



IRELAND'S WAR 40p

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NO 30 1/89

BANNED THE RIGHT TO SPEAK.



BANNED THE RIGHT TO SILENCE.

SINN FEIN MEDIA BAN

After the series of repressive measures brought in, and proposed in October this year, Britain stands acknowledged world-wide as a government aligned with the regimes of Botha's South Africa, Pinochet's Chile and Likud-governed Israel. After 20 years of brutality and repression the British government has admitted it still cannot quench Ireland's burning will to freedom.

These measures are:

1. A broadcasting ban on Sinn Féin and its supporters.
2. The removal of the right to silence when charged with an offence.
3. The proposal that candidates for the British parliament or the local councils should have to sign a declaration of non-violence.
4. The proposal that these election candidates are barred from standing if they have been in prison on a political offence within the last 5 years.

Coming from the same sausage machine that churned out army occupation, internment, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, physical and mental torture of Prisoners, Diplock courts, the H-Blocks, "supergrass" trials and internment by remando, the October measures banning the viewpoint of a legal political party are panic measures doomed to failure like their predecessors. As the time of Britain's forced departure grows nearer, it becomes more desperate to hang on. To underline the ill-conceived and idiotic nature of the ban, Sinn Féin candidates standing in local and parliamentary elections will continue to be GUARANTEED broadcasting time under the Representation of the People Act.

WHY THE BAN?

AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS and Sinn Féin made two vital points about the purpose of the ban:

1. It is **NOT** an attack on the IRA campaign as claimed. The IRA does not recruit on the television or radio, and it campaigns in a way the British government has been forced to understand and recognise.
2. It **IS** an attack on those who believe Ireland should be free. Their numbers will continue to grow and they will not be silenced.

If we consider that 40% of the Nationalist population of the Six Counties vote Sinn Féin, electing one MP and 53 local councillors, we can see who is the target of the ban in Ireland, and whose supporters are targeted here. As TOM HARTLEY, Sinn Féin's General Secretary said, when banned from a BBC Radio Midlands programme hours BEFORE Thatcher's ban was introduced:

"They told us to come to the ballot box. Now we have proved we represent a great number of the people so they are afraid to let us speak."

WATCH WITH BOTHA

The broadcasting ban on Sinn Féin representatives has been met with astonished condemnation all over the world except in those countries



which are also occupying and suppressing their own population or that part of a neighbouring country. President P.J. Botha of racist South Africa is spellbound with admiration. He has warned his own media to "practice self-discipline to smother the propaganda of those who commit violence" or else his government will "introduce measures similar to those [taken by] the British government". Looking to Britain as a model of repression is nothing new for South Africa; in 1963 President Vorster remarked that he would exchange all the legislation of the Coercion Acts "for one clause of the Northern Ireland Special Powers Act".

CUBA SPEAKS OUT FOR FREE SPEECH

PRENSA LATINA, the official Cuban government press agency condemned the British government's latest repressive measures:

"Sweeping repressive operations undertaken by the United Kingdom in the so-called province only serve to heighten tensions not to ease them.

"Since 1969, the situation has grown worse with the arrival of thousands of British army soldiers in Northern Ireland. This development reveals London's intentions of solving the conflict through violence.

"The United Kingdom government treats the IRA fighters as terrorists and common criminals. These fighters are tried under that category in Northern Ireland under a special law. The fact is that the struggle of Irish republicans has clear political objectives. This is a struggle for national liberation and the unification of Ireland. Now the news media from all over the world report a gloomy ominous outlook in Ulster. The increase of repressive British measures can only have the same effect as a lighted match in a powder keg."

PROTESTING

In Derry the Sinn Féin Councillors picketed Radio Foyle against the removal of their democratic right to free speech. Wearing gags, they carried placards linking media restrictions in South Africa with those on Sinn Féin, and others on the theme "YOUR REPRESENTATIVES - BANNED BY THATCHER".

And in London on Friday 21 October the Irish Freedom Movement and the Troops Out Movement picketed Downing Street in protest at the broadcasting ban.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) is firmly opposed to the ban and has condemned it completely. The BBC TV and World Service branches voted overwhelmingly for a one-day strike which was planned for Thursday 10 November. This was however called off following a meeting with BBC management, on the grounds that the protest was not against the management but against the government. The Birmingham branch of the NUJ condemned two English radio stations which cancelled interviews with Republicans before the ban came into operation, one with Sinn Féin's

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Tom Hartley and another with Bernadette McAliskey, who is not even a member of a party named in the ban.

THE MEANING OF THE BAN

Legal advisers for the TV channels and the broadcasting authorities have worked overtime examining the terms of the ban. They believe it covers Sinn Fein members and their supporters [yes, that's you and me folks!] when speaking about Ireland. It also seems to cover Republicans and their supporters from the 1920s onwards, and archive recorded material, as well as fictional characters in drama.

But Sinn Fein members and supporters may be seen speaking while their speech is read out for them, or put up in subtitles. This has already been done in an interview with Danny Morrison and one with Mairtin O Muilleoir. Rebel songs may not get past the ban if sung as part of a demonstration. IRA statements may however still be read out. So the whole history, culture and political life of Ireland is under heavy censorship.

This is a sledge hammer measure compared with its target, which is tiny. Did you see Gerry Adams, or other Sinn Fein members explaining Sinn Fein policy nightly to admiring viewers? Radio and TV had in fact practised self-censorship so that Sinn Fein appearances were rare, and usually had hostile interviewers. But even this had not prevented the overriding common-sense truth and justice of Ireland's freedom struggle shining through. And the truth about Ireland will not be tolerated by the British government.

'RIGHT' TO REMAIN SILENT

The British government in a further attempt to repress the Irish Republican Movement and its supporters, has changed the meaning of the 'right' to remain silent whilst under interrogation.

On Thursday 20 October, Tom King announced that remaining silent in the face of police questioning may now be interpreted as guilt.

The 'right to remain silent' is the long-standing legal basis of the British and European judiciary system. It is a "right" which people

have long taken for granted. Now the British government is eroding these rights under the guise of 'fighting terrorism'.

Until now it has been down to the prosecution to prove that the accused person is guilty of the charge laid against them. This change in the law shifts the burden of 'proof' onto the defendant - no longer the law shifts the burden of 'innocent until proven guilty'. As it is obviously accepted tradition of 'innocent until proven guilty'. As it is obviously accepted tradition of trumped-up charges against Irish people, to difficult, in cases of trumped-up charges against Irish people, to provide sufficient 'evidence' to secure convictions, judges and juries can now interpret an accused person's silence as 'evidence' of guilt.

This change to long-standing laws is another attempt by the British state to defeat the Republican struggle for a united Ireland. Previous measures have included internment, the use of uncorroborated statements as 'evidence', extradition, shoot-to-kill. None of these have successfully reduced the strength of the Republican Movement in its fight for freedom and the right to self-determination.

In fact, many of these oppressive measures have attracted, for the British government, adverse comment from around the world. They have given scope for international publicity of the fact that Thatcher and her team are prepared to go to any lengths to maintain their unjust occupation of the Six Counties. The government is doing away with the hard-won human and legal rights of Irish people and people here - rights that are acknowledged throughout Europe.

Once again the unfair treatment of Irish people under the British judicial system has been reinforced. The new law is first to be introduced in the Six Counties. However, as well as removing the rights of Irish people, this new law will also soon affect the English and the Welsh legal system. It is therefore in the interests of working class people here to oppose this and all other oppressive measures being inflicted on the people of the Six Counties, as the defeat of Thatcher's oppression of the Irish will assist in safeguarding the rights of people here.

Following the announcement of all these new plans, groups over here have organised to demonstrate their condemnation of this recent British government activity. More demonstrations and protests will be seen throughout Scotland, Wales and England, hopefully supported by all sections of the working class here.

Sinn Fein's ability to get a spokesperson onto national BBC TV only hours after being banned demonstrates the massive headaches implementing the ban will give TV producers, and also the immense skills Sinn Fein have developed over the years of fighting media censorship in the 26 Counties.

BAN BREACHED

Only 18 hours after the government announced its ban on Sinn Fein appearances on TV and Radio, Sinn Fein Representative in London, GERRY MACLOCHLAINN, appeared and spoke on national TV.

Sinn Fein's GERRY MACLOCHLAINN was among the participants in the 'KILROY' BBC discussion programme which was talking about the ban on Sinn Fein.

Responding to Democratic Unionist Gregory Campbell who spoke in favour of the ban, the Sinn Fein spokesperson said:

"My political experiences began on October 5th, 1968, 20 years ago, when Gregory Campbell and people like him tried to stop ordinary people marching on the streets of Ireland asking for the right to vote. Now we are 20 years on and he tried last week to stop a Civil Rights march through Derry, but it was allowed to take place because of the strength of the protest that has been put up demanding the right to speak.

"Now we find that the British government has moved the goal posts yet again. Sinn Fein was asked to stand for election to prove whether or not it had support. It did that - it proved that it had got the support - and the goal posts were moved.

"And Gregory Campbell won't be happy until the SDLP, Sinn Fein and everybody else is not allowed to speak, not allowed to stand for elections and they're all locked up in Long Kesh."

Gerry MacLochlainn was followed by Conservative MP Ivan Lawrence QC who said that "The goal posts have got to be moved because we have been giving legitimacy [to the IRA] by the acceptability of Sinn Fein and the IRA on our television and our media".

