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SCOTLAND AND THE BRAVE

REFLECTIONS OF AN ENGLISH 'SCREW'

Those who read the statement issued by the Scottish Prison Officer's Association on Friday, 22nd March, must have wondered if they were dreaming. To think that such an august body of men, whose loyalty to a foreign queen, has been their proudest boast, giving voice to such seditious, treasonable sentiments, makes one wonder just what is happening in this once proud nation.

Surely this is a most inopportune time for Her Majesty's quislings to turn their backs on her government by refusing to help exterminate the Celtic rebels across the Irish Sea?

Do these rash men not realise the consequence of their traitorous conduct? What if their gallant Scot's brothers now spearheading the British Army of Occupation in Ireland, were to follow their example?

Do they not know, or have they not even read the history of their own country and race? Will they not abide and accept the terms of the surrender so magnanimously laid down to them by their benefactor Butcher Cumberland?

Are they not content to wear the kilt, speak the Gaelic and weep into their sporrans with tears of national pride? What do they want?

For centuries, "Scotland the Brave" has furnished Mother England with men and material without which we could not have extended and maintained our glorious empire. Our clever politicians have arranged unemployment and emigration in Scotland as an added inducement to Scotsmen to serve in our armed forces and to fight our battles.

The bagpipes, skene and kilt were always first in the line of battle. The clans and their chiefs vied with each other to be the vanguard and we always graciously conceded the privilege. They had the honour to be first to meet the enemy's lead and sword. The remains of Scotsmen who fought for the English Empire lie scattered all over the globe. They were the first to hoist the Union Jack. England took the spoils but Scotland had the glory.

The Scotsmen who served and serve in England's army were and are preserved from the insular, stupid pride of Bruce or Wallace... untainted by the narrow, bigoted nationalism of Montrose or the vain, silly pretensions of Mary, Queen of Scots or Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Away with all your silly memories of Bannockburn, Floddenfield and Culloden. Forget about them, along with all the rest of Scot's mythology and vaunted Scot's fierce national pride. Remember instead, that you are British and that you should be proud and thankful for it.

Margo McDonalds: What sort of men are you to be laid astray by the vapourings of two women? Would they not be better employed raising a clatter of bairns and a proper acceptance of their station in life: To live in devotion and fealty to her gracious, sovereign Elizabeth the Second (or is it Elizabeth the First?) and encourage their menfolk to act as her mercenaries in time of need.

Forget about Scottish nationalism, its advocates will soon be telling you that there is more gut to these two ladies in their skirts than is to be found above a Scotman's kilt. We can't have that chaps, can we?

Rather than encourage your fellow-members to desert our concentration camps and jails in Ireland; who are keeping a kindly eye on chappies who prat about "wanting their country nothing more and nothing less," I believe that you should be selling the idea to your fellow countrymen of earning the bounty in Long Kesh. We can't deny that £50 extra each month puts them on a level above the native Irish mercenary screws.

We promise to provide for you 2,000 or 3,000 Irish natives, "men behind the wire" as they are called by some here, on whom you can demonstrate your ability with gun and cudgel, no risk incurred, all are unarmed.

£50 per month blood money and you might get such a Cead Míle Fáilte that you will make a permanent home in Ireland.

Please do not worry about the "Blood Money" not being paid, we will surely be able to afford it when Scottish oil flows into OUR pipelines. You can then sing "Scots whae ha wi Wallace bled" to your heart's content.

[Author's note: This skit is not meant to be a harsh indictment of the Scots people, our fellow-Celts. The oblique references to Winnie Ewings and Margo McDonald should show my intentions clearly. We in Long Kesh Concentration Camp, are not unaware of the steadily increasing numbers of Scotsmen and

English Garrison in Confusion . . .

"THINGS HAVE MOVED TOO FAST,"
SAYS LORD MOYOLA

The British intelligence and counter-insurgency net-work in Ireland folded before a major assault by the Republican Army. On the night of 19/20th March the R.U.C. were tipped off on the confidential telephone that there were "suspicious armed men in cars" in the vicinity of Markethill in South Armagh. The trigger-happy police did not wait to ask questions and so they ambushed and killed two S.A.S. agents and wounded two others attached to the 14/26 King's Hussars and two potential assassins were added to the 25 soldiers killed in open combat in the area.

Major Don Farrell, an army recruiting officer based at Omagh and acting as a spy was ambushed and killed by the East Tyrone Command, at Mountfield on 23 March. That same night a "tip-off" from Amsterdam involved the cracked 26 county Minister of Defence, Donegan, in his wildest goose chase yet. He personally supervised the gardai and army in searching four vessels at Greenore and Cork only to find a small consignment of arms for his own army. Perhaps like the Brits he will soon learn to pay less attention to anonymous telephone calls even if they come from Amsterdam.

Meantime Robert Fisk's story in The Times forced the English Ministry of Defence to admit that the S.A.S. (50 men) were active in Northern Ireland and had been posted there since January 1974. Republican sources have revealed their involvement in Northern Ireland since 1971 and the accuracy of their intelligence has once again been vindicated. It must never be forgotten that the Special Air Services Regiment was formed

in 1941 to infiltrate behind enemy lines, that it has been active in Malaya, Borneo, Oman and Aden in all forms of counter-insurgency, bombings, murders, mutilations, blackmail, witchcraft, coups, counter-gangs etc. In Northern Ireland, its major role is to discredit Republicans.

Disorder in Long Kesh has shown that the enemy have not the means to humanely keep the men whose liberty is so lightly taken away. The responsible call by the Scottish Prison Officers Association to their members to return to Scotland and leave the English Army to do its dirty work was just another milestone in the inexorable collapse of the penal system here. This has extended to England where the Price sisters are still held in an all male prison, where they and two other volunteers are still forcibly fed in defiance of all law, human, natural and divine. The failure of the Long Kesh governor to keep the agreement on the rights of sentenced political prisoners won in 1972 by the heroic hunger strike of Billy McKee and his comrades has forced the Republic's prisoners to resort to that dread weapon again.

Their spirit was expressed by Kathleen MacGuigan when she was sentenced to 12 years in Belfast for travelling with a bomb: "These sentences mean nothing. We will fight on from behind bars."

On 20 March, a police sergeant explosives expert was killed by a booby trap at Greenisland, another policeman was shot at Duncann Gardens, Belfast, whilst there was another attack, on a policeman at

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

Away with your Winifred Ewings and

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR!

College Park East,
Belfast, BT7 1NN.

Dear Editor,

With reference to the letter (Tuesday 12 March) calling for the transfer of political prisoners serving sentences in Britain to Northern Ireland gaols, we would like to make three observations.

1. The text of the letter which we signed was significantly different from that forwarded to your paper. In particular, a phrase which originally read, "We, the undersigned . . ." was replaced, in the published letter, by the phrase, "As university teachers and researchers working in Northern Ireland . . ."

2. We signed the letter with the impression that the other signatories would be members of the university which employs us. In fact, neither Kathleen Boehringer nor John Bayley are members of any academic institution in Northern Ireland.

3. We understood that a reasonable attempt would be made to obtain the signatures of those members of the university who broadly sympathised with the sentiments expressed in the letter. In fact only a narrow group of persons were approached.

4. We do not wish it to be thought that the letter offers any status upon research activities which cannot be vouched for by the university which employs us, or that the signatures appended to it are a representative indication of the support which exists for its reasonable demands.

