



IRELAND'S WAR

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IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT going forward on all fronts



IRELAND'S WAR fully supports, and agrees with, the historic decisions taken by the recent IRA General Army Convention and the Ard Fheis of Sinn Fein in connection with Abstentionism.

The Irish Republican Movement is going forward on all fronts. The IRA's devastating attacks on the British war machine and Sinn Fein's ever-growing political success are testimony to the steel and maturity of Ireland's freedom fighters. We are confident that the Irish Republican Movement will be able to deal with the tasks involved in opening a new front of battle in Leinster House.

IRELAND'S WAR takes this opportunity to pledge its total solidarity with the IRA, Sinn Fein and the Welfare Organisations of the Irish Republican Movement which form the vanguard of the struggle for a 32 county united socialist Ireland.



ON WITH THE STRUGGLE SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS

By a large majority, (429 votes to 161 votes), the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis took the historic decision to end its policy of Abstentionism in relation to the Leinster House 26 County parliament. Previously Sinn Fein parliamentary candidates had refused to take their seats if elected to the partition parliament in the South of Ireland. Now Sinn Fein will take parliamentary seats in Leinster House - thus opening up a new front of battle, conducting its revolutionary struggle both inside and outside of parliament. Opening the debate on Abstentionism Pat Doherty, Sinn Fein National Organiser, said that the Free State must be taken on politically. "In other words, armed struggle in the Six Counties in pursuance of British withdrawal, and political struggle throughout the whole 32 Counties in pursuance of the Republic." Leinster House is a partitionist institution and Republicans must explain this, but they must also recognise that "95% of the people accept Leinster House as being their government."

GERRY ADAMS MP

In his Presidential Address to the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis, Gerry Adams MP argued in favour of ending the Abstentionist policy.

"It is a question of whether a struggle such as ours can be advanced by opening up another front in parliament of the establishment which oppresses us and the interests we seek to represent."

"Our experience has taught us that our struggle - and this affects every aspect of the struggle for national liberation - cannot be built merely on the republican perception of things. We have had to consistently pitch our struggle at the level of people's understanding and we have had to develop it from this common denominator, taking into account, in an objective way, all the forces and factors involved."

"Of course we have a duty to point out to the people the shortcomings and the history of the present system, and we have a duty to win them to our view, but we can only do so at their level of understanding and we can only proceed from the objective reality of their consciousness."

"We must develop a 32-County-wide political struggle. This is the most important task facing us at present. While consolidating our base in the Six Counties, we must develop a popular struggle here in the 26 Counties to complement the struggle in the Six-County area."

"Of necessity, this means, in order to advance at the level of people's consciousness, the removal of abstentionism in regard to Leinster House."

"We have to cease being spectators of a struggle in the Six Counties and become pioneers of republicanism in the 26 Counties, putting our policies before the people, confident of the logic of the alternative which Irish republicanism offers."

"We need to keep our republican gut. While developing the struggle in the 26 Counties we must never lose sight of our national objectives. We must change our strategies but must never let this change our objective or aims."

"We are a republican party committed to the struggle for national self-determination, committed to the overthrow of British rule in Ireland and to the end of partition and committed to bringing about the political and economic changes necessary for the well-being and security of this nation."

"In other words, we are committed to the reconquest of Ireland by the Irish people. This means the expulsion of imperialism in all its forms, political, economic, military, social and cultural. It means the establishment of a real Irish republic and the organisation of the economy so that all its resources are under Irish control and organised to bring maximum benefit to the people in a 32-County state in which Irish culture and national identity is strong and confident."

"In a sentence, what I am saying is that it's time for a change, not just for republicans but for all the people of this state."

"For too long the political pygmies of Leinster House have had things too easy, for too long they have been allowed a monopoly upon what passes for politics in this part of Ireland, and for too long a very sizeable section of Irish citizens have been denied the opportunity to shape and build a relevant, radical and principled alternative to partitionist rule."

Following the Ard Fheis the IRA issued the following statement on Sinn Fein's decision.

"The leadership of the Irish Republican Army welcomes the decision taken by Sinn Fein at its Ard Fheis to drop its abstentionist policy in the 26 Counties."

"We also welcome the pledges of continued support for the struggle in Ireland from Irish republicans in the USA and Australia."

"We are confident that Sinn Fein will emerge as a significant political force in the Free State and will build a sound republican base."



"We are also confident that our successful prosecution of the armed struggle will bring heavy pressure to bear on the British government and will be the force which makes them quit Ireland."

SOVEREIGNTY

In his opening address to the Ard Fheis, Sinn Fein's Chairperson, Sean MacManus, strongly condemned the 26 County government for its "implementation of the Hillsborough Agreement, at whatever cost in terms of human suffering, and the further strengthening of the link with the EEC and through it the NATO alliance". "Sinn Fein stands in opposition to the erosion of the limited sovereignty which the 26 Counties has", he said. A resolution calling for Sinn Fein to look into the possibilities of organising or taking part in a broad-based campaign on national freedom, sovereignty and neutrality was adopted.

PRISONERS

Seanna Breatnach (Sinn Fein POW Department) gave a report on the state of the struggle for republican prisoners incarcerated in Irish and British jails. He said that the emphasis was less now on harsh and inhuman prison conditions and had shifted to a longer-term struggle in which the plight of those serving life sentences is to the fore. "The primary aim of the British and Irish jailers of republicans remains to demoralise and psychologically defeat the POWs," he said.

Ongoing campaigns include those against strip searches, show-trials and extradition, and demanding repatriation for republican prisoners in England and release dates for Portlaoise lifers.

A wide range of other subjects were also discussed including; women, youth, emigration, Trade Unions, agriculture and social cuts.

There is little doubt that the range, depth and seriousness of the discussions at Sinn Fein's Ard Fheis are a reflection of the great strength and maturity of the Irish Republican Movement. A strength and maturity which bodes well for the future of the Irish revolution.

LENIN

LENIN ON WORKING IN REACTIONARY PARLIAMENTS

Gerry Adams MP, in his Presidential Address to the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis, said that the "question of electoralism as a means of revolutionary struggle has affected all struggles in areas where parliaments with universal suffrage existed." "As with all such questions", he said, "the answer lies in the people's attitudes to those institutions."

As long ago as 1920 Lenin wrote on this very issue of electoralism as a means of revolutionary struggle. Should revolutionaries work in reactionary parliaments, he asked. Lenin in 1920, like Gerry Adams today, concluded that the crucial factor was the attitude of the people to these reactionary parliaments. We reprint below extracts from Lenin on this question.

"You must not sink to the level of the masses, to the level of the backward strata of the class. That is incontestable. You must tell them the bitter truth. You are duty bound to call their parliamentary prejudices what they are - prejudices. But at the same time you must soberly follow the actual state of the class consciousness and preparedness of all the working people (not only their advanced elements)."

"Even if only a fairly large minority" of working people "follow the lead of the clergy" and reactionary political parties then "participation in parliamentary elections and in the struggle on the parliamentary rostrum is obligatory on the revolutionary party specifically for the purpose of educating the backward strata" of the working people, "and for the purpose of awakening and enlightening the underdeveloped, down-trodden masses. Whilst you lack the strength to do away with bourgeois parliaments and every other type of reactionary institutions, you must work within them because it is there that you will still find workers who are duped."

"The experience of many, if not all, revolutions, shows the great usefulness, during a revolution, of a combination of mass action outside of a reactionary parliament with an opposition sympathetic to (or, better still, directly supporting) the revolution within it." Lenin - "Left-Wing" Communism, an Infantile Disorder, 1920.

INDIAN WORKERS ASSOCIATION (GB) SALUTES IRISH LIBERATION MOVEMENT

The following article appeared in LALKAR (December 1986), newspaper of the INDIAN WORKERS ASSOCIATION (GB). Subscriptions to LALKAR can be obtained from Lalkar Publications Ltd., 14 Featherstone Road, Southall, Middlesex, cost £5 per annum.

SINN FEIN COUNCILLORS VISIT LEICESTER

Two Sinn Fein Councillors addressed a rally held at the Highfields Workshop Centre, Mainstone Road, Leicester on 20th October. More than 200 people attended to hear the councillors speak of the revolutionary situation in Ireland. They emphasised that the government of Southern Ireland was a stooge of British imperialism and they countered imperialist false propaganda against the Irish national liberation movement.

Their visit to Leicester prompted an outburst of frustrated anger from local Tory MPs Derek Spencer and Peter Bruinvels. These two gentlemen were clearly incensed that representatives of the people of Ireland should even be allowed in Leicester, let alone speak. So much for the hypocritical humbug of the spokesmen for imperialism when they urge the people of Ireland to use the "democratic process" to pursue their interests. When the people of Ireland do that and elect Sinn Fein councillors in the North of Ireland to represent them (in spite of all the intimidation and harassment that they face from the RUC and the British army during elections), these same spokesmen say, in the words of Peter Bruinvels:

"The visit by Sinn Fein is totally unacceptable, it is a tragedy that these people were let into the country, leave alone Leicester".

