



IRELAND'S WAR

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Sinn Féin Ard Fheis report - middle pages
IRA & SF statements on civilian casualties - page 11



EASTER STATEMENT FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

AT EVERY republican commemoration held throughout Ireland last weekend the following statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement was read out.

THE leadership of the Republican Movement remembers with pride the Volunteers of Ogligh na hEireann from this generation who have laid down their lives for the freedom of the Irish people. They, and the countless thousands of martyrs from previous periods of struggle, are saluted today by comrades, friends and relatives as heroes in the cause of Irish freedom.

To their families we extend our endless sympathy. Though they have remained quietly in the background, their homes are still desolate, their hearts are still broken by the grief that Britain has inflicted on our people. On this, the 73rd anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising and the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, we commemorate all those patriots who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

To those around the world campaigning against the British presence in Ireland and in favour of national self-determination, who identify with our struggle for liberation, we send greetings and our gratitude.

We acknowledge the painstaking efforts of Irish Northern Aid and its attempts to broaden support in the USA, the work of Australian Aid for Ireland, the efforts of solidarity groups in Canada, Britain and Europe, and their support for the prisoners and their families.

We congratulate Sinn Féin for its ongoing political work and wish it success in the forthcoming elections. Its members have also borne the terrible price of assassination because of their commitment to peace and justice in Ireland.

This year sees the 20th anniversary of the open deployment of the British army in the Six Counties. Its

attempts to impose British rule on the Irish people have failed time after time. These forces and their government will never be accepted.

The channel for resistance to British rule remains the Irish Republican Army, which is at the forefront of the armed struggle. For 20 years our Volunteers have fought and died. Our people have suffered curfews, internment, torture, hunger-strikes and executions.

A large number of young married men have featured among our dead, leaving behind the tragedy of premature widowhood and young mothers left to raise their children alone. We remember them in

our thoughts.

To those children we make no immediate promises, no boasts, no empty gestures. But we say this, with all the conviction in our hearts, that in the future, in the Ireland of our making, there will be peace and prosperity. There will be no discrimination, no sectarianism, no favouritism, no triumphalism and no British soldiers! There will be equality, there will be prosperity, there will be harmony and there will be peace.

We are a risen people, a people not prepared to go back to being second class and to being dispossessed of our nationhood.

We have made sacrifices and we will be repaid with victories. And today our hearts pound with pride in memory of the Volunteers who contributed to the coming great victory of the oppressed over the oppressor, of the Irish Republican Army over the combined military forces and resources of the British government.

Victory to the Irish Republican Army.

Victory to the Irish people.

SINN FEIN interview

The following interview with RICHARD McAULEY, SINN FEIN DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY for the Six Counties, was conducted just after this year's Ard Fheis. IRELAND'S WAR would like to thank RICHARD McAULEY for taking the time to talk to us.

ANTI-IMPERIALIST MASS MOVEMENT

IW: Sinn Fein took a major policy decision at this year's Ard Fheis - to work towards the establishment of an all-Ireland anti-imperialist mass movement made up of the broadest range of political and social forces. How do you envisage this coming about, and in what ways will Sinn Fein work to achieve this?

SF: The motion that was passed at the Ard Fheis is very important. It is important for the struggle, it is important for the development of Sinn Fein as a party. It's a recognition by Sinn Fein that we can't win this struggle ourselves, that we need to broaden the base to pull into the struggle other forces, left forces, who can, with us, combine to create the necessary pressure to bring about both an end to the struggle and the development of class politics in Ireland. We don't have any blueprint, there is no plan of campaign mapped out by which this could be brought about. Largely at this stage we have laid the foundations for the development of such a broad, mass movement and I think that over the next months and year through discussion and debate both within our own party, but more importantly externally with other groups, that we would hope to evolve into the sort of broad-based anti-imperialist movement that we feel is necessary. But I think it's also very important for us to be aware of the concerns of others within the Left in Ireland and elsewhere might feel about this being simply a Sinn Fein front. We have to be very conscious of that, we have to be very honest, direct and open in our discussions and in our attitude towards them otherwise the thing won't get off the ground. But we will be very hopeful that there's already an interest in the idea and that over the next months and year we will see that idea take shape. But there's no easy, quick answer to the development of a broad-based movement in Ireland. It's going to be slow, tedious and hard.

IW: Is this proposal coming from Sinn Fein seeing themselves as being in a position of weakness and needing to find new allies; or is it from a position of strength, reflecting Sinn Fein's growing political maturity?

SF: I think that it would be more accurate to view it coming from a growing maturity within Sinn Fein. The Republican base is well established, it's very firm and we don't envisage any erosion of that Republican base. We certainly would envisage the possibility of developing it slightly further but there are obvious practical difficulties to that in the North. There are certainly grounds for believing that we can improve our

electoral support in the 26 Counties but that's over a long period, over a long period of time. I think that what you're seeing is over the last 10 years, as a result of a lot of internal discussion, the development of a more mature attitude towards the struggle and towards Sinn Fein's role within the struggle. For a long time Republicans felt that we alone held the answers to the National question and that we alone could resolve that. And I think this is a recognition that we have moved beyond that on the one hand elitist, and I think on the other hand immature position and that we now accept the need for others to be involved in that struggle if it's to be successful, not only in the short term in removing the British presence, but in the longer term creating socialism in Ireland.



I.R.A. Fighting for Peace and Justice

IW: There are those in Ireland who would argue that the continuing use of armed struggle as one tactic to achieve freedom is an obstacle to broad unity and can only serve to alienate potential support. Can you comment?

SF: Well obviously individuals and groups have expressed difficulties in the past with the armed struggle and the fact that there is a war of National Liberation taking place in the Six Counties; that as a result of that war individuals, civilians, Republican activists, British soldiers and others have been killed. What we are hoping to do is to convince them that to end that war and to achieve peace in Ireland that we all address the central issues. And the central issues which create the conflict are the absence of democracy, the imposition of partition and the denial of

national self-determination for the Irish people. A failure to address those issues has left us in the situation we are in today. And consequently we would hope that mature political organisations and individuals in Ireland would come to realise that those are the central issues and that it's on those issues that we need to work together. We may have differences in regard to the armed struggle, that's fair enough, and we would expect and accept that. But we feel that if this is to evolve and to develop and to make a constructive contribution, a positive contribution to ending the conflict, then it needs to address the real issues and not to be diverted, as the British would like it to be, into a discussion about the role of the IRA and its positive or negative aspects in regards to the National Liberation struggle. Obviously at the end of the day it's going to be a matter for the individuals and groups concerned. We will obviously put our position, we're not laying down pre-conditions. We are

prepared to discuss the issue with anybody, at any time, anywhere and we'll just have to see how it develops.

PLEDGE OF 'NON-VIOLENCE'

IW: Sinn Fein has taken a decision that any British-inspired oath or pledge will not prevent Sinn Fein representing its voters in local councils. The British government says this oath will be designed to prevent supporters of "violence" sitting as Councillors. What is Sinn Fein's reply to the assertion that Sinn Fein Councillors are indeed "supporters of violence"?

SF: I think the answer to that was very well outlined by the various speakers at the Ard Fheis at the weekend. Our position is that there is a considerable degree of hypocrisy on this whole issue of violence and the support of violence from the British

government and the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who has had no qualms in the past about using political and military force to achieve her political objectives - whether it's been in the Malvinas with the sinking of the Belgrano, or whether it's been on the streets of Gibraltar with the SAS. And I think also one needs to be conscious of the institutionalised state violence which Thatcher has been very much involved in the last 10 years in promoting and pushing. A state violence which in Britain each year results in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children from everything through from the cold and hypothermia, through cervical cancer and breast cancer for women, through the absence of dialysis machines for kidney patients, through a whole range of things where people every year in Britain needlessly die. And the responsibility for that rests with the British government. So it all becomes then to point the finger at anybody else and say "You support violence, that's terrible". In addition I think the attitude of the unionists towards the declaration of non-violence is equally hypocritical. The unionist view is that they wish to see a return to the good old days of Stormont. The good old days of Stormont for them and for us was a case of massive discrimination in employment which continues today; discrimination in housing; discrimination, a denial of our rights within the Six County state; the use of physical force when it suited the unionists against political activists and also against the Nationalist community in general. In terms of the struggle as it presently has been taking shape, unionists have no problems at all with any of the military actions carried out by the British. Like Geoffrey Howe and others in the British House of Commons, they cheered and gloated over the deaths of IRA Volunteers in Tyrone, in Gibraltar and elsewhere. Republicans do not gloat over the deaths of anyone whether it's a civilian, an IRA Volunteer or a British soldier. So it all becomes unionists or the British to point the finger at Republicans or Sinn Fein Councillors and say that somehow we are being hypocritical by being prepared to take this declaration against violence. The fact remains that we ARE opposed to violence, we are more opposed to violence than they are. We want to see peace, we are addressing the issues which are creating the conflict and if those issues are addressed there will be peace. So we have no problems at all in regard to this.

CENSORSHIP

IW: In relationship to the media ban on Sinn Fein, who do you think the ban is really aimed at and why do you think the British government has taken this step?



