



# IRELAND'S WAR 40p

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## HOW MANY MORE MUST DIE?



■ Sisters of murdered Republican activist, Sam Marshall, carry his tricolour-draped coffin to Lurgan's St. Colman's cemetery.

□ Peter Brooke has admitted that Britain cannot win its war against the wishes of the Irish people for national self-determination. By prolonging its war Britain is merely putting off the inevitable - while at the same time ensuring that tragedies, like the murder of Sam Marshall, continue. How many more must die before Britain concedes the inevitable and withdraws from Ireland?

### NO PRECONDITIONS FOR TALKS

"The IRA cannot be defeated" - the words of Peter Brooke, the present British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in Thatcher's government, have caused much controversy in media and political circles. His refusal to rule out talks with Sinn Féin, albeit with the precondition of an IRA ceasefire, also raised eyebrows, as did his suggestion that in those circumstances the British government's response would be "flexible and imaginative".

That such a declaration could provoke the anger of unionists could have been predicted. From the strident Ian Paisley to supposedly more moderate Church of Ireland clergymen, all rejected the prospect of Republicans being

part of a future political solution - unionists have always demanded the total military defeat and annihilation of Republicanism.

The reaction of the British Labour Party was all the more appalling. Its spokesperson, Kevin McNamara, accused Peter Brooke of encouraging the IRA by his moderate appeal, of going soft on Republicans as it were. Through the years, the British Labour Party has never shown much anti-imperialist solidarity for its Irish brothers and sisters but there was something pathetic in this British Labour politician trying to sound more "Thatcherite" than Thatcher herself.

However, the most common reaction to Brooke's words was one of surprise.

Conciliatory gestures are not what the world has come to expect from a government led by Mrs. Thatcher - intransigent, unable to negotiate and incapable of compassion. She is the British Prime Minister of the ten dead Irish hunger-strikers, of the sinking of the Argentinian *Belgrano*, of the shooting dead of unarmed Irish Republicans in Gibraltar. A few months ago, another of Thatcher's ministers was talking of "extirpating the IRA". Brooke may well hint at talks with Sinn Féin but, for over one year now, Sinn Féin's elected representatives have been censored off the British airwaves.

In the present context, Brooke's declarations begin to sound less conciliatory and more hypocritical. The last four years have seen an unprecedented

increase in repressive measures by the British in Ireland: Emergency legislation made permanent; a broadcasting ban on Sinn Féin; laws to curb the right to peaceful demonstrations; laws to prevent political prisoners from standing in elections; a sharp rise in the number and destructiveness of random house searches by the crown forces and heavy military repression against funerals of activists, to name but a few.

"You cannot stifle or suppress a people's desire for liberty." Those words were uttered by Mrs. Thatcher herself. She was, of course, referring to the German people. Meanwhile in Ireland, Mrs. Thatcher's armed forces are demolishing bridges, mining roads, and building watchtowers and underground bunkers to maintain an artificial

border between the south and north of Ireland:

■ A border which the majority of the people in Ireland wish was not there at all

■ A border which the British built to divide the people of Ireland and safeguard their own interests.

Peter Brooke's arrogant demand for the IRA to cease fire before Sinn Féin is admitted to the negotiation table must be seen against the backdrop of the 30,000-strong British military presence in Ireland. Sinn Féin does not put down any such pre-conditions. It is ready to talk to anyone at any time about the best way to bring about a just and lasting peace in Ireland. Along with the majority of the Irish people, Sinn Féin believes that this can only happen when Ireland is reunited and free.

### CEASE-FIRE

Brooke's declaration was aimed chiefly at the Republican community - which Brooke calls by the rather sinister name of "terrorist community". The message from Brooke to Republicans was "you cannot win. Stop fighting; then we might talk."

Brooke was challenged by Republican spokespersons on a number of occasions. In his presidential address to the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis in February, Gerry Adams asked, since the IRA could not be defeated, why delay the talks which must inevitably take place to bring about a just and lasting peace? By setting preconditions, Adams added, the

British were simply prolonging the conflict. Brooke's only response was to deny he had ever said the IRA could not be defeated.

On February 18, Sinn Féin National Executive member, Martin McGuinness asked Peter Brooke to state what Britain's response would be "if the IRA's armed struggle ceased". In other words, when you start talking to us, what will you talk about. Brooke dismissed McGuinness's question, said that the British were not interested in cease-fires but in "prolonged cessation of violence", and that in any case Sinn Féin "could not be expected to be treated the same way as any other political party".

At the same time, some spurious reports surfaced in the southern Irish press, alleging that the IRA's Army Council was considering a cease-fire. These false reports were reverberated abroad by the British press agency Reuter before the information had been checked. Needless to say, the unattributed report was false. Another example of "disinformation".

Let this not obscure the fact that there is absolutely nothing new or imaginative in the British government's stance. In 1971, British Minister Reginald Maudling had already accepted that defeating the IRA was not on and that the crown forces aimed at "reducing the [IRA's] violence to something like an acceptable level".

Promises have been made before. In 1975, the then British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Merlyn Rees, had

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## SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS MAIN DEBATES

■ In one of the most important discussions at the Ard Fheis, Republicans reported on 12 months of broad-front activity. Speakers generally were positive, pointing to increasing debate on the North within the labour movement and to the recent successful march against 20 years of British occupation organised by the FADA group.

■ Much of the two-and-a-half days of the Ard Fheis was taken up by debate on economic and social issues. Delegates highlighted continuing discrimination in employment against Nationalists in the North, and in the South, delegates agreed that unemployment should be tackled by taxing wealth and stopping all export of profits. Delegates agreed that an alternative economic strategy should also include the introduction of a minimum wage and more spending on health and education.

■ On the environment, Sinn Fein decided to work with other groups to build a national mass movement against the toxic industries.

■ Delegates also repeated their opposition to censorship of TV and radio North and South, and condemned moves by the Dublin government to smash the community movement against heroin pushers.

## BOOST FOR IRISH LANGUAGE

**IRELAND'S WAR** takes this opportunity to congratulate Sinn Fein on its holding the first ever fully bilingual Ard Fheis - in fact the first of any political party in Ireland.

A culmination of years of planning, this event represents a milestone for Irish cultural and language activists, and a victory in the war for Irish cultural self-determination. All delegates, observers and visitors were issued with headsets and receivers on which they could listen to simultaneous translations of all those speakers who decided to give all or part of their speech in Irish. From Saturday lunch-time the Ard Fheis was chaired in Irish too.

Some acclimatisation to the new system was needed at first, and there were a few hiccups in translation. Once or twice the Ard Chomhairle members on the platform, most of whom did not need the translation

service, were mystified to see much of the audience laughing - a response to comment by the translator. But we all settled down to use the headphones when Irish speakers outstripped our small understanding of the language. A lot was learned in the process! Most important to report was the sense of excitement, even euphoria in the Mansion House at the achievement of a cherished step forward in reclamation of the Irish language for the people of Ireland.

Congratulations and thanks must go to the long-suffering translator who coped heroically under assault by Irish in every possible regional accent, at every possible speed and even sentence-by-sentence alternation with English. Will he volunteer his services again next year? We can only hope so.

## WOMEN

The continued oppression and hardships suffered by women north and south of the border was the main theme of the debate on women's issues.

Mairead Keane, Head of Sinn Fein's Women's Department highlighted that women continue to have a low economic and domestic status. Women bear the brunt of financial cuts in health, education and social services, they are discriminated against as low paid part time workers. As an example of the treatment suffered by women, during military occupation, Mairead Keane highlighted the case of one woman who was verbally and sexually assaulted by RUC members, then later threatened with further violence if she did not drop the charges she'd raised against the RUC.

The argument for more money to be available for childcare, and women's support groups, was fully supported. Mairead Keane reported that the Sinn Fein Women's Department were involved in different women's groups, and this year intended to take on board further involvement in working class areas on issues affecting women; also to increase the number of women involved. She pressed that Sinn Fein be actively involved in women's day to day struggles.

Rose Dugdale clearly pointed out that the struggle cannot be won without women. They have a lot of anger and should be encouraged and assisted in becoming involved - e.g. local cumann must contact women in their area.

The difficulties in attending meetings faced by women with children was

highlighted by Gerry Adams. He reminded the Ard Fheis that women are involved in the struggle - it's just that men usually give the speeches and accept the applause! The importance of organizing meetings, etc to involve all was raised by Gerry Adams. He reminded us that the main activists in West Belfast are

women but noted that the movement must promote women to leadership posts.

Sinn Fein has a long-standing policy of support for the right to divorce and delegates voted to support the introduction of new legislation to reverse the current ban on divorce in the south.



■ TRANSLATION BOXES USED AT ARD FHEIS

## AAI

In an important political/civil rights initiative in Australia, Australian Aid for Ireland has joined with various other groups to form the **INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR THE DEFENCE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS [ICDPP]**.

