

An Phoblacht

Iml. 5 Uimh. 43 7p Deireadh Fomhair 25, 1974



FLAMES FOR FREEDOM

FOLLOWING the burning of Long Kesh, the following statement was issued by the O.C. Provisional I.R.A. Long Kesh Concentration Camp:

"The reason Long Kesh burned was because of the broken agreements which were made only ten days ago after a series of protests by the men in Long Kesh. The final crunch came when Truesdale refused to allow the O.C. of the Provisionals to move 150 yards to sort out a problem between prison staff and prisoners in Cage 13.

"Had that movement been allowed and this type of agreement had been arranged only a few days before then the Camp would not have been burned and the matter quickly resolved.

"Copies of the agreement made were lodged with Sinn Féin with the approval of the camp administration and an examination of those documents will be seen to include that agreement. The Assistant Governor in charge at the time of the incident in Cage 13, Mr. Semple, who when asked for an explanation as to why the movement of the O.C. was refused was unable to say except to comment that the decision of the Governor was madness.

"This particular point should be examined in greater detail because recent decisions by Truesdale would give reason to believe that he is sick and in need of a rest. He refused a reasonable request and despite warning allowed a situation to develop which led to the destruction of the Camp.

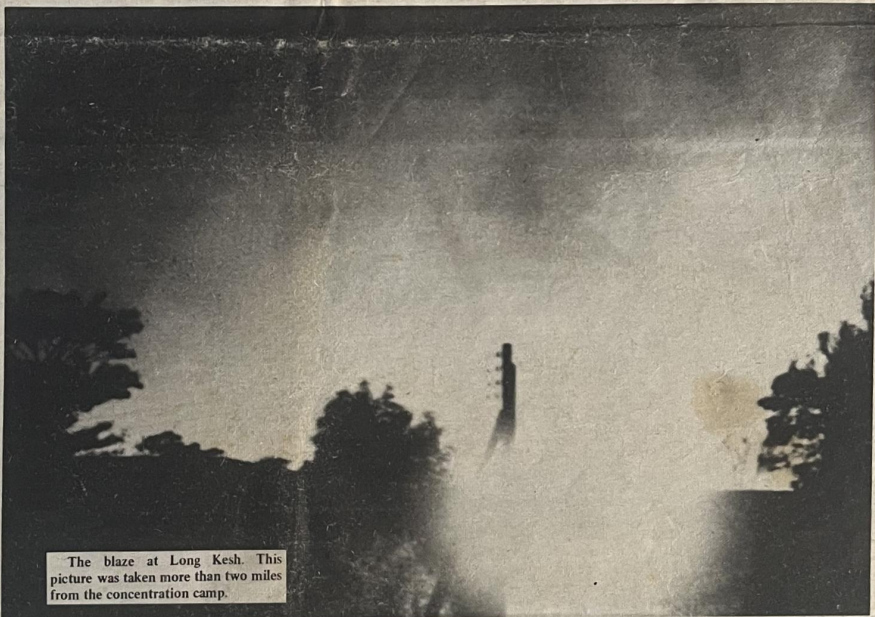
"The threat to burn the Camp was made some time ago and was to be implemented if the British Army came on the scene. This threat became a reality when the British Army appeared and the burning was carried out to the letter.

"We feel the sacrifices were necessary because we could no longer stand the hypocrisy and lies of the administration and the Northern Ireland Office. The price was high but the injuries sustained by hundreds of men did not in any way deter their determination to see justice prevail in Long Kesh.

"For three long hours we fought hand to hand with over 3,000 troops. Our men were a shining example of true dedicated Irishmen. Their courage, loyalty and devotion to the cause they hold so dearly will carve for them a place in history alongside the gallant men who seized the G.P.O. in Dublin.

"The same courage will carry us through the hardships of sleeping in the open amid the ruins of Long Kesh. We have nothing but the clothes we stand in but we will never surrender".