Signed by:

HUGH T. BREDIN
MIRAM DALY.

(This is a copy of a letter sent to the "Belfast Telegraph").

Editor,
Boston Herald American
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Sir,

I note an article in your February 14th issue written by Seymour Freiden.

Mr. Freiden's columns read much like something written by the British Propaganda Office or the Press Office of the British army. Since Mr. Freiden was identified as an undercover agent and journalist employed by the C.I.A., we find it difficult how you can allow him to write for your paper. Certainly, the reading public is entitled to the facts, not planted stories placed in Boston newspapers by the British Government and the C.I.A. As you know, this whole expose was reported in the Washington papers on or about November 30th last.

Our Executive Board has asked me to write you concerning this matter. The struggle for freedom in Northern Ireland is strictly a political problem despite Mr. Freiden's column. We believe you should take this matter up with your Board of Directors as it is quite obvious that your readers are being misled by this type of journalism. We believe that this type of reporting is in clear violation of the Code of Ethics of the profession.

May I please hear from you?

OPEN LETTER TO MERLYN REES

I wish to associate myself with the numerous pleas, made on humanitarian grounds, to have the above prisoners repatriated to their homeland that they sincerely love so dearly.

Without specifying particular cases whereby political motivation was basically the main reason for extraditing prisoners within the Realm, it should be suffice to say that in this particular case, the deprivation of liberty for the lengthy periods involved was certainly ample retribution by the Judiciary without adding the further unbearable burden of limiting the close proximity of family and friends. The ensuing stress and financial burden imposed on the

immediate family of each prisoner in order to maintain a semblance of civilised humanitarianism is the reason for the imposition of the hunger strike by certain prisoners and the inevitable force feeding that is not only painful and abhorrent, but condemned by members of the medical profession.

The participants of this hunger strike could not have taken the decision to do so without giving serious thought to the possible consequences of such action and I can assume that it was not their intention to become martyrs for their cause, but to bring to the notice of the governing powers that repatriation to their beloved country is the sole motivation

Harrassment in St. James

It is with a sense of frustration bordering on despair that I write to your newspaper in the hope that the general public may at least be made aware of the campaign of concentrated harassment which is now rampant in the St. James's area. The perpetrators are, of course, the British army in the person of the Queen's Own Scottish Highlanders, (better known locally as the 'Haggis-munchers'). This regiment is nearing the end of their four month tour of duty and, as is now customary with all departing British regiments, they have intensified their campaign against the local people.

The level of harassment which people were prepared to tolerate was passed on Sunday 24th February, when a local mother who had tried to accompany her son to Hastings Street R.U.C. station, was dragged by the ankles from a moving landrover and kneed in the groin. After some hand to hand fighting the brits withdrew but returned later and serious rioting developed involving many adult residents who witnessed the incident. The boy had been arrested because he did not know his sister's date of birth. He was later released uncharged after being beaten up. Since then British soldiers have -

- (a) raided houses (some daily) for early morning headcounts.
- (b) shot bolts and staples from catapults at passersby.
- (c) thrown bricks through the front windows of at least two houses in the early hours of the morning, (witnessed),
- (d) threw a small explosive device at the rear of a local G.A.A. Club, (eye-witness available).

A great many young people have been subjected to mandatory arrests. One youth was arrested leaving a cafe and charged with disorderly behaviour. He was taken to Hastings Street R.U.C. station where he was asked to pose for a camera man holding two bottles. When he refused to comply they put the bottles in his pockets and photographed him, telling him that the photos would not be used. A more serious case however is that of a young girl who is arrested at least once a week and taken away to R.U.C. Hastings Street for hours at a time. On Saturday, 2nd March, she was taken from her home at 7 a.m. and after some questioning and abuse she was released mid morning. Several hours later she

was taken from the shop where she works and brought again to R.U.C.

Hastings Street. When she arrived there she was ordered to strip naked by a female soldier and two suspicious looking 'doctors.' When she refused the 'female' soldier attacked her and began tearing her clothes. The young girl was by this time hysterical and had to endure British soldiers ogling her. After being threatened with 'a bullet through the head' she was thrown out with her slacks in tatters. Again no charge was preferred. The following morning the front window of her home was shattered by a brick.

The latest method of harassment now being employed by the brits seems to be purely psychological. Internees relatives and known Republicans have been receiving large amounts of advertising literature through the post from such organisations as the A.A., Central Heating Firms, Readers Digest, and magazines etc. We would advise anyone receiving this material to keep such literature until such times as lists of british soldiers home addresses can be provided or alternatively send them to:-

The Officer Commanding,
Queen's Own Scottish Highlanders,
Hasting Street R.U.C. Station,
Belfast.

No stamp will be required as it will be sufficient to mark the top right hand corner of the envelope with the letters 'O.H.M.S.'

I think this shocking catalogue of harassment requires some comment at least, if not some action, from some of our 'partnership for peace' assemblymen. I would be anxious to hear some comment from our newly elected Westminster representative, Gerry Fitt, or maybe a more fitting S.D.L.P. spokesman would be Gerry Campbell who has had similar treatment from the British army. In any case quite a lot of people are wondering why an area such as St. James's, which has been quiet for almost 18 months should be on the receiving end of such treatment. The officers and members of this cumann would as Gerry Fitt how this current situation fits in with his advice that 'internment will end, when the violence ends.'

P.R.O.,
Robert Emmet/Francis Liggett Cumann,
(St. James's).

for their actions. Numerous examples of love for ones country can be given, including Englands participation in the Second World War, and only those who are allied to a just cause can appreciatively understand the unlimited capabilities of a persons dedication to the land of their birth.

Thousands of words both verbal and written, have emanated from persons in all walks of life on behalf of the Winchester hunger strikers and the unenviable task they have undertaken to highlight their efforts to be returned to their native land. With this in mind, and the knowledge of your reported statements of concern for the Minority in Northern Ireland, I submit this appeal to you, as the new Secretary of State, to use your good office for the intercession of your authority to alleviate the suffering of these prisoners and their immediate families by acceding to their request to be returned to the land they hold so dear.

Vindictiveness is always propounded as a vile means of retribution and in the present unstable political situation in Northern Ireland, justice must be seen to be done if we are to achieve any scope of propriety. Any leniency afforded the Winchester prisoners through your personal intercession would not necessarily be a precedent for the future, but would most certainly substantiate your former sympathetic statements concerning the overall involvement of our people in the present unpredictable situation as it now exists.

Trusting you will give this letter your serious consideration and in anticipation of your acknowledgement.

I am Sir,

Yours sincerely,

JOSEPH RIGBY,
Belfast 15.

PATRICK McADOREY CUMANN,
SINN FEIN, LUTON (BEDS).
SASANA.

A chara,

A dance was held in Luton on March 16th. The dance was run by Luton Sinn Fein, and was very well attended by the Luton Irish community. The proceeds from this to go to 'Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare.'

For several weeks before this dance, Luton Sinn Fein members and Hemel Hempstead Anti-Internment League, members sold Raffle Tickets for a 'Long Kesh' handbag. The draw took place during the dance and the winner was Mrs. Leahy of Windmill Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, on ticket No. 9947. As yet we don't have a final figure, but we expect it to exceed £200.

Is mise,

MICHAEL HOLDEN.

The official policy of the Republican Movement is expressed in statements issued by Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau and the Leadership of the Republican Movement. Views expressed here, by letter writers, by regular columnists and in other signed contributions, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the publishers.