The aims of ICDPP state: "Being a victim of torture and a subject of political imprisonment is a universal issue. We the ICDPP oppose imperialism, colonialism, and reactionary forces which deny the right to live in freedom, peace, and dignity. We support the Liberation struggles in their fight for self-determination."

In a statement to all AAI members and supporters, [supplied to **IRELAND'S WAR** by the Tasmanian Branch of AAI], Australian Aid for Ireland said:

"In one of the most significant developments of recent years, a new era of multi-racial co-operation will be ushered in with the formal launch of **T H E INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR THE DEFENCE OF**

## MAJOR SUCCESS FOR NORAI

More than 1300 people, including Congress members, elected officials, Irish community leaders and labour leaders attended Irish Northern Aid's annual testimonial dinner, marking 20 years support for Irish freedom. Martin Galvin, INA National Publicity Director, introduced Antrim Civil Rights activist Oliver Kearney who praised the continuing support of INA and declared that England taught a bloody lesson that "equality and civil rights cannot be achieved in Ireland until the Irish people utterly destroyed the corrupt colonial system and exercise their democratic rights to national self-determination."

Bob Smith, head of An Cumann Cabhrach, which distributes INA money to the families of prisoners, described the vital support given to the fight for Irish freedom through this financial help.

In a written address to the groups present, Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Fein, stressed the importance of unity amongst supporters in the USA to achieve objectives such as the release of Joe Doherty, the removal of censorship by visa denial and the furtherance of the MacBride Principles: "The British government dreads the prospect of a cohesive, determined solidarity movement in the United States."

A message from the Republican POWs in Long Kesh urged supporters in the USA to use their 20 years experience throughout the 1990s in the pursuit of Irish freedom.

## POLITICAL PRISONERS

"Many Australian-based support groups of various liberation struggles have joined together in the defence of the basic human and democratic rights of political prisoners throughout the world, and we in

AAI are proud to be among the founder members. We call on all our friends to join in this united effort. Silence protects the torturers, but YOU will help swell the demand from Australia for world action against this barbarism."

## \* CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE \*

promised that "a sustained cessation of violence would create a new situation". The IRA negotiated a truce of several months. All that nationalists gained from it was the loss of political status for prisoners, the building of the infamous H-Blocks and an upsurge in Loyalist murders of Catholics.

Republicans have learned their lesson. They are prepared to talk to anyone at any time, without preconditions on either side, about the achievement of peace in Ireland. They do not ask of the British that they withdraw their troops first or that they disarm the Ulster Defence Regiment, even though it is clear that it is the continued British

interference in Irish affairs which is the main obstacle to peace in Ireland.

The cessation of hostilities can only come about when the conditions for peace are created. The onus is on Britain to create these conditions.

**N U A C H T  
IDIRNAISUNTA NA  
HEIREANN [12/89 &  
3/90]**

# GERRY ADAMS M.P.

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

### TO 85th. SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS

This is Sinn Fein's 85th Ard Fheis, evidence in itself of the ability of British colonialism to survive. The continued existence of colonialism and all its symptoms in Ireland to this day is a measure of the intransigence of the forces of reaction in our country. That our struggle continues against all the odds, is a measure of the courage, self-sacrifice and tenacity of successive generations of Republicans.

Our party is almost as old as this century. Our struggle is older still, as old as the conquest itself.

Without the commitment and loyalty of the men and women who have gone before us there may well have been no Republican Movement when the reaction of the British state to the civil rights struggle in the north brought the question of the British partition of our country back on to the political agenda.

Throughout Ireland older comrades played an outstanding role in support of the youth who rushed into the struggle. As we face into the 1990s we salute them. Some of them are at this Ard Fheis today. I would like to make a special tribute to Rita McGlynn from Dublin, Gerry 'the Bird' Doherty from Derry, Clement Geaney from County Louth, Dan Gleeson from Tipperary and Liam Mulholland and Brigid Hannon from Belfast. All have given decades, some have given 60 years service to this struggle. They, like many others, not present here today, have always been at hand when we needed them.

So also have our friends throughout the world particularly in Britain and the USA. We extend greetings and solidarity to all

supporters of Irish freedom everywhere but I would like to select, for special mention, our friends in the Irish Northern Aid Committee (INAC) in the USA who recently celebrated 20 years of solidarity work which parallels the last 20 years of struggle here in Ireland. The INAC has a proud record. We applaud it.

### PRISONERS

There are almost 800 Republican POWs in jails throughout the world. Regardless of their location all Republican POWs are political hostages. They and their families all suffer some form of brutality, isolation and victimisation.

In recent years the prison struggle has often taken the form of a psychological battle. This arises from the refusal of both the London and Dublin governments to give release dates for POWs serving indeterminate sentences, the refusal to transfer Irish POWs imprisoned in England to jails closer to their families, the strip-searching of women prisoners, and the everyday harassment which families face when visiting the prison.

Among the POWs there are 174 men and women serving life sentences. The majority of these prisoners have served over 12 years and over 20 of them are in the 17th and 18th years of their sentences.

Sinn Fein supports the campaigns in the Six and 26 Counties to secure release dates for all political prisoners.

We extend greetings to all Republican POWs and their families. We extend greetings to our outgoing Director of Publicity Danny Morrison and the other victims of the latest RUC frame-up.

We condemn, as

hypocritical, Dublin's refusal to give release dates for prisoners in Portlaoise while at the same time Dublin ministers congratulate the British for the minor reforms they have introduced.

The battle of wills between repressive regimes and individual prisoners is not unique to Ireland of course. In South Africa it is personified by Nelson Mandela's heroism. Despite almost three decades of imprisonment, he continues to set the political agenda from his prison cell. He refuses to be used as a bargaining counter in the struggle for democracy or to allow the South African government to set preconditions for his release.

We extend solidarity to Mandela and his people at this historic phase of the liberation struggle in South Africa, and to all other political hostages.

Since we last assembled here we have lost several friends and comrades. I want to extend a much sadder message of solidarity to the comrades and families of 20-year-old IRA Volunteer James Connolly who died on active service just one year ago. I extend solidarity to the men and women of Ogligh na hEireann. I extend solidarity and sympathy also to the

families of Councillor John Davey, IRA Volunteer Gerry Casey and Phelim McNally, brother of Councillor Francis McNally, all victims of pro-British death-squads. There was a direct British crown forces involvement in their killings, just as there was in the murder of civil rights lawyer Pat Finucane.

Sinn Fein claims that this was so were dismissed by our opponents. Revelations of collusion after the killing of Loughlin Maginn in County Down showed the depth of crown forces involvement with these death-squads.

In the last 12 months we also saw the passing of two pioneers of this phase of the struggle, IRA Volunteers Seamus Twomey and Mossie Prendergast.

I extend best wishes on your behalf also to Councillor Brendan Curran, wounded in a murder attempt and to other comrades who had narrow escapes...

### NO BRITISH SOLUTION

We will face elections in the near future. In the 26 Counties this party will contest the next local government elections on as wide a base as possible.

In the Six Counties we must begin the preparatory work now for the next British

parliamentary elections and for other elections if the British decide to organise a Six-County arrangement whether or not this has the support of the Dublin government.

There is no partitionist solution to the problem of British interference in Irish affairs.

Indeed, in the unlikely event of the British government cobbling together some durable Stormont arrangement, its existence will perpetuate the conflict and delay a democratic solution. Is that the limit of an SDLP vision? Do SDLP supporters really wish to be responsible for British prison policy, the continued administrative practice of discrimination or the actions of British crown forces? Do they wish merely to be place seekers and time servers, castle-Catholics in a discredited British

SDLP that there is no partitionist solution, indeed that there is no British solution, would concentrate the mind of the British government and advance the search for peace in Ireland.

In this respect the role of the Dublin government is crucial. That role is dominated by Mr Haughey's governments willingness to collaborate with the British state. Extensive use of coercive legislation, backed up by sizeable economic, military and police resources, is used in an effort to destroy Republicanism. Section 31, recently copied by the British, has been used to silence the voice of dissent, and revisionism has reached deluge proportions.

The active collaboration of the 26-County government with the British government in terms of an anti-Republican



colony?

A return to Stormont is certainly the blinkered ambition of the unionist leaderships. It is a primary objective of British policy. It will be opposed by Sinn Fein. After 20 years of British failure, I take this opportunity to appeal to the SDLP leadership to abandon their support for British strategy. The failure of the SDLP to do this on many occasions has sustained the British in their search for an arrangement which suits British interests. A forthright declaration by the

propaganda and censorship, collusion with the British forces, and use of diplomatic activity to justify Britain's interference in Ireland rather than making the case for Irish independence, is a major aid to British policy in Ireland. We can be assured that this crucial Irish and European issue will not feature during Mr Haughey's much-publicised EC presidency.