But Sinn Fein's GERRY MACLOCHLAINN immediately slammed this nonsense:

"40% of the Nationalist people give Sinn Fein that legitimacy. Sinn Fein don't get that legitimacy from [TV Presenter] Robert Kilroy Silk or anybody else. Gerry Adams gets it from the 16,000 people who vote for him in West Belfast at every election time. The 100,000 people in the North of Ireland who you say have no place in this so-called democracy are the people who give legitimacy to Sinn Fein. Nobody else gives it."



GERRY MACLOCHLAINN, SINN FEIN'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU REP IN LONDON

BENN ON BAN

The following is the text of a speech given by Tony Benn MP at a meeting organised by the CAMPAIGN FOR BROADCASTING AND PRESS FREEDOM held in London on Wednesday 2 November, 1988.

DEFYING REPRESSIVE MEDIA LAWS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY.

"The government's attempt to control what the people of Britain are to be permitted to see and read, has now gone well beyond acceptable limits, within a democracy, and journalists and broadcasters may soon face the choice of being completely gagged or defying these new repressive media laws.

"For years we have had to put up with crude news management, mainly orchestrated by the Prime Minister's press secretary, who has been able to manipulate the parliamentary lobby, behind a curtain of self-imposed secrecy.

"At the same time there has also been a discreet, but highly effective, censorship operated through the 'D Notice' system, which prevents the publication of material that would be unwelcome to Ministers, and the Editors have been relied on to keep this quiet too."

"Over the years a number of broadcasts, for example those relating to Northern Ireland, or Security, have been quietly suppressed; and in the case of the ZIRCON programme the police were actually sent in to the BBC to seize the

film and prevent it from being shown."

"Now powers, that were never granted for that purpose, are being used to prevent broadcasters from interviewing certain persons including an MP, or Councillors, because of their role in the Civil War in Ireland, a decision that will effectively silence those whom they were elected to represent through the ballot box."

"There is no limit to which this government may go if we do not take a stand now, and make it clear that what is happening constitutes a direct attack on the whole democratic process."

"It is not for anyone to tell anyone else to break the law, but it may be that the government's desire to undermine our freedom, and our right to know, can only be effectively challenged, and defeated, if some courageous editors, journalists and broadcasters are prepared to take the huge risk of defying these unjust laws.

"This has been done in some dictatorships around the world, and the moment may have come when we shall have to do the same.

"And when that happens those who have done so must be defended by everyone in this country who cares about civil liberty.

"All our rights were won by struggle, and if we do not struggle to defend them now they could all be taken away, one by one."

POLLOK

Despite thick fog the people of Pollok turned out in their hundreds to march with the REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE against Extradition in October this year.

Following behind the lead of the POLLOK REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND were the WOLFE TONE, VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH (LOUGHGALL MARTYR), H-BLOCK MARTYRS, JAMES CONNOLLY, BILLY REID and SONS OF IRELAND Republican Flute Bands.

The REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE produced a hard-hitting leaflet for the parade which roundly condemned the treachery of the Haughey administration in southern Ireland, and which demanded an end to the extradition of Irish patriots. [See text of leaflet]. The leaflet received a warm response from the people of Pollok who marched with dignity for Irish freedom.



WOLFE TONE REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN PARKHEAD, GLASGOW, 23.10.88.

The parade concluded with the playing of the Soldiers Song by the VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH (LOUGHGALL MARTYR) REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND.

NO EXTRADITION

In April 1984 Dominic McGlinchey was taken by Gardaí (the Irish police) to the British imposed border between the North and South of Ireland and handed over to the RUC.

That act of treachery by the Southern government opened the extradition floodgates whereby Irish patriots imprisoned in Portlaoise now face the probability that, on completion of their sentences, they will be handed over to a system of 'justice' which has harassed and tortured Irish people over many years; they will be tried by a Diplock, no-jury court and sent to the H-Blocks where 10 Irish POWs died on Hunger Strike. They will be up against a system of 'justice' which exonerated Private Ian Thain, the British soldier who murdered Thomas 'Kido' Reilly; a system which executed 3 unarmed IRA Volunteers in Gibraltar.....the list of British terrorist crimes is endless.



POLLOK REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN POLLOK, GLASGOW, 15.10.88



JAMES CONNOLLY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN POLLOK, GLASGOW, 15.10.88.

IRISH PATRIOTS AND FREEDOM FIGHTERS MUST NOT BE EXTRADITED.

'Flash' McVeight managed to defeat extradition but Robert Russell wasn't so lucky - he now languishes in Long Kesh, notorious for screw brutality. James Clarke, Owen Carron, Dermot Finucane and Paul Kane now face the same fate as Robert Russell.

Our voices must be heard - we must demonstrate our opposition to extradition, the latest act of collaboration being committed by the Haughey administration in the 26 Counties. So, while marching today remember those Irish patriots in Portlaoise whose only 'crime' was to stand up against oppression.

JOIN A BAND

SONS OF IRELAND

The SONS OF IRELAND REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND (GLASGOW) requires new members (male or female), due to expanding the Band.

Free tuition in Flute/Drum given. Uniforms, equipment, supplied free of charge.

Applications from people of any creed/denomination or none are welcome. The only commitment needed is to furthering the aim of the liberation of the occupied Six Counties and the unification and independence of Ireland.

JOSEPH PEARSE, PRESIDENT, SONS OF IRELAND REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND.

If you wish to join this Band write to: FOOTPRINT (SOI), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G3 4DZ. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.



SONS OF IRELAND REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN POLLOK, GLASGOW, 15.10.88.

GOVAN BY-ELECTION

Following the media ban on Sinn Fein there was intense press speculation that Sinn Fein may stand a candidate in the Govan by-election.

Sinn Fein's JOE AUSTIN visited Glasgow to meet with various groups and individuals, including the GLASGOW COMMITTEE FOR A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM IRELAND, to discuss the issues involved. Sinn Fein decided not to contest the election and issued the following press statement on Thursday 27 October 1988. Sinn Fein spokesperson RICHARD McAULEY said:

At a meeting of the Sinn Fein Six County Executive this morning reports were discussed concerning the possibility of standing a Sinn Fein candidate in Govan, Glasgow.

"In particular the meeting discussed a report from Joe Austin who spent two days in Glasgow this week meeting different organisations and individuals.

"Following a thorough discussion of the issues involved a decision was taken to recommend to Sinn Fein Head Office in Dublin not to contest the by-election for the following reasons:

"The by-election is particularly important for Scotland given the controversy surrounding the Poll Tax. We were therefore sensitive to their concern that our intervention would divert attention away from what they believed to be the main issue.

"There was no evidence that our standing a candidate would break the broadcasting ban which would have been the purpose behind standing a candidate.

"And lastly, the possibility that loyalists would introduce a sectarian element into the campaign was also a factor.

"In conclusion, the broadcasting restrictions imposed last week are a denial of our right to freedom of speech and freedom to hold and express a political opinion. Sinn Fein will continue to seek means to highlight this censorship and to establish alternative means of getting our views across to the people of Ireland and Britain."

REPUBLICAN PRESS CENTRE, BELFAST.

SCOTLAND TOUR

This year the NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (NUS) in Scotland has prioritised Ireland as its main international issue. In line with this NUS organised a speaking tour for the LIFERS and REPATRIATION Committees from Ireland.

EILEEN MAGEE, wife of Irish POW PATRICK MAGEE, HMP Leicester, spoke on behalf of the REPATRIATION Committee:

"I represent a small Committee made up of relatives of Prisoners who are serving long sentences in English prisons.

"We are only asking for one thing and that is that our relatives be transferred to prisons in Ireland. At the moment we find it very hard to maintain any form of family life as we are lucky if we get to see our loved ones two or three times a year. If the Prisoners were to be transferred it would mean that families would be able to visit once a week and a bus ride to Long Kesh or Maghaberry would cost only about 50p.

"When we want to visit our relatives we have to apply to the prison at the very least a few weeks in advance, to make sure we can have a visit. Then you have to apply to the DHSS for an allowance (which usually won't cover all expenses). We are lucky if we get the cheque from the DHSS the morning before we are due to travel. It is more usual for them to leave you waiting until the morning you are travelling.

"When you are starting out on the journey you are in a very anxious state. There is every possibility of being stopped by the English Special Branch on arrival in England. The British government introduced the PIA in 1974. Since that time relatives of Irish Prisoners in England have suffered greatly with Special Branch men stopping them on arrival at English ports, questioning them for long periods, searching their luggage, and generally harassing them.

"One Prisoner's wife, Geraldine Bailey, was arrested and held for several days when she was returning home from a visit. During her detention she was continually strip-searched and threatened that the next time she brought her children with her, they would be taken into care.

"Some relatives have made the very long and tiring journey only to arrive at the prison to hear that their relatives are no longer there. That means that you have to undertake another journey, maybe a couple of hundred miles across England, to see your loved one.

"Children have been sick when travelling to England. My son Padraig was ill when we were visiting his daddy last Christmas which meant we had to forego a few visits. You can imagine what it's like to bring six children

on a visit, as Paddy McLaughlin's wife Margaret has to.