On the northern shores of the Zuider Zee — now officially called the IJssel Lake — is a village called Stavoren. It's a very pleasant picturesque kind of place, as I found out one fine sunny Saturday recently. A friend drove me there, and on stepping out of his car on to the quiet quayside the first thing I noticed was a small but eye-catching statue of a woman in mediaeval dress peering anxiously out to sea.

Inside a few minutes I found out that this was the famous Woman of Stavoren, whose story is part of the folklore of Holland. Very briefly, the legend says that many generations ago this particular woman dominated the large south Frisian town of Stavoren. She had complete control of its shipping and commercial life, and the well being of its citizens was totally dependent on this haughty woman who treated them like dogs. Being greedy for power and wealth she sought to load her ships with as much as they could carry. Then one dark day a fierce tempest struck the Zuider Zee and all of the ships were lost. From that day on Stavoren rapidly declined and died as a town.

When my friend related this story I immediately saw the woman as greedy and arrogant Britannia, and the town she dominated as Ireland — so dependent on her that if the present story crisis which Britain's economy has been struggling through for years sinks all her ships, as it were, our own little country will sink to the bottom of the deep ocean of history as well. This, in fact, illustrates well the glaring paradox of our present situation, which is that while England continues to bleed us like a vampire the well being of our little country depends to a great extent on Britain remaining prosperous. It is for this very reason that the Irish Quislings, north and south of the border, are so pro-British. Not having any sense of national pride and possessing a Shawnee mentality these pitiful little Gombes with their long tails between their legs accept the sorry fact of Ireland being in thrall to the English Imperialists, and since their influence and wealth depends ultimately upon Britain's economic health and strength they therefore tend only too willingly to work in the interests of our traditional oppressor.

Because of the way Ireland is chained to Britain both economically and through the traitorous actions of her controlling Quislings, the future of our little land would indeed be grim were it not for the existence of the Republican Movement, without which Ireland could hardly hope to have a future and an identity of its own. One of the main aims of the Republican Movement, once the English Garrison has left our shores, is to set about severing our ties of dependence on Britain and free the little barque of Ireland — to pursue its own independent course on the stormy waters of our times. And the means through which it plans to arrive at this end are outlined in Eire Nua, the Sinn Féin programme of social and economic reconstruction.

A very important part of this programme is the section dealing with industrial development in the New Ireland. It begins with a truism: "The industrial wealth of Ireland is characterised by the domination of its commanding heights by British owned firms, or by firms with substantial interests in Britain."

This basic and undeniable fact is a direct result of our country being under the heel of Britain for eight long centuries. Native Irish commercial and industrial development was permitted only to the extent that it operated in Britain's favour or at least did not in any way interfere with English economic domination. In

the year 1699, for example, an English Act of Parliament was passed which made it impossible for wool produced in Ireland to be exported to any country other than England. At the same time a high tax was put on any Irish wool sent across the Irish Sea and Irish Catholics were forbidden to trade in wool or anything else, for that matter. On the other hand, the growth of the linen industry in the north was encouraged because it was in the hands of new settlers who gave their allegiance to Britain and who could be trusted to operate within the economic framework of English Imperialism and capitalism.

In spite of the stranglehold of Britain, however, Irish industrial and commercial life made important advances during the course of the decades after the Williamite wars, particularly in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Then came the notorious Act of Union of 1800, which in 1825 led to the stripping of the budding Irish economy of all protection against the vampires of English capitalism. This dealt Irish commercial life, particularly in the southern part of our country, a deadly blow. Many enterprises went under; and for the following hundred years or so poverty-stricken Ireland, badly weakened by famine, emigration, and exploitation on a national scale by Britain remained almost totally crippled industrially and commercially.

Ireland was beginning to recover a little when in 1922 the six northern and most industrially developed of her countries were separated by the wily political surgeons of Westminster working in the interests of British Imperialism. This had the dual consequence of tying the economically developed north more effectively to Britain while the relative weakness of the predominantly agricultural south was made all the greater. For the next twenty years or so successive Free State governments under Cosgrave and De Valera adopted increasingly protective measures to try and stimulate native commercial and industrial development. These were buttressed by more positive measures such as the Shannon electricity generating scheme, begun in 1925, and the creation of the Industrial Credit Company in 1933 with the aim of channeling domestic savings in Ireland into the Irish economy.

Since these Free State governments were literally starting from scratch some progress was quickly made in developing a native industry capable of producing consumer goods such as footwear, clothing, paper, hosiery, etc. And in the field of primary industry a number of factories were built up and down the country for making cement and producing sugar from home-grown beet. But once this embryonic native industrial and commercial system had been created, however, the limitations of the whole Free State policy and outlook showed themselves all too clearly, particularly during the years following the Second World

War when the Irish economy became stagnant and people began to leave

Ireland in huge numbers once more.

Almost unbelievably, the Free Staters had sought to give Ireland a certain measure of economic independence without cutting the many economic tentacles and financial arteries through which our country is bound to Britain and its strength continually sapped by the latter imperialists and capitalists.

By the end of the 1950's the Free State leaders themselves seemed to have realised that their previous policies had, in fact, led both them and the nation they controlled into a cul-de-sac. Not alone were they in a cul-de-sac but they were in the dead end of it. Had they been true Republicans, as they claimed, and not mediocrities and Shawnees, as they really were; they would have quickly retraced their steps and taken the course then being vigorously advocated by the real Republicans they were actively suppressing at the time. But instead, in order to save their own personal Free State kingdom, they opened Ireland's doors to the big multinational company sharks — for whom they provided a safe haven at the expense of the people of Ireland. Since then these Free State Judasses have gone almost the full distance which their present course can take them, and have placed the whole Free State, already dominated by Britain, at the service of the cold-blooded Frankensteins and bureaucrats who run the great treadmill of the Common Market machine.

So far as the future development of Irish industry is concerned the task which the Republican Movement has committed itself to is not just to pull Ireland out of the orbit of British economic imperialism but also to alter completely the course which the Irish economy has been taking over the past few centuries since Cromwell's time. But as big as it is this task can and will be achieved — with the full co-operation and whole-hearted backing of the people of Ireland.

The Eire Nua strategy in the industrial field consists of a pincer movement. On the one hand, the suggested course of action is for the new Republican government "to obtain a controlling interest in the commanding heights firms or key industries, and, on the other hand, to create conditions which would favour co-operative enterprises as the most socially desirable." This would mean that the main key industries would be oriented to operate fully in the interests of the Irish people and not for the benefit of foreign imperialism or just the maximization of "the profit of the individual firm, as at present." And the plan is to do this without nationalizing firms which make reasonable efforts to orient themselves towards the development of the national economy.

The idea of allowing some sections of industry to remain in private hands has met with some criticism. What must be understood, however, is that if privately run firms can do a useful job, particu-

arly during the extremely critical phase while the Irish economy was being pulled out of its present orbit, it would be rash and foolish to eliminate such sources of help for doctrinaire reasons. Let the Marxist critics of the Republican Movement take a look at what their colleagues in China did after the successful Communist revolution there twenty five years ago when Mao and his followers permitted many large privately owned industrial enterprises to function and make high profits for many years.