—courtesy—I.R.I.S.



The blaze at Long Kesh. This picture was taken more than two miles from the concentration camp.

LONG KESH —Clothing Fund

A fund has been opened to purchase clothing for the prisoners in Long Kesh — who now have none other than what they are wearing.

Subscriptions to:
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Envelopes should be marked: "Clothing Fund".

BÁS AR SON NA h-EIREANN

Volunteer Michael Hughes, Newry, was murdered by the British Occupation Forces last Friday.

He was unarmed when he was shot down from a British Observation Post in the Derrybeg Estate. A British claim that he was involved in a hijacking at the time of a shooting has been strenuously denied by local people.

Oglaigh na hEireann, in a statement, has promised "swift retaliatory action" against those responsible for the murder — re. the British Army.

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Freedom's flames fanned



LEFT: The Long Kesh concentration camp after it was opened in September 1971.

RIGHT: In Belfast a weeping woman is comforted after she had tried without success, to find out the fate of a relative at Long Kesh.

BELOW LEFT: The burning of the Kesh was greeted with joy throughout the occupied Six Counties. Dozens of vehicles were set on fire by jubilant rioters in Republican areas of Belfast.

BELOW RIGHT: Relatives of prisoners and internees are turned away by armed troops as a fleet of ambulances ferries the injured from Long Kesh to Belfast hospitals.



ABOVE: The Long Kesh concentration camp, now a smouldering ruin after fighting through it on Tuesday night, October 15. As the flames spread from one end of the camp to the other firemen were unable to fight the blaze

because of rioting.

Nearly a 1,000 troops were drafted in to ring the perimeter and military helicopters flew overhead illuminating the area with "night sun" searchlights as more than half the huts were re-

duced to a tangle of corrugated iron sheets. The total bill for fire and riot damage is expected to hit the £1,000,000 mark.



ABOVE: Armagh prison, a grim, grey, Georgian building is surrounded by troops to prevent a break-out.

Here women prisoners -

members of Sinn Féin (Provisional), the U.D.A. and the U.V.F. held four members of the prison staff hostage until they received an assurance from two clergymen, one Catholic and one Protestant that proper medical attention had been made available to

the injured in Long Kesh. Hanging from two cell windows were white bed sheets which proclaimed in large letters, "Governor and three screws held"; "Prison wrecked"; and "End internment". The inscriptions were written with lipstick.



At Newry in days to come or just at another itinerant camping site?

DONN Mo

BRITAIN'S THIRD FORCE

IT is opportune that we comment on the role of the Dublin Government in the Northern situation. The South's constitution has claimed since 1937 that "the national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland" and that the Dublin Government has a "right to exercise jurisdiction over the whole of that territory".

Despite this, however, successive regimes in the South did little beyond paying lip service to the ideal of national re-unification and during the I.R.A. campaigns of 1939-45 and 1956-62 actively collaborated with the British authorities in the Six Counties in stamping out any effort by unconstitutional means to end partition.

On occasion, and especially during the first 'Inter-Party Government' period attempts were made to mobilise Irish and world public opinion against the continued existence of the border. As one would expect, these attempts to 'embarrass' the British into withdrawing only led to the British reinforcing their grip on the North through the passing of the 'Government of Ireland' Act, 1949 in response to the establishing of the 26 County Republic. But it is the failure of Dublin to take any action

other than playing diplomatic tiddlewinks that we are concerned with here.

If, as Bunreacht na hEireann claims, Ireland is one sovereign nation - and we have seen in chapter one that this is so - then partition constituted a gross and intolerable injustice which it was the duty of the Southern authorities to rectify. Not to have done so involved acceptance of and acquiescence in that injustice.

And basically this is what successive Dublin Governments did. Partition may have been condemned in many a fighting phrase - but no action was taken to end it. The discrimination in the North which resulted from the establishment of the border may have been disapproved of from many a platform - but rhetorical niceties and hollow denunciations did not alleviate the plight of those suffering under it.