GIBRALTAR THREE REMEMBERED

The first anniversary of the SAS murders in Gibraltar of Volunteers MAIREAD FARRELL, SEAN SAVAGE and DAN McCANN was marked on Monday 6 March by a vigil in Birmingham, called by the IRISH REPUBLICAN POW CAMPAIGN (BRITAIN). Over 30 people gathered, holding portraits of the three Volunteers and black flags, for an hour during the evening rush hour.



Leaflets were distributed which exposed and condemned the British cover-up of the pre-planned and deliberate killings and called for British withdrawal from Ireland [see text of leaflet below]. The vigil was supported by the IRISH IN BRITAIN REPRESENTATION GROUP, the IRISH HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE (BIRMINGHAM), the PAKISTANI WORKERS ASSOCIATION and TROOPS OUT,

TEXT OF LEAFLET

Today we honour and salute Volunteers Mairead Farrell, Sean Savage and Dan McCann, the three brave and courageous members of Oglagh na hEireann, who were summarily executed in broad daylight and in front of witnesses in Gibraltar on Sunday March 6th by a number of heavily armed SAS terrorists sent there by Thatcher's murder executive, the British Cabinet.

Despite their lies immediately after these executions, which has once again demonstrated to the world the chilling and brutal nature of Britain's dirty war in Ireland, Mairead, Sean and Dan were unarmed, there was no bomb in Gibraltar, and no gun battle had taken place. The truth is as stated by the Republican Movement:

"that the Volunteers were on active service and the SAS staked out the movements of these three unarmed Republicans who were in no position to resist, ambushed them and then finished them off"

thus maintaining their British policy of shoot-to-kill.

British lies, British manipulation

and nine jury-men in loyalist Gibraltar returned a majority verdict of 'lawfully killed', despite evidence at the inquest putting beyond all doubt the fact that Mairead Farrell, Sean Savage and Dan McCann were deliberately killed by the SAS. It should also be said that during the inquest the families of the Volunteers suffered intense surveillance and harassment from both the Spanish and British authorities as they sought to expose the truth about the deaths of Mairead, Sean and Dan.

Mairead Farrell, Sean Savage and Dan McCann did not deserve to die, and that can be said of all those who have lost their lives as a result of British occupation and violent rule in the Six Counties. That is the reason that resistance will continue until Britain withdraws in total from Ireland and leaves the Irish people to determine their own future in their own country without British interference.

"I've always believed we had a legitimate right to take up arms and defend our country and ourselves against the British occupation" - MAIREAD FARRELL.

← P.2 ←

SF: I think the real targets of the ban from the beginning were Sinn Fein. I don't think the ban was intended in any way to refer to the IRA - IRA spokespersons haven't been interviewed on British TV for over 10 years, perhaps longer. So specifically the ban was intended to deny the British public access to all areas of information in regard to the conflict in Ireland. In particular to that area of information which means Sinn Fein which is opposing the British presence and which attempts to highlight the real issues involved in the conflict and the real reasons for the British remaining in the North. So that was the real purpose behind it - to deny the British public access to information on Ireland.

I think there's a peripheral additional reason and that is the hope that by preventing Sinn Fein from having access to the broadcasting media and thereby giving our opponents, the SDLP, the opportunity to exploit that situation, they would hope that in conjunction with the London-Dublin Agreement, that somehow that would undermine Sinn Fein's electoral base in the North to the advantage of the SDLP. I don't believe that that will happen in the short term and I believe that in the long term we can create alternative means of getting our position across that should limit significantly any possible harm that the ban will have on us in the North. In total I think the ban will have the greatest effect in Britain and internationally. It will prevent people from outside of Ireland, outside the North, getting a complete picture

of what's been going on here and what is going on here. And as a result it will perhaps delay the day when the British government is forced to actually tackle the core issues. So to that extent it's obviously a retrograde step. It obviously will contribute and can contribute to the unnecessary prolonging of this conflict and it should be opposed by all progressive elements in Ireland and in Britain. We want to see this conflict brought to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion.

IW: What steps do Sinn Fein intend to take to defeat the effects of this ban?

SF: Well there are a number of ways in which, and there are a number of areas that we are looking at in regard to this issue. Most of our local organisational structures have already begun the process of producing fairly regular local community bulletins and newsheets which contain information about the work of Sinn Fein activists in their particular area as well as overall political analysis of what's happening at a particular time. I'd like one to every door and I think they'd work effectively. But we are also looking at other things in regard to the production of regular videos which would be news videos containing information of current interest but with obviously a Republican analysis of what's going on. We're looking at the possibility of broadcasting radio programmes which people could pick up and again which would be the Republican position and Republican analysis of the current situation. And there are a number of other projects in hand - the production of posters and books and so on which will help in this issue. So,

we're not sitting back and meekly accepting it. We are looking at ways of overcoming the problem. I think we have to be honest. What we are doing is we are addressing the problem as it exists in the North. As I said earlier the main area where this ban is likely to have its greatest impact is in Britain where we can't produce newsheets, we can't broadcast radio programmes and the production of videos is limited and their circulation would be very limited. So what we are doing won't have any measurable effect in influencing the situation in Britain. That's unfortunate and that's where I think solidarity groups, support organisations, those within the Trade Union and Labour movement who support progressive policies, who support the struggle against the British presence and want to see their presence removed - that's where their role will be best in the months and years ahead. They are going to have to overcome that problem, that's going to mean a lot of hard work and a lot of commitment. But I'm sure most of them will be up to it.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

IW: Finally, at the Ard Fheis Sinn Fein passed resolutions in support of the freedom struggles in South Africa, Chile and Palestine, and welcomed the development of Glasnost and Perestroika in the Soviet Union. How important do you think the development of Sinn Fein's Foreign Affairs work is in terms of the national struggle at home?

SF: Foreign Affairs activity is very important and that fact has been recognised recently by the establishment of an International Publicity and Information Committee which has responsibility for

producing news briefings which will be targeted at politicians, governments, Embassies, Journalists, broadcasters and so on around the world, and which will be produced we hope on a 4-6 week regular period. The Committee is involved in the production of videos for international use and the production of magazines and posters, largely targeted at the international audience. In conjunction with the normal Foreign Affairs work which includes the production of briefings as well as sending Sinn Fein activists overseas to renew contacts, make new contacts, speak at conferences, debates and so on.

Foreign Affairs is very important and we recognise the centrality of Foreign Affairs in highlighting the issue of Ireland internationally, embarrassing the British government internationally and mobilising progressive forces internationally to take up a sound position in regard to the British presence. And we've been working at that for many years. I think the ban however has helped to galvanise that work a bit more than perhaps it has in the past. I'm not saying that the International Publicity and Information Committee was a response solely to the ban. I think that the Committee would have been established anyway. The ban, the availability of a number of personnel sort of coincided together at the same time which was quite useful and we were able to get the Committee going. But it's certainly a very important area of work and provided we have the personnel and, more especially provided we have the finance, we will work at it.

IW: Thank you very much.

Frank Stagg picket

Over 60 people gathered outside Wakefield prison, West Yorkshire, on Sunday 12 February to commemorate the anniversary of Frank Stagg's death on Hunger Strike 13 years ago to the day. The picket called by the IRISH REPUBLICAN POW CAMPAIGN (BRITAIN) was supported by their branches in Manchester and Birmingham, as well as the Leeds and Birmingham branches of the IRISH IN BRITAIN REPRESENTATION GROUP, the IRISH HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE (BIRMINGHAM), LEEDS DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT, IRISH FREEDOM MOVEMENT and the MANCHESTER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE. People had also travelled from Liverpool and Nottingham.

Proceedings were chaired by LIAM HEWITT, MANCHESTER POW CAMPAIGN, who invited representatives of organisations present to give solidarity greetings before calling upon POW Campaign activists to read messages from POWs in Frankland and Gartree to those assembled. A resolute statement from RICHARD MAY of SINN FEIN POW DEPARTMENT demonstrated the determination to continue the Department's campaigning work on behalf of Republican Prisoners of War [see extracts from the messages below].

In conclusion, ANGELA McANDREW spoke of the work of the IRISH REPUBLICAN POW CAMPAIGN, particularly in relation to prison pickets. She described Wakefield prison, guilty of continuous vindictive treatment against POWs (most recently Noel Gibson) as:

"a symbol of British repression.....Britain cannot isolate our POWs in English jails whether they are held in Durham or down on the Isle of Wight.....So long as Britain imprisons Irish Republican POWs we will be outside from them because they are in there for us."

RICHARD MAY - SINN FEIN POW DEPARTMENT

Sadly the injustice which Frank and other POWs suffered continues today. Nothing has changed! The conditions of imprisonment for Republican POWs imprisoned in English jails remains one of hardship, isolation, brutality, frame-ups and so on. For their families who remain at home nothing has changed. They still arrive at the prisons after long journeys for a visit to find their loved one has been ghosted to another prison. They are harassed and humiliated by the DHSS, the police and prison authorities from the moment they make arrangements for a visit until they arrive home.