"Children get very upset when they have their last visit with their fathers. They find it very hard to understand why they have to wait for so long before they see their daddy again. Consequently the last visit is very tearful.

"It is very rare for our children to have proper holidays as their school holidays have to be saved up to go on visit an English prison.

"Paul Kavanagh was arrested in 1984. Since the time of his arrest his father Albert has been ill all that time and he has been unable to make the long journey to England. At the moment Mr. Kavanagh is seriously ill in hospital so it is unlikely he will ever see his son again. [Sadly since the time Eileen delivered this speech Mr. Kavanagh has died. IRELAND'S WAR sends deepest sympathy to Paul and his family circle].

"Roy Walsh has served over 15 years in English jails. During all this time his mother was too ill to make the arduous journey. Annie Walsh died earlier this year.

"Liam Baker has also served 15 years. His mother was able to travel to see him up until four years ago when she became ill and could no longer make the journey. Nellie Baker died in May of this year. Mothers and fathers of Irish Prisoners must never get sick or they may never see their loved ones faces again.

"Every member of the security forces who have been convicted in Ireland have been repatriated to England straight away to save their families any hardship.

"For example, 5 British soldiers from the Black Watch regiment were convicted of planting evidence on innocent people - they were flown back to Britain to serve their sentences. At the same time a spokesperson for the Northern Ireland Office said that if any application was made by a prisoner for transfer to another jail it would be considered.

"Our relatives have put in countless applications for transfer to prisons near their homes only to be knocked back without any logical reason.

"Another soldier who shot dead a passenger on a bus got five years for manslaughter. He was returned home to Britain to serve his sentence.

"These are only a few examples, the list is too long to name them all today.

"So you can see it is not that the British government is opposed to repatriation for Prisoners. Their speedy transfers of members of the British army proves this. The early release of Private Ian Thain who was convicted of murdering

Kidso Reilly ensured that his family did not have to suffer too long.

"The argument that the Home Office has been known to use is that the English prisons are more secure. When you think that they spent millions of pounds building Maghaberry prison which is supposed to be the most secure prison in Europe, and it's half-empty at a time when English prisons are grossly over-crowded, this argument is pretty shallow.

"We are not asking for the release of the Prisoners, but we don't see why so much hardship is placed on us the families. We are asking, on humanitarian grounds, that the Prisoners are returned home for our sakes."



UNA GILLESPIE, LIFERS CAMPAIGN (IRELAND), SPEAKING AT THE OCTOBER 8 RALLY IN GLASGOW.

Representing the CAMPAIGN FOR LIFERS was UNA GILLESPIE from Belfast who spoke on behalf of the POWs. During her speech Una read out the following message from Republican POWs in Long Kesh which summarises the issues addressed by the CAMPAIGN FOR LIFERS:

"A Chairde,

"First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Republican Prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, to thank you for the opportunity to address this meeting, and to send our warmest greetings.

"Over the years we have witnessed the use of many tactics within the prison by the Northern Ireland Office in its strategy to criminalise and defeat the resistance of Republican Prisoners; the use of beatings, solitary confinement, refusal to grant compassionate parole, the withdrawal of large amounts of remission and the use of strip-searches are so widespread as to be almost beyond mentioning. And the suffering inflicted during the Blanket and 'no-wash' protests has become infamous in the history of British domination in Ireland. Now we can see yet another tactic emerging in the NIO's strategy, namely the cynical manipulation of the release or continued imprisonment of Political Prisoners serving Life or SOSP [Secretary of State's Pleasure] sentences in an arbitrary fashion.

"At present the stated procedure through which Life or SOSP Prisoners are released is the functioning of the 'Life Sentence Review Board'. In theory this Board sits to periodically review the case of a Life/SOSP Prisoner in the light of reports submitted by the prison administration and

staff. The Board sits behind closed doors and all of the reports are compiled in secret and withheld from Prisoners' scrutiny which in effect means that a decision on release is taken in secret, based on reports which are compiled in secret with no provision for either the decision or the validity of the information contained in the reports, to be challenged by the Prisoners concerned.

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Sinn Féin Appeal

The military and political enemies of Irish independence are strong. In the British occupation of the Six Counties, republicans must meet the might of one of the strongest military, political, economic and propaganda machines in the world. Britain and its allies, especially the Dublin government, dominate not only the fighting ground in the Six Counties but also the political arena and the media through which the British government defends its unjust and oppressive presence in our country.

In comparison, the resources of republicans are small. The political battle for national self-determination and lasting peace with justice has to be fought on many fronts and in many campaigns in Ireland and abroad. As well as focusing attention on the root cause of violence and suffering in the Six Counties, the progressive forces in our country must combat all aspects of repression and censorship.

In all of this work the dedication of political activists and supporters has been unflinching. But to increase their effectiveness and speed the struggle towards our goal they need more resources. Above all they need more finance. They need your help. Please contribute whatever you can to the cause of Irish freedom.

Gary Adams

President of Sinn Féin
Member of Parliament for West Belfast



The success of our work depends on the measure of your help. Please give generously to our appeal for funds.

All donations to:-

Joe Cahill & Lydia Comiskey
Sinn Féin Head Office
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1
Ireland

Telephone 726932/725100
FAX 733074

(All donations will be gratefully acknowledged)

"Once the Life Sentence Review Board - which is dominated by NIO officials and chaired by the Under Secretary of State - has arrived at a decision, no reasons are given as to how or why that decision was reached, nor any indication of the criteria by which each/all cases are judged. Therefore, decisions such as that to release Kevin McGrady after serving 6 years of a life sentence or Private Ian Thain after 2½ years of a life sentence - while some Republican Life and SOSP Prisoners have served almost 17 years - are decisions which can be made without any regard whatsoever for the justness of the decision and free from all constraint whether legal, moral or public; subject to no accountability except the political dictates of the NIO and its policies.

"The wide-ranging powers which the Life Sentence Review Board has is further demonstrated by its power to inflict the equivalent of a 10-year sentence on a Life Prisoner before her/his case need be reviewed again. This can be done without the Prisoner being allowed to hear the 'evidence' (in the form of prison reports) against her or him, or to conduct a defence on her or his own behalf. Such powers, even if tempered by a legal process would be ominous but when tempered by nothing more than the subjective opinions of senior politicians in the NIO, such power inevitably becomes abused. The cases cited above are only 2 examples of such abuses, many more exist.

"To understand why abuses of the

power of release (and ensuring that the power of release lies solely in the hands of the NIO) is beneficial to the political strategy of the NIO, it is worth looking at the most widely publicised case of a Life Prisoner being held as a Political Hostage, that is the case of NELSON MANDELA. Most of the world recognises that Mandela's continued imprisonment after 24 years, has nothing to do with the state demanding 'retribution' for any offences he was convicted of. Nor has it anything to do with any risk of 'reoffending'. Rather the South African regime continues to hold Mandela because he refuses to refute his political beliefs and renounce the legitimacy of the ANC's struggle to end apartheid. In Mandela's case this amounts to him being forced to publicly renounce the use of armed struggle for political ends in order to be released. In the case of Life and SOSP Prisoners in Ireland it amounts to Prisoners being forced to 'demonstrate' their 'rehabilitation' by moving to integrated accommodation away from other Republicans conceding that they were guilty of a crime, or condemning the struggle of the IRA. In both cases Life Prisoners are being held as Political Hostages and so long as the power of release lies in the hands of politicians in the NIO with no public accountability or means of redress and no legal representation or legal guidelines Irish Political Prisoners serving Life or SOSP will continue to be held as Political Hostages. "Experience has shown us that the NIO will not change its system because it sees the injustice in it. To change the injustice of the

system by which Life/SOSP Prisoners are being arbitrarily held for 17 years-plus, will necessitate people like all of you here today raising your voices to demand and end to it. This can be done by supporting the 'CAMPAIGN FOR LIFERS' and the 6 Proposals which the 'CAMPAIGN FOR LIFERS' are striving to have implemented on behalf of the Prisoners. By voicing such support to your local MPs, the local and national press, to your friends and relatives and anyone else who claims concern for justice you can help us to put an end to an injustice and prevent the NIO from burying that injustice under the concrete walls and iron bars of Long Kesh."

Lo sinne le meas,
Republican POWs, Long Kesh.

During the hectic week-long tour, the two women addressed Universities and Colleges throughout Scotland doing several meetings per day. A reflection of the impact made during their tour was seen when STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION passed the following motion in support of the CAMPAIGN FOR LIFERS 6 Demands:

"Council believes

(1) That the Life Sentence Review Board is subject to political manipulation by the Northern Ireland Office and the Secretary Of State.

(2) This is shown by the statistics that; between 1980 and 1987, 28 Life Prisoners were released and only 2 were Republicans; that for every six Life or SOSP Prisoners released, only one is a Republican.

(3) It is clear that Republican Prisoners are being held as

Political Hostages to the political situation outside over which they have no control.

Council supports

(1) The Campaign For Lifers.

(2) The following six proposals in order to help alleviate the political bias in the system:

(a) The scrapping of indeterminate sentences as not only are they inhumane, but under Emergency Laws and Diplock courts, they are unsafe.

(b) Considering that at present a Review Board can put a Prisoner back for the equivalent of a ten-year sentence all Prisoners should have the right to legal representation at a Review Board hearing.