When, therefore, one remembers this, it is not surprising that if, as has been happening during the past five years, the nationally minded people of the Six Counties decided that they themselves were going to fight the injustices they had suffered under for fifty years, the response of the Dublin Government would be "to stand idly by".

No-one really expected that Leinster House could produce more than "hot air" anyway. But it is disgusting to find that when the Southern authorities decided *not* "to stand idly by", they decided to stand on the same side as the British forces, actively engaged in maintaining through repression and violence all that the same Southern authorities had so vociferously condemned for so long.

And so it is that British troops arrested in the South while travelling in plain clothes in an unmarked van and carrying arms and ammunition (illegally in their possession once they crossed the border into the Republic) were given tea by the gardai before being allowed return to the North while Republicans are serving lengthy jail sentences in Portlaoise for similar or lesser offences.

So it is that the British spy, John Wyman and the renegade Special Branch detective, Patrick Crinnion, left the Special Criminal Court as free men while a garda whose only crime was that two days after Bloody Sunday he had communicated to some leaders of the Northern minority the information that their car numbers were known to the British Army,

received and served a six month jail sentence, lost his job and is not even allowed draw social welfare assistance.

So it is that Joe Cahill - the "Defender of the Falls" as he is known to grateful residents of the Catholic ghetto area whose defence he organised during the Orange pogroms of 1969 - lies seriously ill in custody in the South while Kenneth Littlejohn, self-confessed British agent provocateur, bankrobber and potential killer, tells from a luxury room in an Amsterdam hotel how he 'escaped' from Mountjoy having served less than a year of his original 20 year sentence.

So it is that in what a British Home Secretary has described as a "war" between the British Army and the I.R.A., the Dublin Government is openly lined up with the British in attempting to defeat an organisation whose basic aim is to be found in Articles 2 and 3 of the Southern State's own constitution.

In short, the role of the 26-County Government in the Northern situation is that of a subsidiary part of the British Government's attempt to crush resistance to its occupation of six of the counties of Ulster.

- Extract from "Provos - Patriots or Terrorists?"

THE recent statement by the 26 County Minister for Defence on the role of the Free State Army in the months ahead can be regarded as a vital indication of even further extensions of southern collaboration with the British.

Speaking at a reception held after the opening of a housing scheme for 26 county army personnel Mr. Donegan said: "In the months ahead, I will have to ask the army to perform tasks which they will not like. But, because of their tremendous loyalty, the Army will go ahead and perform them".

Now this raises two interesting points - firstly, as regards the future role of the Free State Army and secondly the quality of conscience within that army.

Kite Flyer

It is only three weeks since well known government kite-flyer, E.B. Murphy predicted (Sunday Independent, October 6) that the Special Political Court would be superceded by military tribunals within "the next few months". Under the Offences Against the State Act, military tribunals can be established on the order of a government minister. Under these tribunals, the normal processes of law are completely reversed - to an even more draconian extent than in the Special 'Criminal' Courts.

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G. Ó Danachair



DONEGAN'S Mounted Foot

Mr. Murphy also commented that as possible alternatives to this, military judges might be appointed to the Special Court or that these Courts might be held in military installations — all of which add up to a direct political role for the Free State Army.

Inebriated?

In the light of this, it is reasonable to assume that in a state of inebriation — increasingly common amongst government ministers in recent years — Mr. Donegan alluded to this not very distant development along the road to a complete and absolute authoritarian state in the south. It is interesting in so far as he admitted that sections of 'his' army are largely discontented with this state of affairs, within weeks of Mr. Cooney's admission that widespread support existed in the 26 counties for the Republican Movement.

Subservience

Mr. Donegan was confident that the army — no matter how much they might dislike it — would carry out whatever new policy has been decided upon. This

must be taken to mean that he is confident that the Free State Army will adhere to its tradition of subservience to any orders given it emanating from the 26 county government even if such orders are considered immoral and wrong by them. Hardly a matter to be proud of, Mr. Donegan?