"All that and more is the reality of life for POWs and their families and I mention this, not to remind you gathered here today, but to give

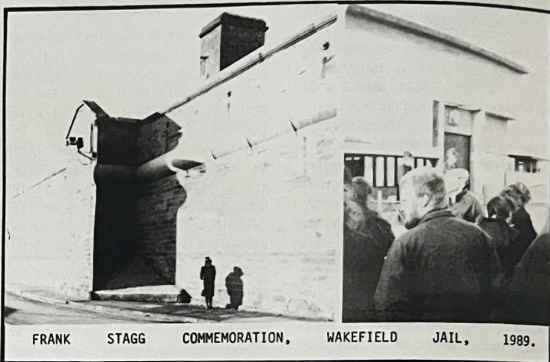
notice that we are going to campaign until it ends. How dare Maggie Thatcher lecture any country on human rights and prison policy, whilst Irish POWs have to endure oppression within English jails? She makes a mockery of those who are well meaning on such issues.

"At every opportunity we are going to highlight how the British establishment treats our POWs, we will remind it of its bloody history and how it murdered POWs like Frank Stagg. We have to do this because we have to end it and I ask all of you here today to help us in this task."

Thanks to the POW Campaign (Britain) for the above information.

The picket continued on to nearby Frankland prison where POWs EDDIE BUTLER, NOEL GIBSON, PAUL HOLMES, JOHN MCCOMB, LIAM MCCOTTER and MICHAEL MCKENNEY received spirited greetings. On behalf of the POW CAMPAIGN, VINCE THORNHILL spoke of the long history of Britain's incarceration and brutal treatment of Irish Political Prisoners from Thomas Clarke to the present day, and in particular highlighted the cases of NOEL GIBSON and NATALINO VELLA, who at Durham jail on 11 May will face charges trumped-up against them in Wakefield jail relating to an alleged explosion in the prison library. In conclusion, he thanked all for attending.

Press release put out by IRISH REPUBLICAN POW CAMPAIGN (BRITAIN).



WOLFE TONE SOCIETY

JAMES CONNOLLY/BOBBY SANDS COMMEMORATION DAY

SUNDAY 7 MAY 1989 1pm

CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, LONDON

THIS IS THE MAJOR IRISH SOLIDARITY EVENT OF THE YEAR.

Speakers include: BERNADETTE (Devlin) McALISKEY; NIAL FARRELL (Communist Party of Ireland, brother of Mairead Farrell - murdered by the SAS in Gibraltar); SINN FEIN SPEAKER; JEREMY CORBYN MP; speakers from the Irish and Black communities.

Plus music, videos, bookstalls, workshops and rally.

BILLY REID - THANK YOU I.W.

A Chairde,

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND to thank the staff of IRELAND'S WAR for the articles and help given to the organisers of the BILLY KANE COMMEMORATION.

Without the help of IRELAND'S WAR it wouldn't have been such a success. Keep up the good work.

Is mise le meas,
Tómas O'Baoileach, Secretary,
Billy Reid Republican Flute Band,
Glasgow.

ANNUAL BILLY REID COMMEMORATION

SATURDAY 13 MAY

PARKHEAD, GLASGOW

Organised by the BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND/REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE.

RONNIE MCCARTNEY (Gartree POW):
Easter Greetings from your friend
Gerard, Corby, Northants.
Tíocfaidh ár lá!

BAND PHOTOGRAPHS

By agreement between IRELAND'S WAR and the REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE, photographs of Republican Bands which appeared in IRELAND'S WAR have been printed after IRELAND'S WAR had received permission from the individual Bands concerned to take their photographs.

The latest issue of 'ULSTER' magazine reproduced photographs of Republican Bands from IRELAND'S WAR.

Because of the possible security implications of this, IRELAND'S WAR has contacted the individual Republican Bands, via the REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE, to ascertain their wishes in regard to the publication of their photographs. As we go to press the Republican Bands have not had time to reply to our request for guidance.

In view of this we have decided not to publish any photographs of Republican Bands in this issue of IRELAND'S WAR. We are confident that our readers will understand this decision.

JOIN A BAND

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

Free tuition in Flute/Drum/Colour Party 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 (SOIRFB), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW, G31 4DZ. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

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

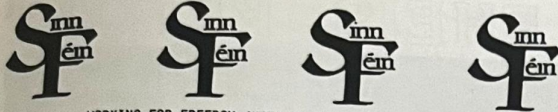
The VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH [LOUGHGALL MARTYR] REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND (DUMBARTON) is looking for new members. If you want to join this Band then write to: FOOTPRINT (VJL[RFB]), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW, G31 4DZ. All enquiries will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

The RISING PHOENIX REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND (EDINBURGH) is looking for new members.

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

Please note, the RISING PHOENIX REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND (EDINBURGH) is available to play at Dances and functions in the Lothian and Fife areas.

If you want to join this Band write to: FOOTPRINT (RPRFB), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW, G31 4DZ. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.



WORKING FOR FREEDOM JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR IRELAND

Sinn Féin is the only all-Ireland political party actively working to re-unite the Irish nation and establish freedom, justice and lasting peace in Ireland. This can only be achieved by an end to Partition, the removal of the British presence in the Six Counties and the establishment of a 32-County government democratically elected by the Irish people. Sinn Féin is involved in campaigns and issues which expose the various forms of social, economic and cultural repression of the Irish people by the British and Dublin governments.

They think that they have purchased half of us and intimidated the other half. They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but the fools! the fools! the fools! - they have left us our Fenian dead; and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace. - P.H. Pearse

NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION

*Self-determination is universally acknowledged as a nation's right to exercise the political freedom to determine its own social, economic and cultural development without external influence and interference.

*For over 800 years British interference in Ireland's affairs - and in particular its occupation in the Six Counties - has been the root cause of conflict and division.

*In 1921, Ireland was partitioned because the British government threatened largescale violence if its demands that the Six Counties remained under British rule were not met. Partition is maintained to protect British political, strategic and economic interests. Britain's refusal to withdraw is in total contravention of the express wishes of a clear majority of the Irish people who desire national unity.

DISCRIMINATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY

*Equality of job opportunity and an end to discrimination in employment on the grounds of religious bias against Catholics is still as unattainable a goal today in the North as it was 20 years ago during the Civil Rights era.

*Nationalists are 2½ times more likely to be unemployed than unionists/loyalists, they are under represented in the public service sector and trade and industry. The North is the second poorest region in the EEC. Fuel, energy and food costs are higher than in Britain yet the poor and unemployed - a disproportionate number of whom are nationalists - are doubly oppressed owing to drastic expenditure cuts by the British government in health, social services and education.

A PERSONAL APPEAL FOR FUNDS FROM GERRY ADAMS

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT is afraid of the voice of Irish republicanism, the voice of Sinn Féin.

If it isn't, then why has it introduced state censorship of television and radio interviews with a legal political party that represents 40% of the nationalist people of the Six Counties and has more than 80 local authority representatives throughout Ireland?

And why is it that I, as the democratically-elected Member of Parliament for West Belfast, am denied the right to articulate the views and concerns of my constituents on television and radio?

When IRA Volunteer Bobby Sands was elected as MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone in 1981, the British changed the rules to bar prisoners as candidates.

When people elected 59 Sinn Féin members to represent them on local councils in the Six Counties, the British threaten to make future candidates take an unacceptable oath and so debar themselves from standing.

And when one hundred thousand Northern nationalists proclaim through 'the democratic process' that our voice is Sinn Féin's voice, the British silence that voice on TV and radio.

Is it any wonder that Britain's emergency security legislation and media control have been the envy of totalitarian regimes such as South Africa?

That's the sort of enemy the beleaguered nationalist people of the North of Ireland are facing - a shameless, brutal, repressive machine that has tens of thousands of troops and billions of pounds at its disposal.

You can help to tip the balance in favour of Irish freedom.

Please send whatever you can.

GERRY ADAMS

PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR WEST BELFAST

YES! I want to play my part in ending British misrule in Ireland. I would like to help establish a United Ireland free of British interference and oppression.

I am enclosing £..... to help Sinn Féin in its campaign to win Freedom Justice and Peace for ALL the Irish people.

NAME

ADDRESS

Please make Cheques/POs payable to SINN FEIN NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE and send to NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE, 44 PARNELL SQUARE, DUBLIN 1, IRELAND.

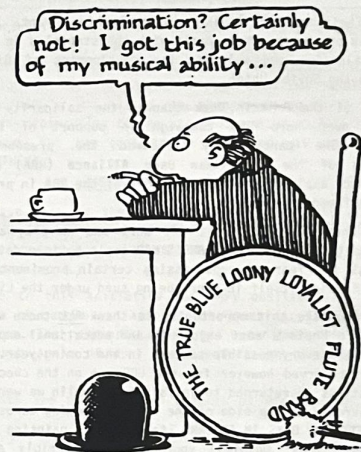
REMEMBER! THE AMOUNT OF YOUR DONATION WILL DIRECTLY DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR CAMPAIGN - THANK YOU!

EXTRADITION

*The extradition of Irish republicans from the 26 Counties to the North is one of the most serious issues facing the Irish people today.

*Every case that seeks to hand over a political refugee from the Six Counties to the British army and RUC to be railroaded through non-jury courts into Long Kesh must be fought. However there is no legal aid for those fighting extradition and each case costs about £40,000.

YOU CAN HELP TO STOP THE EXTRADITION OF IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS



POLITICAL PRISONERS

*There are 735 Irish republican prisoners in jail in Ireland (North and South), England, the USA and France. Almost a quarter, 186, are serving Life sentences. 99% have served over TEN years in jail and some are entering their 17th year in captivity with no release date to look forward to.