This support for British policy is not just delaying Irish independence and self-determination.

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## IRELAND

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFING

Subscription rates for the monthly briefing produced by the Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau are as follows:

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Information passed by gardai to the British crown forces has undoubtedly been used by loyalist death-squads to target uninvolved nationalists and Republican activists alike. By its extradition policy with Britain the 26-County government is handing people over to face the same treatment meted out, for example, to the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six, the Winchester Three and Judith Ward.

Jim Clarke, Dermot Finucane, Owen

the developments which have taken place in the last 12 months when broad-based efforts to mark the last 20 years of British occupation and the 70th anniversary of the Democratic Programme of the First Dail were morale-boosting successes. The organisers deserve hearty congratulations.

We welcome other initiatives to mobilise progressive opinion behind democratic demands. These are small but hopeful signs of a changing mood and auger well for the future when a mass

not an Ireland for the Irish people. We deserve better than that.

Campaigns against poverty and exploitation need to be intensified. Thatcher's social and economic vandalism affect working-class Protestants as well as Catholics in the North. The unionist leaderships are not concerned about the plight of their poorer constituents. They represent different interests and are content to play the same old "no surrender" games.

few months. Other members of our leadership had separate discussions with other representatives. I welcome the opportunity these discussions gave us to hear, at first hand, views which many Republicans are not exposed to, certainly not in the frank but friendly way which we experienced.

I appreciate the real risks for those involved. It is a courageous thing for representatives of Protestant or unionist opinion to talk to any non-unionist representative and

## DETENTION/ARREST

### 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 and address, date and 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.**



Carron, Dessie Ellis, Tony Sloan, Robert Campbell, Paul Magee and Michael McKee are the latest potential victims of Dublin's subservience to Thatcher.

The Dublin government has, thankfully, not got everything its own way, and there is widespread discontent at the government's refusal to stand by its own policies.

Sinn Fein welcomes

democratic movement will be built out of such activity, with its own agreed demands on democratic, political, economic and cultural issues.

Such activity needs to be built also at local level. The 1980s was a decade when, on this island, the rich got richer and the poor got poorer. This is the Ireland of Mr Haughey and Mr Brooke, Mr Paisley and Mr Hume. It is

Working class people deserve better than that.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that any sizable section of working-class Protestants in the North will desert the unionist parties while the union with Britain remains. This is one of the points which was confirmed in a series of discussions which I and others had with some Protestants in the Six Counties in the last

especially with Sinn Fein.

It is our intention to continue with these discussions with as wide a spectrum of unionist opinion as possible. It is pointless at this time, given their present position, for me to invite the main unionist leaderships to discussions though I look forward to such dialogue in the future and I would welcome it at any time. Sinn Fein has nothing to fear from such conversations. Indeed we are morally bound to seek dialogue as part of our search for peace in our country and among our people.

One important issue which I have already mentioned is the issue of discrimination in the Six Counties where the structural nature of discrimination and its consequences remain intact.

The British government has never shown good faith on this issue.

While billions of pounds have been poured into Shorts and the Belfast shipyard in

the privatisation process, West Belfast, with head of household unemployment levels of 80-90% has received crumbs. Other areas have received even less.

The new British legislation is generally accepted, by objective observers, as being a political response to the political pressure brought to bear on the British government as a result of the MacBride Principles Campaign in the United States.

The new legislation is a purely cosmetic response and not one aimed at bringing about significant positive effect.

Monitoring of the workforce, affirmative action, and contract compliance are all acknowledged key elements in any anti-discrimination legislation. The new British act is deficient in all these areas...

The last 20 years have seen the perfection of counter-insurgency techniques by the British government. In recent years these techniques have been fused into a multi-faceted pacification programme which is increasingly dependent on co-operation by the

Dublin government. The Hillsborough Treaty was described recently by the British Minister Brooke as a treaty "where the Irish government have subscribed to and endorsed the principle that it is the majority in Northern Ireland who should actually determine the constitutional future of the province" (mar dhea).

This treaty continues to be the kernel of British government strategy. It seeks to introduce limited reforms of the British state in order to satisfy international opinion and in an effort to draw the Catholic middle class into an alliance with pragmatic unionists. At the same time it harmonises military and other methods of repression while attempting to develop economic, social and other measures to isolate us, to marginalise us and, in the final analysis, to destroy us.

## MILITARY FORCE

Imperialism is bound to use all the means and methods at its disposal to defeat us. The Dublin government and the SDLP leadership (heavily subsidised and resourced by reactionary elements) play a major part in this project as does another arm of the Irish establishment the Catholic hierarchy.

In this century colonialism was in retreat throughout the world. But the defeat of the colonial forces wasn't due to moral pressure from the churches or because of a change of heart on the part of the

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imperialists but rather because they couldn't smash the desire of subject peoples to be free.

If the church hierarchies really wanted justice and equality in Ireland they would be in the leadership of a revolution. Instead they are in the leadership of a counter-revolution.

Propaganda, enhanced by the censorship of this party, is a key element in the full frontal assault on us and our supporters. Again and again we have been told that we cannot win. Again and again and again a chorus of mediocre nonentities have mouthed this line. How many times have we heard it in recent months?...

The aim of all this implacable no-can-win nonsense is obvious of course. It is aimed not only at IRA Volunteers. It is aimed at us. It is aimed at the Republican base. And it is aimed also at the British forces crumbling morale....

The continued widespread use of British military force and the near hysteria at times of its supporters reflect the depth of the crisis for the British and Irish establishments arising from their failure to suppress our will to be free.

They have tried for 20 years to kill us, to imprison us, to marginalise us. They have tried to isolate us, to out-manoeuvre us. They have tried to buy

us off, to patronise us. And they have failed, again and again.

In the last months of 1989 we were treated to incessant and at times almost hysterical declarations from the British establishment that the IRA would never succeed. British Minister Peter Brooke's 100 days interview in November provided an interesting insight into the real mentality of the British establishment and its attitude to the Republican struggle.

Most significant, of course was his admission that there can be no military defeat of the IRA. Not only did this admission fly in the face of years of British propaganda but it represents a clear acceptance that the British forces are fighting and dying in a lost cause. Mr Brooke says they cannot defeat the IRA. This is a pressing and compelling reason for them to stop fighting now in order that the conditions for justice and peace in Ireland can be agreed....

The British government knows that if the conflict in Ireland is to be resolved talks are essential and inevitable. What then, is the justification for refusing to talk now? The failure to do now what they know they will do in the future is prolonging the conflict and perpetuating the suffering for both the Irish and the British people. The only logic for such a delay is our contention that the British government lacks the moral

courage to confront the political conditions which exists in the North of Ireland.

Sinn Fein has a democratic mandate to represent the political views of our constituents. To demand that we condemn armed struggle as a precondition for our inclusion in talks is a pretext for delaying the inevitable. It ignores the fact that every political party in Ireland, and in Britain, supports in some form the use of military force. Peter Brooke has no democratic mandate. Yet he has under his direct control in Ireland, 30,000 armed members of the British forces. It is particularly hypocritical for the SDLP to mimic the British line in support of such preconditions when the SDLP leadership engaged in a lengthy round of talks with Sinn Fein without any suggestion of such preconditions....

Sinn Fein is ready, at any time, to discuss the conditions in which peace and justice can be established. We are actively endeavouring to create such conditions.

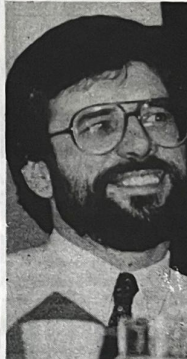
It is Peter Brooke who is delaying this process. It is his government which is prolonging the conflict.

It was the ongoing failure of the British and their unionist allies to subvert a popular struggle of resistance to British rule in the Six Counties, allied to the emergence of Sinn Fein as an electoral force in the wake of the heroic hunger-

strikes and the IRA's continued ability and capacity to strike telling blows against the colonial regime, which led to the Hillsborough Treaty. Its aim was to defeat us. It has failed to do so.

Sinn Fein support remains intact and the IRA continues to demonstrate its ability to shatter the British propagandistic myth of the invincibility of the British army and its most elite regiments.

Young British soldiers, and others in the crown forces, are questioning whether they should allow themselves to die in defence of a system in which they have no stake. They and we have a number of things in common. Among other things, they and we know that the British army fights in a lost cause. The justness of our cause speaks for itself and must be guarded



jealously. It must never be undermined by any Republican actions. The last few years and the last two decades, conclusively demonstrates that we enjoy sufficient support to defend and advance the interests of our struggle if we do so intelligently. Regardless of the means and methods our enemy uses to subvert us and regardless of the support it enlists from its allies, our supporters have remained staunch. They have my humble and everlasting admiration and gratitude. They are the heroines and heroes of this struggle.