(c) If a Life/SOSP Prisoner is put back, he/she should be informed of not only the date of his/her Review but also the reasons why he/she was put back.

(d) As the present Review system is based on subjective reports by prison staff, education etc., an objective criteria for release should be made known to all Life/SOSP Prisoners to prevent the personal and/or political bias of those reports preventing the release of a Life/SOSP Prisoner.

(e) An ending of secret reports being submitted on Life/SOSP Prisoners. All reports should be open to challenge by the Prisoner involved.

(f) A Prisoner to be informed of the names of the people sitting on the review of his or her case and the right to challenge the inclusion of at least two, if mitigating circumstances which may prejudice a fair hearing exist.

IRELAND'S WAR

SUPPORT IW

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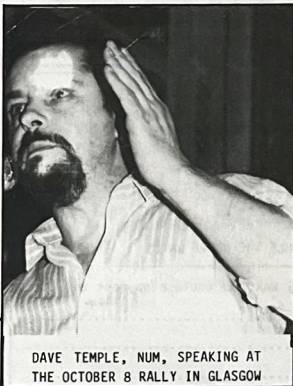
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LABOUR COUNCIL BANS GLASGOW MARCH

At the end of April this year the GLASGOW COMMITTEE FOR A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM IRELAND (GCBWI) began to organise a major March and Rally to call for 'Britain Out Of Ireland'. Months of negotiations with the Strathclyde police and Strathclyde Regional Council followed wherein the march organisers made every effort to accommodate requests from the police and council, including changing the date and route of the march. However it was all in vain as, just four days before the march was due to take place [Saturday 8 October], the Labour-controlled Strathclyde Regional Council banned it, offering totally spurious reasons such as the march would "promote religious intolerance".

The (GCBWI) refused however to allow months of hard work to go down the drain just because the Labour-controlled Strathclyde Regional Council chooses to hide behind Tory laws in order to act in a totally undemocratic fashion. The planned Rally in Glasgow's City Halls successfully went ahead giving the Council and their friends in the Strathclyde Constabulary a clear message - you cannot silence, ban or proscribe the demand 'Britain Out Of Ireland'.

A varied line-up of speakers were warmly received by their enthusiastic audience and the case for Irish freedom was put again and again.



DAVE TEMPLE, NUM, SPEAKING AT THE OCTOBER 8 RALLY IN GLASGOW

DAVE TEMPLE of the DURHAM NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkers (NUM), speaking in a personal capacity, slammed the treachery of Labour Party leaders who had cheered in the House of Commons when news of the SAS executions in Gibraltar was announced. And to rousing applause he declared the continuing solidarity of the mining communities with the just struggle of the oppressed people of Ireland. And this was further emphasised by an official letter from the General Secretary, Durham Mechanics NUM, BILLY ETHERINGTON wishing the rally every success.

UNA GILLESPIE of the LIFERS/SOSP CAMPAIGN gave an account of the struggle of these Prisoners'

attempts to secure release dates. She informed the rally that at present there are some 447 political Life and SOSP [Secretary of State's Pleasure] prisoners in the north of Ireland. Of these 170 are Republican; All were subjected to special laws, special interrogation procedures and special Diplock courts; Altogether there are 205 Republican Life and SOSP prisoners (in Ireland and England), who between them have served almost 3,000 years in prison; The vast majority have served over 10 years, with some now entering their 17th year in prison; Between 1980 and 1987, 28 Life prisoners have been released; of these only two were Republicans; in the same period 31 SOSPs were released; only 9 were Republicans; For every 6 Life or SOSP prisoners released only 1 is a Republican; At Christmas 1987 20 Life or SOSP prisoners were given what amounted to 'pre-release' parole; of these only 3 were Republicans; At the present rate of release (approximately 15-20 per year) it will take approximately another 25 years before those now serving Life or SOSP will be released. She compared the British government's treatment of Private Ian Thain to the treatment of Irish POWs, some of whom have been convicted solely on the basis of uncorroborated evidence through beatings in Castlereagh. "The Lifers/SOSP Prisoners are the end of the conveyor-belt system of British 'justice' and must never be forgotten".

JOSIE O'KANE of the REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE delivered a statement from the rally organisers which condemned the undemocratic ban on the march saying: "We will shout louder than ever about Ireland in the coming months" and called on everyone present to support the Republican POWs.



JOSEPH PEARSE, REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE, SPEAKING AT THE OCTOBER 8 RALLY IN GLASGOW.

DAVE HARDING of the HOLLOWAY 30 DEFENCE CAMPAIGN outlined the attack on an anti-internment march in London this year which had resulted in the arrest of 30 people, and put these arrests in the context of the increasing

erosion of the right to free speech on Ireland.

The main speaker of the day was JACKIE DONNELLY, Sinn Fein Press Officer for the Six Counties. During the week prior to the rally Jackie addressed two public meetings, one in Dundee organised by the DUNDEE COMMITTEE FOR A UNITED IRELAND and one in Glasgow, as well as giving interviews to IRELAND'S WAR, THE NEW WORKER and the DUNDEE COURIER. Jackie has been a member of the Republican Movement since 1966. He is an ex-Prisoner having done 4 spells in jail. In 1971 he was interned for 3½ years. He had been released for just over one year when he was arrested and charged with the execution of a UVF man. There was no evidence against him but he was held on remand for one year before the charge was finally dropped. Then he was arrested and charged with hijacking a car. Again there was no evidence against him and the charge was dropped - but not before he had served 5-6 months on remand.

In 1981, on the uncorroborated evidence of paid perjurer Christopher Black, Jackie was charged with IRA membership and sentenced to 6 years. With no right of appeal being granted to him before doing his sentence, Jackie completed the 6-year sentence imposed on him. The appeal was subsequently heard and the conviction quashed but there was no redress whatsoever for Jackie. When he was finally released he organised the "Anti-Show Trials Committee".

We reprint below the text of the speech Jackie delivered while in Scotland:

"This year sees the 20th anniversary of the present conflict in the North of Ireland. I say present conflict because the conflict has been ongoing for over 800 years. It was over 800 years ago that the island of Ireland was invaded and during those 800-odd years generations and generations of Irish men and women have taken up arms in an attempt to secure their right of self-determination. All of these attempts failed though this is not a reflection on the courage and commitment of those who participated in their efforts to gain freedom. All except one that is.

"After the 1916 Rising which saw gallant Irish men and women rebel against British occupying forces only to be quelled by sheer might and numbers, their leadership taken out and executed and the vast majority of their Volunteers imprisoned, a new flame of resistance began to burn. Over the next couple of years the IRA regrouped, re-organised and eventually engaged British occupying forces with such success that the British government of the

day was forced to negotiate a truce. Independence was there ready to be had but because of the treachery of a few it was decided that the island of Ireland be partitioned. The North Eastern Six counties of Ulster was to remain under British rule which in turn meant that those Nationalists there were to be in the minority and hence suffer all the indignities of sectarianism, intimidation, unemployment, poor housing, but most important of all they were to suffer the denial of their national identity. They had been cast aside and forgotten about.

"But the Nationalist people of the still occupied Six Counties and especially those who were Republicans, refused to forget their true identity. Throughout the hardships of 50 years of bigotry that small spark of resistance still smouldered, patiently awaiting the opportune moment when it would once again burst into flames.

"This opportunity presented itself 20 years ago when a campaign for Civil Rights began. People, mostly from the minority section, took to the streets to protest at the denial of civil rights by the then Stormont government. Their protests were peaceful but were met by violence from the bigoted para-military forces of the RUC and B-Specials which culminated in August 1969 when Nationalist areas throughout the Six Counties were attacked. People were shot dead, hundreds of homes were burnt to the ground and in fact an act of genocide was attempted by the loyalists and their armed para-military cohorts. These attempts were resisted by Nationalists and Republicans who for three days remained under seige. The British government of the day could no longer turn a blind eye as to what was happening and sent in British troops who were to act as an impartial peace-keeping force. No one would deny that most of the community were relieved to see them and for a short period of time remained on good terms with them. This was to be known as the honeymoon period. Like all honeymoons, they don't last forever and this honeymoon was no exception. During this period the IRA, just like the IRA of 1916, began to re-organise. They began to acquire weaponry solely to be used defensively as they had sworn that there would never be a repeat of August '69.

"The honeymoon period ended when British troops began to wreck houses in the search for these weapons. These searches were confined only to Nationalist areas and this caused great resentment, especially with the Nationalist youth! Soon there was rioting, youths armed only with stones and petrol bombs began to engage armed



A CROSS-SECTION OF THE CROWD AT THE OCTOBER 8 RALLY IN GLASGOW.

← PAGE 6 ←

British troops. Civilians were shot dead by these troops. In one day, in one area, that of the Lower Falls, six were shot dead whilst the remainder of the people living there were placed under a 3-day curfew. During this time the IRA had yet to fire a shot at British troops. In February 1971, because of increasing pressure from the Nationalist people, the IRA were forced to retaliate and the first British soldier was killed. After that James Callaghan stood up in Westminster and declared that they, the British government, were at war with the IRA.

"And so began the present campaign. A campaign which has lasted the best part of two decades. A campaign in which the British government has tried every trick they have learned throughout their reign as oppressors in every corner of the world, to defeat the IRA. They have failed.