The suggested Eire Nua plan for industrial development proposes a variety of ways through which a sound economic backbone for a New Ireland can be built. But one needs to see this plan not in its details, which will ultimately be determined by the Irish people themselves, but in the overall setting in which such a scheme of industrial development would take place. Such a scheme will and could only be carried out by an awakened Irish people whose fullest energies, talents, and material resources would have been freed and consciously directed towards the fulfilment of this great task. Let no one have any doubts that once such a drive is set in motion the more constructive and co-operative elements in Irish society which are now being swamped and throttled would rapidly and quickly become the foundation stones of a New Ireland. A further point is that the whole Irish economy would be increasingly oriented towards operating within the co-operative framework of the global economy of the Third World, which includes those ever-rich oil-producing countries of the Middle East.

While the task of reversing the centuries old course of Ireland's economic history as a ravaged satellite of British Imperialism is an enormous one it is at the same time eminently feasible in the rapidly changing global situation of our late twentieth century world. We can and will build a strong and stable industrial base which will fully satisfy our material needs and in doing so end forever Ireland's many ills and weaknesses — while at the same time creating the conditions which will allow a proud and united Irish nation to step forward towards the year 2000 filled with confidence and knowing that its ideals and expectations will be fulfilled.

LEAS

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na Poblachta.



An open letter to the new British Government

As an Irishman who loves his native land and his people, as a hater of tyranny who embraces the cause of all those who struggle to throw off the shackles of Imperialism and end the oppressions of all other yokes, and as someone who was jailed during the tenure of office of the late Tory administration for his beliefs and for daring to support the fight for freedom now being waged by the risen Irish in the occupied part of our land, I address this letter to you, the members of the new Labour Government, who now occupy the highest seats of Parliamentary power in Britain.

While I bear no malice against you, I want to make it quite clear from the start that, contrary to the impression you are now trying to convey to the public at large, I consider you to be as morally bankrupt as the Tory rulers whom you have superseded and that your hands are not one whit less stained with blood than theirs. I, for one, do not and cannot forget that when you were last in power you sought in a most cruel and terrible way to crush the risen Adeni people; and then tried to hide from your electors in Britain the true extent of the barbarities perpetrated by you in Aden. I do not and cannot forget that you deliberately caused obstructions of many kinds to be placed in the path of various public bodies seeking to investigate such crimes. I do not and cannot forget the fact that while you, the members of the British Government of the time, were responsible for acts of horror in Aden of a kind which led to German and Japanese public officials being tried and sentenced after the Second World War, you managed to evade arraignment before a duly appointed court of law.

MASSACRE OF IRISH PEOPLE

To elaborate upon these matters more fully; during the term of office of the late Tory administration a massacre of Irish people took place in the city of Derry on a certain dark day to which our nation in its sorrow and grief has appended the name of Bloody Sunday. But during your last term in high office there was not one but many such Bloody Days in Aden when British soldiers were let loose like mad dogs and slaughtered non-combatants wholesale — most of whom, I might add, were defenceless women and children. And while the recent Tory Government has been held responsible for the frightful psychological torture of helpless Irish prisoners you are as equally guilty of the same kind of crime; for during your previous time in power you were the architects of the policy of ruthless and un pitying repression in Aden which included the torture and brutal treatment of great numbers of helpless prisoners, among whom were many trade unionists.

But the worst of all your wrongdoings is not the actual crimes against humanity committed in the field by the monsters of the British Army Murder Machine which you sent to Aden but the fact that you yourselves as a government claiming to be responsible as well as civilised sought by both the direct means of obstruction and the indirect means of deception and the concealment of evidence to prevent the world at large from being informed of the execrable outrages you were guilty of in Aden, and to evade being held to account for such crimes. Among those obstructive devices used by you were:-

(a) the refusal to allow a visit to Aden by the sub-committee delegated by the United Nations Special Committee on Colonialism;

(b) the long delay in admitting a delegate of the International Red Cross;

(c) The refusal of facilities to Amnesty International's delegate, Dr. Selahaddin Rastgeldi, when he was eventually allowed to go to Aden;

(d) the setting up of the Bowen Commission to whitewash as much as possible the black acts of British interrogators in Aden;

(e) the making by government departments of "non-attributable" statements to selected newspapers correspondents aimed at destroying the reputation of Dr. Rastgeldi as a fair and impartial investigator after his findings showed that Adeni allegations of torture and brutal treatment of prisoners were substantially true;

(f) the refusal to allow journalists to inspect the interrogation methods at the Initial Interrogation Centre at Ras Morbut;

(g) your failure to reply to questions about who were the persons you employed to interrogate, what were their contracts of service, under what code of discipline did they act, to whom were they responsible, and whether any of them had been the subject of similar complaints in Palestine, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, and other places; and

(h) the abduction and torture by your security services in April 1967 of one of your professional soldiers, Corporal George Lennox, who had contacted the Sunday Times to confirm Dr. Rastgeldi's findings, and who therefore constituted a serious threat to the success of the operation on your part directed at covering up both the dreadful acts perpetrated by your craven minions in Aden, as well as the identity of the interrogators themselves and the units which employed them.

A BUNCH OF HYPOCRITES

I have dwelt at some length upon the foregoing because it is my wish to leave you in no doubt as to why I have come to regard you over the years as, at worst, a pack of murderous political wolves masquerading in sheep's clothing, and as, at the least, a bunch of hypocrites who are now once more playing the part of whiter than white saviours of the British working man and woman, whom you have so misled in the past.

My main reason for writing this letter to you can be stated with equal bluntness. It is to demand in direct and categorical terms that you immediately set in motion the machinery for withdrawing your garrison from Ireland.

By the time these words of mine are printed I hope that you will at the very least have returned to Ireland those four gallant and heroic Irish people who since the closing weeks of last year have endured the humiliations and tortures of force-feeding in your jails. Such an act would be a small gesture of goodwill on your part. But it would only be such.

WANT MORE THAN GESTURES

Right now the Irish people want more than gestures. For we can no longer be fooled by nominal acts of "goodwill" on the part of Willy British politicians aiming at nothing more than softening the righteous anger of the risen Irish before eventually circumventing their just demands. Indeed those four Irish patriots, whose hunger

ENGLAND LEAVE MY NATIVE LAND

strike and forcible feeding has attracted the attention of the world, would not now be rotting in your jails had you when you last held office not tried to solve the "Irish problem" by means of the despicable and well-tried device of procrastinating and prevaricating and damping down by diverse means the general eruption of the people's anger while at the same time creating yet another status quo in favour of British Capitalism and English Imperialism.

But this time the eruption of the risen Irish did not subside as you had anticipated. This time the flaming Irish anger which you fear so much could not be quenched so readily. This time you found yourselves dealing with a "rebel people" you could not fool by your traditional kanvery and guile.

For long both you and your ilk among other sections of the British body politic have spoken of "solutions" to the "Irish problem". But yet you continue to fail to take the simplest solution of all — which is to withdraw your garrison from Ireland. This is not only the simplest; but it is also the only solution. The "Irish problem" originated in the first place only when your armies, seeking booty and spoils of war like the Viking pirates before them, landed on our shores and began ravaging our then fair land. And the "Irish problem" has persisted ever since precisely because of your military occupation of Ireland and your economic control over its means of wealth and other resources. What is more the "Irish problem" will continue to persist so long as your alien garrison remains on our soil.