*Most countries on average release prisoners serving Life sentences after eight years imprisonment. In the North, non-republican prisoners serving Life sentences have been released after 7, 8 and 9 years at the most. Also in stark contrast is the fact that the only member of the British army sentenced to Life imprisonment for the murder of an unarmed nationalist man was released after serving a mere 2½ years. He is back in the British army.

*Republican prisoners held in English prisons are still refused the basic right, to serve their sentences in a prison as near to their relatives as possible. Subsequently their loved ones undergo extreme physical and financial hardship travelling to and from prisons scattered the length and breadth of Britain. Often when they arrive they find the authorities have moved the prisoner to another jail. Again double standards apply to British soldiers convicted of crimes in the North who are sent to prisons in England which are closest to their families.

*The campaign to end the degrading strip-searches of woman prisoners continues as does the campaign against strip-searching of male prisoners held in Portlaoise Prison.

LETTERS

IRELAND'S WAR welcomes letters from its readers. This is your paper - let us know what you think. Write to: FOOTPRINT, (1W), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW, G31 4DZ. (Long letters may have to be edited for reasons of space.)

FHEIS REPORT

During 3 days of debate and discussion the Ard Fheis addressed itself to the many and wide-ranging problems which affect the day-to-day lives of the people of the island of Ireland. From the rights of the disabled, access to decent housing, health and social welfare, emigration, right through to Prisoners, Censorship and repression, Sinn Féin showed itself to be a party committed to the pursuance of the First Dail's DEMOCRATIC PROGRAMME which stated:

But the Ard Fheis was no insular, inward-looking event. The Foreign Affairs section of the Ard Fheis dealt with the struggles in Chile, South Africa and Palestine and welcomed the development of Glasnost and Perestroika in the Soviet Union.

But the Ard Fheis weekend isn't all work and no play and as ever the 'crack' was good. However IRELAND'S WAR can't go into detail on this side of things for fear of embarrassing certain prominent members of Sinn Fein and finding itself in court being sued under the Libel laws!

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"In 1988 more than 30 armed conflicts were recorded as being in progress throughout the world. At present the hackneyed excuse that western security is dependent on "standing up to the Soviet threat" - and the ever-attendant risk of nuclear catastrophe which that policy embraces has been eroded by the agreement on nuclear weapons reduction which was signed by the Soviet Union and the USA. A start has been made. The lead given in all of this by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is to be applauded and welcomed."

'We Declare that we desire our country to be ruled in accordance with the principles of Liberty, Equality, and Justice for all, which alone can secure permanent peace and good Government.'

Sinn Féin

CENSORED

SINN FEIN AND FHEIS PLATFORM HIGHLIGHTS THE CENSORSHIP DIRECTED AGAINST THE IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT.

WOMEN-LINKED BY POVERTY

There were many advances to report. Four issues of the WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER had been produced and widely distributed. A new publication WOMEN IN STRUGGLE was produced for International Women's Day and deals with the role of women in the Irish struggle from 1798. Two posters were produced, one commemorating Mairead Farrell and the other publicising the Sinn Féin Women's Department.

Sinn Féin organised its first National Women's Conference in Dublin, an event of great significance. Concentrating on the issue of Women in the EEC MAIREAD said she believed the time had come for Sinn Féin to take the initiative in this area of work which had failed for too long to involve sufficient numbers of Republicans. For the first time too delegates were sent to the 2,000-strong International Women's Conference in Minnesota, where valuable contacts were made and a great deal of literature distributed.

The main resolution reflected all these concerns and showed the linking theme of poverty which affects two-thirds of Irish women in both the 6 and the 26 Counties, in the cities and in the country. Amendments were passed calling for non-means tested child allowances to be available to all women, and for secure and permanent funding of Rape Crisis centres. Debate on the motion was enthusiastic, getting to grips with the daily lives and problems of women. There was anger at the fact that women bear the brunt of cutbacks in the economy as provision for social needs is sacrificed in order to balance the books. The increase of part-time low-paid work for women was noted. Provision of proper health care was called for for all women. And the particular situation of women in the 6 Counties was emphasised, where repression, brutal house searches, arrest, torture and imprisonment forms another layer of women's oppression in addition to poverty and social deprivation. The motion expressed the determination of Sinn Féin to continue tackling all these issues as the liberation movement grows and gains in maturity and strength.

CULTURE

GEAROID O HEARA reported on this year's Slogadh, a political event which is held entirely in the Irish language, giving new dimensions to the political and cultural struggle. Prisoners in Portlaoise prison and other jails also organised their own events, carrying forward the cultural and political struggles at the same time. He emphasised that language is not a separate issue, but is in the front line of the struggle for Irish identity and self-determination. Otherwise the British invaders would not go to such extreme lengths to suppress it.

Publications in 1988 included SAOIRSE, the quarterly magazine, NUA, the weekly paper and an all-time first, an Irish-language book of crosswords

composed by EOGHAN MacCORMAIC, a Prisoner in the H-Blocks. Plans for the future include the fostering of Gaelscoileanna in the 26 Counties as well as the 6, to meet the aspirations of Irish parents for their children; the publication of poetry and prose in Irish and provision of simultaneous translation facilities at the 1990 Ard Fheis.

In the 4 resolutions passed vital language issues were raised. The downgrading of the Irish language in Six County schools below that of 4 other foreign languages, including English, was condemned, and will be strongly opposed. It was decided to urge local authorities to promote the use of Irish by every possible means, including increasing use of it in Council business.

PRISONERS

The highlight of this section was the appearance of GERRY CUNNINGHAM, ex-POW, released late in 1988 after serving 14 years in English prisons. He was greeted by thunderous applause which could only be stopped with difficulty to continue with business - and with some teasing about the length of his hair!

RICHARD MAY, head of the POW Department presented its report to the Ard Fheis. He laid strong emphasis on the current campaign to obtain release dates for the Life and SOSP Prisoners - all those who have indeterminate sentences. Of the total of 700 Republican Prisoners in British, Irish and other prisons, 203 have no release dates, condemning them and their families to a hopeless future as political hostages in the war. The Campaign's intensity scored a small victory with the release on Christmas parole of 38 of these Prisoners in the Six Counties.

Both RICHARD MAY and PAT DOHERTY, newly-elected Vice-President of Sinn Fein, pointed out the hypocrisy of Brian Lenihan, Free State Minister of Justice who, on the same day Christmas home leave was announced by the British government, refused the same request for Portlaoise POWs, not one of whom was able to spend Christmas with their families.

PAT DOHERTY reminded the Ard Fheis that since Republican Prisoners were moved to Portlaoise in 1973 NOT ONE LIFER has been given a release date nor released from there. Whereas the average term served for 'life' by a social Prisoner is 6 years for under-21s and 7 years for over-21s, Republican POWs have now served over 15 years. This situation must be tackled and solved he said, because it will never otherwise go away, just as the problem of the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela has had to be tackled head-on.

The question of the release of Michael Kinsella was also stressed. After being jailed in Portlaoise in 1974 his mental health broke down. In 1984 he was moved to Dundrum Mental Hospital where his doctors believe he can only recover if released altogether.

Resolutions were passed committing the POW Department to produce an annual Newsletter each December, with space for local Cumainn to add details of Prisoners from their own locality, and committing the Department to stepping-up work on the Lifers Campaign, the Anti-Strip Search Campaign and the Campaign for Repatriation. Delegates were urged to pursue these Campaigns through their Trade Unions and local community organisations, with emphasis on individual Prisoners from their own local areas. The importance of Prisoner work cannot be overestimated.

IRELAND'S WAR asks all its readers to remember to send cards to all the POWs in England and to give full support to the work of the IW Prisoner Fund, the Green Cross, An Cumann Cabhrach, the Lifers, Strip Searches and Repatriation Campaigns and the work of the Glasgow Irish Republican POW Committee.

JUSTICE AND THE COMMUNITY

Dominating Sunday afternoon's section on this broad topic was the vital question of Extradition. The main motion number 69 called for the release of all 26 County Political Prisoners; the repeal of the 1986 and 1987 Extradition Acts and the reintroduction of the political exemption clause in the 26 County Extradition law.

JACK CROWE, speaking on behalf of the Ard Chomhairle, described and condemned "the real face of British justice as shown by the continued incarceration of hundreds of Irish people imprisoned through enforced confessions, beatings and paid perjurers.....The imprisonment of the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, Maguire Family and Judith Ward and the conviction of the Winchester Three show that it is impossible for any Irish person wanted for a political offence to receive a fair trial in British courts."

In the debate which followed CAOIMHGHIN O'CAOLAIN, one of Sinn Fein's County Monaghan Councillors told the Ard Fheis about a new bridge being constructed only yards from the spot where Aidan McAneSPIE had been shot dead near the border at Aghnacloy. In a firm declaration of opposition to British oppression, local people have named it MCANESPIE BRIDGE. Nothing the British or 26 County governments do can make anyone call it anything else! It is the community's chosen way of exposing and fixing it in the public consciousness for all time their horror at British 'justice'.