"They failed when they introduced internment in 1971. They failed when they murdered 13 innocent people in Derry, known as Bloody Sunday, they failed when they successfully bought over the Nationalist SDLP with promises of power if they could get Nationalist support for the IRA withdrawn - this was the Sunningdale Agreement of 1974. They failed when they introduced the triple policies of Criminalisation, Normalisation and Ulsterisation in 1975. Our Prisoners refused to be branded criminals and went on a blanket, no-wash protest. Ten Republicans went on Hunger Strike to protest at the denial of Political Status and died whilst on Hunger Strike. They achieved admiration from most countries in the world and brought about international credibility for the armed struggle which the IRA were engaged in. They also defeated the British government's attempt to defeat the IRA by criminalising them. Normalisation failed because the world over knows that there is nothing normal in the Six Counties - it is a war zone and is plain to be seen as one. Ulsterisation failed because in 1975 when introduced the effect it was meant to have was to portray the RUC as 'THE' peace-keeping force and to minimise the number of British troops in the Six Counties. There are more British troops in the occupied Six Counties now than at any other time. They failed

when they threw caution to the wind and introduced the use of uncorroborated evidence of paid perjurers to gain convictions against Republicans. They not only failed but were brought to task by many countries who based their law on that of Britain's. They failed when they stupidly believed that they had at last found a weak link in the Republican chain. Republican women they thought could be the straw that breaks the camel's back. They introduced strip-searching of Women Republican POWs hoping that by degrading our women they would break their resistance and therefore demoralise the IRA. As Padraig Pearse said: "The fools, the fools, the fools". Not only was it wrong to assume the Republican Women were the weak link, the truth of the matter is that Women Republican POWs inspired the IRA by the resistance shown by them not to be broken by the degrading treatment they were enduring.

"The list is endless - shoot-to-kill, killing children with plastic bullets, collusion with loyalist paramilitaries in sectarian attacks on Nationalists in an attempt to terrorise Nationalists into rejecting the IRA. Everything they tried has failed. The IRA is still there, they are stronger, more committed than ever before with one thought only in mind, that of ultimate victory, the right of national self-determination. Once that is granted there will be no need for the IRA. Sinn Fein will do all in its power to ensure that the real facts of what is happening in the Six Counties is told and to press home the important message to Britain, Get Out of Ireland, your reign has been long enough, we mean to be free.

"From 1970 when the IRA took retaliatory action in defence of the Nationalist people which, as was stated earlier, resulted in the death of the first British soldier, and when Jim Callaghan declared war on the IRA, the IRA took a conscious decision that the time was now right to mount an offensive against the British occupying crown forces. The flame of resistance was now burning fiercely.

"From 1970 they engaged crown forces at every opportunity to such an extent that they forced the British government into the re-introduction of internment in the hope that in some way they could defeat the IRA. As stated

C.P.G.B. BAN SINN FEIN

COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN

In 1921 the Communist Party Of Great Britain (CPGB) wrote in its pamphlet 'THE IRISH CRISIS':

"The Communist Party Of Great Britain hails the dauntless fight of the Irish Republicans in their successful struggle against the British government. And we promise them, here and now, that whatever cost we may have to pay, our life's blood will be the test of our comradeship and the price of our solidarity".

Sadly this fine and absolutely correct communist position on Ireland is not only no longer adhered to by the CPGB, it has been turned on its head - the CPGB now supports the very

British state it once promised to shed its 'life blood' to oppose.

Today the CPGB is nothing but a right-wing rump of pale pink posers.

IRELAND'S WAR was therefore amazed when we heard that not only was the CPGB going to organise a debate in Glasgow on Ireland, but it had invited Sinn Fein to provide a speaker. This outbreak of sanity was however short-lived and our initial surprise soon turned to anger when only days after issuing the invitation to Sinn Fein the CPGB changed its 'mind' and withdrew the invitation.

Clearly the green voice of Irish Republicanism is far too red for the red, white and blue CPGB.

previously, this failed. Not only did it fail but it also isolated the British government even further from the Nationalist people.

"I will not dwell on the progress the IRA have made from then. I think it is sufficient to say that the very fact that the IRA not only survived the devious tactics employed by various British governments, but they have become a very committed revolutionary organisation.



JACKIE DONNELLY, SINN FEIN, SPEAKING AT THE OCTOBER 8 RALLY IN GLASGOW.

"What you must understand is this: the Volunteers of the IRA are no different from you. They are ordinary people, with one exception, they thirst for freedom. They thirst for their own identity, an identity that has been denied them by both British war mongers and Irish traitors. They come from all ordinary walks of life, they are milkmen, postmen, students, teachers, plumbers, bricklayers, they are you. They long for peace, they long to have a happy family life, they long to be able to go out and support their families, they long to lead a normal life but most of all they long to be free. This yearning to have their freedom leads them into a life of hardship, a life without the warmth of their families, a life in the hands of British jailers and ultimately an untimely

end to that life. It is nothing to envy but it is certainly something to admire! The fact that these people, both men and women, are so committed to the cause of self-determination that they are willing to sacrifice all else is to be admired and proves on thing beyond all doubt - they are not terrorists, they are Freedom Fighters."

FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND

In IRELAND'S WAR No.29 we called for "us all to unite in a massive CAMPAIGN FOR FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND" and indeed the GCBWI has now gone on to form such a campaign. The first act of the Campaign was to call for a March and Rally in Glasgow on Saturday 3 December calling for 'FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND', and to win support for the right to march from prominent groups and individuals at home and abroad.

The CAMPAIGN FOR FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND has drawn up a Declaration which states:

"We support the right to free speech on Ireland.

"Irrespective of our own views on a British withdrawal from Ireland, we do support the right to free speech for those who make such a political demand, and we support their right to demonstrate in Glasgow.

"We therefore urge the Strathclyde Regional Council to lift its ban on marches in Glasgow calling for a British withdrawal from Ireland thereby demonstrating that the Strathclyde Regional Council also upholds the right to free speech on Ireland".

THE GLASGOW COMMITTEE FOR A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM IRELAND and the CAMPAIGN FOR FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND will continue the struggle to win back the right to march in Glasgow around the demand 'Britain Out Of Ireland'. Strathclyde Region Labour Councillors should take note - you will be pestered, pestered and pestered again until those in Glasgow who call for a British withdrawal from Ireland can take that message onto their own streets.

ANGOLA

ANGOLAN NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Under the terms of the tripartite, Angolan/Cuban/South African agreement signed on 8 August, 1988, South Africa committed itself to a starting date of 1 November for the implementation of the United Nations independence plan for Namibia. At the negotiating table the United States, not without some irony, playing the role of 'honest broker', mediated an agreement whereby South Africa pledged to remove its army from Angolan soil. It is 22 years since the termination of South Africa's mandate to administer Namibia and the tenth anniversary on the 29 September of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 (UNSCR 435) which stated as its objective the withdrawal of South Africa's illegal administration of Namibia and the transference of power to the people of Namibia through free elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG).

In accordance with the August agreement the South African Defence Force (SADF), made what has been called an 'ostentatious withdrawal' from Angola, where 1,000 troops crossed the Namibian border to join the 2,000 other armed personnel who have been removed since the ceasefire commenced. But the Angolan authorities have not yet confirmed that all the South African forces have left Angolan soil.

Complete or not, the South African withdrawal is an outstanding event, which rewards the 12 years of Cuban support and commitment to the MPLA and the Angolan people in their struggle for independence and freedom from the US - and South African - backed UNITA forces. It is a success generated by a series of military defeats inflicted by the Angolan and Cuban forces and by SWAPO of Namibia. The most decisive was the smashing of the South African offensive at Cuito Cuanavale, when the liberation forces forced a South African retreat (fifty miles outside of this crucial area and back behind the Namibian border) effectively eradicating the imperialist forces in the South West of Angola. It marked an end of a South African offensive, which had begun in October 1987, the defeat was devastating, bringing a complete change in the military balance of forces in Angola's favour.

This was one of the decisive factors which finally made South Africa sit down and discuss Namibian independence. It was coupled with the loss of South African air superiority in Angola, its more than 50 admitted white dead, the mutinies among Namibian troops used by the SADF in Angola all forced the Pretoria regime to consider what further losses it could risk.

With white losses, opposition to the war within South Africa was growing. Young whites protesting by refusing conscription revealed SADF atrocities committed in Angola. Military defeats would serve only to further polarise the South African regime. These defeats have given the liberation forces an added confidence that Pretoria is not invincible and iterates the myth of white superiority.

The Angolan-Namibian peace talks are due to resume in Brazzaville at the end of September. At present the talks hinge on securing a timetable for Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola. South Africa, which initially demanded that the estimated 50,000 Cuban troops withdraw over a seven-month period, has increased the time frame to 12 months from 1 November. Havana has reduced its timetable to three years, realising that, because the US was not a signatory to the agreement reached in Geneva between Angola, Cuba and South Africa, it will not cease its support for the UNITA terrorists, which is continuing to inflict billions of dollars worth of damage to the Angolan economy. The negotiations are further hampered by South Africa's attempts to introduce linkages, such as the dismantling of purported African National Congress (ANC) bases in Angola, the UN plan for ending South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia says nothing about the ANC.

