoughts."

In this matter he is plainly wrong and we think when he gives full details of Labour's speech he will do the right thing and give the small sum required.

— But will he? We doubt it. The Dublin regime opposes everything Irish as "bog-og culture," the sensitive description of Irish culture by the regime's chief censor and propagandist, Cruicéin O'Brien.

## Watch out for the "Red Beetle"

## O.A.S. used against unemployed

THE MONTHLY meeting of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions has passed a resolution deploring the use of Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act to arrest two members of the Unemployed Workers' Association in an Uaimh.

They were taken at gunpoint and held for nine and a half hours, being forced to remove most of their clothes, according to the Council statement. Democracy was in greater danger than most people realise.



# PLEAN DON UDARAS GAELTACHTA

le DEASUN FENNELL

LE caoinchead Débé agus FREEMAN ba mhaith lion focal a rá faoi Ghluaiseacht Chearta Sibhialta na Gaeltachta agus an údarás Gaeltachta.

Tá sé go maith go bhfuil an Ghluaiseacht leathnaithe amach ar fud na Gaeltachta. Molaim don Phoblachtáigh na Gaeltachta a n-ádhfadh an Ghlaucht a shnadmhadh le chéile, troid éifeachtach a dhéanamh ar son féinrial Ghlauchtach agus — ar an gcaoi seo — sampla lonrach a thabhairt do na pobail eile sin in Eirinn a bhfuil fóiréan a dhéanamh orthu.

Braitheann éifeacht na Gluaiseachta, áfach, ar an dáiríreacht lena gcuirfeall chun na hoibire agus is cuid bhunúsach den dáiríreacht sin plean don fhéinrial Ghlauchtach a mholadh a bheas tarraingteach do phobail na Gaeltachta agus praiticiúil ann féin.

Gacann chuile dhuine leis go gceithfidh dhá leibhéal údarás bheith ann, sé sin, an lárúdarás Gaeltachta agus údarás níos áitiúla do phríomhranna na Gaeltachta. Sí an phríomhcheist nach bhfuil réitithe go sáslú, dar liomsa, cén chaoi is ceart an dara leibhéal seo a leagan amach nó, i bhfocla eile, céard iad na "príomhranna" sin den Ghlauchtach ar cheart dóibh cumhachtaí dara-leibhéal a bheith acu.

Tá dhá fhreagra éagsúla tugtha ar an gceist seo go dtí seo. Sa bplean a d'fhoilsigh an Ghluaiseacht Chearta Sibhialta (Conamara) i 1970, molar go mbeadh na cumhachtaí dara-leibhéal ag trí "Choiste Réigiúnaigh" (Mumhain, Connacht, Ulaigh). Sa bplean a d'fhoilsigh mé féin i Sketches of the New Ireland sa mbliain 1973, molar sé "Chomhairle Cheantair" agus "pobal féinriarthaigh" amháin i Ráth Cairn.

(Tá plean foilsithe freisin ag Conradh na Gaeilge ach nííl ann mholadh soiléir ann faoi cumhachtaí dara-leibhéal).

Ag an gcrúinnú, i gCnoc na hAille ag ar bunárdh an Ghluaiseacht phan-Ghaeltachta, d'iarr mé féin agus duine nó beirt eile go ndéanfaí plean Ghluaiseacht Chonamara a athbheithniú agus dúirt an Coiste Stúrtha go ndéanfaidís seo. Feicim buntásti ag baint leis an struchtúr a mhol an Ghluaiseacht i 1970 ach tá lochtanna móra air freisin:

1. I gcás na Mumhain agus Chonnacht (le Ráth Cairn), dá mbeadh na cumhachtaí dara-leibhéal ar leibhéal an Chúige, bheadh siad rófhada ó na daoine ina bpobail féin. Ní bheadh cumhachtaí ag ceantar Gaeltachta ar bith — fúig na cinn is mó (Conamara) Theas-Arainn agus ceantar Rann na Feirste—Gaoth Dobhair—Cloecheannaola). Ach is iad na ceantair Ghlauchtach "aonaid nádúrtha" na Gaeltachta.

2. Teastaithe comhairle ionadaíoch ar leibhéal an cheantair le mionchúrsaí áitiúla a phlé, a shocrú agus a riaradh. Sa "gCoiste Réigiúnaigh" don Mumhain agus do Chonnacht bheadh ar phobail áirithe a mionchúrsaí áitiúla a phlé le pobail eile nach bhfuil ann bhaint acu leo go praiticiúil agus socrú na gcúrsaí sin a sháil faoi ionadaithe na bpobal eile sin.

3. Is réigiún den Stát í an Ghlaucht — ní ceart "réigiún" a thabhairt freisin ar fho-ranna na Gaeltachta. "Ceantair" a tugtar ar na fo-ranna seo sa ngáthcheantair agus oireann an t-ainm seo go maith.

Ag an am céanna faighim lochtanna áirithe ar an scéim cheantair a mhol mé i Sketches of the New Ireland. Go dtí go ndéanar an taighde áitiúil sin ar fud na Gaeltachta ba bhun leis an léarsúil Ghlauchtach a chéadfhóiligh mé i 1974 (leagan leasaithe Amárach, 30 Aibreán 1976), ní raibh fhios agam go cruinn cé raibh an fhaictear.

Dá bhrí sin, is mian liom an scéim nua seo leanas a mholadh don Ghluaiseacht anois. Tá sí bunaithe chomh mór agus is féidir ar gnáththuiscint mhuintir na Gaeltachta ar céard a chiallaíonn "ár gceantar Gaeltachta féin".

1. Mar chéadchéim i dtreo údarás Gaeltachta a bhunú, roinntear an Ghlaucht i naoi gceantar:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| TIR CHONAILL THIAIR-<br>THUAIDH       | (3 limistéar: Ros Goill, Toragh, Rann na Feirste-Gaoth Dubhair-Cloecheannaola) |
| TIR CHONAILL LAIR<br>GLEANNCHOLMCILLE | (2 limistéar: Telleann, Slabh Tuaghe)  |
| IORRAS                                | (2 limistéar: Ceathrú Thaidhg, Fál Mór)  |
| DUICHE SHEOIGHEACH<br>IARCHONNACHT    | (2 limistéar: Conamara Theas, Arainn)  |
| CORCA DHUIBHNE<br>MUMHAIN THEAS       | (3 limistéar: Cléire, An Rinn, Cúil Aodha)                                     |
| AN MHI                                | (2 limistéar: Ráth Cairn, Baile Ghib).   |

(Má mheastar go bhfuil na "ceantair" seo sáslú, mholfaíonn go n-eagrófaí an Ghluaiseacht dá réir anois).