In focusing its attention directly at them and at our base, British strategy aims, as we have seen, to psych us out, to convince us of the futility of our

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efforts and to demoralise our supporters. In many ways it seeks also to use the length of our struggle against us. None of this comes as any surprise. We cannot expect anything else.

What should our response be? Should we retreat before this counter-offensive? Should we submit to revisionism, neo-colonialism and the perpetuation of British rule with all its evils? Does Thatcher expect us to say "well we've done our best, what's the use, there's no point in going on"? If by chance she and her cronies think this will be the message from this Ard Fheis then once again they have got it wrong.

Our message is one of continued resistance and popular struggle. We have a lot of lost ground to make up in the 26 Counties but in the Six Counties we are committed to continuing to dictate the political agenda. We are not merely going to respond to what our opponents are doing. We are going to move things on at our own pace.

This is the attitude of mind which we intend to inculcate throughout the ranks of our party and among our supporters. We have the will to win. We also have the ability to win. It will not be easy. But the prize - freedom, justice and peace - and the tide of

history demand that we continue going forward. Our message for the 1990s is a reasonable one. Britain out of Ireland. National self-determination for the Irish people.

Saoirse,  
Ceart agus Siocchan. ■

## ST. PATRICK DAY

### \* CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6 \*

the shoot-to-kill/policy and draconian censorship laws that are hard-matched anywhere else in the world. It is the duty of conscientious people everywhere, including Irish people living outside of Ireland to equip themselves with the facts and expose the true nature of British rule in Ireland, and contribute to the process of a British withdrawal from Ireland. We declare our right to sovereignty, independence and self-determination."

Michael D. [IRELAND'S WAR], chairing the rally on behalf of the GCBWI, called on those present to "re-double our work here in support of the political leadership of the Irish freedom struggle - in support of Sinn Fein."

The RBA must be congratulated for organising this magnificent show of solidarity.

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# BAND NEWS

JOSEPH PEARCE, PRO, REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE.



JAMES CONNOLLY RFB, MANCHESTER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION, GLASGOW, 14/11/89.

## BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATIONS

### LONDON

Once more the **REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE** was represented at the London **Bloody Sunday** Commemoration which was a great success.

The parade was led by the **SONS OF IRELAND REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND** who marched behind fourteen Black Flags being carried in memory of the civilians shot down by cowardly British Paras in Derry. The **POLLOK REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND** followed behind.

Counter demonstrators turned out as per usual but this year they appear to have decided to hold First Aid classes outside Hyde Park as they were all dressed-up with bandaged heads, arms and legs. We don't quite know what they were trying to tell us, these walking wounded with their tomato sauce blood but they do seem to be getting the message as their numbers get fewer over the years and the marches grow in size. Maybe that's why they are now trying open-air First Aid classes - an effort to recruit more members for the Butcher's Apron mob?

Well, we suppose the apron is handy for mopping-up the sauce stains.

Speakers look to the platform and Sinn Fein was represented by Derry City Councillor **DODIE MCGUINNESS**, testimony to the willingness of Sinn Fein to come over here despite all the harassment they face under the PTA and other sinister laws the like of which no other struggle has to endure.

The Rally ended with the playing of the Soldiers Song by the **POLLOK REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND**.

Thanks to the Organisers (Committee For A British Withdrawal From Ireland) for inviting the Bands and special thanks to the people from the **Workers Revolutionary Party (Workers Press)** for providing accommodation for the Band and John and Micky from Red Action for their hospitality.

The victims of Bloody Sunday, their relatives and the Nationalist people of Derry will never be forgotten by the **REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE**.

### DERRY

The **RISEING PHOENIX**



SONS OF IRELAND RFB IN POLLOK, GLASGOW, 15/10/88

**REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND** from Edinburgh attended the Bloody Sunday Commemoration in Derry this year. The march started in the Creggan Estate and proceeded down into the Bogside to attend a wreath-laying ceremony by relatives of the 14 innocent civilians shot down by the Paras.

The Band would like to thank the Commemoration Committee for their invitation to attend. Also many thanks to the **STRABANE MARTYRS BAND** for their hospitality and the provision of accommodation. Finally thanks go to all for the way the Band was received in Derry.

## JOIN A REPUBLICAN BAND

The Republican Flute Bands (RFB) listed below are looking for new members. 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.

**VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH RFB (DUMBARTON) - [VJLRFB]**

**CROSSMAGLEN PATRIOTS RFB (WISHAW) - [CPRFB]**

**POLLOK REPUBLICAN RFB (GLASGOW) - [PRRFB]**

**RISEING PHOENIX RFB (EDINBURGH) - [RPRFB]**

**H-BLOCK MARTYRS RFB (GLASGOW) - [HBMFRFB]**

**SONS OF IRELAND RFB (GLASGOW) - [SOIRFB]**

**BILLY REID RFB (GLASGOW) - [BRRFB]**

If you want to join a Republican Band, and join in the struggle for Irish freedom, write to: **FOOTPRINT, [initials of chosen Band], P.O. BOX 219, GLASGOW, G31 4DZ.** All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

**PLEASE ONLY APPLY TO JOIN ONE BAND**

## RBA PHOTOS

Photographs of Republican Bands printed in **IRELAND'S WAR** are published with the permission of the individual Bands concerned and the Republican Band Alliance.

## ST. PATRICK DAY

The biggest **RBA** parade for many months took place in Govan, Glasgow on St. Patrick's Day. 8 Bands supported by around 2000 people took to the streets to show their support for the Irish Republican Movement. At the rally after the march a message was read out from Sinn Fein:

"...In the aftermath of the Supreme Court ruling in Dublin this week that ordered the release of James Clarke and Dermot Finucane, Maggie Thatcher was described as "hopping mad and spitting blood". Irish nationalists take pleasure in this. Thatcher is no friend of Ireland. She and her government continue to exercise murder and torture in the north of Ireland. They are responsible for the operation of death-squads, plastic bullets, the shoot-to-kill

➡ CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 ➡

## NEW BAND

### LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

A new Republican Band is being formed in the east-end of **GLASGOW** as part of the **REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE**.

If you support the Irish Republican Movement and want to do something about it why not join this new Band now.

To take part in this exciting new project and join this new Republican Band write to: **FOOTPRINT, [NEW BAND], P.O. BOX 219, GLASGOW, G31 4DZ, SCOTLAND.**

**BEIR BUA**

## REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE

### THANKS

The **REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE** would like to thank Sinn Fein for the invitation to take part in this year's **Ard Fheis**. Many thanks also for the hospitality shown by all.

Good luck in the 1990s in your struggle to win a British withdrawal and the reunification of Ireland.

### GREETINGS

Greetings and best wishes to **SEAMUS DOHERTY**, Crumlin Road Jail, from Grace and family and all your friends in Glasgow.

## POLLOK REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND

A Chairde,  
On behalf of the Committee, and membership, of the Pollok Republican Flute Band (Glasgow), I would like to take this opportunity to thank IRELAND'S WAR for your prompt and speedy efforts to

forward on the applications for membership from individuals wishing to join the P.R.F.B.(G). As those involved with the Bands know only too well, our access to the press is more or less non-existent. Therefore we feel there is a genuine need for

IRELAND'S WAR, as an outlet for ourselves and fellow Republicans, to advertise and express our views. So keep up the good work, all the best for "1990".

Yours fraternally,

J.W.

Secretary, P.R.F.B.(G).



POLLOK REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND, FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND DEMONSTRATION, 3/12/84.

## IRISH PRISONER, PAULINE DRUMM, VICTIMISED IN FRENCH JAIL.

The Irish Political Prisoners in Europe Solidarity Group has called on all concerned human rights organisations, politicians, church leaders and concerned individuals to pressurise the French authorities regarding the distressing prison conditions endured by Irishwoman Pauline Drumm who has been detained since July 1989 in Fleury Merogis Prison, Paris.

Since her arrest, Pauline has been forced to share a cell with one or more drug-addicted prisoners. At present, she is sharing a cell with an HIV Positive prisoner, which is causing her and her family considerable mental stress. Indeed, the Drumm family have noticed increasing changes in their daughter's personality and physical appearance as a direct result of the undue pressure she is experiencing. In addition, Pauline, who has no knowledge of the French language, is

subjected to daily cell searches or cell changes.

The solidarity group explain that Pauline Drumm is not seeking

preferential treatment and that her one simple request is the right to have a cell of her own and to be allowed to associate

## REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS

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Victory To The People's Army.....£5-30

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Beir Bua.....£5-30

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Freedom.....£1-60

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Unbowed, Unbroken.

[History of Short Strand Martyrs] .....£1-40

Writings Of Bobby Sands.....£1-40

Waiting For Justice

[Martina Shanahan].....£1-75

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## LORNA'S POEM

A Chairde IRELAND'S WAR,

First of all let me congratulate you on the coverage that your paper brings us all on what is happening in the Six Counties [The Cutting Edge] and also in Britain. The coverage on the Bands and marches is amazing and I am sure that our supporters and every Republican throughout the world looks forward to receiving IRELAND'S WAR.