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Reports are also being made of a build-up of South African forces in northern Namibia. Journalists have reported seeing convoys of at least 400 vehicles, including armoured cars and heavy artillery heading for the South African military bases at Okalongo, Eenhana and Kongo in the north. By expanding its military bases and heavily stocking its armoury there are justified fears that the recently withdrawn forces may find a pretext for returning to Angola to launch a series of fresh offensives. It is also feasible that South Africa will once again renege on its agreements by delaying UNSCR 435.

It is a fragile agreement, but there is however, room for optimism. Pretoria must see the benefits of extricating itself from a war in which it has made no strategic gains and which costs an estimated R4 billion per year. It is also a war which they know they cannot win, the unstinting support of Cuba has eliminated that possibility. Although, the United States and South Africa, as the combined force supporting UNITA, have achieved, in the short term the destabilisation of Angola which has prevented the Angolans from constructing an alternative political structure and the building of a socialist society.

This does not undermine the fact that despite destabilisation and destruction, progressive forces in South Africa have not been defeated. It is becoming evident that a new balance of international forces is emerging. Gorbachev's 'New Thinking' in Soviet Foreign Policy has put the United States on the defensive and generated a more favourable international climate. We are witnessing a whole series of settlements of regional conflicts, in Afghanistan, in the Iran/Iraq War, agreements are also on the cards for Cambodia and Morocco and now in South West Africa.

Despite the imperialist forces, led by the United States, might and their awesome capacity for destruction, they have been unable to crush the forces of revolution and national liberation. A free Angola and an independent Namibia would signify a great victory for anti-imperialist forces, but the apartheid regime is far from invulnerable. The next step must be the implementation of Resolution 435, starting with a ceasefire between South Africa and SWAPO. The guarantee of these advances will depend on the amount of international pressure brought to bear on the apartheid regime, but with or without it, it is beyond doubt that a key safeguard for the security of the Angolan and Namibian peoples will be the presence of Cuban forces. Castro has made it clear that Cuba will not remove its troops unless the future of the MPLA government is secure. He has said that whenever the Angolans need them Cuba will be there - this is likely to be good for a few years to come.

We salute the heroic spirit of internationalism of the Cuban people and the struggling peoples of Southern Africa in their fight against apartheid and imperialism.

The above article first appeared in CUBA SI, the Journal of the BRITAIN/CUBA RESOURCE CENTRE (October 1988). The BRITAIN/CUBA RESOURCE CENTRE can be contacted at: BCRC, c/o CARILLA, 29 ISLINGTON PARK ROAD, LONDON NW1.

letters

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Cumann na mBan

Just before morning on Saturday, 23 October, 1971, British soldiers - á la Black and Tans - raided the Lower Falls, in Belfast. Immediately, three members of Clonard Women's Action Committee were driven into the district to warn the people, by sounding a siren, that the Royal Green Jackets were on the rampage. In the rear seat of the car were two sisters, Mrs. Maura Meehan, and her younger sister, Dorothy Maguire. In Cape Street, the British opened fire with S.L. rifles and murdered the two women. Dorothy was only 19 years of age and both she and her sister died of wounds in the back. Both women were members of Cumann na mBan.

Parkhead



BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN PARKHEAD, GLASGOW, 23.10.88.

17 years later, on Sunday 23 October, led by the local Band, the BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND, the REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE marched through the Parkhead area of Glasgow demonstrating that the struggle for Irish freedom is attracting growing support over here.



ANDERSONSTOWN MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN PARKHEAD, GLASGOW, 23.10.88.

Followed by the WOLFE TONE, KEVIN BARRY, VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH (LOUGHGALL MARTYR), JAMES CONNOLLY and ANDERSONSTOWN MARTYRS Republican Flute Bands and hundreds of their supporters, the BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND marched proudly to show their support for the Irish Republican Movement and Irish national self-determination.



JAMES CONNOLLY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN POLLOK, GLASGOW, 15.10.88.

The parade ended with the BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND playing Amhrán na bhFiann.



KEVIN BARRY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN PARKHEAD, GLASGOW, 23.10.88.

REMEMBER THE POWs AT XMAS

An Cumann Cabhrach

NAME	NUMBER	BIRTHDAY	PRISON
Michael McKenney	L46486	7 February	Frankland
John McComb	B51715	25 February	Long Lartin
Ella O'Dwyer	O25135	3 March	Durham
Gerry Cunningham	132016	24 March	Long Lartin
Shaun McShane	B75898	13 April	Maidstone
Martina Anderson	O25134	16 April	Durham
Eddie Butler	338637	17 April	Frankland
Patrick Hackett	342603	28 April	Parkhurst
Joe O'Connell	338635	15 May	Gartree
Patrick Magee	B75881	29 May	Leicester

Paul Holmes	119034	22 June	Frankland
Peter Sherry	B75882	30 June	Parkhurst
Brian Keenan	B26380	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	Long Lartin
Harry Duggan	338638	31 October	Parkhurst
Roy Walsh	119083	1 November	Gartree
Sean Kinsella	758661	5 November	Albany
Paul Norney	863532	11 November	Wormwood Scrubs
Brendan Dowd	758662	17 November	Frankland
James Bennett	464989	4 December	Long Lartin
Liam Baker	464984	6 December	Long Lartin
Hugh Doherty	338636	7 December	Long Lartin
Noel Gibson	879225	11 December	Wakefield
Gerry McDonnell	B75880	19 December	Leicester
Natalino Vella	B71644	24 December	Parkhurst
William Armstrong	119085	26 December	Full Sutton

ADDRESSES OF JAILS IN ENGLAND

Gartree Prison, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7RP.
 Wakefield Prison, Love Lane, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 9AG.
 Long Lartin Prison, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs., WR11 5TZ.
 Frankland Prison, Finchale Avenue, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5SB.
 Maidstone Prison, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1UZ.
 Parkhurst Prison, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX.
 Leicester Prison, Welford Road, Leicester, LE2 7AJ.
 Full Sutton Prison, Stamford Bridge, East Riding.
 Albany Prison, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS.
 Durham Prison, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HU.

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

Support the work of your local POW Committee: GLASGOW: POW COMMITTEE PH3, 340 WEST PRINCES STREET, GLASGOW G4. LONDON: WOLFE TONE SOCIETY BM BOX 6191, LONDON WC1N 3XX. DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME.

AN CUMANN CABHRACH (BRITAIN) down the years continue to raise funds on behalf of Republican Prisoners and their dependants. All funds collected or donated are used solely for that much needed worthy cause and any donation will be much appreciated and acknowledged. The measure of our support to alleviate as much as possible hardship on the Republican Prisoners and their dependants relies a good deal on the generosity of those caring people who send or give their donations to us. No matter how hard working or dedicated our people working for this worthy cause may be, it is ultimately the donations received that makes all of our organisation's necessary work possible. Please give them NOW and as OFTEN as possible your fullest support - "they never failed us - we must not fail them". AN CUMANN CABHRACH (BRITAIN) work under the direction of AN CUMANN CABHRACH (IRELAND). All donations should be payable to: PHOENIX AID ASSOCIATION, c/o ITHSCC (BIRMINGHAM), PO BOX 540, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM B11 4AU.

MILTON

For the first time since its introduction, the PUBLIC ORDER ACT was used by Strathclyde Region Police in an attempt to disrupt a Republican parade. The police used their powers under the PUBLIC ORDER ACT to ban Republican Flags from the 5 November march in Milton, Glasgow.

When the march organisers, the REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE, protested they were told by the senior police officer on duty, "This is not a democracy. We want no discussion. You can't fly these flags".

Under the Public Order Act the senior police officer on duty at a parade has widespread powers. However, when pressed in Milton the senior police officer admitted that he was NOT exercising his own discretion but was acting on orders from ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE DIXON in police HQ. Thus the decision to use the Public Order Act in this way was not the whim of an individual policeman but represents the official policy of Strathclyde's top police officers. This is a serious infringement of the democratic right to march and must, and will, be resisted.

In spite of this disruptive activity, the H-BLOCK MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND led a peaceful and dignified parade in solidarity with the Irish Republican Movement. Also taking part in the march were the POLLOK, VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH (LOUGHGALL MARTYR), SONS OF IRELAND, KEVIN BARRY and ANDERSONSTOWN MARTYRS Republican Flute Bands.

The REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE produced a leaflet for the parade on the subject, appropriately enough, of Free Speech on Ireland (see text of leaflet).

The march concluded with the playing of the Soldiers Song by the H-BLOCK MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND.



VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH (LOUGHGALL MARTYR) REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN POLLOK, GLASGOW, 15.10.88.

POEMS

THE OULD WOMAN CRIES

Tears stream her Irish eyes
her head bowed,
saddened
the Ould woman cries
her ears
hear the sound of death
and torture
this is England's occupation
covert operations
amid an onslaught
shoot to kill
John Bull's imperialist
slaughter
loaded, fired
British guns
kill her Irish sons
and daughters
and her little children die
victims of a wrath
an oppressor's plastic bullet
tears of blood
stream her Irish land
the Ould woman rises
gets off her knees,
and stops
to clean her eyes.
In memory of Irish Republican
Volunteers Gerard Harte, Martin
Harte and Brian Mullen, murdered
by British state terrorists.
BC, Cumbernauld.