2. Ainmítear Coimisiún le dhá rud a dhéanamh: (a) Fiosrú áitiúil a thabhairt i gcrích agus teorainneacha na naoi gceantar a leagan síos go cruinn; bheadh labhairt na Gaeilge mar shlat comais (b) Na ceantair a roinnt i dtoghcheantair nach mbeadh ceann ar bith acu níos mó ná leathpharóiste.

3. Ainmítear toghadh na naoi gceantar naoi gcomhairle cheantair. Riaróidh na comhairlí seo na seirbhísí poiblí a bhaineann le daoine aonair agus le teaghlaigh (pínsín seanaois, ceadóinairs taibh, bradáin agus pleanáil, scoileanna srl). Bheadh siad i mbun oibreacha poiblí a dhéanadh an Chomhairle Chontae ar chonradh dóibh agus i mbun fóirait eacnamaíoch suas go dtí pointe áirithe.

4. Toghadh na comhairlí ceantair Comhairle na Gaeltachta. Faoina choinne sin d'fhéadfaí gach ceantar (de réir a dhaoine) ionadaí amháin nó níos mó a thoghadh; ní d'fhéadfaí na ceantair a ghrúpáil i dtí toghcheantair: An Mumhain, Connacht (leis an Mí), agus Tír Chonaill.

Sa gcéad chás, chaithfeadh níos mó ná naonúr ball a bheith ar Chomhairle na Gaeltachta. Sa dara cás, d'fhéadfaí naonúr bheith uirthi agus iad tofa mar seo leanas: An Mumhain, 2; Connacht, 4; Tír Chonaill, 3.

NOTA: Seo daonra an Ghlaucht Oifigiúil (1971): An Mumhain, 11,864; Connacht agus Mí, 35,546; Tír Chonaill, 23,158. Dá leagfaí síos teorainneacha na Gaeltachta go ffreannach, bhainfá idir a leath agus trí cheathrú de gach figiúr acu sin.

# Natural resources being squandered

## GREAT POTENTIAL

THE monthly meeting of the Co. Wexford Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin was held in the Sinn Féin Clubrooms, Castle Hill, Enniscorthy, on Wednesday night of last week.

Wiring the Chairman and Vice-Chairman absent. Mr. Richard Cooper, Manager, presided.

Mr. Sean Doyle, U.C., said that in our oil, gas and mineral deposits we have the basis for an industrial revolution which could provide thousands of skilled jobs for our people. At Navan, we have the richest zinc lead deposit in the world, at Silvermines the largest underground zinc mine in Europe and at Tynagh the largest producing lead mine in Europe.

At Ballynoge in Tipperary, Glencar and Clonliff, there are large deposits of barite, a metal used in oil exploration. Under current policy, the mines at Tynagh, Navan and Silvermines provide less than 2000 jobs. The mine at Gortdrum is now an empty hole in the ground and after ten years of extraction and the export of the ore in its raw state, not a single industrial job has been created in this country.

At Kinsale, we have a gas strike worth £1½ billion. The right to explore it was bought for £500. It cost the Marathon Oil Company £14 million to find it, and over the next 20 years it will be sold back to us by the Rockefeller family for £700 million.

This, at least, unlike the mines, will not be exported in its raw state. It will be used by the E.S.B. and N.E.T. to generate electricity and manufacture fertiliser. But, if refined, it could be the basis of a petro-chemical industry based on Naphtia, Ethylene and Kerosene.

The manufacturing potential of petro-chemicals and plastics can be illustrated by taking methane, propane and naphta worth two billion dollars. The movement of the raw oil worth this through refining, chemical processing and manufacturing end up worth one hundred billion dollars. So, not only is a large value added in the processing, but, most important of all, along the way at different stages it creates thousands of secure manufacturing jobs.

The policy of successive 26 Co. Governments in relation to the development of our national resources has been to let the control of what belongs to the Irish people to major multi-national corporations. None of the corporations has any interest in developing industries based on our resources in this country.

The awarding of the contracts for the Kinsale pipeline to a British firm of consultants, over the heads of E.S.B. engineers, and the awarding of the contract for the construction of drilling platforms outside the country, are all ample evidence that, even in the early stages of resources development, Irish workers are to be excluded. The only jobs that will go to Irish workers under present policy are those of miners, roustabouts and deckhands.

## Sinn Féin notes and news

### SQUANDERING MILLIONS

Mr. Phil Kelly, Secretary, said: At the depth of the most severe economic crisis this country, the Dublin Minister for Defence, Mr. Patrick S. Donaghy, has continued to squander millions of pounds on fighter aircraft. In Italy on Saturday, April 3rd, Mr. Donaghy bought ten new aircraft, which are quoted as being highly acrobatic, having light-strike capability and fitted with modern armaments.

Mr. R. Cooper, Manager, said that prices rose by a massive 7.3 per cent in the 26 Counties, between mid-November last and mid-February. That three months increase bodes ill for the future, and he was sure it had stopped the politicians trying to force a pay pause. An interesting sideline on the astounding increase in the cost of living, was the fact that taxation accounted for a 3 per cent increase.

At that rate, taxation alone was going to put prices up 12 per cent this year — but then somebody must pay for the £157 million plus being spent by Mr.

Cooney and Mr. Donegan on their toys.

The Acting Chairman thanked all the people for participating in the Easter Commemorations in Enniscorthy and Wexford.

The views of the Comhairle Ceantair have been reported widely in the local press.

### Waterford County Convention

Forty delegates from Waterford City, Portlao, Ballyduff, Ring and Dungarvan attended a meeting in Dungarvan. The meeting was presided over by Eddie Doherty (Cathairleach Comhairle Cuige Mumhain). Also present were Ruairi O'Bradaigh (Uachtarán), Uachtarán O'Loinsigh and Mary Ward (Munster Organiser). A County Committee was formed and it is hoped to have a Comhairle Ceantair operating in the county in the next few months.

An Ard Runai, Uachtarán O'Loinsigh said that the formation of a Comhairle Ceantair would be a major step forward in the area. Waterford he said was the only county in Munster without a Comhairle Ceantair and in fact one had not existed there at any period over the last 50 years. He thanked the large numbers that had come together for the meeting and advised those present that the members must be prepared for political involvement in the area.

Public meetings were arranged for the west county and the city areas.

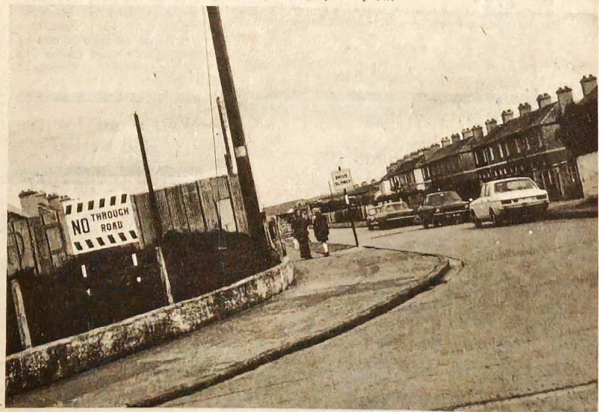
### Galway county convention

Michael Duignan presided at a Galway meeting held in Tuam. Delegates from all parts of the county attended. Also present were Ruairi O'Bradaigh (Uachtarán), Uachtarán O'Loinsigh, Ard Runai and Maureen McLoughlin (Connaught Organiser).