JIM MONAGHAN, speaking for the Ard Chomhairle pointed out that Fianna Fail and the SDLP contain numbers of people deeply opposed to

Extradition. While the Workers Party and the leadership of the 26 County Labour Party supported Extradition, Labour Party members do not. It is therefore possible to win the campaign against Extradition by mobilising these opponents and embarrassing the government to the extent that it stops extraditing, just as in the 1970s the government was forced to call off the Heavy Gang.

PHILIP FERGUSON emphasised that Haughey is not bound under European law to extradite those charged with political offences, and that no other European government extradites its citizens in these circumstances. Nothing in the European Convention on Terrorism calls for this to be done and the government is lying when it alleges that it must do this. Motion 69 was carried unanimously.



[LEFT] RICHARD MAY, SINN FEIN POW DEPARTMENT, and [RIGHT] RITA O'HARE, EDITOR OF AN PHOBLAcht/REPUBLICAN NEWS, SPEAKING AT THE SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS, JANUARY, 1989.

The final motion in this section was also a focus of tremendous interest condemning, as it did, the removal of the 'right to silence' by the British government. RITA O'HARE, Editor of AN PHOBLAcht/REPUBLICAN NEWS drew attention to the current cent-page headline "WHATEVER YOU SAY, STILL SAY NOTHING". The aim of the changes is to shift the burden of proof from the prosecution to the accused, and to confuse those detained and questioned. But the best advice she said was what it always has been, SAY NOTHING.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

For the first time in the Ard Fheis Clar, time was allocated to a 'Question and Answer' session. This year the members of the Party's leadership responded to questions put forward by individuals attending the Ard Fheis.

The reaction to this initiative was very positive, reflected in the large number of people who attended the session. The questions raised various issues. The responses were brief but highlighted and encouraged many important areas of work being undertaken by Sinn Fein and its membership.

Question: What are the political effects of the 59 Councillors in the North?

Answer: Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Fein, replied to this first question and in doing so, brought our attention to the many positive effects of having a high number of Councillors throughout the North. In particular he highlighted the following points:

- that there has been a consolidation of the Sinn Fein vote;
- that the antics of the loyalists have been exposed;
- that real representation has been much improved for many areas due to the involvement of Councillors in various campaigns;
- that more sub-committees have been organised, thus allowing a wider area of subjects to be covered, ie. Irish language.

However Gerry Adams noted that the greatest effect is seen in the action being taken by the Thatcher government. Westminster's response to the increasing public support for Sinn Fein in the North has been to introduce more and more repressive measures.

Question: The broad front, anti-imperialist position - in what way is it hoped to develop this, especially in Dublin?

Answer: Rita O'Hare, Editor of AN PHOBLAcht/REPUBLICAN NEWS responded to this question and mentioned in particular that co-operation, which is beginning to develop, will be strengthened;

- a major move will be organising and improving links with other groups, ie. Trade Union bodies, Anti-Apartheid, Anti-EEC groups etc;
- Sinn Fein will be more able to disseminate its policy and spread a positive message through a broader base.

Question: How is the development of Sinn Fein seen over the next 10 years?

Answer: Tom Hartley, Sinn Fein Ard Ruid in his reply explained that ten years ago on the Ard Fheis Clar (Agenda) there was more discussion about repression, Prisoners and the like. Today there's now more social and economic motions being put forward. There is a transitional period whilst Sinn Fein is dealing with the less 'exciting' but essential issues and Sinn Fein is continuing to define its attitudes to social and economic questions, but also defining what Republicanism means in terms of people's everyday lives. The future holds growth and confidence for Sinn Fein as an increasingly mature party.

← P.7 S.F. ARD FHEIS cont. ←

Question: What benefits have accrued to Sinn Fein through the recent SDLP talks?

Answer: Danny Morrison, Sinn Fein's National Director of Publicity replied and highlighted the main benefits to include:

- Sinn Fein being able to pin down the SDLP on many issues as they were unguarded, getting carried away with their own hype;
- publicity spin-offs which demonstrated the political force of Sinn Fein;
- the differences within the SDLP itself were brought to the fore.

Question: There are 700 Republican POWs, 303 Lifers/SOSPs. How can the Party leadership speed-up the issue of the Lifers?

Answer: Caoimhghin O Caolain, one of Sinn Fein's Monaghan County Councillors described the Lifers as Political Hostages. Of the 10 Lifers in Portlaoise, by March, 2 will have completed 15 years in prison. He emphasised that the campaign for Lifers must be heightened and an awareness developed in local areas;

- efforts must be real and constructive to ensure some hope of delivery;
- elected representatives and leaders must be lobbied;
- release dates must be demanded.

Question: Could the time and energy spent staffing Advice Centres be better used in other ways?

Answer: In her reply Bairbre De Brun emphasised that the Advice Centres were not set up to get votes, although this has been a spin-off. Although there will never be enough Centres in areas to respond to the overwhelming problems, the work must continue. At times it seems that staff are responding to individual problems of an urgent nature and so this is not seen as a contribution to the political campaign. However staff and their time are not wasted as their work is part of the progression of the political party.

There has been forced acknowledgement of the increasing problems by other groups, the government etc. There has also been intimidation of community groups not to use Sinn Fein Advice Centres and again this repressive measure is a sign of the success of the Advice Centres and the work of the staff in them.

Question: With the 20th anniversary in August of British troops in the North, how do Sinn Fein see the role of the '68 Committee over the forthcoming period?

Answer: Tom Hartley, Sinn Fein Ard Ruail replied to this question and noted that it is important to see the struggle in terms of people's everyday lives - the '68 Committee encourages this. He explained that political experience must be taken on board by all and that young people must understand the history of 1968 and the Movement must now also be related to them.

Question: How is the development of Sinn Fein in the 26 Counties?

Answer: Pat Doherty, Sinn Fein's newly-elected Vice President, responded to this question and made the following points:

- that the national question always lies just below the surface in the 26 Counties. Fianna Fail has always tapped into this and Sinn Fein must do the same. Sinn Fein must expose that Fianna Fail do not take positive action on this matter;
- that with regard to the projected growth rate, Sinn Fein is just holding its own. Censorship/Section 31 has had a major effect on publicity leaving many people not knowing of Sinn Fein and its policies, views etc.

DECLARATION AGAINST VIOLENCE

"This Ard Fheis directs the incoming Ard Chomhairle not to allow any British-inspired oath or pledge to prevent Sinn Fein representing its electorate in local councils."

This was Motion 72 and the hall was packed with delegates and journalists anxious to hear the debate. Speaker after speaker, nearly all of them themselves Councillors, supported the motion emphatically and rejected forcefully any possibility of allowing Sinn Fein to be divided from the Nationalist people of the North. "Road blocks are for driving round, not driving into" said Belfast Councillor JIM GIBNEY.

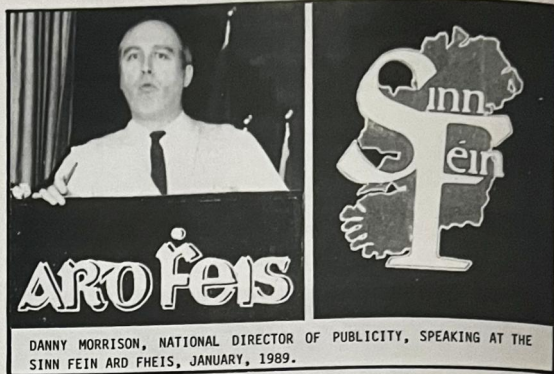
RICHARD McAULEY, in moving the motion, reminded delegates of the institutional violence of the British government in the Six Counties as well as its armed violence. "In the North 1,600 pensioners died last year from cold-related illnesses due mostly to the cut-backs in spending of the Thatcher government." He reminded delegates of the gloating in Westminster after the murder of three unarmed Volunteers in Gibraltar:

"They haven't a problem with violence, are we going to allow Thatcher to hinder our development with a hypocritical oath against violence?"

DANNY MORRISON's approach too cut sharply into British hypocrisy:

"these rules will not apply to British politicians because if they had to sign an oath the House of Commons and the House of Lords would be empty."

Raising a roar of laughter he said he guessed that the British government was hoping Sinn Fein would have to drop either the Armalite or the Ballot Box in order to pick up the pen! No chance indeed.



A massive vote in support of the resolution made it clear that this latest piece of British trickery has failed entirely to create a bar to the progress of Sinn Fein.

POLITICAL POLICY

Perhaps the most important resolution discussed at the Ard Fheis this year, indeed the most important one discussed since the ending of Abstentionism, was Resolution 37 which stated:

"This Ard Fheis adopts in principle the need for an all-Ireland anti-imperialist mass movement.

This Ard Fheis accepts that such a movement should be made up of the broadest range of political and social forces.

This Ard Fheis accepts that the central political objectives of an anti-imperialist programme should be the end of partition and the achievement of national independence and unity in the context of Irish national self-determination.

This Ard Fheis accepts that such a movement should be organised throughout the 32 Counties, and its demands should be framed to reflect the need for democratic, political, economic, social and cultural rights in Ireland.

That this Ard Fheis mandates the incoming Ard Chomhairle to continue the process which has been formally initiated by this resolution."