And that his cabinet colleagues were not very proud of his latest filibustering bravado and leakage of confidential information (a sore subject following Cruise O'Brien's recent performance) was reflected in the censorship of these remarks from the official text of his speech issued from the Government Information Service.

Mr. Donegan continued by praising the Army for its current role which "enables the ordinary people to live with fear of attack from any quarter".

Itinerants subversive?

One must ask whether he includes the itinerant family whom he himself attacked, using a shotgun, or the young man James Hughes, shot at a Free State Army checkpoint last year amongst the 'ordinary people' — people who would certainly disagree with him as to the 'protection' they are supposed to have received from the 26 county military. Or perhaps, itinerants — as belonging to the poorer section of the

population — are included by him in his allusions to "subversives"! Remember it was he who shot down Ritchie Ryan's half hearted attempt to introduce even a mediocre wealth tax.

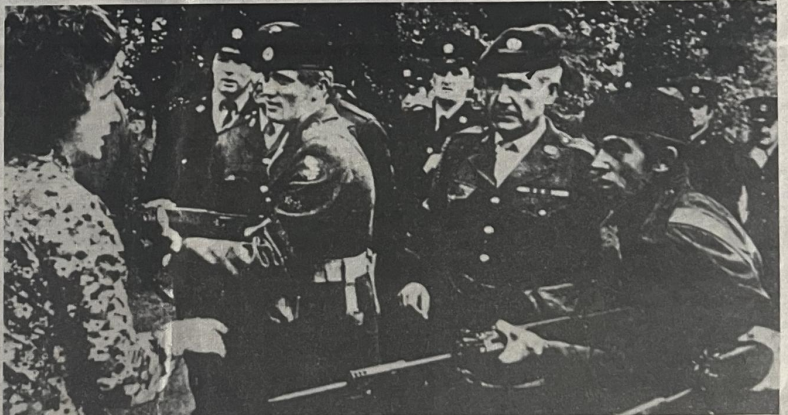
In addition, the 'great ability' of the Free State Army to defend us all from subversives rings hollow following the statement by a government colleague of Mr. Donegan, Dr. Cruise O'Brien, that it could not defend even one town in the six counties from organisations whose military renown can be assessed only in terms of the number of back shooting sectarian assassinations they have admitted responsibility for.

Point of no return

As usual, there are the elements of the ridiculous, the farcical and the absurd in what Mr. Donegan had to say. It would, however, be a mistake — and a far reaching and tragic one at that — was the significance of his remarks to be forgotten or ignored. The point of no return for the very concept of democracy as opposed to distatorship is fast approaching in the south. It is time to stand up and be counted — before it is too late.

*You may talk of Ian Paisley,
And of Vanguard Craig as
well,
Or even the First Paras,
Who oft murdered with
such zeal,
But for maintaining British
rule,
While opening a new hut,
The Minister said that none
compared
With Donegan's Mounted
Foot.*

Flashback photo to Curragh
Protest 1972 — Threatening
women at bayonet point —
the new role of the Free
State Army?



Enter the Scots and Welsh

Congratulations to the Scottish Nationalists and Plaid Cymru on their successes in the elections. One of those dim, provincial-minded young men who stalk the corridors of RTE said to me recently "But isn't nationalism out of date?" He had heard that somewhere, maybe on Moscow Radio or the BBC.

I, not thinking where he might have heard it, asked him had he ever listened to the BBC's "News At Ten" or did he read any English newspapers. A warning signal in the passage between my stomach and my throat prevented me from adding "Or have you been on any trips recently to Edinburgh or Aberystwyth?"