It was through your paper IRELAND'S WAR that I received an invitation to join the Pollok Republican Flute Band and I can truthfully say that it was great to be invited to join the POLLOK. They are honestly one of the best on the road. No offence to any other Republican Band, I would not try to bring any of them down as I think they are all great and am thankful at the message they are putting across.

We [PRFB] were marching in Brixton recently - it was brilliant and as this was my first march it is one I will never forget, (not that I will forget any). The folk in the POLLOK are pure brill and made me feel so welcome, as am sure you can imagine.

I have enclosed a poem which my girlfriend's younger sister wrote for me but I thought I would send onto you. Her name is Lorna and she is aged 11. She gets a read of IRELAND'S WAR after me and thanks to you she knows of the struggle over in Ireland.

Yours fraternally,

Stoo Tiocfaidh Ar La.

## IRISH FREEDOM

LET IRELAND HAVE HER FREEDOM  
LET IRELAND HAVE HER HOME  
SO GET OUT YOU BRITISH SOLDIERS  
AND I LEAVE OUR LAND ALONE.

AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF STRUGGLE  
WE'LL FIGHT UNTIL WE'VE WON  
OUR VOLUNTEERS HAVE DONE SO MUCH

FOR THEM MAKE SURE IT'S DONE.

LORNA [aged 11]

## VOL. MAIREAD FARRELL

Cumann na mBan must feel proud - them you never did fail  
Their prisoners O/C whilst in Armagh Jail  
In solidarity with the Blanket-Men you went and spoke out  
Leading your women on a no wash or sleep out.

The movement believed you could show the right path  
So proudly they asked you to join Chief Of Staff  
As you gratefully accepted to your eyes came a tear  
And down in Armagh Jail there arose a great cheer.

Whilst on active service on the rock of Gibraltar  
You were butchered in daylight like a lamb at the altar  
With Dan McCann and Sean Savage for FREEDOM you died  
This time in Armagh Jail the women they cried.

What your thoughts were that day not many will guess  
For your death we'll pay back those damn S.A.S.  
Fully committed to FREEDOM you stood staunch and true  
Oh Mairead I pray there be lots more like you.

Stoo [PRFB]

Dedicated to Vol. Mairead Farrell G.H.Q. STAFF, OFFICER COMMANDING ARMAGH JAIL.

"Ring out the shots for our Volunteer

For in martyrdom she lies" [Cumann na mBan].

## BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY ROUTED!

EL, Edinburgh.

Saturday 2 December was the date these cowards chose to ply their particularly nasty brand of racism in Edinburgh. It was no coincidence that Rangers happened to be playing Hearts at Tynecastle that day and the Nazis obviously hoped that the presence of hundreds of Rangers fans would stop anti-fascists from counter-demonstrating against their secret rally to be held somewhere in the Haymarket/Gorgie area of Edinburgh.

Earlier, an anti-fascist rally called by Edinburgh Trades Council had been held with some five-hundred people attending, including a good number of fans wearing Hearts scarves. Speakers included a couple of District Councillors and a representative from the **LOTHIAN BLACK FORUM** who condemned racism and fascism for the cancer that they are, and then reminded people of the racist murder in Edinburgh's Cowgate and the ensuing police cover-up.

Following the rally the crowd, defying police instructions, marched along Princes Street, Edinburgh's main shopping thoroughfare, with the intention of confronting the **BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY (BNP)** in the Gorgie area. However the police had other ideas and blocked-off Dalry Road, stopping the anti-fascists reaching Tynecastle.

Moments earlier the determination of the anti-fascists had been shown

when a taxi-load of BNP members had been attacked by young anti-fascists who were only stopped from dragging the racists out when police intervened and the Nazis scuttled away as fast as their red, white and blue legs could carry them.

News then reached the demonstrators that BNP members were leafleting arriving Rangers fans in Haymarket railway station. A few comrades managed to give these heroes a taste of the medicine they dish out to Black people regularly before their friends on the beat saved them from being, quite literally, torn apart.

The crowd of some 300 anti-fascists then laid siege to the station for an hour and the cowards were put on a train by British Transport police for their own safety.

The BNP did have a secret meeting that day, but the fact was that a determined stand was made by anti-fascists and no-one could doubt who controlled the streets. Members of the **RISEING PHOENIX REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND** and their supporters were prominent in the fight against these twisted bigots. Could this not be repeated outside Ibrox Park [home of Glasgow Rangers FC] where these scumbags still seel their racist rubbish?

**NO TO RACISM**

**NO TO FASCISM**

**SMASH THE BNP!**



□ **RISEING PHOENIX MARCHING BLOODY SUNDAY 1988**

## NINE FAMOUS IRISHMEN

In the **YOUNG IRISH** disorders in Ireland in 1848, the following nine men were captured, tried and convicted of treason against Her Majesty the Queen,

and were sentenced to death: John Mitchell, Morris Lyene, Pat Donahue, Thomas McOee, Charles Duffy, Thomas Meagher, Richard O'Gorman, Terrence

McManus, Michael Ireland.

Before passing sentence, the judge asked if there was anything that anyone had to say. Meagher,

## FREE THE BIRMINGHAM SIX NOW!

EL, Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh **TIME TO GO** campaign held a highly successful meeting on the Birmingham Six in Edinburgh City Chambers on Tuesday 28 November. The meeting went ahead in spite of the presence of around 30 loyalists led by their East of Scotland 'guru' **JAMES McLEAN**.

The effective stewarding ensured that the bully-boys were kept outside although, being an open and democratic organisation, Mr. McLean and another loyalist who claimed to be a serving soldier, were allowed to put their well-thought-out position on the Birmingham Six [ie 'smash the IRA'] to the meeting.

**PAT STACK** of the **TIME TO GO NATIONAL COMMITTEE** had only started speaking when a woman [who we later found out to be Mrs. McLean] started walking up and down the wooden floor in her high heels in a quite pathetic attempt to disrupt the meeting. Female stewards soon removed our foot-tapping friend to allow her to practice her

show-biz talents elsewhere. Unfortunately the cabaret continued when old J.J. McLean [dole-scooper extraordinaire] had to be carried [not shoulder-high] out of the meeting after getting a bit too excited and gibbering something about the IRA. Believe it or not, before his wife was removed, he had been sitting in the front row reading **IRELAND'S WAR** - honestly. A varied readership indeed!

The soldier also left at this time, informing one of the stewards that Mr. McLean had not told him it was a meeting on the Birmingham Six and that he, the soldier, thought they should be set free!

With the clowns out of the way, the serious business of the meeting went ahead and a representative from the **LOTHIAN BLACK FORUM** passed on solidarity to the campaign in their efforts to free the Six and also drew attention to a forthcoming British National Party rally in Edinburgh.

The next speaker was the **PRESS OFFICER** from the **BIRMINGHAM SIX CAMPAIGN**, who outlined the case and asked people to become involved in building up pressure, to free these innocent men, whose only 'crime' was being Irish, and to raise money for the families of the Prisoners.

A representative from the **CONNOLLY ASSOCIATION** described his experience of the PTA and gave a very terrifying account of how this Act is used, not to catch Republican Active Service Units, but to intimidate and silence Irish people in this country.

In view of the fact that Mr. James McLean is an avid **IRELAND'S WAR** fan, can we give him the following message:

"The days in Edinburgh of meetings etc. on Ireland being smashed-up are over and the sooner Edinburgh loyalists accept this, the better for them."

**FREE THE BIRMINGHAM SIX SMASH THE PTA**

speaking for all, said:

"My lord, this is our first offence but not our last. If you will be easy with us this once, we promise, on our word as gentlemen, to try to do better next time. And next time - sure we won't be fools to get caught."

Thereupon the indignant judge sentenced them all to be hanged by the neck until dead and drawn and quartered. Passionate protest from all the world forced Queen Victoria to commute the sentence to transportation for life to far wild Australia.

In 1874 word reached the astounded Queen Victoria that the Sir Charles Duffy, who had been elected Prime Minister of Australia was the

same Charles Duffy who had been transported 25 years before. On the Queen's demand, the records of the rest of the transported men were revealed and this is what was uncovered:

□ **THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER**, Governor of Montana

□ **TERRENCE McMANUS**, Brigadier General, United States Army

□ **PATRICK DONAHUE**, Brigadier General, United States Army

□ **RICHARD O'GORMAN**, Governor General of

Newfoundland

□ **MORRIS LYENE**, Attorney General of Australia

□ **MICHAEL IRELAND** succeeded Morris Lyene as Attorney General

□ **THOMAS D'ARCY Mc GEE**, Member of Parliament, Montreal

□ **JOHN MITCHELL**, Prominent New York politician.