Peter Spencer said:

"I am asking for the Home Secretary to conduct a full enquiry to ensure that there has been no breach of the Prevention of Terrorism Act". He said that the visit was "an insult to the Royal Anglians who are daily facing murderous attacks by the IRA in Northern Ireland". These utterances show that, in spite of all denials, British imperialism is well aware that it is waging a war against the Irish

people, so much so that when the Irish people manage, against all the odds, to elect representatives that really do represent their interests, those representatives are treated as enemy agents.

At the rally the following message was delivered on behalf of the Indian Workers Association (GB):

"First of all let me salute the martyrs of the Irish national liberation movement on behalf of the Indian Workers Association (GB) Leicester Branch, and express our solidarity with our brothers in their struggle against British imperialism. The Irish people have been waging a struggle for the last eight centuries. Nobody can keep a nation under subjugation which dares to stand up and fight for its freedom, victory will come, and certainly it is not very far off.

"The days of British imperialism in Ireland are numbered and the day is not far off when we will join with our Irish comrades in their celebration of the defeat of the army of occupation in their country.

"Allow me to remind my friends in the British working class that it was a Labour government which ordered troops into Ireland in 1969, and since then countless people have suffered from the organised terror of the army of aggression and occupation. It is an irony of history that a majority of the British working class, under the flood of ruling class propaganda, do not recognise the real nature of the struggle of the brave Irish people. For that recognition is an acid test of the internationalism of the working class of this country. It is a tragedy that it has not given much support to the anti-imperialist struggle of the Irish people, which is a very important part of the struggle for the emancipation of the British working class.

"The blood of Bobby Sands and many other known and unknown martyrs of the Irish liberation struggle demands support from us. We welcome our Irish comrades.

"Long live the Irish liberation movement! Long live the glorious struggle of the Irish people! Long live the anti-imperialist struggle of the working and oppressed people of the world!"

LABOUR LOYALISTS

ANTI-IRISH LABOUR COUNCIL

In a clear response to the growing success of Irish solidarity work in the West of Scotland, the Labour Party-controlled Strathclyde Regional Council has imposed a "temporary" ban on what they term "sectarian" marches. This ban is directly aimed at pro-Republican demonstrations in the West of Scotland since Orange/loyalist parades are quaintly classed as "traditional" - despite their overtly anti-Irish, anti-democratic and sectarian nature. Thus Orange/loyalist parades will not be affected by this ban, but political, non-sectarian, pro-Republican marches will be the target.

In a letter sent out by Strathclyde Regional Council to Irish solidarity organisations it is stated:

"As you may know, there has been a considerable amount of concern expressed in recent months over the increasing number of processions throughout the Region and I have received a number of complaints from members of the public and Councillors from both Region and District. As a result of this, the Police and Fire Committee considered the situation at their meeting on 4th December, 1986 and agreed that organisations of a sectarian nature, affiliation, or association be removed, in the meantime, from the list of exempted organisations. Your organisation has been included in this category.....



COATBRIDGE REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN GLASGOW

I.W. Supporter

Become an IRELAND'S WAR Supporter. If you support the struggle of Ireland's freedom fighters against British oppression, and want to do something about it, become an IRELAND'S WAR Supporter. Together we can realise our aim of raising a voice which cannot be silenced or ignored.

SUPPORT AN IRISH P.O.W.

IRELAND'S WAR is being enthusiastically received by Irish POWs in jails in England and Ireland. However to send copies of IRELAND'S WAR and other anti-imperialist literature to all these prisoners costs a huge amount of money - but you can help. Your IRELAND'S WAR Supporters fee includes a donation to cover the cost of supplying an Irish POW with one year's copies of IRELAND'S WAR.

Fill in your name and address below and send £3 IRELAND'S WAR Supporters fee to FOOTPRINT, (IW), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G3 4DZ, SCOTLAND. (Cheques/POs payable to "FOOTPRINT"). You will receive a Supporters card and details of what you can do in your area. And an Irish POW will receive IRELAND'S WAR thanks to your support.

o o o

I enclose £3 to become an IRELAND'S WAR Supporter and to help an Irish POW receive IRELAND'S WAR.

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

IRELAND'S WAR (which received one of these highly insulting letters) totally and unreservedly rejects the Labour Council's claim that pro-Republicanism and support for Irish freedom and self-determination is "sectarian". These hypocritical Labour Councillors are quick enough to declare their alleged support for the ANC in South Africa (which quite rightly engages in armed struggle to secure freedom), but fall over themselves to be first in line to jump on the anti-Irish, anti-Republican bandwagon.

Indeed their banning of Irish Republican marches has more in common with apartheid's draconian attacks on basic freedoms in South Africa than with the just struggle of the ANC and the black masses.

IRELAND'S WAR condemns this undemocratic, anti-Irish stance of the Labour Party-controlled Strathclyde Regional Council and calls for the immediate lifting of the ban on pro-Republican marches.

KC.

MANCHESTER

According to the organisers, the annual Manchester Martyrs Commemoration was the best ever thanks to the massive support given by the Republican Bands Alliance (Scotland). Despite torrential rain over 1,500 people took part in the demonstration, twice as many as the previous year.

The Republican Bands taking part included the Sons of Ireland, Rising Phoenix, Kevin Barry, Andersonstown Martyrs, Billy Reid Ronnie Bunting/Moel Little, Coatbridge Republican and James Connolly Flute Bands.

IRELAND'S WAR supporters from Scotland were honoured to travel to Manchester with the Sons of Ireland Republican Flute Band. Together we marched at the end of the demonstration forming the 'legion of the rearguard'!

A handful of firework-throwing loyalists/fascists tried to disrupt the march. But their 'protest' turned into a damp squib when faced with the steel-like determination of the Republican Bands from Scotland.

A rally following the demonstration opened with a statement being read from Women POWs in Maghaberry:

"We reflect on their memory (the Manchester Martyrs - IW), with pride, and we admire all you present today for your stand in commemorating them. It is an unwelcome reminder to the British government that the repressive legislation imposed upon the Irish people down through the centuries remains today as futile and unacceptable as ever.

"Allen, Larkin and O'Brien are but three of the many Irish patriots who have died and been imprisoned in Britain.....Many of our comrades languish in prisons throughout England today and we ask that in honouring our dead comrades, you remember also those men and women who are presently incarcerated there.

"For ourselves, we would ask that you lend your support to ending strip searching which has been going on since 1982. Our comrades Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson are also bearing the brunt of this demoralising and inhuman procedure."



SPEAKER FROM THE PAKISTANI WORKERS ASSOCIATION

A speaker from the Pakistani Workers Association told of the struggle of Asian people against

over 200 years of foreign occupation. She saw the Irish people as their brothers and sisters in struggle. The Pakistani Workers Association expressed its support for the armed struggle in Ireland against their common enemy - British imperialism.

Eileen Magee, wife of imprisoned IRA Volunteer Patrick Magee, speaking on behalf of relatives of POWs in English jails demanded the repatriation of Republican Prisoners to jails in Ireland. Refusal to do so, she said, was a punishment on the many families who suffer as a result.



ON THE PLATFORM - CHRISTINA KEENAN, DAUGHTER OF IRISH POW BRIAN KEENAN; EILEEN MAGEE AND PAT TREANOR

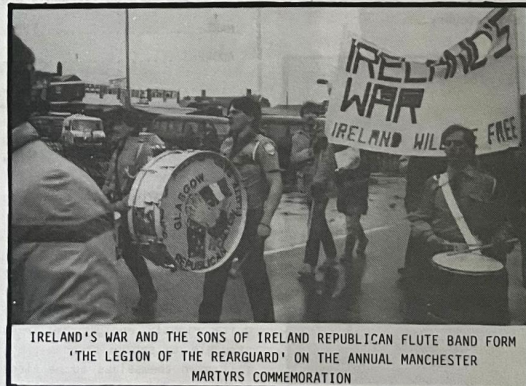
Monaghan Sinn Fein County Councillor Pat Treanor told the rally:

"There are many parallels between the lives, work and deaths of people like Seamus McElwain, Jim McKernan and Danny Doherty. The state has changed but the conditions remain the same.

"Sinn Fein's strategy to achieve a British withdrawal and establish a democratic socialist republic is to continue to support the military campaign of the IRA in the Six Counties, to build a political organisation in the Six Counties and the 26 Counties and co-ordination with groups throughout the world who agree with freedom and self-determination for the Irish people.....We will win."

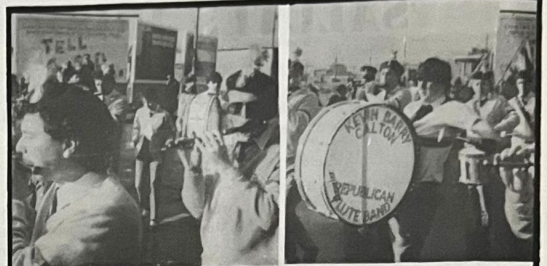
The Kevin Barry Republican Flute Band closed the rally with the playing of the National Anthem.

IRELAND'S WAR would like to express its thanks to the Sons of Ireland Republican Flute Band for their warm welcome to



IRELAND'S WAR AND THE SONS OF IRELAND REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND FORM 'THE LEGION OF THE REARGUARD' ON THE ANNUAL MANCHESTER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION

KEVIN BARRY



THE KEVIN BARRY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND LEADS THE MARCH THROUGH THE GORBALS

On the weekend following the 66th anniversary of the execution by the British of Kevin Barry, the Kevin Barry Republican Flute Band led a demonstration through the Gorbals area of Glasgow.