Speaking at the meeting Ruairi O'Bradaigh called on all members to be politically active. The future of our country was in the melting pot with an imminent British Withdrawal. Too many groups were waiting in the wings to cash in on the sacrifices of the last seven years he said and the Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Labour and S.D.L.P. Politicians will surely claim for themselves the credit for freedom when the Brits withdraw. But the type of freedom they would impose on us is not the freedom of the Easter Week Proclamation of Pearse and Connolly.

Arrangements were made for the holding of after Mass Meetings and the sale of literature.

Ar lean ar lch. a 5





# THE "IRISH INDEPENDENT" 1916 AND 1976

Memories die hard, and the image of the R.U.C. is still in some minds that of a highly-armed, ruthless body of men used by the ruling Unionists of the time as an arm of administration rather than an enforcer of impartial laws. But to stick to this image now is to deliberately ignore the changes which have taken place not only in the laws but in the body which has to enforce them. These changes have been fundamental and significant but they will be of no use if the minority community allows the Provisionals to appear to dictate attitudes.

THIS is an extract from a lengthy editorial in the "Irish Independent" of May 18, perhaps by way of a commemoration of another infamous editorial which, in 1916, called for the execution of James Connolly.

The leader-writer says that when the liberation forces decide to kill R.U.C. men "they are opting for the murder of fellow Irishmen". Diarmuid Mac Murchada was a fellow Irishman of a similar type, as was Sadler, Keogh, Castlebreagh, Reynolds and other quislings.

"They are also inviting retaliation", he continues, lending his support to the most sordid of blackmail.

"A majority in the North want to stay under British rule, and we in the South must respect that wish", he continues, ignoring the manner in which the 1920 Act of Westminster was imposed and maintained so brutally over 56 years against the will of the majority of the Irish people. But this leader-writer is a successor to the man who called for the execution of Connolly and what else could one expect from such a creature?

We want freedom

"... we do not want the North joined to us under duress..."; again the misrepresentation. The aim is to dismantle the directly-ruled colony of the Six Counties and the indirectly-ruled puppet of the 26 Counties, together comprising un-liberated Ireland, and replace them by the independent, 32 counties of the Irish Republic where all Irish men and women may live in liberty, fraternity and equality, without alien interference.

British Army presence is essential until the R.U.C. is in a position to fully protect the lives and property of the two communities up there"; this, despite the history of imperialism

everywhere, that the occupying army is the major divisive element.

But when has the R.U.C. fully protected the lives and property of the two communities? In 1920? In 1921? In the thirties, the forties, the fifties, and sixties? Is not its character essentially sectarian and, when not sectarian, allied to the interests of the boss class?

"The (the R.U.C.) is clearly making every effort to become a force which the communities will tolerate", Cameron thought not, urged it to deliver up its murderers and was met with the silent, closed ranks of criminal conspiracy, tolerated and encouraged by successive British governments, backed by Dublin.

Style of Wigdory

But the paragraph we reproduce here is the choicest in a wigdory which outwiderises the noble judge himself... "the changes which have taken place not only in the laws" (a seven-day licence to torture men into a forced "confession", accepted by judges as an excuse to find them guilty) "but in the body which has to enforce them".

Let the "Independent" send a team of reporters to the Irish-orientated areas of the north-east and ask the people what they think of the R.U.C., if they want the return of the R.U.C., and, if not, why not.

Obviously, the "Independent" leader-writer has not listened to such people, has no wish to listen to them and, like his predecessors, would abandon the unfortunate Irish of the Six Counties to another 50 years of hell.

Fortunately, the decision is not his nor that of the selfish, immoral class he and his paper represent and who fear so greatly the anger of the Irish people just as greatly today as their ancestors did in 1913, 1916, and 1921.

## Republican prisoners hit at sectarianism of warders

AN accusation of "sham impartiality" which had been "exposed for the naked sectarianism that it is" has been made by Republican prisoners against the warders at Magilligan Prison Camp.

### Statement

Republican prisoners in Cage 'F' at Magilligan said in a statement:

"Because of the mutiny by prison warders in refusing visits, food parcels, and letters to Provisional Republican prisoners, the sham impartiality of these men has been exposed, the naked sectarianism that it is. The warders who initiated the strike had the audacity to call their action "industrial", using sectarian cat-calls to manipulate the vote at their meetings. What sort of trade union is it that has, as its number one objective, the denial of prisoners' rights.

"In such situations the rottenness of the Six County prison system surfaced to the public's view, and was further evidenced when a solicitor, who was appearing for a 15-year-old boy, pleaded that to send him to the Crumlin Road Prison would be like sending a lamb to the lion's den." So much for the oft-quoted British maxim of being "innocent until proved guilty". We are sure that the public were not fooled by Merlyn Rees' face-saving operation on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office, in reversing the judge's decision and sending the young boy to the lions' den.

"Will the public allow their consciences to be lulled to sleep again, after the past few weeks' evidence of life in Northern prisons, or shall they now speak out against a system which cannot trust its prisoners to the hands of its warders?

"The N.I.O.'s present campaign of trying to label us 'criminal prisoners' has hit an unexpected hurdle by their prison warders' belief that we merited a mini-U.W.C. political strike", the statement ended.

Watch out for the "Red Beetle" coming your way.

Watch for next weeks details.

Have you seen it yet? - The Red Beetle.

Be sure you contact the "Red Beetle" in your Area.

## Band from Gorbals hit at Commemoration



When thirty-one members of the James Connolly Fife and Drum Band from the Gorbals in Glasgow arrived in Dun Laoghaire at seven a.m. on Saturday, 24th April to take part in the 60th Anniversary of the Easter Rising they were met by members of the Casement/Nolan Cumann and friends, who played host to the ebullient group, and given a warm welcome followed by a hearty breakfast in the home of a local republican.

After parading twice through the busy streets of Dun Laoghaire to the delight of onlookers and the many children who tagged along behind them, they took a well deserved rest and socialised for the rest of the evening in the many pubs in town.

Their appearance in the parade next day in Dublin caused quite a stir as their non stop playing of rousing Irish tunes was greatly appreciated by the huge crowds who attended the Commemoration. Their colourful attire plus the enthusiasm and verve with which they played added to their attraction.