John Mitchell was the father of **JOHN PURROY MITCHELL**, Mayor of New York, at the outbreak of World War One.

# END NATIONAL DIVISION

## IRELAND'S "FRONTIER" CONFRONTATIONS

One of the classic tactics used by imperialism to maintain its grip on oppressed nations is to divide and partition countries. In Vietnam the Vietnamese people had to wage a titanic struggle against national division and foreign domination. Today Korea remains partitioned with the USA and south Korean fascist junta having built a gigantic fortified concrete wall the entire width of the country in a vain attempt to make national division permanent. And in Ireland the British are trying to physically divide Ireland by constructing the Hillsborough wall of barbed wire, metal/concrete pillars and military watch towers.

Alongside this has been the British policy of closing numerous cross-border roads in order to prevent movement between one part of Ireland and another, thus causing extreme difficulties for local people. But this is a policy which is vigorously opposed by the people living in these areas.

### LENAMORE-MUFF

The Lenamore to Muff road is one of the 15 roads linking Derry City with its natural hinterland of Donegal which were first closed by the British occupation forces in 1974.

This closure is completely contrary to the stated wishes of the local residents. The Derry Donegal Cross-Border Community Association is currently circulating a petition calling for the Lenamore road to be re-opened on a permanent basis - and already have well over 3000 signatures. As part of an on-going campaign being waged in the area, the Lenamore to Muff road has been reopened on 3 occasions by direct action by the people in the area. Indeed, 15 people, including 3 Sinn Féin councillors, have been charged with interfering with the British crossing there.

Faced with this quite clear and overwhelming wish of local people for free cross-border travel the British forces have resorted to vicious vandalism. On 8 February British troops with tractors and earth moving equipment closed the Lenamore to Muff road using metal tanks filled with concrete. Condemning the British army's actions the Shantallow Sinn Féin councillor on Derry City Council, Gearoid O hEara, said that the road had been completely destroyed.

### DERRYVOLLIN

On Saturday 20 January more than a dozen people participated in a road opening exercise on the Monaghan/Fermanagh border at Derryvallen. While work was in progress, a party of British soldiers arrived and endeavoured to take possession of the Hymac digger being used by local workers.

The driver drove his machine into County Monaghan, followed by his co-workers and was followed into the County for some 30 yards and threatened he would be shot if he didn't stop. However, he continued on his way and the soldiers withdrew back into Fermanagh.

## MONAGHAN BORDER

The Monaghan border with counties Fermanagh and Tyrone has witnessed a number of "frontier" exchanges between local community activists and crown forces. On Sunday, January 21 a crowd of some 40 people gathered at the Mount Forest border crossing which once served traffic between Emyvale and Clogher. This was the third time the workers came to this particular crossing, earlier efforts by the South Tyrone/North Monaghan Community Association having left the road suitable for tractors and farm machinery only.

With an hour's labour complete and a considerable stretch of the road resurfaced, a British army spotter plane and helicopter appeared overhead. These were rapidly followed by 4 helicopter loads of British troops and subsequently by up to 20 riot-clad RUC colleagues with plastic bullet guns who eventually forced the work to cease.

On Monday 22 January the British army transported large earth moving machines to the Monaghan border area and set about the destruction of the community's work at the Mount Forest crossing. Additional obstructions were set in place.

Undeterred, on Sunday 11 February a large group of local farmers gathered at the Mount Forest border crossing and carried out additional work in their on-going efforts to complete the re-opening of this major crossing. This work is a protracted and major undertaking which entails much cost, especially in terms of surfacing material. Several lorry-loads of fine stones have already been delivered.

All cars leaving the area were later stopped and searched by a large force of gardai and heavily armed Special Branch detectives, backed up by the 26-County army. Despite the long delays there were no arrests and according to the association's chairperson Jimmy McKenna, "no shovels were seized".

He later, along with association secretary Mary Treanor, paid tribute to the courage of those who have come out week after week despite the threat to their safety such as the indiscriminate firing of plastic bullet rounds at workers at the nearby Ballagh Bridge crossing some weeks ago.

# BRING DOWN THE WALLS

## CALL TO TEAR DOWN THE KOREAN WALL

The President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Kim Il Sung, advanced a new proposal for Korean reunification in his customary New Year address for 1990. He said:

"Representing the desire of the entire nation for reunification and its urgent requirements, we hold that the north and the south should remove the barrier between them, ensure free travel and open all their doors."

President Kim Il Sung laid particular stress on the "concrete wall" built across the peninsula just south of the demarcation line by the United States of America and the south Korean fascist junta. Saying that it "must be pulled down" he went on:

"The concrete wall is a symbol of national division and of north-south confrontation. Keeping the barrier, the like of which cannot be found in any other country of the world, is a disgrace to our nation."

which mark a boundary. We can remove them any time. "After removing the concrete wall, free travel must be realised between north and south. Workers, peasants, youth and students, politicians, businesspeople, cultural workers, religious people and others from all walks of life of the north and the south should be allowed to visit the area of the other side freely, having contact with each other and working without restraint."

Saying that north and

convening of a consultative meeting for national reunification to be attended by the representatives of the authorities, political parties and organisations from north and south, "with a view to deciding on the nation's way to reunification through extensive consultation".

The previous month the Cuban newspaper, "GRANMA", carried the text of the first ever interview given by senior Korean Leader, Kim Jong Il, to a foreign newspaper.

Kim Jong Il also talked about the struggle for Korean reunification, saying that it was "in essence, a struggle against domination and intervention by foreign imperialism and for national sovereignty". He noted that this struggle was gaining greater momentum in



■ Students in south Korea are fighting fascism and for reunification

In an obvious analogy with Germany and the Berlin wall, the President said:

"Now that both the United States of America and the south Korean authorities welcome the opening of the barrier of division in another country, there is no reason why the concrete wall in Korea should not be destroyed."

"In our area, north of the Military Demarcation Line, there is no barrier except barbed wires

south should not confine their efforts to guaranteeing freedom of travel, President Kim Il Sung proposed that they also open their doors in the realms of politics, the economy and culture.

Such moves, the Korean Leader noted, would open the way towards the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, free from foreign interference. Stressing that the path of seeking dialogues would be actively pursued, he made a call for the

south Korea, adding that "the south Korean youth, students and other patriotic people are fighting bravely under the slogan of a n t i - U S independence, anti-fascist democracy and national reunification, in defiance of intensified fascist repression. "Our people are firmly convinced that the great task of national reunification will be accomplished in the near future."

# IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY

## THE CUTTING EDGE OF REVOLUTION

### NOVEMBER

- 8 [Sion Mills] 50lb bomb planted at cafe serving crown forces.
- 8 [Sion Mills] 1,000lb bomb abandoned due to crown force presence.
- 8 [Belfast] Hoax bomb and rifle attack on RUC Oldpark barracks.
- 9 [Belfast] 2 RUC men injured in grenade attack
- 9 [Belfast] Anti-social element punished.
- 10 [Toomebridge] Anti-social element punished.
- 10 [Dungannon] Hand grenade attack on civilian contract workers at RUC barracks.
- 11 [County Antrim] Bomb and mortar attack on RAF base.
- 11 [Stewartstown] 2 UDR men seriously injured in bomb attack.
- 11 [Kilnasaggart] Two 100lb bombs placed on main cross-border rail link.
- 11 [Belfast] 2 anti-social elements punished.
- 13 [Derry] 1 RUC man found shot dead in barracks.
- 13 [Worldwide] Armed guards to patrol all Brit warships in ports.
- 13 [Belfast] 2 anti-social elements punished.
- 13 [Belfast] Statement issued on 2 earlier punishment shootings denied men had been apologised to.
- 14 [London] 3lb Semtex bomb planted on top Brit's car.
- 15 [County Tyrone] Main supplier to crown forces executed.
- 17 [County Armagh] 1 UDR man executed.
- 17 [County Tyrone] Firm of supplier to crown forces who had been executed gave undertaking to cease their collaboration.
- 18 [Newry] 3 Paras killed, 1 injured in landmine attack.
- 18 [Newry] 50lb van bomb placed on main Belfast-Dublin road. RUC ignored warnings about it for 48 hours.
- 18 [England] 1 Brit seriously injured in car bomb attack at barracks in Colchester.
- 18 [Newry] RUC mobile patrol fired on.
- 19 [Six Counties] UDR man died after shooting incident at his home.
- 16 [Randalstown] Impact grenade attack on crown forces.
- 16 [Toomebridge] Impact grenade attack on crown forces.
- 25 [Six Counties] UDR man found dead with gunshot wounds.
- 25 [Derry] UDR man escaped death in car bomb attack.
- 25 [Belfast] RUC man escaped death in car bomb attack.
- 27 [Belleek] 500lb bomb seriously damaged barracks.
- 27 [Belfast] 2 Paras injured in mine attack.
- 27 [Belfast] 3 of 5 bombs planted at Short Brothers exploded.
- 28 [England] Army recruitment literature blown-up by Brits as a 'suspicious looking package' in Chelmsford.
- 28 [England] 'Suspicious looking' schoolbag blown-up by Brits in Colchester.
- 28 [Belfast] Semtex bomb abandoned due to crown force presence.
- 29 [Derry] 2 RUC men injured by anti-personnel device.
- 30 [Belfast] Anti-social element punished and given 7 days to leave Ireland.