This was the first march through this area for many years and it received a warm and friendly welcome from local people. Taking part in the parade were: the Kevin Barry, Andersonstown Martyrs, Sons of Ireland, Sean Treacy, Coatbridge Republican, John 'Bap' Kelly, H-Block Martyrs, Young Republican and James Connolly Republican Bands.

Throughout the demonstration the police tried to harass and disrupt the Bands. In particular the police took exception to the flying of the Scottish Saltire by the Andersonstown Martyrs Republican Flute Band and continually pushed and shoved the flag bearer. As always the Republican Bands showed that they were made of sterner stuff and refused to be cowed by the police.

The march was brought to a close with the playing of the Irish National Anthem by the Kevin Barry Republican Flute Band.

PG.

SEE ALSO PAGE 9



THE ANDERSONSTOWN MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND

us and their hospitality, and to congratulate the Republican Band Alliance (Scotland) on their tremendous turn-out in Manchester. The Republican Bands are showing that they are not only the centre of Irish solidarity work in Scotland, but also helping to spearhead Irish solidarity work in England.

MD.



RONNIE BUNTING NOEL LITTLE REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND

IRELAND'S WAR ADVISES:

ARREST AND DETENTION

For your own protection and that of your friends, relatives and comrades - if arrested or detained: be prepared to give your name, address, date of birth, place of birth and your age. **DO NOT GIVE ANY OTHER INFORMATION.** Ask for a lawyer and for your own doctor if you need one. Other than this **REMAIN TOTALLY SILENT. SAY NOTHING. SILENCE IS YOUR ONLY PROTECTION.**

REPATRIATE IRISH P.O.W.s.

NEWCASTLE: FRANKLAND: DURHAM

It was just another Saturday, or so the citizens of Newcastle and Durham thought until the hordes from north of the border, aided and abetted by various sympathetic groups and individuals descended upon them. The air was soon ringing with the tunes of the Republican Bands and the slogans and chants of the marchers. The occasion was the demonstration in support of the Irish Republican POWs in England and the demand for their repatriation. The main organisers were the Glasgow POW Committee and the Republican Band Alliance (Scotland), and supported by the Wolfe Tone, Crossmaglen Patriots, Kevin Barry and Spirit of Freedom Republican Flute Bands along with many political groups including IRELAND'S WAR supporters.

Right through the centre of Newcastle the point was made that the Prisoners did not stand alone and the Tri-colours and placards left the people in no doubt why we were there. The march proceeded through the town centre and then across the Tyne Bridge to Gateshead where, after the playing of the National Anthem, the travelling show got on the road and headed towards Frankland and Durham jails, leaving the people of Newcastle plenty to think about.

Forty minutes later the convoy descended on Frankland jail and within minutes the countryside surrounding the prison was alive with the music cheers and slogans proclaiming support for the POWs. Chants directed at the bleak prison wall and at the Brit state included demands for repatriation, freedom for all the Prisoners and victory to the IRA, and this was only the moderate elements! Reports from some of the POWs in Frankland jail have said that this vocal and noisy demonstration was clearly heard from within and really gave a boost to their morale. For 40 minutes this protest continued around the jail and after a final flourish from the Bands, the march proceeded to Durham. From leaving

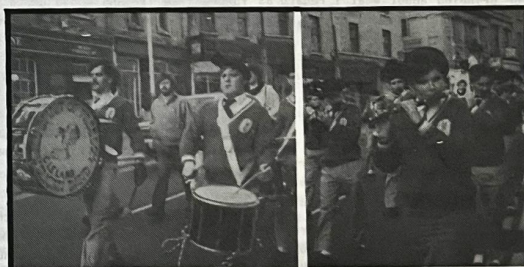
Frankland the wild life of the North East of England was treated to almost an hour of Republican tunes as the parade made its way through the Durham countryside, before reaching the town of Durham itself. Once again the afternoon shoppers stood by in amazement as the march wound through the town centre to the jail. Right up to the gates of the prison the parade moved and once again the Bands played and everyone sang and shouted their support. Still not finished, we marched around the jail to a rally in a local hall.



IRELAND'S WAR SUPPORTERS PROUDLY MARCH BEHIND THE WOLFE TONE REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND IN NEWCASTLE. THE REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE (SCOTLAND) AND THE IRISH REPUBLICAN POW COMMITTEE (GLASGOW), THE MAIN REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS OF SCOTLAND'S IRISH COMMUNITY, ARE NOT ONLY THE CENTRE OF IRISH SOLIDARITY WORK IN SCOTLAND, BUT ARE ALSO HELPING TO SPEARHEAD IRISH SOLIDARITY WORK IN ENGLAND.

The speakers here all proclaimed their support for the POWs and their families. The speaker from the Republican Band Alliance (Scotland) started by saying that we supported the Prisoners when they were on active service so we must continue to stand behind them. Next Isobel Anderson, sister of POW Martina, urged the packed audience to actively campaign against the barbaric treatment of the POWs and especially strip searching. She graphically described the use of this brutal practice on her sister and on other women Prisoners in England and Ireland and asked those present to do everything possible to oppose this torture.

The next speaker was Anne-Marie Keenan, daughter of POW Brian (Leicester), who gave a moving and very effective speech on what the relatives have to endure on their visits to England. She emphasised that the Prisoners demanded repatriation not for their own benefit but for their families, to prevent the hardship and harassment inflicted by the British government. Anne-Marie closed by pledging that the relatives would continue their struggle for as long as necessary and urged those here to actively campaign for the demands of the POWs.



SPIRIT OF FREEDOM REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN NEWCASTLE.

Messages of solidarity from the Irish Prisoners Appeal and Viraj Mendis (a Sri Lankan refugee who is facing deportation from Britland and certain execution) were read out, and the final speaker was Dave Temple from the Durham N.U.M. He said how he and his fellow miners had seen the police occupation of pit villages, suffered imprisonment for their political opposition to the government and had themselves demonstrated outside Durham jail with brass bands in support of their 12 imprisoned comrades. Too much time had been wasted, he went on, while the working class here have been separated from the Irish revolution. He gave a pledge to unite with the struggle in Ireland and to work in the Trade Union Movement to show people that the two struggles are really one and the enemy is one - the British state. He also made clear his support for the Political Prisoners and warned that if no heed was taken of the repression used against the Irish people then the people of this island would soon be experiencing the same situation.

IRELAND'S WAR congratulates the Irish Republican POW Committee (Glasgow) and the Republican Band Alliance (Scotland) in the organisation of this magnificent demonstration. Once again they have shown themselves to be in the vanguard of Irish solidarity work here. As one leading Republican activist said: 'This was the best prison picket ever.'

5 GM.

SMASH THE P.T.A.

Under the terms of the racist, anti-Irish Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), Irish people can be kept out of 'Britain' by the use of "exclusion orders". These exclusion orders can then be renewed by the Home Secretary every 5 years. A Belfast Republican who had been 'excluded' from Britland in 1979 came over to visit friends in Glasgow and to watch Celtic play, thinking his exclusion order had expired. Unfortunately, unknown to him it had been renewed and he was still an 'undesirable' visitor to the city. He was arrested and taken into police custody. To add insult to injury he was then fined £200 at Glasgow sheriff court and immediately deported back to Ireland.

The James Connolly Republican Flute Band from the Govan area of Glasgow decided that the British state's latest use of the PTA would be answered in true Republican style and organised a fund-raising social to raise the cost of the fine. IRELAND'S WAR congratulates the James Connolly Republican Flute Band in resisting the PTA and we were proud to accept their invitation to attend the social. "We mean to be free, and in every enemy of tyranny we recognise a brother, wherever be his birthplace; in every enemy of freedom we also recognise our enemy, though he were as Irish as our hills." James Connolly.

KC.



INTERVIEW WITH GERRY ADAMS M.P.

The following interview with Sinn Féin President GERRY ADAMS MP was conducted two days after Sinn Féin's historic Ard Fheis (Annual Conference) in 1986 and first appeared in the newspaper ASIAN TIMES. We thank ASIAN TIMES for permitting us to reprint the interview in IRELAND'S WAR.

ASIAN TIMES: If I begin by asking you to what extent do you see the national liberation struggle of the Irish people being similar to, or the same as, the various national liberation struggles that are going on in the Third World countries?

GERRY ADAMS MP: Well the mode of struggle in relation to tactics and I suppose strategies would be different, but in terms of the conditions in which it is fought, of colonialism either in its traditional meaning or neo-colonialism, or even, if I can use the term, internal colonialism, I think that they all share that common condition; in terms of their being struggles in pursuit of national independence, liberation and sovereignty, and in terms of them having two major ingredients, that is armed struggle on the one hand and popular struggle on the other. Although those two may manifest themselves in different ways, they are similar also. I also think, of course, in terms of the solidarity between national liberation struggles, the common interest shared by us against the Thatcher regime or the Reagan administration. It's no coincidence that they find common cause in terms of 'Star Wars', in terms of NATO, in terms of being pro-'nuke' and in terms of refusal to impose sanctions on South Africa. They all have a common political philosophy. They are all frightened of the potential within national liberation struggles for bringing about what I regard as the only true internationalism, that is a free federation of free nations. All those things are common threads through all the struggles throughout the world which are being waged for national liberation.