It would be wrong to single out any one member of the band for mention as each of them gave all their energy and talent to this occasion. However, the manager Gerry Coll must be congratulated for the way in which this group of young men and women conducted themselves during their brief stay. It must be mentioned that they crossed over from Scotland at their own expense to play in Dublin.

Later in the day they attended the function in the Clare Manor Hotel where delighted audiences were treated to a further display of the bands considerable talents.

Before the band took its leave next day a promise was made to return again to Ireland, perhaps for the Bodenstown Commemoration.

Dun Laoghaire Republicans who are themselves engaged in forming a band, couldn't have received better news.

Gratitude must be extended to all those kind people in Dun Laoghaire who welcomed the musicians from Scotland into their homes.

## Tyrone Easter Ceremonies

THE following report was delayed in the past!!!! We are positive that the envelope was tampered with. Our apologies to our Tyrone readers and Aindrias O Ceallachain.

Aindrias O Ceallachain was the speaker at this year's Easter Commemoration at Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone. There were 10,000 people, a record number at the commemoration.

During the course of his oration, Aindrias said: "Our presence here today makes us part of a spiritual union. All over the world Irishmen at home and in exile, recall that the feast of the Resurrection was chosen by Pearse as a fitting time for the Irish Nation to revolt. There will be the hypocrites, too, this Easter, the shameless collaborators will insult those who may be claiming to be their political successors."

But by their deeds, ye shall know them! For fifty years the Free Staters and the sham Nationalists had their chance to prove their sincerity. We say to them: "We are not blind to your hypocrisy. Your day of reckoning will come".

### Memorial unveiled

Aindrias O Ceallachain also spoke at Mloy and Eglis on Easter Sunday. On Easter Monday he attended the unveiling of a memorial dedicated to five local heroes, who made the supreme sacrifice.

Those who men were Pat Carthy, Sean Loughran, Kevin Murray, Pat McDonald, and Pat Quinn.

## DUNDALK IS CRITICAL OF MINISTER

THE FREE STATE Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. Keating, was criticised at the last meeting of Dundalk Urban Council for the reasons he gave as to why Dundalk didn't get a new industry when he met a deputation from the local Industrial Council.

Fra Browne (Sinn Fein) was asking that the council be provided with a report from the Industrial Council on that meeting with the Minister and he said that the main reason for this was that a report appeared in the local Press, but it didn't state the reasons why Dundalk didn't get an industry.

Mr. Keating disgusted him with the reasons he gave to the Industrial Council for the lack of industry coming to Dundalk, and this did not appear in the report in the papers, said Mr. Browne.

### SUBVERSIVES

The Minister had a file "two feet high, which he did not refer to", continued Mr. Browne, but blamed subversives for no industry. He challenged the Minister to name the industries involved who would not come to Dundalk for these reasons.

Mr. Tom Bellow corroborated what Mr. Browne said, but Mr. Jimmy Bellow, who is chairman of the industrial Council, said that it had been in operation for 12 months with nobody asking

anything about it, and now this motion was tabled. He agreed to furnish a report.

### HOUSING LIST

It was agreed that the original housing list from the North Eastern Health Board should be made available to members if required.

Fra Browne tabled a motion that the original list be circulated to members, but there were several councillors who were not in favour of this as they felt that the reports might contain certain matters personal to the applicants.

Mr. Browne stressed that there was nothing devious in his motion, simply that over a period of some months some people had been removed from the list and had to go to great lengths to find out why this happened. He had difficulties ascertaining facts even after allocations.

In the suggestion of Mr. Michael Coburn, Mr. Browne accepted the amendment to the motion, and it was agreed by the council.

## SINN FEIN NOTES AND NEWS

— continued —

North Louth Sinn Fein meeting

A very successful meeting was held in the Cox's Demesne area, for the purpose of forming a cumann, Mr. C. Geaney, chairman of the Louth Comhairle Ceantair, presiding, also present were Mr. Niall Fagan, Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle, Mr. F. Browne, M.C.C., U.D.C., and Mr. Frank McGeough, treasurer, Louth Comhairle Ceantair.

Mr. Niall Fagan addressed those present and outlined the aims and objects of Sinn Fein and

stated their main aim was to achieve Tone's ideal, breaking the connection with England, the never failing source of all our evils. He appealed to those present to do all in their power to further the object of getting the British Army out of Ireland once and for all. Turning to the economic front, he asked, where are all the thousands of school leavers to find work this year, considering the thousands who are now out of work, in conclusion he told his audience to get involved in local affairs and help the people.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. Andy Corbett; Secretary, Mr. F.

McGeough, Dundalk; Treasurer, Mr. P. Faulkner; P.R.O. Mrs. Josephine Finnegan.

Omeath S.F. Cumann

A new cumann has also been formed in Omeath and named the Frances Jordan Cumann, after a very successful meeting held recently. The Cumann will cater for Omeath and the adjoining areas, and will be of great assistance to the Republican Movement. Representing the Louth Comhairle Ceantair were Mr. C. Geaney and Mr. Frank McGeough. Both Cumann pledged their allegiance to Sinn Fein.



## Commission condemn "degrading" prison conditions

A resolution "condemning the degrading and dehumanising conditions prevailing in Portlaoise Prison" was passed unanimously at a meeting of Ballyshannon Town Commissioners. A copy of the resolution is to be sent to the Minister for Justice, Mr. Patrick Cooney.

Sinn Féin

Cmr. Anthony O'Malley Daly, proposing the resolution, said the conditions in which political prisoners were being kept in Portlaoise Prison at the moment were degrading and dehumanising. They were kept apart from their families and friends at visiting by a double grill and were subjected to strip searching. There were no educational or craft facilities and in some cases prisoners had to eat off the floor when their furniture was removed. Unless community governments, such as the commissioners had their feelings known the conditions might become so intolerable that the prisoners would be goaded into retaliation.

Cmr. Daly said he was not asking the other commissioners to agree with his political views but was appealing to them on humanitarian grounds and reminded them that there were a number of Donegal prisoners in Portlaoise. He asked that the resolution be sent to Patrick Cooney, "the person responsible for the conditions in the prison".

Cmr. Jack Reilly, vice-chairman, presiding, asked would such a resolution not be more effective coming from a higher authority?

Cmr. Daly - I do not agree. If we do not make our voices heard, this regime may think they have a mandate to carry on as they are.

Cmr. Edward Doherty said it was sad to see Irishmen being ill-treated in any prison. "They should at least be treated as human beings, no matter who they are," he said.

Cmr. John McIntyre said that if in 1976, prisoners had to eat off the floor, he would have no hesitation in seconding the resolution.

Cmr. Gerry McNamara asked what evidence Cmr. Daly had to support his allegations?

Cmr. Daly said he had been told by people who were in Portlaoise and he had no reason to disbelieve them.