Even here in the Bog of Allen no one would dream of making such an ignorant remark. Poor Dublin, how you have saddled yourself with an establishment of blinkered nits, while history marches on around you, passing you by! It wasn't always that way. I have just been reading Maud Gonne's "Servant of the Queen". That was another Dublin.

There is an important difference between Welsh and Scottish nationalism. The nationalism of Plaid Cymru is, in intention at least, a humanism. It aims at the reconstruction of the Welsh nation, that is to say, the Welsh social personality. It sees political structures as a means to that end. Consequently, the Welsh government it envisages is not a repetition in Cardiff of London's imperialist State, but a decentralised or multi-centred system of genuine self-government.

Scottish nationalism, on the other hand, seems to be purely statist. It wants an Edinburgh bureaucracy, rather than a London one, to control the exploitation of Scottish oil and other resources, and to determine how the Scottish revenues shall be spent. It aims, in other words, at something like the Irish state, only with more independence from London, naturally.

Perhaps that is not quite fair. I don't know how far the Wheatley recommendations for a regional and district system of Scottish government have been put into effect, or what powers have been given to the regions and districts. Wheatley proposed seven regional authorities and 37 district authorities — not much for a country nearly the size of Ireland, but something all the same.

However, the fact remains, and is obvious to all, that Scottish nationalism is essentially a national statism. It is silent about the Scottish nation or body social. It seems, as of now, to have no plans for rehumanising that social wreck. And it is dumb about Scottish culture.

Nevertheless, whatever about the difference between the two nationalisms, it is right that Scotland and Wales should be politically independent, and I applaud every move in that direction — not merely for Scotland's or Wales' sake, but for Ireland's sake too.

I have remarked here before that Irish nationalism, even in its full-bloded Republican form, has been blinkered with regard to Wales and Scotland. Perhaps that was understandable in the past, since both those nations kept pretty quiet and would have regarded Irish advocacy or encouragement of their political independence as inopportune, to say the least.

However, as a consequence of this blind eye to Scotland and Wales, Irish nationalism developed a dualist view of the national struggle — Ireland v. England — and based its strategies and tactics on that dualist view. Only in the last few years has it become

NOTEBOOK By FREEMAN

really aware of a third counter on the chequerboard — the Ulster British — and based its strategies and tactics on this three-part view.

But events keep leaping ahead, and the rise of Scottish and Welsh nationalism has made even this three-part view outdated and false. There are now five pieces on the chequerboard on which the game of Irish self-determination is being played out, and the strategies and tactics of the Irish national struggle must be based increasingly on this five-piece view.

"Must" is a relative word. They need not be based on this five-piece view. They can continue to assume there is only Ireland (with its Ulster Brits) and England. But in that case, since the arrival of the Scots and Welsh on the scene is advantageous to the Irish cause, Irish nationalism is merely making its task more difficult than it need be.

Every move towards the establishment of independent political power in Wales and Scotland is a move towards restoring the balance of power in these islands — that balance which London smashed to its own imperial advantage. Every move in this direction lessens the power of London to control Ireland, adds to London's preoccupations in its home island, and interposes an increasing barrier of anti-London power between Ireland and London.

Already, in the political propaganda of Scottish and Welsh nationalism, "British" is a dirty word, denoting both the foreign, oppressive power and the threat of continuing exploitation and poverty. In other words, Britishness is being disowned by growing numbers of Scots and Welshmen. If this continues, what Brits will be left? The English will be left plain English. The repercussions in Ulster will be fascinating.

Consider: Scotland, Wales and Ireland together make up the larger part, by far, of the land mass of these islands and possess over three-quarters of the coastline. An interesting combination, you might well say. One to make London tremble.

It is very much in the interests of London that we Irish continue to be oblivious of Wales and Scotland, to know very little about them, and to be disinterested in their nationalisms.

It is to England's advantage that we see ourselves as set over against England only, in a two-piece scenario, depending for our view of the world on the flow of information from London to Dublin and Belfast.