As soon as Tom Hartley, Sinn Fein Ard Ruail had finished his introduction to the resolution a long queue of speakers lined up to put their views on this most vital of issues. Speaker after speaker echoed the words of Gerry Adams in his Presidential Address when he stated:

"Our analysis is clear. But theory without practice is meaningless and an analysis, no matter how correct, which has no relevance to the people is useless. If we are to help build resistance to the shameful and sorry mess created by successive administrations in this state and if we are to build support for a national democratic alternative, then we must immerse ourselves with the people confronting the problems which beset them.

"The real requirements of success - an ideology of liberation - must, as I have said before and I repeat, develop from real needs and real interests. Most people will not struggle, never mind vote, for abstract things. They will not fight for ideas. They will fight to win material benefits, to improve the quality of their lives, to guarantee the future for their children. The big ideas which we have concerning liberation, nationalism, independence and socialism must develop out of the small ideas concerned with local grievances, local protests and local aspirations.

"A successful strategy - a successful ideology of liberation - has to develop from the living reality of living people. Thus, people will develop an understanding of the general situation and of the measures needed to improve it on the basis of their own particular situation. The aim of our struggle is not only to remove the colonial system but also, and even more so, to develop a capacity to provide for the real needs of real people and to conduct our struggle in such a way that people increasingly participate in it and in their own liberation."

It was stressed time and again that the Republican Movement needs to address itself to the real everyday lives of the people of Ireland and that ALL sorts of forces can be brought into the struggle for national freedom and independence. Some speakers opposed the resolution or urged caution in the building of a broad movement which would open its doors to non-socialist, non-Republican opportunist elements.

However, the overwhelming mood of the Ard Fheis was that Sinn Fein is strong and politically mature enough to resist such manoeuvres and that the time was right to disseminate the Republican message to a wider and wider audience and the resolution was well and truly carried.

Below is the text of a document produced by the Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle on the 'Mass Movement' proposal and distributed at the Ard Fheis.

OUR OBJECTIVE

There is an urgent need to develop an all-Ireland mass movement which could appeal to all those capable of taking a stand for national self-determination for the Irish people, in order to bring peace and prosperity.

Such a movement needs to unite all the progressive forces in this country - all those whose demands and needs reflect the denial of national self-determination in both parts of Ireland.

The effects of the conquest, of partition, of the denial of self-determination are social, economic, cultural and political. The demands around which such a mass movement for self-determination can be built must be political, social, economic and cultural.

Attempts have been made in the past to develop a mass movement round the central demand of national and economic self-determination. These attempts failed. It has been this failure to build a relevant alternative which has left the forces of the establishment in control of Irish politics since before partition. It is a pre-condition of success in the struggle that this time we succeed in this objective.

Such a movement should be built around a charter of demands under a central and democratic leadership.

WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

A mass movement around the central demand for national self-determination, allows the broadest possible involvement. It appeals to all who have a common interest in getting rid of imperialism, or who will develop that interest through involvement in their localised campaigns.

It has the potential to unite workers, small farmers and small business people.

National self-determination is a principle that can be supported by nationalists, patriots, socialists, republicans and democrats.

Nationalists, who may not subscribe at present to radical social or economic policies, do subscribe to this principle.

Equally, genuine socialists recognise that the struggle for national self-determination is an integral part of the struggle for the control and ownership of wealth by the majority class. Where we are denied economic self-determination, the socialist struggle and the nationalist struggle are inseparable.

Socialists and republicans should therefore be active supporters of the right of the Irish nation to self-determination, and should be in the lead in advocating a movement for national self-determination which would include non-republicans and non-socialists.

This principle of self-determination is the only option which holds the potential of encompassing the democratic potential of the Protestant tradition: it offers those who are presently unionists, an equal right in shaping their future, in place of a tenure based on sectarianism, violence and repression. Self-determination permits the merging of Catholic and Protestant in a genuine democratic state.

DEMANDS

It is clear that self-determination is the central principle upon which a mass movement can be built. The demands must reflect the effects of the denial of self-determination, in both parts of Ireland, and will therefore be cultural, social, economic and political.

Our demands must also reflect the type of Ireland we want to build.

These demands can be set within the broad aspirations for which our movement has historically stood (as in the Proclamation, the Democratic Programme of the 1st Dail):

*The right of the Irish people to the ownership and government of Ireland;

*The right of all the people, regardless of race, religion, sex, or class to equality before the law, to human rights, to jobs, comfort and security, to housing and health, language, culture and education, and to share in the country's wealth and resources, and

*The right to trade with other nations on terms of mutual advantage, and to live in peace and friendship with other nations of the world.

Within these broad aspirations, which have characterised the republican struggle over the years, we need to distil agitational demands which arise from the denial of self-determination. These agitational demands would apply to both the Six and 26 county areas. They would be aimed at defending human rights, the standard of living, the right to employment in our country, social welfare and health for all, Irish neutrality, Women's rights, our language and our culture.

For example these demands might include calling a halt to the pollution of our off-shore water and rivers, the selling-off of our natural resources; discrimination against the poorer people in access to education, health, housing. They would be against extradition, the maltreatment of Prisoners, against the decimation of our economy and the denial of sovereignty by the EEC, against poverty and forced emigration, against tax which discriminates against the less well off, against working conditions which dehumanise and oppress, against British occupation and the 26 Counties collaboration with the British government in denying self-determination to the Irish people.

Demands must be forged around those issues which are common to both parts of Ireland. However some issues are peculiar to only one state; for example sectarian discrimination in employment in the Six Counties,

or the principle of neutrality and the defence of limited sovereignty in the 26 Counties.

METHODS

It is not enough to merely list issues or formulate demands: Agitational campaigns, programmes of work must be started, and they must emerge and be built on by the people affected by such issues.

A mass movement would see the fusion of all those campaigns and interests which are adversely affected by imperialism - and denial of national self-determination. Therefore such campaigns would show people the connection between their localised and particular struggles and grievances, and the imperialist domination of Irish society. They will be drawn through their own struggle inevitably to take on the controlling interests in Ireland which prevents their demands being met. These are the class and foreign interests which stand in the way of national self-determination.

This movement is thus built around issues arising out of the central demand for self-determination. Each of these issues could become the focus for its own campaign and demands, within the framework of a wider campaign for national self-determination.

Participation in this movement should not be dependent on one's attitude to armed struggle. Those involved in the movement should have the right to their own individual positions on armed struggle. By involvement in such a movement they will be consciously striving to win national self-determination from which armed struggle and all forms of state violence will cease.

The declaration of these objectives and means of building such a mass movement of all progressive forces for national self-determination by the membership of an Ard Fheis, means that the work, which is so urgently needed can begin.

DETENTION

IRELAND'S WAR ADVISES:

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.

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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 of £3 includes a donation to cover the cost of supplying an Irish POW with a year's copies of IRELAND'S WAR.

You will receive an IRELAND'S WAR SUPPORTERS card and details of what you can do in your area. And an Irish POW will receive IRELAND'S WAR for a year thanks to your support.

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

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An Cumann Cabhrach

NAME	NUMBER	BIRTHDAY	PRISON
Liam McCotter	L883693	2 January	Frankland
Liam Quinn	49930	6 February	Albany
Michael McKenney	L46486	7 February	Frankland
John McComb	851715	25 February	Frankland
Ella O'Dwyer	025135	3 March	Durham
Shaun McShane	875898	13 April	Maldstone
Martina Anderson	025134	16 April	Durham
Eddie Butler	338637	17 April	Frankland
Patrick Hackett	342603	20 April	Parkhurst
Patrick McLaughlin	L883694	2 May	Full Sutton
Joe O'Connell	338635	15 May	Gartree
Patrick Magee	875881	29 May	Leicester
Paul Holmes	119034	22 June	Frankland
Peter Sherry	875880	30 June	Parkhurst
Brian Keenan	826380	17 July	Leicester
Thomas Quigley	869204	23 July	Parkhurst
Stephen Nordone	758663	2 August	Gartree
Paul Kavanagh	L31888	12 August	Full Sutton
Ronnie McCartney	463799	3 September	Gartree
Liam Baker	464984	6 September	Long Lartin
Martin Brady	119087	22 September	Albany
Vince Donnelly	274064	25 September	Long Lartin
Danny McNamee	L48616	29 September	Parkhurst
Harry Duggan	338638	31 October	Parkhurst
Roy Walsh	119083	1 November	Gartree
Sean Kinsella	758661	5 November	Albany
Paul Norney	863532	11 November	Albany
Brendan Dowd	758662	17 November	Frankland
James Bennett	464909	4 December	Long Lartin
Hugh Doherty	338636	7 December	Long Lartin
Noel Gibson	879225	11 December	Full Sutton
Gerard McDonnell	875882	19 December	Leicester
Natalino Vella	871644	24 December	Full Sutton
William Armstrong	119085	26 December	Full Sutton

ADDRESSES OF JAILS IN ENGLAND

HMP Gartree, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, Leics., LE16 7RP.
HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs., WR11 5TZ.
HMP Frankland, Finchale Avenue, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5SB.
HMP Maldstone, County Road, Maldstone, Kent, ME14 1UZ.
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HMP Durham, Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HU.
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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) raises funds on behalf of Republican Prisoners and their dependants and all funds collected or donated are used solely for that worthy cause. The work of AN CUMANN CABHRACH (BRITAIN) relies a good deal on those caring people who donate to its work. Please donate **NOW** and as **OFTEN** as possible -

"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 made payable to: PHOENIX AID ASSOCIATION, c/o IHSCC (BIRMINGHAM), PO BOX 540, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM B11 4AU.