### DECEMBER

- 1 [Derry] Booby-trap bomb failed to explode.
- 1 [Derry] 1 UDR man shot and wounded.

- 1 [32 Counties] IRA statement issued on calls to IRA to lay down its arms.
- 7 [Lisburn] 500lb van bomb severely damaged heavily guarded Lisburn town centre.
- 10 [North Armagh] UDR man narrowly escaped RPG attack
- 11 [Derry] 3 Brits seriously injured in double bomb.
- 13 [Belfast] Warning issued to money lenders.
- 13 [Derryard] 2 Brits killed, 2 injured in bomb attack on military checkpoint.
- 17 [Killeen] IRA roadblocks set up and garage destroyed in van bomb attack.
- 18 [Rathfriland] 600lb bomb at crown forces housing complex failed to explode.
- 18 [Derry] Bomb placed at 'secure' hotel failed to explode.
- 19 [Derry] 6-rack mortar unit abandoned due to crown force presence.

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 ➤

## An Cumann Cabhrach

NAME	NUMBER	BIRTHDAY	PRISON
LIAM MCCOTTER	L883693	2 JANUARY	FULL SUTTON
LIAM QUINN	49930	6 FEBRUARY	ALBANY
MICHAEL MCKENNEY	L46486	7 FEBRUARY	FRANKLAND
JOHN MCCOMB	851715	25 FEBRUARY	FRANKLAND
ELLA O'DWYER	D25135	3 MARCH	DURHAM
MARTINA ANDERSON	D25134	16 APRIL	DURHAM
EDDIE BUTLER	338637	17 APRIL	FRANKLAND
PATRICK HACKITT	342603	20 APRIL	PARKHURST
PATRICK McLAUGHLIN	L883694	2 MAY	WAKEFIELD
JOE O'CONNELL	338635	15 MAY	GARTREE
PATRICK MAGEE	B75881	29 MAY	FRANKLAND
PAUL HOLMES	119034	22 JUNE	FRANKLAND
PETER SHERRY	B75880	30 JUNE	PARKHURST
BRIAN KEENAN	B26380	17 JULY	LONG LARTIN
THOMAS QUIGLEY	B69204	23 JULY	YORK
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
VINCE DONNELLY	274064	25 SEPTEMBER	LONG LARTIN
DANNY McNAMEE	L48616	29 SEPTEMBER	PARKHURST
HARRY DUGGAN	338638	31 OCTOBER	FULL SUTTON
ROY WALSH	119083	1 NOVEMBER	GARTREE
SEAN KINSELLA	758661	5 NOVEMBER	ALBANY
PAUL NORNEY	863532	11 NOVEMBER	ALBANY
BRENDAN DOWD	758662	17 NOVEMBER	FULL SUTTON
HUGH DOHERTY	338636	7 DECEMBER	LONG LARTIN
NOEL GIBSON	879225	11 DECEMBER	FRANKLAND
GERARD McDONNELL	B75882	19 DECEMBER	LEICESTER
NATALINO VELLA	B71644	24 DECEMBER	FULL SUTTON
WILLIAM ARMSTRONG	119085	26 DECEMBER	PARKHURST

### 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 Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX.
- HMP Leicester, Welford Road, Leicester, LE2 7AJ.
- HMP Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS.
- HMP Durham, Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HU.
- HMP Full Sutton, York, YO4 1PS.

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

## \* IRA CUTTING EDGE...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10 \*

- 20 [Derry] Warning issued to anti-social elements.
- 30 [Armagh] 2 anti-social elements punished. Others given warning.
- JANUARY**
- 2 [Belfast] UDA/UFF leader executed.
- 2 [Stewartstown] Impact grenade on RUC barracks.
- 3 [Magherafelt] 1 UDR man seriously injured in car bomb attack.
- 3 [Belfast] 2 Brits injured in anti-personnel mine attack.
- 5 [Belfast] Gun and grenade attack on Antrim Road barracks.
- 8 [Belfast] Anti-personnel mine planted in Poleglass but not detonated due to presence of civilians.
- 9 [Belfast] Anti-personnel mine discovered by Brits.
- 9 [Castlederg] Long-serving UDR man killed in booby-trap bomb attack.
- 10 [Belfast] 3 Brits injured in land mine attack
- 10 [Belfast] 1 Brit, 1 RUC man injured in impact grenade attack.
- 11 [Toomebridge] Grenade attack on crown force base.
- 11 [Randalstown] Grenade attack on crown force base.
- 11 [Maghera] UDR man escaped death in car bomb attack.
- 13 [Omagh] 150lb bomb attack on Lisinelly barracks.
- 15 [Sion Mills] Barracks reduced to rubble in 1,000lb bomb attack.
- 17 [Belfast] Severe damage caused to town centre in 350lb car bomb attack.
- 20 [Plumbridge] 1 UDR man seriously injured in car bomb attack.
- 20 [County Armagh] Mortar attack on army/RUC base.
- 22 [Armagh] Senior RUC commander executed.
- 22 [Belfast] Brits discovered powerful Semtex device adjacent to Queen Street barracks.
- 22 [Tyrone] 2 more firms agreed to stop working for crown forces.
- 27 [Magherafelt] Civilian contractors escaped death in car bomb attack.
- 27 [Lisbellow] 500lb bomb placed at crown force base.
- 28 [Derry] IRA expressed regret at the death of Strabane youth Charles Love in bomb attack aimed at crown forces.
- FEBRUARY**
- 1 [Castlederg] RUC man escaped death in car bomb attack.
- 1 [Ardroe] Brits injured after 2 patrols shot at each other for 5 minutes.
- 1 [South Derry] IRA statement denied involvement in local robberies.
- 2 [Belfast] Bomb attack in city centre.
- 2 [Newry] IRA warned crown forces of the existence of 3 devices on Newry railway line.
- 3 [Cullyhana] IRA set up vehicle checkpoints and patrolled local housing estates.
- 6 [Newry] Anti-social element punished.
- 6 [Glenarn] 1 RUC man seriously injured in booby-trap bomb attack.
- 7 [Belfast] Shorts complex bombed.
- 7 [Belfast] 1 Brit injured in land mine attack on mobile patrol.
- 10 [Belfast] Statement issued on Shorts attack.
- 11 [Gala] 3 Brits injured after Gazelle helicopter was shot down.
- 15 [Cookstown] 1 UDR man shot in the head.
- 17 [Belfast] Car bomb at hotel abandoned. Exploded after a 40-minute warning.
- 17 [Belfast] 2 Brits injured in land mine attack on mobile patrol.
- 19 [Belfast] Land mine attack on joint army/RUC patrol.
- 20 [England] Van bomb attack at army recruitment office in Leicester.
- 20 [Belfast] IRA patrol engaged Brits by firing 15 shots at them.

## GALA EVENT, WITH HELICOPTER

A British Army Gazelle helicopter was shot down at Gala, between Augher and Aughnacloy on the Tyrone-Monaghan border on Sunday evening, February 11th. Three soldiers were injured, one seriously when the helicopter was shot from the sky.

British army sources attempted to suppress information about the attack, denying that the copter had been shot down at first - but totally unable to manufacture any other explanation.

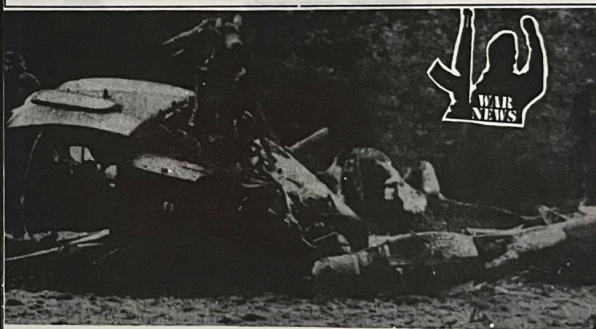
The Mid-Ulster Brigade of the IRA issued a statement confirming that the helicopter had come under sustained gunfire:

"A five-person ASU, armed with two general purpose machine-guns and three AK47 assault rifles identified and opened fire on the helicopter which was carrying four British soldiers. Our ASU fired approximately 300 rounds. It is our firm belief that one of the soldiers sustained gunshot wounds. This latest attack once again demonstrates our resourcefulness and our ability to strike at the British forces at will."