YOUR HANDS STAINED

You as a government have had your hands stained often by rich red human blood. And through your policies and Machiavellian ways you have much to answer for. How you can live with your consciences I do not know. Sometimes I believe that you do not actually possess such a faculty and that if you did it would soon become atrophied and withered by the atmosphere you breathe, which is so fouled by corruption and moral nihilism that the very timbers of your palace of power reek of it and are rotting away. But whatever ill-doings you have been responsible for are as nothing compared with the guilt incurred by the British Establishment as a whole over the centuries when the swaggering Beast of British Imperialism, with its indispensable cudgel in hand, strode over the world, feasting upon the many peoples you had

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in subjection and clubbing down mercilessly all those who sought to end their exploited and oppressed state.

Of this mass global exploitation and oppression Ireland has had more than her fair share. For far more than any other people in the world the Irish have known the full weight and naked savagery of the British Bulldog. Because of this the history of our little land since the last part of the twelfth century can be readily summed up in just a few words: it has been Ireland's Dark Age.

FOOTLICKING APOLOGISTS

I am well aware that there are among you hack historians and other footlicking apologists who from the comfort of their armchairs and academic sinecures would rush to decry such a pronouncement and call it distorted. But the verdict of real flesh and blood history speaks otherwise. For eight hundred long and terrible years you imposed a reign of terror upon Ireland while you continually bled her dry. You tried by every means in your power to destroy our culture and our sense of nationhood. You sought desperately to break the proud spirit of our people and turn us into subser-

LEAVE LAND

vient slaves. And whenever our braver sons and daughters rose against your domination you called them rebels and bandits and terrorists and you smote them down without a trace of mercy or remorse with the sword or the bullet, or you hung them or imprisoned them, or you transported them to a faraway place of exile which was often a fate worse than death to those who so dearly loved their native land

What else has the history of our country been for the last eight hundred years but a Dark Age, the very darkest of dark ages, in fact. The ruins of the many castles and other strongholds of the English Garrison are more than clues to the oppressions of the past. The sites of many battles between native Irish and foreign English armies and the numerous hallowed places of execution where Irish patriots were brutally put to death, together with the numerous remains of the Irish homes left vacant by the black angel of mass famine during the 1840's when Britain took more than enough food from Ireland to feed all the hundreds of thousands of those who perished, tell us a lot of the dreadful sufferings of our forefathers. The bones of our countless martyred dead show what the history of the last eight hundred years has been like. And if they could cry out from their untimely graves we would certainly echo each and every word that is being written here.

IRELAND'S DARK AGE

Ireland's Dark Age began when the Anglo-Norman invaders landed on its south-eastern shores during the course of the latter part of the twelfth century and then proceeded to butcher every Irishman, woman and child who stood in their path. Before the invasion of these barbarians Ireland's Gaelic civilization had been renowned throughout Europe. We had been the first nation north of the Alps to produce a whole literature in our own tongue. Our schools had become known as centres of learning at which the sons of foreign princes flocked. And Ireland, alone in our part of Europe, provided a light in a world of darkness which had followed the demise of the Roman Empire. It was not without reason that we were called "The Island of Saints and Scholars."

Then from across the Irish Sea came the ships of war of England; and the burning light of our Gaelic civilization at once began to grow dimmer and dimmer. Soon a dark night had descended upon our land — lit only by the flames of burning homes and crops. And the best energies of the Irish people had now to be fully utilised in des-

perate rebellions and struggles for survival and freedom.

Try as they might the alien invaders could not subdue us, could not break our will to resist, could not reduce us to their level of common barbarians. By the time Elizabeth the First ascended the English throne in the sixteenth century Ireland in spite of the huge odds against her still remained unconquered. To the howls of delight of England's statesmen and poets Elizabeth set out to bring the Irish rebel, in Edmund Spencer's words, "so low that he shall have no heart, nor ability to endure his wretchedness." However, Elizabeth's criminal aim was only partly successful — even after the slaughter of huge numbers of our people and the utter devastation of large tracts of our countryside, not to speak of the vilest treachery on the part of her statesmen and generals.

From then on throughout the long dark course of the following centuries this horrendous process of butchery, devastation, and treachery was used over and over again to crush our many struggles for freedom. One particular order to your generals in Ireland in 1642, which has been reflected in your policies towards us even since, commanded them: "To wound, kill, slay and destroy by all the ways and means you may, all the rebels and adherents and relievers; and burn, spoil, waste, consume and demolish all places, towns and houses, where the said rebels are or have been relieved and harboured, and all hay and corn there, and kill and destroy all the men inhabiting, able to bear arms." Almost exactly three hundred and thirty years later to the day much the same kind of order was given to British Paratroopers in Derry, and but for the very good sense of the Irish Republican Army Brigade there a far greater shedding of good Irish blood would have taken place.

The hard facts of our history speak loudly for themselves. England, you alone are the cause of the "Irish problem." Ever since you first set foot on our land we have had problems — problems which arose only because of your presence here. And we will continue to have such problems so long as your garrison remains in Ireland.

So leave us, England! Withdraw your accursed army and your administrators and your S.A.S. and other "sectarian-killing" squads from our shores!

So leave us, England! Your brutal soldiers daily inflict injury or death on a hapless people upon whom you have heaped suffering upon suffering. Your torturers are still at work in their chambers of hell. Your policies of divide and rule provoke intercommunal tensions and fratricidal strife. Your mere presence here is an affront to our dignity and pride and continually foul our lives.

So leave us, England! We do not want you and we do not need you. We will solve the problems which you have created only when your garrison has departed from our land.

Only then can we have a real and permanent peace. Only then will we be able to rise off our knees. Only then will we be able to resume our forward march as a nation — for the first time in eight hundred years.

MICHAEL TOBIN,
P.O. Box 10638,
Amsterdam, Holland.

James Saunders Memorial Club

ELMFIELD STREET, ARDOYNE.

MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION FORMS

now available at the club. Completed forms must be returned before General Meeting, which will be held on Monday, 8th April at 8 p.m.

National Graves Association

As it is intended to publish a complete Roll of Honour of all members of the Republican Movement who died since August, 1969, we would welcome photographs of deceased Volunteers, etc., who died on active service.

We would appeal to the relatives of our fallen dead or their friends who may have photos in their possession to call or ring the Eire Nua Bookshop, 170 Falls Road, Belfast 12. Phone 46841 with details.

THESE PROJECTS DESERVE SUPPORT

Local people in Ballymurphy, are making great efforts to launch various co-operatives and self-help schemes in order to reduce the exceptional unemployment that exists in the area.

Work is now concentrated in the newly opened Whitelock Industrial Estate where an Open Day for the general public was held on Thursday. We hope to publish a full report on this in our next issue.

Ballymurphy Enterprises opened a new car service station on Thursday, on the Upper Springfield Road. This is known as GARAISTE AN PHOBAIL, (The People's Garage). Seamus MacSeain has been appointed Manager of the project. Needless to say, Seamus will be delighted to transact business in Irish with any customers who have a knowledge of our National Language.

We would like to assure the organisers of Ballymurphy Enterprises and associated projects that they have the goodwill of the owners and Editor of "Republican News."

Beannacht De ar an obair tablaichtach seo.

Two Republican Volunteers were killed in an explosion in Dungannon, on Friday night, 15th March. Both men were attached to the East Tyrone Command, Oglaiha na hEireann.

Vol. Kevin Murray, (29) father of four, lived at Windmill Court, Dungannon. Vol. Patrick McDonald, (21) was single and resided at Woodbourne Crescent, Dungannon.