## CLERGY REFUSED VISITS

PRIESTS are being refused permission by the Minister for Justice to visit prisoners in Port Laoise Prison. "There can be no pressing reason for a visit from their parish priest and the visit from Canon McIvor cannot, therefore, be approved" - this is typical of the many replies from the Department of Justice to requests for clerical visits in a spiritual capacity. It is but one of the many refusals of visits to priests and religious to the prisoners.

Canon McIvor had this to say about the ministerial refusal:

"Strict control of visits in Port Laoise is not in question; so strict is the control indeed that the visit of one pastor cannot possibly menace the secure custody of the prisoners. The more decisive consideration, therefore, seems to be the want of a pressing reason for the visit. That depends, I suppose, on how you assess the case. If your assessment is really strict, there will be no need even for visits from close relatives since these can equally convey their concern by letter. But common humanity calls for a personal encounter, even one hampered by prison conditions; and the same motive, but touched now with a higher and more spiritual dimension, is true of the pastor.

"To debar him from this duty of a personal relationship can only be reckoned a piece of dire rigourism", Canon McIvor concluded.

### DEPUTATION

Canon McIvor, a parish priest in the Dundalk area attempted to visit parishioners, now held in Port Laoise, after a resolution was passed by the Louth County Council calling for humane conditions for the prisoners. During the course of the discussion on the motion Colr. Fra Browne (S.F.) called for a deputation to go to the prison to see for themselves. Canon McIvor was one of those proposed.

Also proposed for the prison deputation were Councillors McGrathall, Kirke, McGuinness and Browne.

## SUPPORT THE P.O.W.s

I, the undersigned, pledge my full support and backing to the Republican prisoners of war in the prisons of the British occupied Six Counties of Ireland, in their fight to be recognised as political prisoners.

Further back them in their call for Merlyn Rees to abandon his policy of treating political prisoners as criminals. His words can not alter the fact that republican prisoners were not convicted because of self gain, but were imprisoned because of their courageous resistance to the British presence in Ireland! In other words they are political prisoners nothing else!

Signed .....

POST to:  
Treatment of Offenders, Branch  
N.I.O., Stormont, Belfast.  
Issued by the Republican  
Prisoners of War, Long Kesh,  
Magilligan, Armagh.

## WE reprint the following from "P.O.W., bulletin of the Irish Political Prisoners in Britain:

The 'trial' of the 5 held here began on 28 April in Manchester Crown court. They faced 55 charges including attempted murder, conspiracy to cause explosions, using guns to resist arrest, shooting policemen and kidnapping.

In the very first day, having sacked their solicitors for incompetence, the 5 walked out of the court and down to the cells when the judge entered the room. A jury was sworn in to decide whether the 5 were 'mute of malice or by a visitation of God'. Then the judge ordered them to be brought up to be identified. One by one they were carried up feet first by prison warders. One of the 5 called the judge 'a fascist'. They then returned to the cells and had to be carried up again later for the 2nd jury.

Throughout the 10 day trial the 5 refused to recognise the court and stayed downstairs in the cells. In his summing-up the judge said: "This has been a very unusual trial because the defendants have taken no part in it, but that is their choice. There might be reasons, rational or irrational for their conduct, but I and you, the jury, will never know what those reasons are, but it does not matter".

He thereby showed his and his class' complete contempt for Ireland and the Irish people in their struggle for freedom.

## Guilty on 55 charges

The jury did as directed and found the 5 guilty on all 55 charges. They were brought up separately to hear their sentences. Brendan Dowd (27) from KERRY, received 3 life sentences + a total of 129 years. When the judge refused to allow him to make a statement Brendan began stamping his feet and completely drowned out the judge talking. He was then taken down to the cells, calling the judge 'a fascist bastard' on the way.

Sean Kinsella (28) from MONAGHAN received the same sentence of 3 life + 129 years. He kept his back turned on the judge throughout and just smiled and yawned. Stephen Nordone (20) from LOUTH received 3 life sentences + 129 years.

He said 'I don't speak to pigs' and turned his back on the proceedings. Paul Norney (18) from BELFAST said: "Up the Provos", then turned his back and waved to friends and relatives in the public gallery. He got 5 life sentences + 66 years. Noel Gibson (23) from LAOIS received 2 life sentences + 111 years. He turned his back on the judge after asking for a nice round figure.

Throughout the last act of this farce of a show-trial special-brainmen sat in between all the relatives and friends of the accused in the public gallery.

The present whereabouts of the 5 is uncertain. They have been split-up and moved to other prisons.

## 20 years + life + 14 years for Belfast man

The trial of Ronald Joseph McCartney (22) of Belfast, on charges of conspiracy to cause explosions and shooting at policemen, began on Monday 3 May at Winchester.

On the first day Ronnie sacked his solicitor for collaborating with the police. He remained seated when the judge entered the court, then rose and said: I want no part whatsoever in this trial. I've seen enough of your 'justice' in the last six years in connection with Republican prisoners in Britain. The judge then interrupted him and told him to shut up. A man in the public gallery who said "Let him speak, all he wants is justice", was ejected from the court. Ronnie then turned his back on the court.

Throughout the trial, which lasted 5 days, Ronnie remained standing with his back to the judge and refused to answer questions. The prosecution witnesses managed to identify him WITH HIS BACK TO THEM AT ALL TIMES. (Peter Hain, please note).

After the summing-up, during which the judge practically directed the jury to find him guilty, they retired at 10.15 on Friday morning. At 12.15, 1 1/2 hours later, they returned to the court and found him guilty. The judge then asked Ronnie if he had anything to say before sentence was passed. Ronnie faced him and declared: Thanks for nothing, your honour".

The judge said: "What, what did you say". Ronnie repeated himself and added: "You are a lackey of the regime that has oppressed the Irish for 800 years. No matter what happens the Provisional I.R.A. will continue with its campaign until the British Army is withdrawn from Ireland and the Irish people are allowed to decide their own destiny".

The judge said: "Have you anything else to say".

Ronnie said: "Up the Provos" and turned his back on him again.

The judge then sentenced him to 20 years on the conspiracy charge, life on the 3 charges of shooting at the police and 14 years on the charges of possession of a firearm and use of it with intent. Ronnie gave a clenched fist salute and said Up the Provos again, whereby the judge ordered

him to be removed to the cells. At this friends and relatives in the public gallery who made a demonstration of support, were ejected from the court.

## Typical example

Ronnie is now in Wormwood Scrubs prison, London. He is a typical example of the Irish political prisoners in Britain today who are punished not so much for what they have done but rather for what they represent. Authority objects not only to conclusions which run counter to the Establishment; it objects to an individual who thinks at all, especially if he is given to transmitting thoughts into action. Irish in this country are not 'victims of justice', but of revenge and fear.