ASIAN TIMES: To move on, what contribution do you see the struggle in Ireland making to the overall development of the world situation?

GERRY ADAMS MP: The Irish struggle has consistently drawn succour and lessons from similar struggles elsewhere. I think that, for example, the first manifestation of separatism and republicanism was influenced by the French revolution of 1789.

I think in this century the 1916 Rising was the first armed rising against the British Empire and it was the spark that gave the lead to smouldering struggles within the British Empire, whether it was India or colonies in Africa.

I think it's fairly unique that, for example, if you look at universities in Africa and Asia today you will find more of the history of that period being taught than you would find, for obvious reasons, being taught in universities in Dublin.

I think the same thing is true today. The Irish struggle takes succour from the successes of the revolution in Nicaragua, from the



success of African countries like Zimbabwe and the ongoing struggles in South Africa, as well as the success of the people of Vietnam. These are all things which assist us, give us courage and encouragement and I would hope that we for our part, living in Western Europe, fairly close to the colonial power and in a consumer society without all the obvious forms of deprivation and poverty that one sees in the Third World countries, can give succour, encouragement and courage to brothers and sisters struggling elsewhere.

NON-ALIGNMENT

ASIAN TIMES: With regard to the Non-Aligned Movement, Sinn Féin as a party supports this movement and a future free Ireland would certainly seek membership there. But what attitude would you take on this matter with regard to the present 26 counties' government. Would you wish them to reorientate their foreign policy whereby they might apply for membership of the Non-Aligned Movement? Is that the kind of demand that you would put forward?

GERRY ADAMS MP: The demands in relation to foreign policy that we've made on the Dublin government have fallen on deaf ears because obviously the Dublin government is only a management. What we had in the counter-revolution of 70 years ago was the establishment by the British of a branch. There was a change of managers in Dublin and they reflect the interests of the British, and to some extent the American NATO bloc.

We believe that Irish foreign policy, even in its diluted form, even within a 26 county partition state, should be progressive and independent. We believe that they should be to the fore in opposing the colonialism of the EEC, instead of being a very poor, underdeveloped member of that club for ex-colonial powers. We believe that they should be well outside of NATO and giving it no succour. We have opposed the Joint European Act which the Dublin government has signed and which is up for ratification between now and Christmas.

We believe that they should be to the fore because of the goodwill that Ireland enjoys - or we're told that Ireland enjoys - and because of our past, in opposing the war mongering of Ronnie Reagan. They should be coming out pointedly against USA expansionism into Central and South America.

Ireland, by virtue of our past, by virtue of our actual make-up as a nation naturally finds its place alongside emerging nations and small nations, in other words the peoples and nations who make up the Non-Aligned Movement.

Although we would make the demand, we would have no hope of Dublin going in that direction. But it's certainly a direction that we would like to see Ireland going in and we think that our opinion on this reflects the attitude of the vast majority of Irish people, that is for Irish neutrality in a positive sense, Irish foreign policy being independent of all the big power blocs. This would be mutually useful for ourselves and similar small nations.

NATO

ASIAN TIMES: How urgent do you see it as being to prevent the full integration of Ireland into the NATO bloc?

GERRY ADAMS MP: The situation at the moment is that this part of Ireland where we are speaking, the six counties, by virtue of Britain's colonial hold, is actually part of NATO.

In the 26 counties what passes for neutrality is an illusion not just in terms of national sovereignty, but in terms even of 26 counties neutrality. We've had the Americans being given special facilities at Shannon International Airport, which the Minister responsible admitted was a slight dilution of sovereignty. We have had numerous facilities given to them in terms of overflights and so on. We have had the refusal by the Dublin government to oppose Sellafield, and Sellafield as you know makes plutonium for the Trident.

Besides we have Fitzgerald being part of the Bilderberg Pact, a secret organisation of international conspirators.

There have been serious attempts made, which will be increased, I believe, in the future, to influence

Irish public opinion, to make it seem that NATO membership, this dependency factor, has become more acceptable.

Finally we have, as I mentioned in passing, the fact that the Dublin government have signed a treaty, the Joint European Act, which in fact does away with any vestige of sovereignty and which makes Ireland, which is the only EEC country which is not presently a member of NATO, actually a member of NATO, as far as I can see.

So it's a very urgent task, and it's a demand which not just Republicans need to raise, but democrats and liberals and any progressive person or organisation at all must raise the demand of neutrality in foreign affairs, neutrality in a positive sense, certainly with no time for NATO or for that matter for any large bloc, such as that of the Warsaw Treaty countries.

UNITED FRONT

ASIAN TIMES: The armed struggle being waged by the IRA is a clear example of opposition to imperialism. But it strikes me that there are other things happening in this country which, whilst they may not be so clearcut, are also in essence struggles against imperialism, whether those are the contradictions of farmers with the EEC, trades unionists against multinationals, the Sellafield anti-'nuke' question which you have mentioned, the struggle around the Irish language.....To what extent do you see it as being both possible and necessary to draw all those things together into a common anti-imperialist thrust throughout the whole of Irish social and political life?

GERRY ADAMS MP: I think that if it was possible to draw them all together and fuse them all together, that would be the optimum situation.

However, it may be very impractical to do that simply because of the effects of partition, when partition has in fact distorted every single aspect of life in this country. The actuality of partition is different in the six counties with its obvious apparatus of a British war machine, while in the 26 counties they have all the symbols of freedom but not the actual substance of freedom.

So the idea of bringing all of those threads together might not be



PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN

actually practical but I don't think that we have to worry very much whether they are all threaded or fused together. What we have to do is to try and encourage and to co-operate with any individual or organisation which is battling against any of the fronts of imperialism, whether it manifests itself in the cultural campaign, whether it's an economic struggle or the women's struggle, whether it's young people against unemployment or people fighting for housing, whether it's armed struggle in the six counties; that type of development, while not necessarily trying to bring it all into the centre, needs to be encouraged, supported and co-operated with, and what Republicans have to do, while encouraging and co-operating with those people, is to do so on their own terms and also to try and put it into the context that the reason for all of these failings in Irish society is because Irish society, north and south, is being run not in the interests of the Irish people but in the interest of outside powers.

At some point along the road when trying to deal with the specific that somebody might be involved in, they are going to have to confront the reality that only by getting rid of imperialism will they be able to actually take control of their own destinies. In the meantime they can make gains, and those gains should be grabbed and should be wrested from the establishment. But in the final analysis we can only have social, economic, cultural and political equality and a demilitarisation of the situation when imperialism is defeated.

ASIAN TIMES: If you take an analogy from a foreign country it's always unsatisfactory in various respects. But having said that, would you envisage, perhaps, an organisation something like the United Democratic Front in South Africa emerging in Ireland at some point in the future, with Sinn Fein participating in it, or indeed playing a central role in it?

GERRY ADAMS MP: It is very difficult to take any similar situation elsewhere and one can't underestimate the effects of partition. I don't know and couldn't say in what way such a struggle will manifest itself. But what I have said on numerous occasions is that there is a need for a broad unity of anti-imperialists, progressives, nationalists and Republicans in either agreed short-term objectives, setting aside issues on which they may disagree, or in longer term objectives where agreement can be found. Although it's seventeen years into this phase of the struggle, I think that what the Republicans have to do is to open up the debate, and what we have done is to open up the debate. Let's see in two or three years time how that manifests itself. But we are not opposed to such a development. In fact we see it as a necessary development, that the mass of the people and the bulk

of the organisations which are progressive must come together within some sort of framework of either short term or long term demands and become the mass organisers of the Irish people. How that works out in the future I couldn't say, but it is something that we have tried to encourage, and it is a debate that is going on in Sinn Fein at the moment.

BROAD POLITICAL GAINS

ASIAN TIMES: The decision that was taken at the weekend with regard to changing the policy on abstentionism - what possibilities do you see opening up for Sinn Fein and what effects do you think that will have on Irish political life?

GERRY ADAMS MP: As I said at the weekend, in the short term we have to see it basically in terms of broad political gains.

In parts of the 26 counties, Sinn Fein is fairly underdeveloped, fairly isolated, we suffer the effects of censorship, of state police harassment, some of our members in fact are suffering from self-isolation to some small degree,

the impunity he did previously, because what he wants to do is to monopolise not just the debate, but the conditions of the debate, and what Sinn Fein will be saying is that if you want to have a debate on the issue, if you're not afraid to discuss the problem, then let's have a fair debate, let's have our say.

Those are just off the top of the head examples. But the immediate thing should be seen in terms of having adopted a clear strategy, suitable to the conditions in both the six and 26 counties; and that is building a radical, broad and relevant alternative on a 32 county basis, that is in both partitionist set-ups, and in the six counties with the spearhead of armed struggle against the direct manifestations of British occupation in pursuance of Irish independence.