Both Volunteer's remains were removed to the mortuary at the South Tyrone Hospital, where a post mortem was held the day after they were killed. Later that evening both remains were removed to their homes. A volley of shots was fired at the Ballygawley Road estate on arrival.

The funeral of Vol. Kevin Murray took place to St. Patrick's Church, Dungannon, on Sunday, 17th March. The funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr. T. Kelly, C.C. Internment then took place in St. Malachy's Cemetery, Edendork. Uniformed Volunteers of Oglaiha na hEireann and members of Na Fianna Eireann marched in the cortege.

A volley of shots was fired over the grave and an oration was given. The late Vol. Kevin Murray, is survived by his wife Margaret, and four young children. The sympathy of all members of the Republican Movement is extended to them and to the family circle.

The funeral of Vol. Patrick McDonald took place the next day, Monday. The Mass in St. Patrick's Church was celebrated by Fr. P. McRory, C.C. and internment was also in St. Malachy's Cemetery. Again an oration was delivered and a volley of shots was fired over the grave. The sympathy of members of all branches of the Republican Movement is extended to the relatives, comrades and friends of these young volunteers.



VOL. PATRICK McDONALD

TWO VOLUNTEERS KILLED IN DUNGANNON

VOL. KEVIN MURRAY



SDLP DISASTER

BY BRIAN GAFFNEY

The Westminster elections have proven to be a debacle, a debacle for England and a debacle for the cause of democratic government in Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom is now saddled with a powerless Labour administration headed by Harold Wilson. Mr. Wilson struck out in 1970 after several years in office. His administration utterly failed to bring about any changes in Northern Ireland. Once the Heath administration took office in 1970, Mr. Wilson supported it to the hilt. There was no Labour dissent from Heath's program of repression. Wilson endorsed all Tory measures including internment, the torture program of the R.U.C. and the British Army, raids on Catholic homes and the enactment of the notorious 1973 Emergency Provisions Act, a law which British Labour strongly supported. Wilson's record discloses that in Irish affairs he was an English Tory. British Labour policies on Northern Ireland for decades have been based on British supremacy, the British presence and British suppression. It was Mr. Wilson who gave the R.U.C. additional supplies of tear gas to pollute the air and the health of the Bogside in August 1969.

The election results crippled the S.D.L.P. All of their candidates lost except for Gerry Fitt. Mr. Fitt in his long attendance at Westminster has yet to introduce a single reform measure or bring about the passage of a single law. He has acted solely as a mouthpiece of the British Labour Party, taking orders from Mr. Wilson and his associates. Fitt's trips to London have become a tradition over the years. So have his "demands" on the British government, demands which the British government has continuously ignored. Fitt's presence in the British Parliament at West-

minster has enabled the British government to sell British "democracy" in Northern Ireland for Britain has been quick to point out that Catholics represented by Mr. Fitt are participating in the British administration. It makes excellent coverage for the British propaganda machine in the international press.

The eleven (11) hard lined Loyalist M.P.s. in Parliament will now constitute a second confrontation for the British government, aside from the I.R.A. campaign. Britain really is at war on two fronts in Northern Ireland, one Loyalist, one Nationalist. The situation is bound to get worse before it gets better in view of the British government's insistence that a military solution be applied to what is basically a political problem.

The election results show that both Catholic and Protestant voters rejected the alleged Sunningdale solution and the Council of Ireland. The voters finally grew to realise that both devices were Madison Avenue approaches designed by the British government to quell rising foreign criticism of British policy in Northern Ireland. Sunningdale gave nothing to Northern Ireland except grounds for more controversy and for division. Unionists had nothing to fear from the Sunningdale agreement since

they gave Unionists a complete veto over any real action or reform programs. The Catholic voter finally saw Sunningdale for what it was, a promise to make a promise at some distant time in the future, but also a document defining nothing, reforming nothing and changing nothing. Sunningdale satisfied no one except the Heath and Cosgrave administrations. It was designed solely to alleviate some of their political problems. The interest of the public in Northern Ireland was not a factor to be considered. In short, the voters in Northern Ireland saw through the tinsel of Sunningdale and called a spade a spade. As long as the British government continues to subsidise repression by legislative action and by the operations of the British army, Northern Ireland seems destined to continue in the agony of the British presence with all its ramifications. Whether Harold Wilson will re-assess the situation and change British policy remains to be seen. His past record would seem to indicate that he will do nothing to alter this situation.

Sunningdale is now dead and the S.D.L.P. cannot long survive the disaster its strategists created at the polls. Britain and hardline Loyalists remain in control as in 1968. Their alliance has never been broken.

Principles of freedom

English politicians to serve the end of dividing Ireland, have worked on the religious feelings of the North, suggesting the danger of Catholic ascendancy. There is not now, and there never was any such danger, but our enemies, by raising the cry, sowed discord in the North, with the aim of destroying Irish Unity. It should be borne in mind that when the Republican Standard was first raised in the field in Ireland, in the Rising of 1793, Catholics and Protestants in the North were united in the cause. Belfast was the first home of Republicanism in Ireland. This is the truth of the matter. The present day cleavage is an unnatural thing created by Ireland's enemies to hold her in subjection and will disappear entirely with political Freedom.

Support for the Price Sisters

c/o Womens Liberation Centre,
6 Tadmore Street,
London, W.14.

Dear Republican News,

We'd like to send you some information about recent activities in the Women's Liberation Movement in support of the Price sisters - as we'd like Irish women to know about support for their struggle in Britain.

Last Saturday (March 9th) there was a march of several hundred women to the Home Office and Downing Street, after the International Womens Day demonstration. This march was organised by the Women on Ireland Collective, and was demanding the release of the Price sisters.

Also enclosed is a photo of a picket organised by us, that was held outside Brixton tube station in support of the Price sisters.

Yours,

POWER OF WOMEN COLLECTIVE.

IS THERE A P.D.F. COMMITTEE IN YOUR AREA?

THERE ARE MORE REPUBLICANS IMPRISONED now throughout Ireland and Britain than there has ever been during the last 50 years. This means a heavy demand on An Cumann Cabhrach (Prisoners' Dependents' Fund) who are doing a wonderful job helping the relatives of the POLITICAL HOSTAGES.

The dedicated PDF workers go out week after week quietly making sure that the relatives of the Republican prisoners do not want during the time their breadwinners are behind the wire of concentration camps or prison bars.



These dedicated workers need our continued support. They need MORE FUNDS and WORKERS. Subscriptions and offers to do voluntary work may be sent to The Green Cross, c/o Ard Scoil, Divis Street, Belfast, Phone 29635. There should be a PDF Committee in every village and town in Ireland. If no committee exists in your locality and you are willing to try and form one, write to us and we will put you in touch with someone who will send you the necessary details.

THE IRISH NEWS DID NOT PRINT THIS LETTER

83 Andersonstown Road,
Belfast, 11.

13th March, 1974

Sir,

Surgeon J. P. Lane has issued a document called "The Price of Peace" dated 8th March 1974. It seems to refer indirectly to a letter of mine which the Irish News published some months ago about the Witnesses for Peace's rhetorical question "What Price Peace?" Perhaps you would allow me space to comment on the proposals in the document. I should like to make it clear that I am concerned only with the merits of the proposals, having nothing but admiration for Mr. Lane personally and sympathy for his bereavement.