Underlying the British refusal to acknowledge the shooting-down is their need to minimise the effectiveness of IRA operations. The security forces cannot operate on the ground in many rural areas, and helicopters become a lifeline, especially in much of Tyrone and Armagh. The Gala operation and any like it cause damaging loss of troop morale, already low in these areas.

The IRA has carried out numbers of successful attacks on helicopters in the last 15 years. In February 1977 the South Armagh Brigade of the IRA brought down a helicopter at Bessbrooke, killing Lt. Col. Ian Cordon Lloyd, the highest ranking soldier to have died, and another soldier. Other successful helicopter attacks took place later in 1977; May 1981 [Jonesborough]; July 1982 [Jonesborough]; May 1983 [Silverbridge, near Crossmaglen]; May 1985 and June 1988 [Bessbrooke-Crossmaglen].

With this latest attack no British soldier can be left thinking helicopter patrols are a safe option.



■ The remains of the Gazelle helicopter shot down by the IRA.

## SINN FEIN'S DEMANDS

● Sinn Fein's ultimate objective is to create the political conditions necessary to secure a true and lasting peace in Ireland. This can only be achieved by:

■ The ending of partition arising from British rule in Six of Ireland's 32 counties;

■ British disengagement from Ireland and the restoration to the Irish people of the right to exercise self-sovereignty, independence and national self-determination;

■ The setting of a definite date within the lifetime of a British government for the completion of this withdrawal;

■ The disarming and disbandment of the Royal

Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment as part of the military withdrawal;

■ The calling of a Constitutional Conference to which all political parties would be invited. This conference to be responsible for determining the nature and composition of an emergent national police service and the judiciary. If Britain was sincere about disengaging and was committed to an orderly transference of power, this could be achieved with a minimum of disorder; and

■ The unconditional release of all political prisoners.

# IRELAND'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS

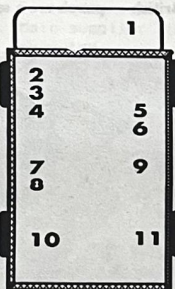
## THE BATTLE OF DERRYARD

Unlucky for some was the night of Wednesday 13 December, for the British were forced by the IRA to fight a major battle in Ireland's war of liberation - and lost.

Twelve IRA Volunteers used two vehicles, a van and a lorry, and a mass of weaponry to attack and destroy the Derryard military checkpoint. Two British soldiers were killed and two injured, all members of the Kings Own Scottish Murderers.

The engagement began when a nearby farmhouse was commandeered earlier in the day as an operational base. Then at 4.20pm the lorry and van approached the checkpoint. According to a detailed statement issued by the IRA's South Fermanagh Brigade, one Volunteer drove the van with the bomb, the other eleven were positioned in the lorry which had been sand-bagged, [Volunteers 1-11 see diagram]. One Volunteer drove the lorry, [1], the other ten were positioned and armed as follows:

- 2 RPG7 and six warheads
- 3 Flame-thrower
- 4 Armalite with spare magazines
- 5,6,7,8 & 9 AK47s with spare magazines and hand grenades
- 10 & 11 General Purpose Machine Guns



It had been intended to hijack vehicles to block the roads but as the area was so quiet bags of fertiliser were used instead.

The IRA statement tells the story blow by blow:

"We drove up to the checkpoint and the lorry stopped at a 45% angle, as if to go towards Fivemiletown. A British soldier was out on the road and he was being covered by his colleagues in three posts. As he approached our driver the horn was sounded. This was the signal for Volunteer No.5 to appear and execute him. He fell dead and we then opened fire to secure the ground for the placing of the van bomb.

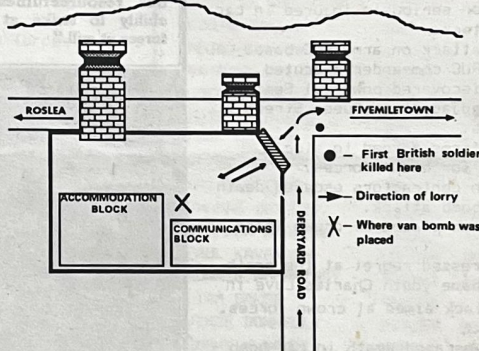
"Volunteer No.11 opened up with the General Purpose Machine [GPM] Gun on the far right post, Volunteer No.2 fired the first of five rockets at the main post-tower, but the first missed and the soldier there began shooting. Volunteer No.10 then fired his GPM at this position and the shooting stopped from the post; Volunteer No.3, armed with a flame-thrower, then doused the sentry post guarding the gates of the base's yard; Volunteers Nos. 5 and 6 then jumped from the lorry and van to the post on the far right under covering fire from Volunteer No.11; they placed a 1 1/2 lb Semtex bomb against the post and Volunteers Nos. 7,8 and 9 then threw grenades into the main yard to clear the ground of British soldiers before the next stage of the operation.

"Volunteer No.1 then ordered a ceasefire and called upon the soldiers to lay down their weapons, if they surrendered to us their lives would be spared.

"The IRA cannot take and hold prisoners, but it was our intention to take them with us for some distance and leave them tied up at a prearranged location for them to be later freed. This action would have spoken for itself, that the IRA could be magnanimous towards an enemy who had surrendered and it showed that we were not on this operation only to kill soldiers for the sake of killing them."

There was, however, no response from the soldiers to the IRA call for surrender.

"The lorry was then driven out to allow the van bomb to be placed beside the accommodation blocks inside the compound. The flame-thrower and rifle fire were aimed into the compound and posts. During this firing a soldier emerged from the rear of the



compound buildings. He was ordered to lay down his rifle, when he refused he was shot dead. We eased off our fire and the van bomb was positioned and primed. A second armed soldier crept up the side of one of the buildings to launch an attack on the Volunteers priming the bomb but he also went down under sustained fire from other Volunteers.

"Volunteer No.1 then sounded the horn to signal all Volunteers back to the lorry. As we were climbing back on board heavy gunfire was directed at us from fields behind the far right post, and from a distance of about 50 yards. A Wessex helicopter also appeared from behind the hill at the edge of the fields. Our Volunteers concentrated their fire on the Wessex and it banked left and withdrew behind the hills. The soldiers in the fields stopped shooting and took cover when we directed heavy fire at them. We then drove off down the Derryard Road and abandoned the lorry two minutes later, priming the 300lb booby-trap bomb on the lorry. The operation was a success, no Volunteers had been injured and we had badly shaken the British."

## UFF LEADER EXECUTED

The Belfast Brigade of the IRA executed UDA/

UFF leader and Inner Council member Harry Dickie on 2 January 1990.

He was killed when a booby-trap bomb exploded at 9.20am under his Peugeot car in the Sydenham area of East Belfast.

The IRA statement on the incident gave details and reasons for the action:

"Dickie was a longstanding member of the UDA for almost 18 years and was currently acting as the main spokesman for the UFF.

"As a member of the Inner Council he bore a major responsibility for the murder and mayhem carried out by the UDA/UFF against the nationalist community and has now paid for his activities."

## CLOSING TIME UDR SOLDIER

The Tyrone Brigade of the IRA executed a long-serving British soldier of the Ulster Defence Regiment on 9 January at closing-time at his shop in Castlederg, Co. Tyrone. Two Volunteers entered the shop killing the soldier who had 15 years service. They then planted a booby-trap bomb device which exploded an hour later, slightly injuring one of the RUC personnel sent to investigate the shooting.

## SION MILLS NO MORE

A brilliantly successful attack by the Tyrone Brigade on Sion Mills British army/RUC military base breached its heavy security and destroyed the

heavily fortified building on 15 January. British morale was pulverised too as unionists screamed for more security and slated British military and political rulers, demoralised by yet another defeat in the war they cannot win.

A 50-minute warning was given to passers-by and to a local priest. The explosion tore off the roof and side of the barracks, giving a boost to Republicans.

Following the destruction of Sion

Mills barracks the IRA reissued its warning to civilian contractors not to carry out work for crown forces. Two further firms from the Tyrone area have now given public undertakings not to do so, making ten altogether in that area. The latest two firms to give assurances are Jim Murphy, Painting Contractors of Cookstown and James Ferguson, the owner of Brigh Quarry Ltd., Stewartstown.

## DANGERS OF HOUSEWORK

A senior RUC commander was executed by Volunteers of the North Armagh Brigade on Monday 22 January as he stood in the kitchen of his house in Kilburn Park on the outskirts of Armagh City. Inspector Monteith was stationed at Middletown barracks and was attached to RUC Divisional Command at Armagh.

A number of Volunteers secured a large area round the house, while several Volunteers armed with assault rifles opened fire on the inspector, killing him immediately.

"We repeat, there can be no hiding place for the oppressors of our community", ended the IRA statement detailing the action. The operation brings to 5 the number of senior RUC figures to have been successfully targeted in recent months.