THE EVIL OF THATCHER

What makes the murder of a man just
Is it Thatcher's evil, evil lust?
In the Hunger Strikes of '81
She let them die one by one.
Why, Thatcher, why
Why do you let them die?

Thatcher is a well-mannered murderer
She proved that to us in Gibraltar.
For every Volunteer you kill
Another 20 will take their place at will.

You ordered the slaughter at Loughgall
Thatcher you'll have to kill us all.
We shall never give in to your evil scum
Tíocfaidh ár lá
Our day **WILL** come!

MK, VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH (LOUGHGALL MARTYR) REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND.

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Bulletin of the Irish Hunger Strike
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POW LETTER

Dear IRELAND'S WAR,

In references to an article which appeared in the IRISH NEWS paper and headed "Old Bailey Bomb Plotter Gets Transfer" dated 10 February 1989, and previously a similar article which appeared in a Dublin national paper "Bomber Wins Transfer Plea To North Prison". My attention was drawn to certain remarks made by Father Denis Faul which seemed to imply that he has been in some way instrumental in getting me transferred back to Ireland.

As a member of the Republican Movement, I want to state categorically that at no time have I ever corresponded with Father Faul, or asked his help in any way (or to the best of my knowledge has any member of my family) regarding my repatriation.

As a Republican Prisoner I am only too well aware that Father Faul is no friend of the Republican Movement and any time the opportunity is made available to him he spares no effort in trying to castigate and belittle Republicans in a most scurrilous manner. All we have to do is recall the ignominious role he played during the Hunger Strike when our brave comrades were sacrificing their lives for the principles they believed in. He was sneaking around trying to undermine their morale and preying on the fears of their

AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

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SQUARE, DUBLIN 1, IRELAND.

relatives when they were at an emotional low.

In conclusion I wish to publicly state that I want no help from Father Faul regarding my transfer back to Ireland nor when I am eventually repatriated, do I want any of his fellow travellers jumping on the bandwagon and claiming any credit whatsoever.

Is mise le meas,
Mairtin MacBradaigh, POW, Albany
Prison, Isle of Wight.

REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS

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The Good Old IRA £1.20
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Spirit of Freedom £5.30

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Continued from P. 12 →

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 9 (Derry) | IRA denied threatening construction workers. |
| 9 (Belfast) | Anti-social element punished. |
| 9 (Coalisland) | Anti-social elements warned. |
| 10 (Ballynahinch) | Leading loyalist shot and wounded. |
| 11 (Castlederg) | Brit army spent hours defusing a 2,000lb van bomb at UDR base. |
| 12 (Maghera) | 31lb Semtex bomb under UDR man's car defused by Brits. |
| 13 (Strabane) | UDR man shot and seriously wounded. |
| 14 (Tyrone) | UDR man shot and killed. |
| 14 (Cookstown) | Crown force personnel escaped death when a device exploded at a crown forces housing estate. |
| 14 (Belfast) | RP6 rocket and gun attack on crown force patrol. |
| 16 (Six Counties) | IRA rejected lies that attacks on Belfast-Dublin rail link were being carried out on behalf of smugglers. |
| 16 (Belfast) | IRA issued statement on the informer Joseph Fenton following a TV programme. IRA reiterated that informers should come forward to the Republican Movement. |

Civilian casualties

The past year witnessed IRA operations in which many civilians died. The Republican Movement is no stranger to death and suffering and fully realises the human suffering involved as a result of these tragic operations. The Republican Movement has sincerely expressed its great sorrow at these events and has made strenuous efforts to put an end to these errors.

We reprint below statements from the Irish Republican Army, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness which demonstrate the great concern and sorrow felt by ALL in the Irish Republican Movement at these civilian casualties. The sincerity of all these statements shines through and gives a life to all those who would doubt the Republican Movement or who would like to talk of splits.

GERRY ADAMS

"Our sadness in the last year was not confined to occasions when old friends passed on. Since the last Sinn Féin Ard Fheis there has been an exceptional and regrettable level of civilian casualties and fatalities arising from IRA operations.

"On a number of occasions in the wake of such tragedies I placed Sinn Féin's position firmly on the record. Contrary to the propaganda of our opponents I did not do this to distance myself from the consequences of such tragedies. Sinn Féin has no need or wish to engage in such semantics. I spoke out on incidents in which civilians were killed or injured because that was the correct thing to do. I was speaking for every Irish republican when I refused to condone those operations in which civilians were accidentally killed or injured. Our dismay, our regret and our sympathy with the plight of families bereaved by the IRA is genuine. The British crown forces can kill or injure civilians deliberately and with impunity. That is part of their policy. The IRA cannot. That has never been part of its policy, as the IRA itself has often reminded us.

"When I was elected as President of Sinn Féin, in my first Ard Fheis address, I elaborated on my attitude to armed struggle as a necessary and morally correct form of resistance in the Six Counties against a government whose presence is rejected by the vast majority of Irish people. This remains my position. I went on to say:

'In defending and supporting the right of Irish people to engage in armed struggle it is important for those so engaged to be aware of the constant need and obligation to continuously examine their tactics and strategies. Revolutionary force - and this excludes sectarian violence - must be controlled and disciplined so that it is clearly seen as a symbol of our people's resistance.'

"I said these words in comradeship and in solidarity and in tribute to the freedom fighters of the IRA.

"Today, in that same spirit of comradeship, solidarity and tribute I repeat those words.



STANDING OVATION FOR GERRY ADAMS' PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

"Republicans do not turn to this method of political struggle lightly or easily. It arises from the presence of a foreign government which maintains its rule by violence, institutionalised sectarianism, widespread repression and military occupation. Deprived of any alternative, armed struggle is the response of the oppressed, in any situation, to their oppression.

"Armed struggle, however, is not merely a defensive reaction by an oppressed people. It sets the political agenda. Thus armed struggle can advance the overall struggle to the advantage of those in whose interest it is waged. But the politics which shapes the objectives of the liberation struggle and the idealism which motivates the freedom fighters must guide and control the actions of that struggle.

"IRA mistakes are welcomed by the British establishment. It cares little about the tragedy involved and is interested only in exploiting such

tragedies, even temporarily, to the advantage of those interests against which armed struggle is waged. It seeks to demoralise and confuse the wider nationalist support base which does not have the same insight and understanding as the republican base which remains solid after 20 years of struggle. That base and the wider base have the right to question and do question those operations in which civilians are killed or injured.

"I want to speak directly to active service Volunteers of Oglagh na hÉireann. You have a massive responsibility. At times the fate of this struggle is in your hands. You have to be careful and careful again. These are the feelings of the broad mass of the republican people, feelings which are shared by republican activists and which now call for more circumspection than ever before. The morale of your comrades in jail, your own morale and of your comrades in the field can be raised or dashed by your actions. You can advance or retard this struggle.

"I say these words, not in the hypocritical, condemnatory fashion of selective moralists in the churches or in the political establishment. I say them in solidarity and in comradeship. I am mindful that the media will misrepresent my remarks. I am aware that the hardy annals of unfounded speculation about hawks and doves, splits and disagreements will be given yet another airing. For this reason some of you may feel that some of those things should be left unsaid. I understand such sentiment but it is a responsibility of leadership to lead from the front on this crucial issue as much as any other. Nothing I say should be interpreted as a condemnation of the IRA. Smaoinimid agus bron orainn faoi na hOglagh a d'eag i mbliana. The men and women Volunteers of Oglagh na hÉireann have my continued loyalty. As I remind them of their responsibilities I salute them as freedom fighters. Faced with numerically superior forces and beset by many difficulties the ability of the IRA to survive and to remain intact in defiance of all that the British government has done this last 20 years is a tribute to the courage, tenacity and resourcefulness of its Volunteers. None of this has been accomplished without a continuing high cost to these Volunteers and their families."

GERRY ADAMS, PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR WEST BELFAST, SPEAKING AT THE JANUARY 1989 SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS.

MARTIN MCGUINNESS

"We have a right to be free, no matter what anyone tells you. But we have to be careful, and the IRA has to be careful, that we do not become the initiators of new injustices."

"We are not like the British government or the British army. I think we are honest enough to own up to our mistakes."

MARTIN MCGUINNESS SPEAKING AT THE BLOODY SUNDAY RALLY, JANUARY 1989.

IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY

"There is a greater realisation than ever of the need for the IRA to avoid civilian casualties.

"The fatalities of the past year occurred against a background of active service units stepping up attacks on crown forces and on establishment figures which put the British administration under more pressure than at any other time since perhaps 1979.

"Unfortunately, through a combination of tragic circumstances, many civilians died in operations which dented the confidence of some of our supporters.

"We have tried to rectify the reasons why mistakes were made. Our main concern is the immensity of the human tragedy involved, and we realise the use which the British have made of these bad operations, and how demoralising they have been.

"They have also given our critics the opportunity to raise once again the proposition that the armed struggle is contradicting and undermining the political struggle. That would never be our intention although, undoubtedly, some operations within the past year have created difficulties for everyone.