THE LAST COLONIAL BATTLE

In Ireland's country they still remain,
Terrorising people ruling with an iron hand,
Their last colonial battle,
The foreign enemy on whose land,
They call themselves Professionals,
They are the British army,
Professional thugs,
Professional looters,
Professional rapists,
In their last colonial battle.
In their own land,
Their so-called politicians,
Their gutter press,
Their state-run TV,
The big propaganda machine,
Rolls on and on,
In collusion with evil monsters, RUC, UDR,
Frequenting also with UVF, UDA,
Cardboard gangsters all together,
Together they'll die,
Just like the weather.
Ireland will be Ireland,
United, Gaelic and free,
Surrounded only by sea,
And never again by tyranny!
MK, Member of the JIM LYNAGH
(LOUGHGALL MARTYR) REPUBLICAN
FLUTE BAND, DUMBERTON, SCOTLAND.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

RONNIE MCCARTNEY (HMP Gartree),
Christmas greetings from your
friend Gerard, Corby, Northants.
Tíocfaidh ár lá.

PRISONERS FUND

Help IRELAND'S WAR to help the POWs. Support the IRELAND'S WAR PRISONERS FUND. ALL donations used on IRELAND'S WAR POW work.

I wish to help IRELAND'S WAR help the POWs and enclose for the IRELAND'S WAR PRISONERS FUND.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Make cheques/PDs payable to "FOOTPRINT (IWPF)" and send to: FOOTPRINT, (IWPF), P.O. BOX 219, GLASGOW, G31 4DZ, SCOTLAND.

TEXT OF REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE LEAFLET

Extradition, plastic bullets, shoot-to-kill, strip searching, no-jury Diplock courts, repatriation for Irish POWs in England, British army raiding parties wrecking Nationalist homes, unemployment, discrimination - just some of the issues affecting the daily lives of Irish people in the occupied 6 Counties. Until Wednesday 19 October Sinn Féin members and elected representatives could air their views on these and any other subjects on TV and Radio, but not any more. The British government has decreed that, on the one hand Sinn Féin's right to free speech is to be crushed and, on the other, our right to hear the views of Sinn Féin is to be trampled underfoot. AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS, the newspaper of Sinn Féin put this latest repressive measure in its true context when it stated:

"The IRA is not the target of this law - it has its own way of getting its message across in the only way the British government understands; the real target of this censorship is the demand for Irish freedom - and that can never be silenced!"

And GERRY ADAMS MP stated:

"This draconian measure is not an attack on the IRA or the ability of the IRA to operate. It is a direct attack on Sinn Féin because Sinn Féin's views are unacceptable to the British government, and because we reject British claims of sovereignty over the Six Counties and articulate the demand for national self-determination."

GERRY ADAMS also said that Sinn Féin would not take the censorship lying down but would immediately set about developing alternative means of getting its message across.

The right to free speech both in Ireland and over here has become a major burning issue. On Saturday 8 October a march calling for 'Britain Out Of Ireland' organised by the Glasgow Committee For A British Withdrawal From Ireland was banned by the Labour-controlled Strathclyde Regional Council. This ban was part and parcel of the attack on YOUR right to have YOUR say on Ireland, and YOUR right to hear the Republican viewpoint. Join the fight for free speech. The REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE calls on you to turn out on SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER to march for FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND.



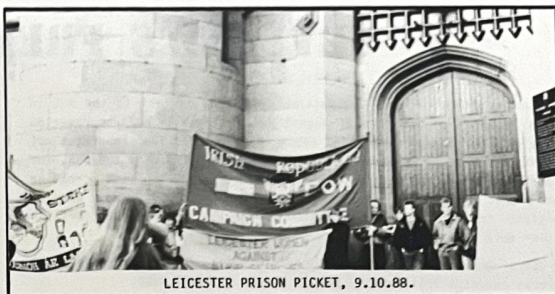
H-BLOCK MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN POLLOK, GLASGOW, 15.10.88. INSERT: THE BIG DRUM AND THE LITTLE DRUMMER - OUR FUTURE MARCHING TODAY.

The H-BLOCK MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND (GLASGOW) is looking for new members. If you want to join this Band then write to: FOOTPRINT (HBMRF), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Two Irish Republican Political Prisoners who died within a year of each other in Leicester and Parkhurst prisons were commemorated on Sunday 9 October this year. People from all over the English Midlands attended the picket at Leicester prison which had been organised by the IRISH REPUBLICAN POW CAMPAIGN (BRITAIN) in memory of Noel Jenkinson and Sean O'Conaill, and in solidarity with all Republican POWs. Among those present and loudly voicing support were the IRISH HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEES (BIRMINGHAM and LEEDS) as well as local branches of the STOP STRIP SEARCHES CAMPAIGN, TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT, IRISH FREEDOM MOVEMENT and DERBY'S IRISH SUPPORT GROUP.

Sean O'Connell's death on 1 October 1977 was an example of medical neglect within the British prison system. Despite longstanding illness it was only one day before he died of cancer that Sean was transferred to hospital. Medical 'care' in prison comes from a screw in a white coat. It was a prison doctor who tortured Michael Gaughan to death through force-feeding in Parkhurst, the same prison where Sean O'Connell was moved from to hospital.

"All Volunteers, all funds, all equipment to the Provisionals. Let the fingers of the anti-imperialist hand unite into a mighty fist to crush the aggressor."



LEICESTER PRISON PICKET. 9.10.88.

"Today you gather in common with many who can only join you in spirit, to commemorate Sean O'Connell and Noel Jenkinson who died respectively on 1 October 1977 and 9 October 1976.

"Others today may feel they can outline the background to these deaths, and of the types of ordeals these Political Prisoners faced. I have one main message to you, apart from thanks for the efforts you made and continue to make. I say, don't be depressed, don't be repressed, and above all don't be subdued by the apparatus of the state. In your organising together you reflect the spirit of the Seans and the Moels of this struggle - individually you have made a decision to refuse to simply stand apart and ignore the injustices perpetrated against the Irish people. People need to stand up and it is from small groups like you that others find courage. Don't let today be a coming together and then a drifting apart. Make it a bond made through common action and common pledges of more and more action. The POW Campaign (Britain) will be glad of your help, individually and collectively. They and we need you. Together we shall make it, let's do it, let's see if we can complete Sean and Noel's efforts. We owe it to future generations. Peace with Justice. We can do it."

AUGUST

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 26 | (Derry) | Bishop St. courthouse damaged in bomb attack. |
| 26 | (Derry) | Customs Post demolished in bomb attack. |
| 26 | (West Tyrone) | Crown force member escaped death in booby-trap bomb attack. |
| 27 | (Six Counties) | 200 attacks in 24 hours launched against crown forces following the extradition of Robert Russell. |
| 27 | (Derry) | 1 RUC man wounded in bomb attack. |
| 27 | (Derry) | Van-bomb explosion on the Foyle Bridge. |
| 27 | (Derry) | Hoax bombs and hijackings brought the city to a standstill. |
| 28 | (North Antrim) | Bomb attack on MOD firing range. |
| 30 | (Belfast) | 400lb bomb at N. Howard St. army base defused. |
| 30 | (County Tyrone) | Volunteers Brian Mullin, Martin and Gerard Harte mown down by the SAS. |
| 31 | (Belfast) | IRA issued warning to car thieves and joyriders to desist from their activities. |
| 31 | (Derry) | IRA issued statement of apology for the deaths of 2 civilians in a bomb attack in the Creggan. |
| 31 | (Six Counties) | IRA denied supplying arms to the INLA/IPLO. |
| 31 | (Six Counties) | Civilian contractors warned to cease work for the crown forces. |

SEPTEMBER

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|----|-----------------|--|
| 1 | (Loughmacrory) | Final salute paid by the IRA to their fallen comrades Volunteers Brian Mullin and Martin and Gerard Harte. |
| 3 | (Crossmaglen) | Mortar attack on British army base. |
| 8 | (County Tyrone) | 5 RUC men injured in 1,000lb bomb attack on Coagh barracks which were virtually demolished. |
| 9 | (East Tyrone) | Civilian contractors warned not to collaborate in the re-building of barracks. |
| 9 | (Belfast) | IRA executed leading loyalist Colin Abernethy. |
| 11 | (Armagh) | Impact grenade and gun attack injured 3 RUC men |
| 12 | (Belfast) | 250lb car-bomb extensively damaged city centre. |
| 12 | (Armagh) | 500lb landmine defused by crown forces. |
| 12 | (North Down) | Bomb attack on the home of Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, Tom King's most senior adviser. |
| 17 | (Belfast) | 1 UDR man injured in rifle attack on Girdwood army base. |
| 17 | (Belfast) | Rifle attack on Broadway Tower observation post |
| 19 | (Strabane) | 4 RUC men injured in landmine attack. |
| 20 | (Belfast) | Semtex bomb attack halted construction work at the Castle Court commercial complex. |
| 21 | (Belfast) | 20lb bomb exploded in city centre. |