## Easter lilies man charged

On Monday, 10 May Martin Withers (21) was remanded in custody for 8 days in Manchester, accused under the Prevention of Terrorism Act of receiving cash contributions totalling £13.81 for the I.R.A. The money was from the sale of Easter Lilies. An application for bail was turned down. This is the first time that this charge has come before a court in Britain.

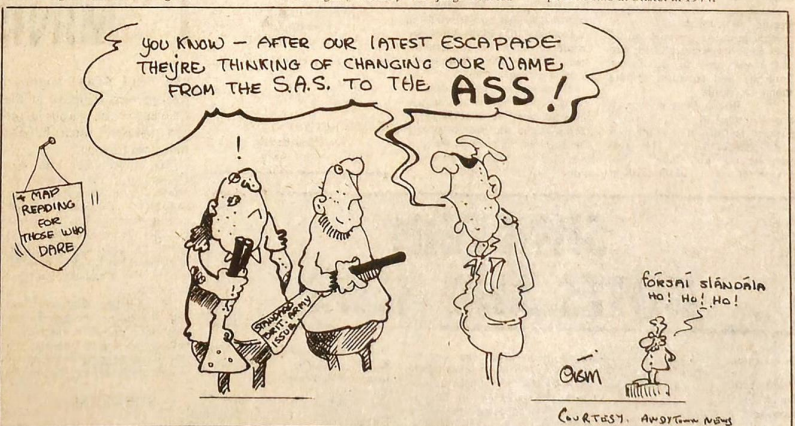
## Harassment of visitors

Visitors are being refused to all the remand prisoners here apart from family members, most of whom live in Ireland. People who leave in food parcels have been subjected to severe harassment.

Shane O'Docherty (Derry) on remand on letter-bomb charges, was strip-searched BEFORE and AFTER a closed visit from his mother recently. In all his cell has been searched and upset at least 6 times - the papers for his case are constantly being interfered with by the warders. He was not able to attend Mass on Easter Sunday because of their activities yet the prison chaplain, Fr. Anthony Lawn had no word of comfort for him when he visited him. Shane is not allowed to mix with the other Republican prisoners and is kept in A section. The others are held in D wing. Shane's trial begins the first week in June.

## Derry man remanded

Thomas Cooper, of Shantallow (DERRY) - was remanded in custody until May 17 on the charge of possession of a parcel bomb in Bristol in 1974.



## Prisoners of War

We will not accept these tags of criminal and terrorist. The British Government cannot shirk their responsibility for a situation of their own making by mud-slinging. Archbishop Makarios was branded as a terrorist leader in Greece by

the British and was later accepted as an honoured guest in Buckingham Palace. At present the British Attorney General, Mr. S. Silken, Q.C., is asking the Law Lords to rule on questions of law arising from

the killing of an innocent Irishman by a British soldier. We have had enough of Britain's murky politics and once again we say she cannot remedy the situation by changing or making new laws. The British Government have no right to rule in Ireland and will never have the right to. - Derry P.O.W.'s  
Liberty and Strength.



## Republican Post Bag

# Port Laoise visiting conditions

WHAT I write below is fact - stark, startling, indefensible.

During a visit to Port Laoise Jail recently, my heart bled when I saw again (this is a weekly experience) a young married woman crouched on the edge of a long "table" leaning against a black grille, peering through it at an equally young husband similarly crouched on the other side, his grille and her grille about 16 inches apart. No human contact permitted or possible.

The Government and Governor call this a visit. I challenge Church leaders publicly to pass judgment on this tyranny as so many of them presume to judge the actions and motives of the "men of violence".

I charge our Churchmen with connivance with politicians in subjecting the Port Laoise prisoners and their visitors to ever-worsening conditions. Their silence is as guilty as the outrageous treatment meted out to men of matchless idealism by

those who are committed to the devilish purpose of breaking them in soul and body.

I particularly deplore the lack of concern shown by my own (Catholic) Church, so completely at variance with the Christ who fearlessly exposed the "white sepulchres" of His own day. That I must depend on the charity and indulgence of a newspaper editor to make a case for these victims of a State that hasn't preserved a shred of dignity is in itself an indication of how insensitive we have become to injustices under a Government which denies basic rights to the citizens on the most outlandish and dishonest pretext.

Were we a real Christian people we would be alert to the sufferings of others, courageous in drawing attention to them and active in alleviating them.

I hold in contempt those who for expedience turn a blind eye to the festering sore that is Port Laoise. I have no doubt where the thugs, criminals and evil men of today are to be found.

—M.O. Cinneide,  
Br. Peadar, Baile Atha Cliath, 12.

## REFUSAL OF VISITS WITH PRISONERS

THERE is widespread refusal to allow visitors into Port Laoise jail lately. It seems to have come with the bringing in of a new rule: that you have to get a letter from your local barracks and sanction from the Governor of Port Laoise prison before you get a visit.

Reasons given for refusals are: danger to security; coming too often etc.

When friends of prisoners have gone for those letters some have been passed on to the Special Branch for questioning about their political connections, then usually refused these letters, permitting them to visit.

—P.O'Connor,  
Secretary, Conté Branch, Prisoners Welfare Action Committee.

INMATES IN ENGLAND WHO  
ACCUSED OF COURTESY CRIMES—  
BRITISH RECORDS OF THINGS DO  
CLOSE THEIR BOOKS

HERE'S A COUPLE OF UNSOLVED MURDERS  
DONE IN 1900 — MAYBE WE COULD  
STICK THESE ON 'EM TOO — MAKES  
THE BOOKS LOOK  
GOOD !!



Courtesy: Andersonstown News

## SEOSAMH O CLEIRIGH

THE news of the death of Joe Clarke brought a sense of sadness and pride to those of us here, 7,000 miles from Ireland, who were in any way or on any occasion associated with this unrepentant Fenian.

Sadness springs from the knowledge of the wavering compromises of too many of his former comrades: those who made their misguided accommodation with institutions devised by our country's enemy, many deluding themselves that somehow they were serving Ireland.

But the sense of pride predominates. The longevity of Joe Clarke was equalled by his loyalty to the Republic, proclaimed by his friends and comrades in 1916. The sixty years that followed, to the day of his death, found Joe Clarke's loyalty unshaken. He won the admiration of men outside his allegiance, men who expressed their contempt for unregenerate politicians who sought in petty ways to humiliate the faithful Joe Clarke.

Not for Clarke the bartering of his republican integrity for comfort, fame, position or reward. Down that road went lesser men.

While we salute the passing of this splendid man, let us recognise a simple, yet vital truth. Had the adherence of the majority of Ireland's people matched that of Clarke to the Republic, our national freedom would have been secured decades ago, because no power on earth can prevent a people, determined to be free, from securing their freedom.

How can those who choose peace without principle, peace

without freedom, absolve themselves from the unconscionable guilt of that choice. By their timid choice, they determine that the struggle for freedom shall be postponed. What of the blood of those whose lives are lost through the prolongation of compromise with institutions of alien origin, North and South, which combine to keep Ireland unfree?