My answer to the question was: either a victory for the Irish people or a total British victory. It seems to me that these proposals fall into the second category. The proposals could be paraphrased: Since partition is an issue in our present politics, and Britain tacitly recognises its injustice, nationally-minded Northerners should unite — the S.D.L.P., both wings of the Republican Movement and others,

— on the issue of Irish re-unification. "The militant republicans would be induced, if not obliged, to call off their campaign of violence. This in turn would allow the British forces to disengage and withdraw, a process which they would welcome, if not with gratitude, with relief." The hand of partnership as fellow-Irishmen should then be extended to "our unionist neighbours" who "are sensible people." They should have a hand in the shaping of a new Constitution for Ireland.

In reply I would say:

(1) Britain does not recognise its injustice. Empires employ only force and recognise only force, — and, of course, economics. In spite of losing most of her direct colonies (we should be ashamed of ourselves for being the last) Britain is still an empire, however moth-eaten. Its empire is a neo-colonial one, its imperialism is economic.

(2) Sunningdale is not a failure but only a first instalment of success. This is why British politicians would like to bring in what they call "the extremists on both sides" to a new settlement, not much different from Sunningdale except

for a change of personnel. This Sunningdale Mark II if it could be obtained would be durable, and would be in Britain's interests. It would be like the entry of de Valera's party into the Free State.

(3) Those concerned with civil rights, decency, justice, and Irish self-respect should have nothing to do with the S.D.L.P. It must be remembered that they are not an opposition party but our new masters. They have made themselves responsible, as the new government, for internment, repression and legal injustice. They are a British political party, formed at the behest of Britain, and governing in Britain's interests. Talk of a United front AGAINST Stormont made some sense but talk about a United Front WITH Stormont makes none.

(4) Militant Republicans are not the instigators of violence any more than the victim who dares to strike back at the bully. Let the oppressors cease their violence — the British Government, its Secret Service and Army, the Loyalist organisations, and the Southern Government. Let the Irish people obtain what they voted for in 1918 and were

deprived of by British and Unionist violence; control of their own wealth and their own destinies. Then there would be no further violence.

(5) "Our unionist neighbours" are not "sensible," unless being agents of Britain in a peculiarly nasty and brutal way over many centuries is regarded as sensible. They have violently held back the cause of democracy and independence in Ireland for centuries and are doing so still. They should not be put on a par with those who have kept alive the tradition of love of country, of freedom and justice, and whom they have helped Britain to force to "lie down." They prevented the achievement of independence in the 1920's and their ill-gotten gains of that period should not be recognised as lawfully theirs now.

The price of peace is in my opinion either the achievement of an Ireland free from Britain politically, economically and culturally, or the enslavement of the Irish people and culture genocide. The proposals under discussion seem to me to lead to the second alternative.

JAMES DALY

Programme for Social and Economic Development

The Republican Movement has never looked on the ending of British Rule in Ireland as an end in itself, but rather as a means to restore the ownership of Ireland to the people of Ireland.

The Movement seeks to establish a system free of any exploitation of man by man and which will be truly democratic right down through society.

"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 permanence of government in the willing adhesion of the people." (Democratic Programme of Dail Eireann, 1919).

To give meaningful expression to the above principles of social justice, the Republican Movement has published a new Social and Economic Programme.

Some of the more important and fundamental features of the programme can be summarised as follows:

- (1) The wealth of Ireland belongs to the people of Ireland and is theirs to be exploited and developed in their interests.
- (2) To ensure justice for all, the means of production, distribution and exchange must be controlled by the people and administered democratically.
- (3) Finance, insurance and all key industries must be brought under public control. The principal agents of major development in industry, agriculture and fisheries must be the Federal and provincial Governments.
- (4) The Federal Parliament will have complete control over the import and export of capital.

(5) An upper limit will be placed on the amount of land any one individual may own. Large ranches will be taken over and leased to groups of families to run on co-operative lines. Only resident citizens of the Republic will be allowed to own purchase or lease land with Ireland.

(6) Apart from the sectors mentioned above, the main instrument of economic development will be co-operative enterprises in production, distribution and exchange. These will be based on the Comhar na gComharsan philosophy which is founded on the right of worker ownership and is native to the Irish way of life, as well as being co-operative or distributivist in character. Each individual worker will own an economic unit of the means of production — farm, workshop, business or share in a factory or other co-operative. This is true industrial democracy. Credit Unions will play an important role in this type of development.

(7) Private enterprise will still have a role to play in the economy but it will be a much smaller role than it has today. It will have no place in key industries and State incentives will favour co-operative projects as the most socially desirable. No non-national shall be allowed to have a controlling interest in an Irish industry.

(8) The New Ireland will pursue an independent foreign policy, unaligned with power blocs such as NATO on the one hand, and the Warsaw Pact on the other. Trade will be expanded with the smaller and neutral nations of Europe and with the countries of the Third World in Asia and Africa. We have more in common with the developing countries of the World (where two-thirds of the world's population live) than we have with the rich club of former colonial powers in the EEC. Irrespective of the recent referendum on the EEC, we would resist the implementation of any decrees

or policies of the Community which would be detrimental to the best interests of our people, or any section of it. Trade links will be maintained with all countries and groups of states with which trade agreements will be negotiated. The aim will be to promote free trade as much as possible, bearing in mind that certain industries will need protection for a period.

(9) The Irish Language and Irish culture will have an important part in the national effort and their strengthening will be given special attention.

(10) Pending the achievement of national independence for all 32 counties, an Economic Resistance Movement will be built up to defend the interests of the Irish people against exploitation, whether from foreign interference or native capitalism; to democratise industry and to promote the Comhar na gComharsan philosophy.

In the drafting of this programme our aim has been to outline a social system which would transcend both Western individualistic capitalism and its poor and hungry amid plenty, on the one hand, and Eastern Soviet State capitalism (or any of its variations) with its denial of freedom and human rights, on the left.

The above programme is an outline of the New Ireland envisaged by the Republican Movement. Its adoption will ensure that the sacrifices of generations will not have been in vain. Peace, prosperity and security can be secured for all our people and foreign rule and dissension shall be buried forever.

LET US KNOW

SINN FEIN CUMAINN AND OTHER REPUBLICAN ORGANISATIONS ARE ASKED TO ADVISE US 14 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF ANY DEMONSTRATIONS SO THAT WE CAN ARRANGE TO COVER THEM

Details should be sent to the EIRE NUA BOOKSHOP, 170, Falls Road, Belfast

Belfast 4 1941

ANOTHER HUNGER STRIKE IN LONG KESH

This brave Irishwoman should be free

The Editor and Staff sincerely regret the death of Mrs. McGeough, Mother of Mrs. Mary McGuigan, and offer our deepest condolences to all the family circle.

Mrs. McGeough died recently in Bristol and was buried last Saturday, at Altmore near Donaghmore, Co. Tyrone. The very large cortege reflected the high esteem in which Mrs. McGeough and family are held in Tyrone.

Mrs. McGuigan was granted parole for the funeral. She has been held in Armagh Jail since last August on a political charge on a series of remands.

It is time the British stopped depriving this brave Irishwoman off her liberty and set her free to be re-united with her family.

Scotland the Brave

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

women who are becoming more conscious of Scotland's need of nationhood and who cling tenaciously to its language and culture.