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| 21 | (Belfast) | 1 crown force member injured in bomb and machine-gun attack on mobile patrol. |
| 21 | (Belfast) | 201b bomb extensively damaged commercial property in city centre. |
| 21 | (Belfast) | RPG Rocket-Launcher and Rifle attack on crown force mobile patrol. |
| 22 | (Belfast) | 1 Brit injured in mine attack on mobile patrol. |
| 22 | (County Fermanagh) | Mortar attack on Newtownbutler RUC barracks. |
| 22 | (Belfast) | RPG Rocket-Launcher attack on Fort Jericho army base. |
| 25 | (North Armagh) | 1 UDR man shot and killed bringing Brit army casualties to 33 this year. |
| 26 | (Strabane) | 91b landmine discovered by crown forces. |
| 30 | (Belfast) | 2 anti-social elements punished by the IRA. |

OCTOBER

- | UC100EN | | |
|---------|---------------|--|
| 2 | (Magharafelt) | 600lb van-bomb abandoned due to crown force presence. |
| 3 | (Derry) | Grenade attack on Waterside RUC barracks. |
| 4 | (Belfast) | 500lb bomb devastated commercial premises in the city centre. |
| 4 | (Belfast) | Vice Chairperson of the POA in the 6 Counties executed by the IRA. |
| 5 | (Lisburn) | Senior prison governor Thomas Murtagh escaped booby-trap bomb. |
| 7 | (Belfast) | 1 Brit injured in Semtex anti-personnel device attack. |
| 8 | (Belfast) | Building contractor questioned and subsequently released by the IRA. Civilian contractors again warned to cease collaborating with crown forces. |
| 9 | (Toomebridge) | Impact grenade attack on RUC barracks. |
| 11 | (Dungannon) | Brits take 2 days to defuse booby-trap bomb. |
| 11 | (Belfast) | 1 RUC man shot and killed. |
| 11 | (32 Counties) | IRA statement issued on security operation at Tory Conference in Brighton. |
| 16 | (Belfast) | Building contractor executed. Other contractors warned to cease their collaborationist activities or face the consequences. |
| 18 | (Belfast) | Grenade attack on Brit army foot patrol. |
| 18 | (Cookstown) | UDR captain survived rifle attack. |
| 20 | (Derry) | 3 Brits injured in rocket and gun attack. |
| 22 | (Belfast) | 1 Brit injured in grenade attack. |
| 24 | (Belfast) | Bomb attack on Brit army base. |
| 25 | (Belfast) | 1 Brit injured in landmine attack. |
| 26 | (Fermanagh) | 1 RUC man killed, 1 injured when their car was ambushed by the IRA. |
| 26 | (Fermanagh) | Landmine abandoned due to crown force presence. |

IRELAND'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS

TIDAL WAVE OF ANGER

The Southern government's extradition of Robert Russell to the RUC in the early hours of Saturday 27 August was followed by a 24-hour period of relentless attacks on the crown forces and the apparatus of repression. Over 200 separate actions were carried out by the IRA, and in addition the Nationalist people hijacked and burnt vehicles, creating road blocks which gave cover for some IRA operations. There were 23 shootings and 17 bombings, in which eleven RUC men and one British soldier were injured.

Van-bombs were exploded in Belfast at the City Hall, Springfield RUC barracks and at a Brit saracen parked in the Donegall Road.

A British army/RUC road block in Broadway was attacked 3 times, twice with guns, once with grenades.

British army patrols were attacked with guns, grenades and landmines in St. James, the Glen Road, Lenadon, Forfar Street, Cavendish Street and the Springfield Road.

IRA Volunteers fired more than 100 rounds of a light machine-gun at Henry Taggart barracks.

Ten shots were fired at a British army post in the top of a block of flats in New Lodge. Twenty shots were fired at a British army sangar at the Antrim Road/New Lodge Road junction.

These were only a few of the Belfast attacks which stretched the crown forces beyond their limits. Derry city was brought to a standstill too, and the whole of the Six Counties covered. Saturday 27 August was a day which the illegitimate rulers of the North will not forget in a hurry. In their panic and confusion the response of the crown forces was brutal and erratic. The Belfast Brigade of the IRA issued the following statement about the wounding of a 2-year old child, and accused the British army of firing indiscriminately on at least 4 occasions:

"The actions of the crown forces placed local people at grave risk. In one incident a number of our Volunteers launched a blast-bomb attack on a crown forces patrol. Members of the patrol immediately opened fire without identifying any specific target. Without substantiating the facts, the press accused our Volunteers of having injured two-year-old Michael Mahon, who was hit by a bullet at that time. However, while our investigation into this incident is ongoing, our preliminary inquiry leads us to believe that it was a British soldier who fired the shot which injured this child."

BLAST AT BLOOMFIELD'S

The British administration in Ireland was shaken to its foundations on Monday 12 September by a daring and successful bomb attack on the house of Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, head of Brit administration in the North and Tom King's senior adviser.

Two of the four bombs planted exploded at 6.15am. IRA Volunteers had penetrated the security of cameras and light surrounding the house in Crawfordsburn, a mainly loyalist Belfast suburb. Despite an immediate follow-up operation they returned safely to base. The large detached house was wrecked, through no-one was injured. The Belfast Brigade have issued a statement claiming responsibility and warning that:

"Other senior civil servants, part of whose work involved them in formulating British military strategy or advising the administration in this field should resign their posts or face the consequences."

SEPTEMBER ATTACKS

September was a disastrous month for the crown forces. It saw 5 major attacks on crown force barracks and bases using a variety of weaponry and the total demolition of one of these, Coagh barracks in County Tyrone. On 3 September the British army base in Crossmaglen was subjected to a mortar attack; 17 September saw a rifle attack on Girdwood army base in Belfast; on 22 September the Newtownbutler RUC barracks was mortared and on the same day Fort Jericho army barracks in Belfast came under attack by RPG Rocket-Launcher.

Attack of the month however was at Coagh barracks, which is no longer in existence having been demolished by a 1,000lb bomb which also injured 5 RUC men. The East Tyrone IRA Brigade warned civilian contractors that any attempt to rebuild would mean facing "certain attack from the Irish Republican Army".

H-BLOCK WARDER KILLED

Brian Armour, Vice Chairperson of the Prison Officers' Association and H-Block warder for many years was executed by the IRA on Tuesday 4 October. Two bombs containing 3½lb of Semtex explosive attached to the underside of his Austin Montego car exploded as he drove along Abetta Parade, East Belfast and killed him instantly. His death brings to 28 the number of prison warders killed in IRA attacks.

When the first 2lb device failed to explode, Volunteers returned to it, identified the fault and placed a further 1½lb device onto the vehicle.

In their statement claiming responsibility the Belfast Brigade of the IRA gave details of the torture and repression organised and carried out against Republican POWs by this man:

"Armour played a central role in organising and carrying out the systematic torture and brutalisation of hundreds of Republican prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. During the period of the blanket protest and the hunger strike, he personally participated in hundreds of physical and indecent assaults on naked prisoners.

"In the immediate aftermath of the escape from the H-Blocks in 1983, Armour was one of a small group of POA personnel who seized control of the prison for several days. During this period, scores of prisoners were beaten, made to run the gauntlet and were savaged by prison guard dogs. Armour played a central role in these acts.

"As an executive member of the POA, Armour used his position to advocate the most repressive and petty regimes in the H-Blocks, Magilligan, Maghera and Crumlin Road prisons.

"In recent weeks, the prison administrations in the H-Blocks and Crumlin Road in particular have resorted to acts of brutality in response to passive protests and requests for improvements in the prison regime. Therefore, Armour's execution should come as no surprise to prison staff and NIO prison administrators who are fully aware of his consistently inhuman attitudes towards prisoners.

"Those like Armour who continue to advocate the denial of fair prison conditions should take note that they will eventually, as in the case of Brian Armour, suffer the consequences of their actions."



SENIOR STRIP-SEARCHER ESCAPES BOOBY-TRAP

Within 24 hours of Armour's death the IRA issued a statement saying it had also planted a 2lb Semtex device under the Honda car belonging to prison governor Thomas Murtagh of Lisburn. The charge had failed to detonate and a warning was therefore given to avoid any possible danger to civilians. The statement gave a summary of Murtagh's criminal brutality towards prisoners in his charge:

".....In particular, Murtagh is infamous as the man who initiated the degrading process of systematically strip-searching women prisoners in Armagh jail. This practice was introduced by Murtagh in the aftermath of the hunger strikes in an attempt to break the morale of women republican prisoners.

"Since that period, Murtagh has been elevated to the NIO prisons administration branch in conjunction with his role as a senior governor. Murtagh's position placed him as a key player in the drafting of every attempt to smash the morale and resistance of republican prisoners in the seven years since the deaths of our comrades on hunger strike.

"We repeat our position that those like Armour and Murtagh who participate in the physical and mental torture of our imprisoned comrades cannot expect to escape the consequences of their action.

"Today Murtagh was lucky - he and his cohorts will not always be lucky. To place the charge on the target vehicle, our Volunteers breached the tight security around Murtagh's home, which is situated about 150 yards from the entrance to Thiepval barracks."

BRIGHTON DELIGHT

The IRA issued a statement in Dublin on 11 October saying that it:

"takes great delight from the hysteria and expense surrounding the security of Mrs Thatcher and the Tories at their Brighton conference.

"Given that Mrs Thatcher said, seven years ago, that the H-Block hunger strike was the IRA's last card, the British public can now judge for themselves how safe their prime minister feels when she has to surround herself with the Royal Navy, the RAF, the SAS, the Special Boat Service, the British army and the police force."