In the loyalty of Clarke to the Republic is perceived his wisdom and his character. Our own unwavering loyalty to the Republican Cause is, therefore, the finest monument to his memory that we, in this time, can fashion.

When the life and times of Joe Clarke are written, these words may be found apt in any introduction, for they sum up his constancy against the background of his time: "Far dearer the grave or the prison, flummied by one patriot name. Than the trophies of all who have risen, On Liberty's ruins to fame".

— Rebel Corkman  
Vancouver.

## ULRIKE MEINHOF

A TELEGRAM expressing sympathy on the death of a fellow revolutionary was sent by members of the Casement Nolan S.F. Cumann, Dun Laoghaire last week on the death of Ulrike Meinhof.

The telegram also expressed solidarity with freedom fighters everywhere in their struggle

against Imperialism.

—Secretary,  
Casement/Nolan S.F. Cumann,  
Dun Laoghaire.

## LETTERS TO CIE AND THE EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

FOLLOWING is a copy of a letter sent by the McCabe/Quigley S.F. Cumann to the transport manager of Coras Iompair Éireann:

We wish to bring to your notice the need for a direct bus service between Finglas and the Industrial Estate on the Naas Road Inchicore.

As there is great inconvenience and expense involved in travelling to Lord Edward St., especially with young children, we would appreciate it very much if you would treat this matter as urgent.

—John Murphy, P.R.D.  
McCabe/Quigley Cumann,  
Provisional Sinn Féin.

## BUIOCHAS

An Cumann Cabhrach, Central Committee, wish to acknowledge receipt of £10 subscription to their funds from the people of Clonmell, Co. Westmeath. Per shop collection.

## BALLAD SESSION

in  
BOYNE VALLEY HOTEL  
Drogheda

Thursday, 3 June, 1976  
8.00 p.m. to 12.00 (midnight)

Music by the WOLFHOUD (Belfast) and TRAVELLING JOHN.

ISTEACH ..... £1.00  
Proceeds in aid of Republican Prisoners Dependents' Fund.

## IRELAND HONOURS TONE

# Annual Wolf Tone Commemoration

## BODENSTOWN

SUNDAY, 13th JUNE, 1976.

CHAIRMAN  
CHIEF MARSHALL  
ORATION  
ASSEMBLY POINT

Jimmy Drumm (Belfast)  
Joe O'Neill (Donegal)  
Gearoid Mac Carthaigh (Cork)  
Sallins, Co. Kildare at 2.30 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided by An Cumann Cabhrach in the assembly field: teas, sandwiches, mince, crisps etc.

No train will be run from Dublin this year. Instead a fleet of buses will leave the following pick-up points at 12.30 (sharp): Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire; Halfway House, Walkinstown (Dublin Southside); and 5, Blessington Street (Dublin Northside). All buses will travel via Heuston Station.

RETURN FARE: Adults £1.50; Children 50p.

Remember there is no train to Bodinstown this year so book early.

BOOKING AT: 5, Blessington Street Dublin 1; Saturday 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.; Sunday 11.00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m. Tel: 308783.

The Wolfe Tone Commemoration at Bodinstown is organised by Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta (Republican Commemoration Committee).



Theobald Wolfe Tone . . . Athair na Poblachta



# Derry youth murdered

Jim Gallagher, just released six days earlier from Magilligan Camp, was shot dead by a Brit soldier as he was travelling as a passenger on a bus at Strand Road, Derry.



James Gallagher, R.I.P.

## Castleblayney Sinn Fein

AT A largely attended meeting in Blayney, recently, it was unanimously agreed to name the local Sinn Fein Cumann after the late John Francis Green, who was murdered near Castleblayney, in January, 1975.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. J. Crowe; secretary, Mr. P. J. McGinn, UDC; joint treasurers, Mrs. E. McGurran and B. Turley.

A lengthy discussion centred on British army incursions into the 26 Counties, especially the recent SAS incursion in Co. Louth, and there was strong criticism over the government's handling of the affair, particularly the release of those detained and their "safe return across the Border" while republicans were constantly harassed by the Free State forces.

The Cumann passed a vote of congratulations with the Dublin TD, Dr. Thornley, on his recent stand for "free speech and free assembly."

At the conclusion, an appeal was made by the secretary to persons in the area interested in joining the local Sinn Fein Cumann to contact any member of the officer-panel.

### NOTICE

Anyone wishing to join the Dermot Crowley Cumann Sinn Fein, Crossmaglen, Co. Tyrone, is requested to contact Mr. Tommie McGovern, Runal.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**STAGG:** The family of the late Proinsias Stagg thank sincerely all those who sympathised with them in their bereavement, those who sent Mass Cards, telegrams, floral tributes, letters of sympathy, Seraphic Certificates, poems, tributes published in the Press, especially those from prisoners, those who attended the Commemoration Ceremony at Ballina, all who supported the family at Dublin and Shannon Airports. We trust this will be

He was returning home by bus with his 22 year old girlfriend, Deirdre Boyle, when the shooting took place. They had been at a local cinema. Miss Boyle said that they were sitting on two seats behind the exit door in the centre of the bus. There was a noise. Deceased said something which sounded like "I've been shot" and when she looked she saw he was covered in blood.

Deceased's father, Mr. Jim Gallagher, said they had been planning a big celebration tomorrow to mark deceased's 21st birthday.

He said that Monday night was the first time his son had been out of the estate since he was released from Magilligan. "Since he got out he stayed around the estate and yesterday was the first time he was in the city centre since he got out."

Deceased was the eldest of a family of eight, two boys and six girls. The youngest is six weeks old. Before his imprisonment he had just left St. Columb's College and was registering as an apprentice electrician.

The charging of Private David Scott of the Cheshire Regiment with the killing of 20 year old Derryman Jim Gallagher raises more questions than it answers.

Scott, so it is alleged, opened fire on a bus going to the Shantallow Estate from the City centre, hitting Jim Gallagher and two others, a man and a woman. What has not come across in the media is that, according to local eye-witnesses, the woman pedestrian was shot perhaps two minutes before the bus was fired on. In other words, this was not a case of a soldier

simply "going berserk", as has been widely assumed; it was a result of cold and sustained determination.

This also makes it more difficult to justify the charge of manslaughter. If Private Scott had been killed rather than, allegedly, killing, does anyone doubt that any person apprehended would have been charged with murder? Moreover, no charges at all have been made in respect of the wounding of the other two people.

Cynics in Derry — and there are more every day as such things happen — reckon that this means it is only a minor sort of crime to kill a working class Irishman these days — and it is no crime at all to wound a couple.