ASIAN TIMES: You said before and during the weekend that there would be no split in Sinn Fein. In the light of what's happened, do you still say there's been no split?

GERRY ADAMS MP: No, there has been a tiny splinter. If one considers that there were upwards of two thousand

the assembled group loudly applauded and cheered. On the one hand they are saying that they disagree with the IRA, that the IRA is wrong, while on the other hand they are saying that they support the IRA.

I think it's a very sad attempt to recreate the conditions of 1970 when those conditions have changed totally.

BLACK STRUGGLES

ASIAN TIMES: There are a lot of similarities between the struggle in Ireland and the struggles of black communities in Britain. There are, in fact, so many things that one could pick out. For example, it's no coincidence that Sir Kenneth Newman was here and is now in London. Plastic bullets are coming to Britain and so on. What potential do you see for building links between the Irish people and the black communities in Britain? And what sort of forms would you like to see that taking?

GERRY ADAMS MP: Any tours that Sinn Fein members have undertaken in Britain, including myself, have involved contacts with the black community. One of the most enjoyable parts of the tour of London that I did was to be taken around Brixton and to meet the people who were involved in the uprising there, and to meet the political and community groups who represent the black community. So there is a natural solidarity.

We also find that on delegations from Britain to Ireland a sizeable section of the visitors are people involved in the Asian or black struggles in Britain.

I think that we can perform a very useful role, not just in general support in opposition to racism, but also in terms of educating people as to the methods and techniques used in terms of policing, control of population, in terms of undermining radical leaderships, in terms of trying to buy off the soft ring of support that all these struggles have.

Either last year or the year before a speaker at the Ard Fheis from one of the Asian groups in Britain received, quite spontaneously, a standing ovation that lasted for two or three minutes.

That shows the identification of the general membership with the black community in Britain.

SOUTH AFRICA

ASIAN TIMES: Particularly through your work on the councils, Sinn Fein has been highlighting the question of South Africa and stressing solidarity with the African National Congress (ANC). What response has that met from your base of support?

GERRY ADAMS MP: It's very, very good. There's a great affinity, I suppose because of television. Its immediacy brings you news of 13 black people killed the night before, of riots and police murders in black townships.



We have not had a consistent record of fighting elections. We will be coming to the electorate not having fought a general election, apart from one or two interventions this decade, for perhaps two decades before then, so it will not be in terms of actual immediate gains in votes or seats. But those will come in time through consistent work. But there will be broad political gains. For example, the first reaction of the government was to say that all Irish political parties should repudiate Sinn Fein. These are the self-styled 'democrats'. There is a small political gain made by Republicans. We have always known them to be reactionary and undemocratic. Now we have them clearly coming out, despite the fact that many people may welcome Sinn Fein's change of policy. We have Fitzgerald coming out and saying that we repudiate this party - so that is one small gain. The censorship of Section 31 has to come clearly into focus. Fitzgerald, of course, can keep Section 31, but he can't do so with

people with accreditations at the Ard Fheis and there were just over 100 people at the West Country Hotel that some of those were not even at the Ard Fheis, that the press - even the establishment press - are saying that only between 30 and 40 delegates left from over 600 delegates then we can have a proper perspective.

I actually think it's sad that they felt they had to leave. They were given every opportunity not to leave and we are still saying that the door for them to come back into the Republican struggle is open. So, I see it is a small splinter which in time will be exposed and which hopefully in time will realise its mistake and come back into the struggle.

ASIAN TIMES: So you don't think that the group that has broken away has any potential for growth or any relevance?

GERRY ADAMS MP: No. You can even see the contradictions within the group. For example, when a pressman asked whether they support the IRA,

We have declared West Belfast an 'Apartheid Free Zone', and Sinn Féin co-operates with the local anti-apartheid movement in picketting, leafletting shops and requesting shopkeepers to withdraw South African produce and encouraging people to initiate individual sanctions where they personally refuse to use South African products. We have also staged a number of exhibitions, video sessions and talks on the issue of South Africa, not just in West Belfast but in other parts of the six counties, and interestingly enough in the 26 counties as well.

In County Leitrim, Nelson Mandela was awarded a status equivalent to being made a citizen and the South African ambassador in London was moved to write a letter of protest. We raised the same proposal in Derry and the SDLP opposed the Sinn Féin proposal. We raised it in Strabane where it was passed, and recently in Omagh the President of the Anti-Apartheid Movement was brought to the District Council where a presentation was made to him, acting on Nelson Mandela's behalf.

I think these are some indications that it is not just Sinn Féin on its own - there is a general groundswell of support, goodwill and solidarity.

I have now often referred to Republican funerals which are just saturated, controlled and set upon by the British crown forces as being akin to the funerals of anti-apartheid activists in black townships.

I mentioned in the Presidential address that it was no coincidence that when Connor Cruise O'Brien was being chased out of South Africa, the students were shouting: "Victory to the ANC! Victory to the IRA!"

"WE CAN WIN"

ASIAN TIMES: What attitude, if any, do you have to the forthcoming general election in Britain?

GERRY ADAMS MP: We have an Electoral Strategy Committee which is considering the situation in terms of our own involvement here in the six counties.

Who the British people elect is a matter for themselves. It's almost a choice between Tweedledum and Tweedledee between the main parties. In a general sense they are bourgeois parties. All of them, regardless of their differences on the distribution of wealth in Britain, have a common colonial attitude towards Ireland and the election of one government as opposed to another government won't make an awful lot of difference to people living in this colony. Neil Kinnock and Margaret Thatcher have a similar policy, as do the SDP leadership.

ASIAN TIMES: At one point during the weekend you said "We didn't join the movement yesterday". In your Presidential address you made some reference to your family background.

The position that you hold as President of Sinn Féin must place an enormous stress on you. I would imagine that it is more or less impossible for you to lead any sort of normal life and that is something that is going to continue for the foreseeable future. What is it above all that motivates you to continue doing what you're doing?

GERRY ADAMS MP: I think that, without sounding overly patriotic or patronising, it's the actuality of the cruelty of the society in which I live.

When I travel abroad, even to the social democratic countries, I say to myself, "Why can't our people have this chance?" Where we're sitting now (the Sinn Féin offices on the Falls Road - IW) we're surrounded by 86% unemployment, kids with no intellectual future, dole queues, British troops.

When you go into the 26 counties it's the same thing, 200,000 people unemployed, no control over our own destinies, as a nation or even as individuals.

Therefore I think that ordinary people - and I would consider myself

AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS.

Christmas message from the leadership of the Republican Movement

THE LEADERSHIP of the Republican Movement sends seasonal and New Year greetings to imprisoned comrades and to their families on this, the 17th consecutive Christmas in which republican political prisoners have been incarcerated by Britain.

In 1970, republicans were imprisoned in Crumlin Road and Armagh jails. In 1971, Long Kesh, Magilligan Camp and the prison ship *Maidstone* were opened for the internment of republicans. Mountjoy, Portlaoise and Limerick were added by successive Dublin governments as they joined Britain in its efforts to maintain partition. And in recent years, US governments have prosecuted and jailed domiciled Irish republican patriots for their efforts to support the just cause of Irish freedom.

From 1971, republicans have been imprisoned in various jails in Britain itself as the struggle has been taken to the heart of the imperialist power. In 1976, Britain introduced the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in a major attempt to break the struggle on the outside by breaking the political commitment and courage of our comrades on the inside.

In 1986, Britain opened Maghaberry - another acknowledgement that the armed struggle continues. Every jail mentioned has seen hunger-strikes and deaths, and the most courageous of escapes and escape bids.

Comrades, the Irish Republican Army on the outside of the barbed wire stands in amazement and salutes the integrity and bravery and unity of its prisoners, many of whom may be experiencing second and third terms of imprisonment.

The length of our struggle and Britain's refusal to leave Ireland in peace has inflicted much pain and deprivation on prisoners

and their families in a way never experienced by our Movement before. We must always look afresh at the problems experienced by prisoners and their families and the methods and devices used by penal administrations to sow discontent and disunity, methods ultimately aimed at breaking the republicanism and solidarity of the prisoners.

The suffering and hardship imposed upon families by the unprecedented stretches of imprisonment served by loved ones is a major weapon in Britain's armoury which it will put to great use.

Morale is a vital key to our success. And the key to high morale is successful IRA operations, the prosecution of widespread operations, the destruction of barracks, the ambushing of crown forces and a reversal of the carefully-fostered policy of normalisation pursued by Britain.

1987 will see real tangible successes in the war of national liberation. We have the correct strategy and with the full authority which we command we will be pursuing the war and the revolutionary struggle as recently endorsed by the active service personnel of Ogligh na hEireann.

We face a ruthless enemy; republicans face new South African style laws aimed at smashing political dissent. The burials of our fallen dead are desecrated by the British army and the RUC, but still we carry on.

In 1987, we will be calling for greater sacrifices. In 1987, republicans must find and tap new reservoirs of support. In 1987, the British government and the British media will not be able to ignore the chapters of Irish resistance about to unfold.

Nollaig shona daoibh.

P. O'Neill,
Irish Republican Publicity Bureau,
Dublin.



to be hopefully an ordinary person - can stick this out.