We, who have to a large extent been insulated from England's malign influence by the Irish Sea, recognise that Scotland's common border with England makes the Scottish people more vulnerable to English infiltration. This is most apparent in the fields of capital, exploitation of resources and the use of Scottish manpower in England's interests.

It is this latter factor which effects us most here and which arouses our resentment against those Scottish mercenaries, who, for the Queen's shilling are more zealous in their dirty job than even some of the English soldiery. I do not wish this to be a diatribe against them, so I will not refer to their conduct in this note.

I do think, however, that Scottish Nationalists and Scottish Republicans, have a duty to point out to these misguided men, how they are being used in Ireland today, and how they may be used tomorrow against their own countrymen, if and when it suits England's purposes. We can rest assured that England will not give up her grip on Scotland, without using the dirty methods used by her in Ireland and in former English domains.

I, an Irish Republican, wish Scottish Nationalists every success, but, more than that, I hope that you will be steadfast in your determination to attain for Scotland what should be Scotland's

My comrades and I are held in this English concentration camp without trial, because of our desire to do the same for our country. I hope that lovers of freedom in Scotland will accept these lites in the spirit in which they are written.)

Republican News is published and printed by the Belfast Republican Press Centre, 170 Falls Rd., Belfast.

In November, 1972 the Republican Prisoners ("A" Wing, Belfast Jail) went on hunger strike for compassionate parole. After 17 days a written agreement was signed stating that all Republican Prisoners would get parole in the case of the death of a close relative.

On the 2th March, a Dublin man, John Johnston, asked for parole to attend the funeral of his Mother. He was refused and was told by the Long Kesh Camp authorities that this refusal came from the "highest authority."

A hunger strike started the following day with these demands:-

(1) All prisoners be granted parole, in the case of the death of a close relative, no matter what part of Ireland they are from.

(2) A longer time be allowed for parole.

The following five Republican sentenced prisoners went on hunger strike at 1200 hours on 9th March:-

John Johnston, (Dublin) Tommy Mullan, (Dublin) Donal Billings, (Dublin) Jim Scullion, (Belfast) Noel Quigley, (Belfast). Mr. Quigley was one of those who went on hunger strike last December.

The following Republican sentenced prisoners joined the hunger strike on 16th March:-

D. Thompson, (Dublin) G. Rooney, (Belfast) P. Ferron, (Newry) M. Meehan, (Belfast) T. Ross, (Belfast).

The Republican P.R.O. for Cage 20, says that "the barbaric attitude adopted by the British authorities is in direct contravention of an agreement entered into

in which a system of parole was agreed in the case of a prisoner suffering a family bereavement. At that time a hunger strike was in progress for this basic right. After 17 days of hunger strike by Republican prisoners an agreement was entered into by the authorities and the prisoners to give parole under such circumstances."

The P.R.O., said that with, "the untimely death of the Mother of one of our fellow-comrades, a further hunger-strike has been entered into because of the inhuman attitude of the authorities in refusing him parole.

"There will be no turning back," continued the P.R.O. "until such time as there is a firm commitment by the authorities, as to the future policy of parole for a family bereavement."

The Republican sentenced prisoners and internees in the concentration camp have called on their supporters and friends to support the hunger strikers in their demand for compassionate parole.

As we go to press, we learn that another five Republican sentenced prisoners joined the hunger strike on Saturday, 23rd March. They are:-

Pat McGillaway, (Derry) George Duffy, (Derry) Johnny Haddock, (Belfast) Jim Storey, (Belfast) Gerard O'Neill,

ENGLISH GARRISON IN CONFUSION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Castlewella, Co. Down and a police station at Waringstown. The same evening the police were stoned out of the St. James's area by the people and there were also attacks on police patrols in the Antrim Road area. That night a two vehicle army patrol was ambushed at Atlantic Avenue, and one soldier was critically wounded. Two major bombs were planted on the Belfast-Derry railway line at Dunloy and Ballymena and the line closed for over 30 hours. Some days later the Dublin-Belfast line was again cut at Meath and there was an ambush on the line at Loughan, and the Belfast/Bangor line was closed. There was a large gunbattle with British soldiers at Emrysale on the Tyrone/Monaghan border in which tracer bullets were used. The British army responded by a mass photographic session of the inhabitants of Ballygawley, near Dungannon and mass arrests in the area.

In Derry the enemy used rubber bullets and C.S. gas on young people showing their resentment at British Army harassment. One soldier was severely wounded on over 30 shooting incidents at soldiers in the city last week-end. The effectiveness of such shooting may be judged by the admission of the Brigadier of the 8 Infantry Brigade that 394 casualties from that Brigade alone were treated in Altnagelvin Hospital and 30 lives had been saved.

The bombing behind the 'security' barriers in Belfast continued. A bomb was placed in the Bodega for which a 3 hour warning was given, devices were planted in Eason's bookshop and a major fire started in North Street Arcade whilst the rubble was being painfully carted

out of the Grand Central Hotel all week. A 200 lb. bomb was defused outside the Co-op, another placed at a garage on Lisburn Road, whilst a 250 lb. bomb exploded at Ballylumford power station. The Harmony Hill shopping centre near Army Headquarters at Lisburn was devastated.

On Sunday night an army patrol was ambushed in Andersonstown which was followed by the usual mass arrests, this time in Turf Lodge. Two police men were severely wounded in a booby trap at Toome, whilst earlier in the week three large bombs caused substantial damage inside Mackies factory. The courthouse at Clogher was destroyed on 25 March.

In Newry there were major explosions in a hardware shop in Monaghan Street in which a R.U.C. man was injured and to a garage on Merchant's Quay. There was a bomb outside a garage in Rostrevor and an attack on an army checkpoint at Aughnacloy.

As the sustained strength of the Republican campaign became apparent the English were thrown into confusion by the inefficiency of royal security in combating a kidnapping attempt on Princess Anne outside Buckingham Palace. The Army called for a freer hand in Ireland despite the granting of bail to Corporal Foxford who was sentenced for shooting dead 12 year old Kevin Heatley in Newry, and the giving of suspended sentences to two soldiers convicted of giving arms to the U.D.A. As the Sunday

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Times pointed out despite the murder of 13 civilians in Derry the number of charges — 24 — brought against British soldiers for all offences in Northern Ireland has been derisory. 'British Justice' was given its proper face when Volunteers John Devine and Patrick Carlin were sentenced to 15 and 12 years for 'attempting' to kill a British soldier in Derry.

John Hume made himself ridiculous by protesting about the T.V. film 'Children in Conflict'. The obvious health of the Republican youth which broke through all attempts to moralise about violence upset his judgement whilst the rest of the S.D.L.P. were panicking everywhere in the face of the British and Dublin governments withdrawal from their 'commitment' to a Council of Ireland. Lord Moyola gave the face-saving phrase: "Things have moved too fast." Meantime the pro-Assembly Unionists and the Belfast city council searched their brains for further devices in repression.

In Dublin and Belfast a new assault was made on freedom of speech. As had happened in Tyrone, "Republican News" sellers were arrested and assaulted. In the 26 men were fined for having copies of "Freedom Struggle" and the pamphlet "In the '70's, the I.R.A. Speaks."

Judge Michael Ryan summed up Free State policy towards freedom of speech in the Special Criminal Court in Dublin; when he stated the possession of the book "Freedom Struggle" would be taken as sufficient evidence of membership of the I.R.A. for the purpose of being sentenced.

No wonder that Irish people everywhere are mobilising in the Fight for Freedom.