Decisions as to what charge should be brought are, of course, made by the Department of Public Prosecutions in consultation with the police; the institutions which Merlyn Rees keeps assuring us are totally impartial and even-handed. But the case of Jim Gallagher speaks more loudly than the words of the Secretary of State.

And, anyway, people in the North remember other, not dissimilar cases in the past, such as the case of Corporal Foxford. He was first charged with murder for shooting a twelve year old child in Newry, Kevin Healey. He was eventually acquitted of manslaughter. Then, after an outcry in papers like the Daily Express, he was unconditionally released to a hero's welcome from his BA colleagues. Presumably, he is now back in service, a valuable member of the force.....

## News from the North

**Sunday, May 16:** Two men shot dead — a 28-year old Protestant was shot in the Ardoyne area and a reserve RUC man was killed in Banburn, Co. Tyrone.

**Monday, May 17:** A Derry youth just released from jail was shot dead by a Brit soldier as he was travelling home on a local bus.

The Brit has been charged with manslaughter. Two Protestant brothers

were shot dead in Moy, Co. Tyrone.

**Tuesday, May 18:** Crossmaglen — a horse accidentally detonated a landmine hidden in a field yesterday afternoon.

The blast, heard ten miles away, was Drivenic, a small where five Brits have been killed in attacks over the past two years.

The horse was severely injured in the blast and had to be killed.

**Thursday, May 20:** Two workmen narrowly escaped death when a bomb planted in their hut on a Co. Antrim building site only partially exploded. The bomb is thought to have been timed to explode when the men were having their mid morning tea break but it went off early.

Brit Officers claimed they were worried about the "Provos" new weapon, which is the American N.3. The sub-machine gun was discovered with other weapons near Lough Neagh. The N3 was fitted with a silencer.

Brit Tories are calling for the establishment of a new, new anti-terrorism unit!!! Presumably you have to have a BA in map reading to qualify.

## The facts about the death of Ulrike Meinhof

When we recall the events we see this — the four defendants (Ulrike Meinhof, Andreas Baader, Jan-Karl Raspe and Gudrun Enslin) were locked together on Saturday, 7/5/76 in one cell at the prison in Stuttgart-Stammheim till 10 p.m. They were discussing the problem of identity as written in the writings of Lenin and Gramsci. The four defendants at all times had a relationship full of solidarity and cordiality. At 10.00 p.m. the prisoners were brought into their cells of solitary confinement. The warden who had seen Ulrike Meinhof the last time as a living person stresses that the atmosphere among the prisoners was bare of contradictions and he had heard even laughter.

Soon after that the prisoners heard a helicopter put down within the prison compound. Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Enslin had a chat about this through their cell-windows, as the arrival of the helicopter at that hour was remarkably strange. For months, not one helicopter had been seen above Stuttgart-Stammheim.

After that Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Enslin said goodnight to each other through their cell-windows. Gudrun Enslin heard Ulrike Meinhof typing for about a half an hour. Between midnight and 1.00 a.m. Gudrun heard unusually loud music coming from Ulrike's cell.

Next morning at 8.00 a.m. the cells of Ulrike and Gudrun were opened. The cells are neighbouring one another. It was the usual custom at this time for the prisoners to welcome each other. Ulrike is not standing at her cell door. The door is open and Gudrun attempts to enter Ulrike's cell, but a warden barr's her way and bangs the cell door in her face. Gudrun is then forced back to her cell. After a quarter of an hour the warden informs her: "Ulrike Meinhof is dead".

Fifteen minutes later the prison doctor arrives, and within five minutes of his

appearance the Baden Wuerttemberg home-office issues a statement that Ulrike Meinhof had hanged herself that Sunday morning from the cross-bars of her cell-window.

### Report from Germany

At 9.00 a.m. this short statement is issued to the radio news broadcasts. At noon the news tell the public that Ulrike Meinhof had killed herself because of deep contradictions between her and the other defendants, especially Andreas Baader. They claim that they have got this from a special strike issue of the "Welt" newspaper. (Die Welt, a right wing daily paper of the Springer trust). The paper was issued one day before the death of Ulrike Meinhof.

The warden again stress the friendly relationship among the political prisoners, when questioned by the lawyers of confidence who arrived at Stammheim at noon. The lawyers know from their daily visits, that the relationship between the defendants had been one of solidarity and cordiality.

**There were no frictions.**

Despite continued protests and demand of the lawyers and relatives nobody up till now was allowed to see Ulrike's corpse.

At 8.30 a.m., fifteen minutes after the announcement of the "suicide" to Gudrun Enslin, she hears a tin-made coffin being carried out Ulrike's cell.

The first radio-news undergo changes with every hour — 9.00 a.m. Ulrike Meinhof had hanged herself with a towel from the cross-bars of her cell-window. 10.00 a.m. Ulrike had used just a strip torn from her towel. 11.00 a.m. Ulrike Meinhof had hanged herself with the above mentioned strip, but this time from the iron

grating of her cell windows. In the first news it was stated, that Ulrike has worked at her typewriter the whole night. This was never repeated. Now it is stated, that after cell-searches no written papers were found.

**One thing is certain:** in her cell there was no cross-bar. The window is 170 cm above ground level. Ulrike Meinhof was taller than this. And through the grating, in any case, only a thin thread can be drawn.

Though the whole system of repression aims at the destruction of prisoners identity, Ulrike was not destroyed. She stood up to everything she had done and had claimed this in public three days before at her trial. There wasn't any friction among the prisoners. Nevertheless, the Radio News insist on their slanders.

Lawyers and relatives have said that Ulrike Meinhof has been killed, that capital punishment, though officially abolished in German law, has in fact been practiced on her.

The public prosecutors of Stammheim have reacted instantly and accused those relatives and and lawyers of evil slanders.

### Birthday Greetings

BIRTHDAY greetings to Donal Walsh in Port Laoise Prison who celebrates his birthday on the 25th May '76.  
from: Irene and Eileen.

HAPPY birthday Donal Walsh, Port Laoise Prison.  
— from: Alice, Denis, John, Karen and Louise.

DONAL Walsh, Portlaoise Prison. Best wishes for your birthday from Mam, Dad and all at home.

DONAL Walsh, Port Laoise Prison, Happy birthday. Donal on the 25th May from Jimmy, Kay and Robert.

DONAL Walsh, Port Laoise Prison, birthday greetings from Jerry, Frances and children.

### Kevin Coen Memorial

Watch for details

## Staff Captain Francis Jordan

### First Anniversary

THE UNVEILING of the Francis Jordan Memorial will take place at Jonesboro Cemetery on Sunday, 6th June at 3.00 p.m.

PARADE will assemble at Old Border Inn, Newry Road, Dundalk, at 2.30 p.m.

All S.F. Cumann invited to attend.



Francis Jordan, R.I.P.



accepted in grateful acknowledgment by all, and Mass has been offered for their intentions.