There are also all sorts of small examples which would keep me going. For example, last week on Thursday I saw a 75 year old woman in hair rollers and an 'Elsie Tanner'-type apron beating a six foot, two inch British marine.

Also, my family, without being patronising, probably suffer more than I do because I am forever busy. The day is not long enough. The weeks are not long enough. They

have the worries of the occupational risk of assassination and so on.

But I think that just being part of an actual living struggle, which is not abstract or theoretical, is an inspiration. And we can win it.

If I didn't think we could win it, I wouldn't waste my time.

ASIAN TIMES is published, printed and distributed by Hansib Publishing Ltd., Tower House, 139/149 Fonthill Road, London N4 3HF.

THE LAST POST

BOOK REVIEW: THE "LAST POST", AMERICAN EDITION.

"This book should be in every household, in every school, college, library and university in the country. It should be with our exiles. It is more than a record of dates, places and graves, it is an annal of our fight for freedom and a memoir in itself to those who lost their lives in that fight."

So wrote veteran Republican Joe Clarke about the 1976 edition of the LAST POST. Now much enlarged and including information about the struggle in the US and the period 1976-85, Joe Clarke's assessment of the LAST POST, compiled by the NATIONAL GRAVES ASSOCIATION, is truer than ever.

The LAST POST is first of all invaluable as a record of all those Irishmen and Irishwomen who have sacrificed their lives since 1913 in the struggle for Irish national liberation. Details are given in chronological order, and there is a good index too. But there are also lengthy sections which give the history of the different stages of the struggle in Ireland and the supporting struggle in the US. And the book concentrates especially on the period 1969-85, and on all the 22 Hunger Strikers of the century. Many stories are recounted which throw light on the course of the struggle and the calibre of those who took part in it.

The book begins with a brief history of the NATIONAL GRAVES ASSOCIATION, an organisation which not only provides and maintains monuments to those killed in the war of liberation, but campaigns for remains to be released from prison interment and reburied in the Republican Plots in the graveyards of Ireland. The effect of its work is to promote knowledge of Irish history, respect for its dead and determination to bring the war to a swift and successful conclusion and so end this terror against the best and noblest of Ireland's sons and daughters.

Then follow historical sections dealing with American Graves and the struggle in the US, the Rising, Tan Wars and the Civil War (1913-23), Internment and the Bombing Campaign (1924-49), the Fifties Campaign (1956-62) and the final struggle (1969-). These historical sections provide an excellent basic framework for those wishing to understand what has led up to the events of the present stage of the struggle now that the Republican Movement is poised to resume its earlier position as the leading political party of all Ireland and the acknowledged representative of the needs and aspirations of all the working people of Ireland.

Do you know who the Mollie Malones were? Or who was massacred at Ballyseedy Cross? Or why Brave Tom Williams was hung in Belfast Jail? Would you like to know the details of the attack on Bessborough barracks in 1957 where Sean Sabhat of Garryowen and Fergal O'Hanlon died? Can you name all of the 22 who have given their lives on Hunger Strike? You can find all this and much more in the LAST POST. There are generous illustrations too, including portraits of the leaders of the 1916 Rising, of the 22 Hunger Strikers and pictures of monuments and historical scenes.

Anyone reading this book must be struck by the iron determination it reveals in all generations of the Republican Movement in the face of brutal repression and bitter suffering. The book is a memorial to the spirit of resistance and an assurance of victory in that it is clear that defeat is impossible. Buy it and read it for it shows graphically the leading role of the armed struggle as the cutting edge of political victory and freedom for Ireland.

The American Edition of the LAST POST is available from: NATIONAL GRAVES ASSOCIATION, 162 PRESTON STREET, RIDGEFIELD PARK, N.J. 07660, USA. Cost: \$14 US DOLLARS, incl. postage and packaging.

GM.



KEVIN BARRY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND. SEE "KEVIN BARRY", PAGE 4.

KEVIN BARRY

"THE LAST POST"

'BARRY, KEVIN. 8 FLEET STREET, DUBLIN. EXECUTED MOUNTJOY JAIL 1.11.20. BURIED MOUNTJOY PRISON YARD, DUBLIN.'

THE SWORN STATEMENT OF KEVIN BARRY.

I, Kevin Barry, of 58, South Circular Road, in the County of Dublin, Medical Student, aged 18 years and upwards solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

On the 20th of September, 1920, I was arrested in Upper Church Street by a Sergeant of the 2nd Duke of Wellington's Regiment and was brought under escort to the North Dublin Union, now occupied by military. I was brought into the guard room and searched. I was then moved to the defaulter's room by an escort with a Sergeant-Major, who all belonged to 1st Lancashire Fusiliers. I was then handcuffed.

About 15 minutes after I was put into the defaulter's room, two Commissioned Officers of the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers came in. They were accompanied by 3 Sergeants of the same unit. A military policeman who had been in the room since I entered it remained. One of the officers asked me my name, which I gave. He then asked me for the names of my companions in the raid. I refused to give them. He tried to persuade me to give the names and I persisted in refusing. He then sent a Sergeant for a bayonet. When it was brought in the Sergeant was ordered by this officer to point the bayonet at my stomach. The same questions as to the names and addresses of my companions were repeated with the same results. The Sergeant was then ordered to turn my face to the wall and point the bayonet to my back. The Sergeant then said he would run the bayonet into me if I did not tell. The bayonet was then removed and I was turned round again.

This officer then said that if I still persisted in this attitude he would turn me out to the men in the barrack square and he supposed I knew what that meant with the men in their present temper. I said nothing. He ordered the Sergeants to put me face down on the floor and twist my arm. I was pushed down onto the floor after my handcuffs were removed. When I lay on the floor one of the Sergeants knelt on the small of my back, the other two placed one foot each on my back and left shoulder and the man who knelt on me twisted my right arm, holding it by the wrist with one hand while he held my hair with the other to pull back my head. The arm was twisted from the elbow joint. This continued to the best of my knowledge for 5 minutes. It was very painful. The first officer was standing near my feet and the officer who accompanied him was still present.

During the twisting of my arm the first officer continued to question me for the names and addresses of my companions and the names of my Company Commander or any other officer I knew.

As I still refused to answer these questions I was let up and handcuffed. A civilian came in and he repeated the same questions with the same results. He informed me that if I gave all the information I knew, I could get off. I was then left in the company of the military policeman. The two officers, three sergeants and civilian all left together.

I could certainly identify the officer who directed the proceedings and put the questions. I am not sure of the others except the Sergeant with the bayonet. My arm was medically treated by an officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps attached to the North Dublin Union the following morning and by the prison hospital orderly afterwards for 4 or 5 days.

I was visited by the Court Martial Officer last night and he read the confirmation of sentence of death by hanging to be executed on Monday next and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act, 1835.

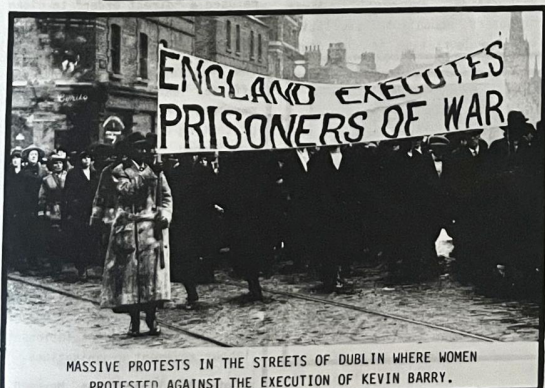
Declared and subscribed before me at Mountjoy Prison in the County of the City of Dublin, 28th October, 1920.

(Signed)

Myles Keogh,

a justice of the peace for said County.

KEVIN GERARD BARRY.



MASSIVE PROTESTS IN THE STREETS OF DUBLIN WHERE WOMEN PROTESTED AGAINST THE EXECUTION OF KEVIN BARRY.

letters

IRELAND'S WAR welcomes letters from its readers. This is your paper - let us know what you think. Write to: FOOTPRINT (IW), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ, SCOTLAND. (Long letters may have to be edited for reasons of space).

CROSSMAGLEN

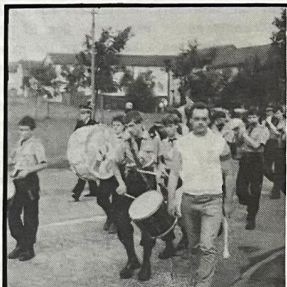
A Chara,

The Crossmaglen Patriots Flute Band, Wishaw, Scotland, organised a raffle to raise funds and 4 prizes were won by residents of Crossmaglen: Patrick McEneaney, Mrs. Byrne, Mary Kindlay and James Quinn. The items were duly posted but not one was received by any of the winners.

The only conclusion I can make in such circumstances is that political thievery is being practised against Republicans by the Post Office.

I have written to the appropriate authorities making what I regard as very serious complaints but I do not expect satisfaction.

Padraig Ó Caisde, P.R.O., Crossmaglen Patriots Flute Band.



CROSSMAGLEN PATRIOTS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND

The Crossmaglen Patriots Flute Band, Wishaw, has been formed for a number of years now. It is named after the most famous of Irish Republican villages in South Armagh, scene of some of the most spectacular and successful IRA operations of the last 17 years.