"As I said, we realise that we have a responsibility to correct the problems and refine our activities so that they do not hinder but complement efforts to build a broad-based front against imperialism.

"We will always be striving to place the struggle on ground which republicans can unhesitatingly, and without great difficulty, defend.

"Whilst the leadership is responsible to the broad Republican Movement, for the consequences and repercussions of IRA actions, all Volunteers are subject to the leadership for their conduct of the war.

"When and where necessary that leadership has been exercised, inquiries have been undertaken, their recommendations acted upon, and as a result we hope to avoid many of the mistakes of the past. Down the years we have taken praise; we can also take criticism. No one is above it.

"Having said all that, it is our intention to encourage the climate for radical politics in Ireland and to assist that process.

"Our actions have to be geared towards sapping the will of the British government and have to be aimed at building the confidence of the people whose fortitude and determination helps drive us forward."

The above statement was given to AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS (26-1-89) by a spokesperson for the IRA's GHQ STAFF.

IRELAND'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS

PARAS HOME BARRACKS DEMOLISHED

The early hours of Monday 20 February were brightened by the flames of the burning barracks of the Parachute Regiment 2nd Battalion in Shropshire. Early news bulletins that morning brought in garbled reports of panic, chaos and destruction at the barracks, cheering Republican supporters everywhere over their coco-pops and delaying their Monday morning departures for school, work or the broo.

Serious military and political embarrassment was caused to the British government, which only last year had announced a tightening of security measures as a result of the successful attack on Mill Hill barracks.

Media reports confirmed that two Volunteers were challenged by sentries as they penetrated the inner area of Clive Camp, near Shrewsbury. Asked for identification, one Volunteer produced a gun, and the two continued and completed their operation, planting a total of three bombs, despite being fired on by sentries. They then made good their escape after commandeering a car locally.

The camp was put on full alert and evacuated. When the bombs exploded at 3.30am the barracks was totally destroyed.

The British media unwittingly praised the success of the IRA action as they catalogued the destruction:

"A 75-foot-long gash was ripped through the corner of the building, which was reduced to smoldering timber frames and rubble. Another 40-foot section had its roof blown off while a similar stretch virtually disappeared.

"The explosives were so large that people a mile from the camp were wakened by the shockwaves. At dawn, a plume of smoke reached high above the camp." - so said one English newspaper!

Later media reports revealed a succession of changed stories from the sentries who, instead of being heroes of the moment, emerged as bungling idiots. The IRA statement was brief and pointed out:

"While Britain retains its colonial grip on the North of Ireland, the IRA will continue to strike at all those who oversee and implement British government policy in our country."

RAIDING BRIT KILLED

The IRA campaign against house-raids was taken up energetically in 1989. The first British soldier to die in 1989 was a member of a Royal Anglian house-raiding party returning to barracks after a 12-hour session raiding Nationalist homes in the St. James/Rodney area of Belfast on 31 January.

A 21b bomb hidden in a drain-pipe was detonated by the IRA as the patrol passed down Rockmore Road.

On Sunday 26 February the East Tyrone Brigade drove a 2001b car-bomb into a crown force housing estate in Tyrone. After priming the device they withdrew and phoned a warning. 70 families were evacuated, spoiling their Sunday dinners, and were unable to return for more than 24 hours. The bomb failed to explode and took more than 24 hours to defuse.

A bomb explosion on a crown force housing estate at Fairhill, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone on 14 March missed by seconds a large squad of crown forces who had moved into the area to investigate a suspect car left there by the IRA. They can't be lucky all the time though!

SPIES AND INFORMERS BEWARE

Joseph Fenton, an informer who had worked for the RUC for 5½ years was found dead, shot in the head on Sunday evening, 26 February in a Lenadown alley. His activities had resulted in the capture of Volunteers and weapons and in the cancellation of operations.

Fenton, aged 35, lived in Andersonstown and owned the Ideal Homes Estate Agency in the Falls Road. Shown the evidence against him and the consequences of his actions, his staunchly Republican family have accepted his death and blame the RUC for what happened.

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

JANUARY

- 4 (Belfast) 2 Brits, 1 RUC injured in anti-personnel mine attack.
- 7 (Belfast) Anti-social element punished.
- 7 (Belfast) 2 anti-social elements punished.
- 8 (Belfast) Anti-social element punished.
- 10 (Belfast) 2001b car-bomb placed at Crumlin Road jail prompted NIO Security Review.
- 12 (Belfast) Brits discover 61b Semtex bomb.
- 14 (Co. Armagh) Planned attack on Crumlin RUC barracks abandoned.
- 14 (Derry) 2 Brits injured in anti-personnel mine attack.
- 14 (Belfast) 1 Brit injured in landmine attack.
- 15 (Belfast) 2 Brits injured in landmine attack.
- 15 (Donegal) Former RUC man involved in intelligence-gathering executed.
- 16 (Dungannon) Courthouse devastated in bomb blast.
- 18 (Belfast) 2001b car bomb placed at High court.
- 21 (Co. Tyrone) 61b Semtex bomb discovered by crown forces.
- 24 (Mullanbridge) Mortar attack on border checkpoint.
- 24 (Cookstown) 21b anti-personnel device found by crown forces.
- 25 (Derry) 4001b van bomb extensively damaged city's court.
- 25 (Derry) Contractors warned not to undertake repair work.
- 25 (Derry) IRA statement issued warning criminal gang to cease their activities.
- 25 (Belfast) Drug pusher punished by the IRA.
- 26 (Six Counties) IRA statement issued on civilian deaths and the disbandment of the Fermanagh Active Service Unit.
- 27 (Slon Mills) 1 RUC man killed in impact grenade attack. Follow-up operation came under attack from civilians and Brits and RUC men suffered further injuries.
- 27 (West Tyrone) Double bomb attack on border checkpoint.
- 27 (Six Counties) Pickfords Removals firm warned to cease working for the crown forces.
- 29 (Six Counties) IRA statement issued on trigger-happy Brits.
- 31 (Belfast) 1 Brit killed by 21b bomb. IRA appealed to Brits to leave Ireland to save their own lives.

FEBRUARY

- 1 (Belfast) Several RUC men injured in attack on barracks.
- 1 (Derry) 1 RUC man injured in bomb attack on Brit/RUC patrol.
- 1 (Co. Down) Crumlin Road screw committed suicide.
- 4 (South Armagh) Kilnasagart Bridge on the Belfast-Dublin rail link bombed.
- 5 (Stewartstown) IRA forced to deactivate 1001b bomb.
- 6 (West Tyrone) 20-year old IRA Volunteer James Josie Connolly tragically killed by a premature explosion.
- 9 (Belfast) Holiday crime family ordered to leave Ireland in 72 hours. They are now living in Hammersmith, London.
- 9 (South Down) 3 anti-social elements punished.
- 9 (Six Counties) IRA acknowledged that Pickfords chief executive had disassociated himself from the firm and was no

- 9 (Six Counties) Northern Ireland Carriers received similar warning.
- 10 (Belfast) IRA admitted responsibility for a booby-trap bomb which injured a civilian.
- 11 (Belfast) Anti-social element punished.
- 12 (Dublin) IRA statement refuted claims that Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane was a member of the IRA.
- 12 (Coalisland) Grenade attack on RUC mobile patrol.
- 13 (Derry) 401b bomb placed alongside Brit sleeping quarters at army base.
- 15 (Belfast) Joint RUC/Army foot patrol fired on.
- 16 (Six Counties) Pickfords Removals ceased work for the crown forces.
- 19 (Derry) 2 RUC injured in gun attack.
- 20 (England) Parachute Regiment base demolished in bomb attack.
- 22 (Derry) 1 Brit shot and killed.
- 22 (Kilnasagart) Bridge on Belfast-Dublin rail link finally cleared after 19-day search for booby traps. 2 of 4 that were planted detonated by Brits injuring at least 1. The bridge has been attacked more than 20 times.
- 23 (Lurgan) Main Six County rail link blown up.
- 26 (Belfast) Informer, Joseph Fenton, executed.
- 26 (Derry) 1 Brit seriously injured in bomb attack.
- 26 (Tyrone) 2001b bomb planted at crown forces housing estate.
- 27 (Belfast) RUC inspector killed by booby-trap bomb.
- 27 (Derry) 61b anti-personnel device abandoned due to high level of crown forces presence.
- 27 (Belfast) IRA denied involvement in bomb attack on a York Road bar.
- 27 (Belfast) Anti-social element punished.

MARCH

- 1 (Belfast) Double attack on crown forces entering North Howard Street barracks.
- 1 (Derry) IRA denied involvement in Post Office robbery.
- 2 (South Derry) Engineering firm denied involvement in crown force contracts after IRA called on them to clarify the situation.
- 2 (26 Counties) Drug pushers moved out of Belfast by the IRA warned to cease their activities in Dublin and the South.
- 2 (Newry) Main cross-border rail link blasted.
- 2 (Belfast) Anti-social element punished.
- 4 (Belfast) 3 Brits, 4 RUC injured and extensive damage caused in 5001b car bomb attack on Girdwood barracks.
- 7 (Coagh) UVF commander executed by the IRA.
- 8 (Derry) 2 Brits killed, 6 seriously injured by 501b Semtex device attack on mobile patrol.

Continued on Page 10