Though based in Scotland, the Band makes regular trips to the Irish war zone and even at home it has to face bitter opposition from local loyalists. Although Wishaw is an Orange stronghold, our Band can still manage to keep the flag flying.

We want the people to know our Band is about more than playing Republican songs. We want people to be more aware about what's going on in Ireland. That marching is a good way to make sure people know about the atrocities Britain has carried out in the six counties.

Anyone wishing to join our Band should write to Footprint, PO Box 219, Glasgow G31 4DZ. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

Padraig Ó Caisde, P.R.O., Crossmaglen Patriots Flute Band.

REPLY TO THE GLASGOW HERALD

A recent article in the Glasgow Herald stated that the Republican Band Alliance, Scotland, was "Paranoid about media persecution". This article also cast other insinuations regarding our Association, most notably our refusal to discuss our support for the IRA and other liberation groups. Also insinuated - we had some covert source of income. The Glasgow Herald omitted to print our reply. We wish to set the record straight.

We as an organisation support the rights of Irish Nationalists in struggle against an occupying army. We are not paranoid about media persecution. We are totally reluctant to deal with agencies who would not extend to us the basic right of reply and who continually trivialise and denigrate our effort to raise the political consciousness of the working class in Scotland. As to having a covert source of income; this is too ridiculous to deserve any serious comment. Any investigative journalist could



H-BLOCK MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN GLASGOW



JOHN 'BAP' KELLY REPUBLICAN ACCORDION BAND MARCHING IN GLASGOW

not fail to deduce that the Bands Alliance only subsists through our own self-sacrifice and political commitment to the struggle for socialism. Contrary to the Glasgow Herald, our organisation is not embittered by the Regional Council's refusal to allow us to march through the City Centre. In fact we have never applied to march through the Centre, which we recognise

anyway as a Centre of Commerce. Instead we prefer to rally in the working class areas where the people of no property live, in the spirit of James Connolly and John Maclean - Scotland's two greatest Marxists.

P.R.O Republican Band Alliance (Alba).

(Statement issued to Scottish Workers Republic).

STOP STRIP SEARCHING

Dear IRELAND'S WAR,

Strip searching and other methods of humiliation are being intensified against the Irish Republican women prisoners convicted at the Brighton bomb show trial.

"In Durham jail we are stripped after visits of any sort, with cell searches and cell changes, on visits to hospital or at any time when we leave the prison", wrote Ella O'Dwyer, who is serving a life sentence along with Martina Anderson, to friends in Glasgow recently. "We are body searched six times daily and constantly watched by cameras, warders and dogs".

Ella describes how prison authorities constantly limit prisoners' educational facilities and how work-time is cut down,

thus jamming their earnings which they need for tobacco, stamps and other items.

The laughable pretext of 'lack of funds' is used to impose conditions which Ella describes as 'Victorian'. "One small teaspoonful of disinfectant can be had daily by those cleaning on the wing. No mops are allowed in the process of wiping up everything from pubic hair, urine, stale food or vomit. Twice a sluice overflowed for want of maintenance and the women were expected to get on their knees to clean up the urine and waste with the permitted hand scrubbers. Some of us refused, on principle, to do so and one woman, having refused a "direct order" to clean it up, was put on report. The "charge" was later dropped."

The greatest scandal is that the official leadership of the labour movement - which is rightly protesting about the treatment of imprisoned printer Mike Hicks - hypocritically allows this doubly barbaric treatment of Irish prisoners to go unchallenged.

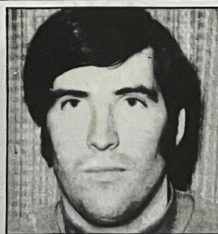
Clydeside Troops Out Movement calls for the widest possible publicity to be given on this issue. Please send protest letters to the Home Office, to your MP; pass resolutions in labour movement organisations.

Clydeside Troops Out Movement

IN MEMORIAM

Vol. Sean Campbell and Vol. James Loughrey 11th anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Vol. Sean Campbell and Vol. James Loughrey, South Armagh Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann who died on active service for the love of their country. 'Lay them away on the hillside along with the brave and bold, inscribe their names on the roll of fame, in letters of purest gold.' Always remembered by the Crossmaglen Patriots Republican Flute Band, Wishaw, Scotland.

Vol. Michael McVerry 13th anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Vol. Michael McVerry, South Armagh Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, killed on active service by RUC thugs on 15 November, 1973. Life springs from death and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations. Always remembered by the Crossmaglen Patriots Republican Flute Band, Wishaw, Scotland. Vol. Michael McVerry, our Band salutes you.



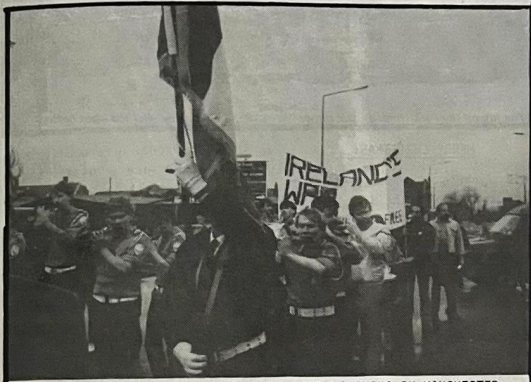
Volunteer Michael McVerry

BANDS SALUTED

Dear IRELAND'S WAR,

It is with great satisfaction that I sit down and write these comments to you regarding the terrific impression that the Republican Bands made on me on this afternoon's Manchester Martyrs Commemoration. It was in my estimation the best Irish parade ever because the Bands played with such might and in themselves acted in such a powerful way to all those who just walked with them.

I moved around alot during the march, sometimes up front to view the snooty-nosed bleeders with their union flags who sniped from the sidelines. Other times I was at the rear, and other times walked along the pavements just to hear the comments.



SONS OF IRELAND REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN MANCHESTER

I am a pensioner now after a lifetime of supporting Republicanism both of the Irish kind and of the British kind which of course hasn't got anywhere because of the master-race thinking of the British people as a whole. My father and mother came from the clay of a Kerry mountainside. They lived at a time in Ireland when there was a British army barracks at their crossroads, and the old RIC policed them. They came to this city in 1907, a city that had heard the tramp of Irish feet on its streets for about 150 years before that. This parade always used to take place on the north side of the city to a graveyard called Moston. It was in that graveyard that a magnificent monument was built in memory of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien. When I was a child in the twenties I accompanied my father to that monument many a Sunday in the summer months, it was a place that the old Irish of Manchester were very fond of, not only because of its

monument, but also because it was the last resting place of many of their families, and of the long since dead before them. My father and mother as well as 2 dear sisters now rest in that hallowed and well remembered spot.

In the early 70s when anti-Irishism was at its height, the skunks of the National Front and their dirty unionist friends entered that cemetery at dead of night and broke and battered the monument and finished it off with gallons of paint daubed all over it, and the usual dirty mouthed slogans that the IRA were bastards. Incidentally, the remains of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien do not lie under the monument. They suffered a public hanging in Salford jail and their remains must have been interred

within that establishment which soon after was removed to another site and became Strangeways jail.

To carry on with today's march, my impression is that you put the fear of christ into a lot of those people you passed. The sound of the drumming mesmerised them, they have't been so close to that kind of thing before, only the snatches that TV may show now and then. The bitter long faces that I seen close up were a



BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND

delight to see. You really punched it home to them that Ireland and its British problem will not go away. I'm as pleased as punch tonight that these sour-faced bastards had to stand there impotent to do anything about it only mouthing, "It shouldn't be allowed", "What a cheek", "Get back to your own country" and such like drivellings.

I watched the police carefully because they belong to a force that years ago used to be staffed with terrific numbers of Scots.

P.O.Ws.

NAME	No.	BIRTHDAY	PRISON
Eddie O'Neill	135722	15 January	Frankland
John McComb	851715	25 February	Long Lartin
Ella O'Dwyer	025135	3 March	Durham
Patrick Mulryan	461575	23 March	Long Lartin
Gerry Cunningham	132016	24 March	Long Lartin
Martina Anderson	025134	16 April	Durham
Eddie Butler	338637	17 April	Long Lartin
Patrick Hackett	342603	28 April	Parkhurst
Joe O'Connell	338635	15 May	Gartree
Patrick Magee	875881	29 May	Leicester
Con McFadden	130662	19 June	Wakefield
Paul Holmes	119034	22 June	Frankland
Peter Sherry	875882	30 June	Parkhurst
Sean Hayes	341418	8 July	Albany
Robert Cunningham	131877	12 July	Long Lartin
Brian Keenan	826380	17 July	Leicester
Tommy Quigley	69204	23 July	Parkhurst
Stephen Nordone	758663	2 August	Gartree
Paul Kavanagh	1888	12 August	Leicester
Ronnie McCartney	463799	3 September	Gartree
Martin Brady	119087	22 September	Albany
Vince Donnelly	274064	25 September	Albany
Harry Duggan	338638	31 October	Gartree
Roy Walsh	119083	1 November	Wakefield
Sean Kinsella	758661	5 November	Parkhurst
Paul Norney	863532	11 November	Frankland
Brendan Dowd	758662	17 November	Frankland
Andy Mulryan	461576	18 November	Long Lartin
James Bennett	464989	4 December	Long Lartin
Liam Baker	464984	6 December	Wakefield
Hugh Doherty	338636	7 December	Parkhurst
Noel Gibson	879225	11 December	Parkhurst
Gerry McDonnell	875880	19 December	Wakefield
Natalino Vella	871644	24 December	Wakefield
William Armstrong	119085	26 December	Frankland

ADDRESSES OF JAILS IN ENGLAND.

Albany Prison, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS.
 Durham Prison, Old Elvert, Durham.
 Frankland Prison, Finchale Avenue, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5SB.
 Gartree Prison, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, Leics., LE16 7RP
 Hull Prison, Hedon Road, Hull, North Humberside, HU9 5LS.
 Leicester Prison, Welford Road, Leicester, LE2 7AJ.
 Long Lartin Prison, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs., WR11 5TZ.
 Parkhurst Prison, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX.
 Strangeways Prison, Southall Street, Manchester, M60 9AH.
 Wakefield Prison, Love Lane, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 9AG.
 Wormwood Scrubs Prison, PO Box 757, Du Cane Road, London, W12 0AE.

IRELAND'S WAR urges you to show solidarity with the P.O.Ws by writing to them and by sending birthday cards.

Support the work of your local P.O.W. Committee. For more information write to: P.O.W. COMMITTEE, PH3, 340 WEST PRINCES STREET, GLASGOW G4. DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME.

blood who filled the dreary drizzling day with Irish music and such a defiant attitude to the miserable-faced Mancunians who had to soak up the magnificent fervour of Irish Republicanism in all its glory. I hope they will do it again and again and so make the names of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien something to contend with for the injustice perpetrated against them. Let the anthem of these brave and innocent men, "God Save Ireland" ring out ever more clearly in years to come, for they are part now of the history of this town and of all the Irish people that worked and slaved here for pittances.

God Save Ireland,
 Bill O'C. Heywood, Lincs.

**SMASH
THE P.T.A!**

letters

IRELAND'S WAR welcomes letters from its readers. This is your paper - let us know what you think. Write to: FOOTPRINT (1K), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G3 1 4DZ, SCOTLAND. (Long letters may have to be edited for reasons of space).

IRELAND'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS

1987 COMES IN WITH A BANG

The Irish Republican Army celebrated Hogmanay by achieving the impossible. The Crossmaglen barracks, surrounded by saturation-level surveillance, were mortar-bombed twice within an hour. Mmm thought the squaddies, scurrying around in terror, 1987 was going to be very like 1986 only more so. Just after 9am three mortars were fired at the base, then, as a wee surprise for the follow-up operation, another 5 were launched before 10am. The rack of mortar tubes had been positioned near the barracks and primed with a two-stage firing mechanism. It fairly kept the Brits on their toes, in fact many of them are said to have levitated. The very word 'Crossmaglen' strikes terror into the hearts of the Brits/RUC/UDR for no amount of surveillance hampers the local spirit of resistance. This latest mortar attacks launches the 1987 phase of the IRA's strategy of destroying crown force barracks and preventing them being rebuilt.

MORTARS, MORTARS EVERYWHERE

November saw numerous attacks on

barracks; Forkhill base was mortared on 18 November and severely damaged, while on 27 November Newry barracks came under mortar attack yet again. At Forkhill six 50lb mortar bombs were launched from McCreesh Park in Forkhill just as a Wessex helicopter took off. The sky was suddenly crowded with UFOs chasing each other - Unidentified Flying Objects chasing after Unwelcome Foreign Oppressors, observed with great interest by hundreds of local astrologers.

WHEN WILL THEY EVER LEARN?

The first fatality of 1987 in the crown forces occurred on 9 January at Enniskillen, in the form of a revamped pantomime stunt, the exploding litter-bin. A small powerful bomb was planted in a waste bin and detonated by remote control in a very carefully planned and timed attack as an RUC foot patrol was passing, killing one member. The IRA stated:

"The only way there will be peace and progress in Ireland is when the right to self-determination of the Irish people is achieved. The only way this can be obtained is the withdrawal both military and economic, of

Britain from this part of Ireland.....We repeat once again that we will continue to attack the enemy until our objective is achieved."



● The Inn on the Park Hotel on December 21st 1986, the morning after the night before

MERRY CHRISTMAS...

This year's Christmas present from the IRA to the Brit government was a bill for over £1 million, presented on 20 December

REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS

The Staff of Republican Publications, Belfast, send New Year greetings to all POWs and to all Republican Supporters in Scotland.

in East Tyrone. A bomb blitz by 5 Active Service Units in 4 locations destroyed a hotel, severely damaged another hotel and a restaurant and damaged a public house. While this petty account cannot begin to settle up for the untold suffering caused to the people of Ireland by British occupation, the Brits are reminded that the costs to them in every way will continue to escalate until they take the fast boat home, whether in coffins or out.

...AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

At the border on the Dublin-Belfast main road, south of Newry the hillsides are peppered with dugouts, observation posts, patrols and surveillance of every kind. So the checkpoint Brits must have been feeling happy and secure on 12 January wouldn't you think? Ah well, maybe not. Experience should have shown them by now that nothing can suppress the risen people. Against all the odds the IRA, with unparalleled courage, enterprise and local knowledge, found a spot where they could not be overlooked from any of the observation posts. A spot ideal for firing a rack of 6 mortar bombs in fact. Four of the mortars detonated injuring 2 members of the crown forces. Security or no, the war goes on.

SMASH THE P.T.A!

Subscribe to IRELAND'S WAR - cost £2.50 for 1 year. Make cheques/POs payable to "FOOTPRINT" and send to FOOTPRINT (IW), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ, SCOTLAND.

I.R.A. THE CUTTING EDGE OF REVOLUTION.

OCTOBER

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 16 (Portadown) | Car bomb injures RUC member. |
| 16 (Six Counties) | Brit Telecom warned against collaboration. |
| 17 (Derry) | Drug pushers warned. |
| 19 (Derry) | Gun and grenade-launcher attack hits mobile patrol, injuring 1 RUC. |
| 19 (Auchnacloy) | Permanent RUC/Brit point fired on. |
| 22 (Carrickmore) | Mortar attack on RUC base injures 1. |
| 24 (Magherafelt) | Building supplies manager shot dead as collaborator. |
| 25 (Castlederg) | Bomb attack on UDR patrol at bridge. |
| 27 (Kilnagargart) | Bomb derails goods train and cuts North-South rail link at Kilnagargart Bridge. |
| 28 (Drumuckavall) | Mortar and rifle attack on Brit patrol. |

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 5 (Six Counties) | IRA leadership issue statement welcoming change in Sinn Fein policy on Abstentionism. |
| 13 (South Down) | Major drugs ring closed down and pushers ordered to leave Ireland. |
| 13 (Derry) | Remote control mine blasts Brit foot patrol injuring 1. |
| 13 (Portlaoine) | 100lb bomb planted at collaborator's garage/car-showroom. |
| 13 (Castlewellan) | Painting contractor announces decision to stop working for the crown forces. |
| 18 (Forkhill) | RUC/Brit barracks mortared and severely damaged. |
| 18 (Clady) | 60 high-velocity shots fired at border checkpoint personnel. |
| 23 (Middletown) | Mortar attack destroys barracks and injures 10 Brits. |
| 25 (Newtownhamilton) | 300lb bomb destroys creamery. |
| 25 (Derry) | RUC member shot and seriously injured. |
| 25 (Armagh) | Gun attack on Newry Road RUC barracks. |
| 27 (Newry) | Mortar attack on RUC barracks. |
| 28 (Newry) | Granville Arms pub badly damaged in bomb attack. |
| 30 (Middletown) | Potential repair contractors warned not to repair barracks destroyed on 23 November. |

DECEMBER

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 6 (Glassdrummond) | Brit post mortared. |
| 10 (Lisburn) | Building firm warned to stop work on contracts for crown forces. |
| 11 (Six Counties) | Letter bomb attack on member of RUC Police Authority. |
| 12 (Six Counties) | Letter bomb attack on member of RUC Police Authority. |
| 12 (Lisburn) | Building firm warned on 10 December withdraws from contracts with crown forces. |
| 15 (Belfast) | DHSS 'Fraud Squad' snoopers warned they may be mistaken for undercover crown forces. |
| 16 (Belfast) | Lisburn Road RUC barracks totally demolished in spectacular 600lb bomb attack. |
| 17 (Six Counties) | Members of RUC Police Authority warned to resign or remain legitimate targets. |
| 20 (East Tyrone) | £1 million worth of damage caused in bomb blitz on commercial premises in Cookstown, Dungannon and Ballyronan. 5 Active Service Units involved. |

JANUARY

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 2 (Derry) | Volunteers fire on Brits erecting anti-mortar shields on Derry's walls. |
| 2 (Crossmaglen) | Crown force base damaged by 2 mortar attacks within 1 hour. |
| 9 (Newry) | Huge incendiary bomb damages shops. |
| 9 (Enniskillen) | Litter-bin bomb kills 1 RUC on foot patrol. |
| 12 (Newry) | Border checkpoint on main Dublin-Belfast road mortared injuring 2 RUC. |