English newspapers are on sale all over Ireland. Scottish and Welsh ones are not. That suits English imperialism.

If you want to break through this barrier, and find out what you're not supposed to know, you might begin by subscribing to the "Welsh Nation", 8 Heol y Frenhins, Cardiff (phone 31944) and the "Scots Independent", 9 Upper Bridge St., Stirling.

Another counter on the board which I haven't mentioned is that virtually independent state called Man, between Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Believe it or not (but who would tell us?) Man negotiated associate membership of the EEC; and it has a 50p note — not the "standard" London hexagon. They are only 50,000 people, but they don't seem to feel themselves such a "small country" as some larger ones.

I'll tell you more about them when I discover something about those two, intriguingly named organisations, Mec Vannin (Mic Mhanainn) and Fo Hallow (Faoi Thalamh). I'd say the latter are subversives. CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY. I was noticing recently that in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, citizenship and nationality are kept legally distinct. I mean, while you are a Soviet or Yugoslav citizen, your nationality, legally, may be Estonian, Armenian, Hungarian, Croat, Albanian, etc., as the case may be. It's a point to keep in mind when it comes to the nitty-gritty in Ulster.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES LONG KESH - NEW BATTLE FOR A MORAL IDEAL

THE great moral battle for Ireland's soul is being fought at this critical stage between Separatists who stand for self-government and freedom from foreign interference, and a motley opposition of interests who veil the basic issue of independence behind a screen of pseudo-rational arguments that hold a real appeal for the uncaring and ill-informed.

The burning of Long Kesh must be seen in the context of this enormous battle. The raising of the camp is no more symbolic defiance by badly treated political prisoners. It is the torch bearing witness to the funeral pyre to which democracy has melted on this island.

The lesson of Long Kesh is that Ulster nationalists of one variety, who are loosely called loyalists, have joined with their Republican brethren to point the immorality of a system which incorporates men and women without trial and attempts to degrade their detention by dehumanising conditions, which are unacceptable in civilised society.

Long Kesh has become Ireland's university for the idea of unity through diversity. The victims of Unionist propaganda who entered prison and camp believing they were defending an Ulster Constitution that would check a Rome takeover of their besieged province, learned the hard way what Republicans had painfully known for generations, that "Ulster" has no Constitution, and even if it had, it would not be employed to help endanger the rich man's club known politely as the Union with Britain.

Any political coherence of the surprised new batch of detainees from Shankill and other Unionist controlled ghettos was based on the idea that somehow, despite all appearances, they were a superior class in tradition and aspiration to the Separatists, whom they had never met socially, and had been taught to discredit as Fenian-Papist rabble.

The discovery that their fellow victims from the Falls etc., were frequently endowed with a deeper knowledge of the culture of the natural nine-county Ulster, and were political descendants of the Protestant and Catholic dissidents who joined an initial London campaign to combat the false claims of Anglo-Irish landlords and piratical adventurers, was a stark shock to many of them.

The further discovery that they, the other underprivileged society of the North, rubber-stamped by cynical politicians as "The loyalist majority", were heirs to an all-Ireland tradition, but deprived of its knowledge locked in a language they were discouraged from learning, was a traumatic revelation for some.

Here, from this shared treasury of a almost lost ancient Ulster of hardy independent instincts, of ascetic ideals, and religious tolerance, the mist and mistral joined forces to kindle a battle against the old oppressors. It sparked the "Loyalist-Separatist" revolt which set the Kesh ablaze.

Once again, Westminster tyranny and native nepotism have been revealed for the barbaric twins they are. Establishment politicians and the financiers for Reconquest will sleep less easy as a result. The political prisoners, freed from the false segregations of the frightful ghettos, have broken the Irish apartheid system.

The divides forced on them by spurious leaders, are being bridged. Re-Baptised in the shared knowledge and indignities of the prison cage and compound, they will emerge to spearhead the struggle for true liberty.

Liberty is a word out of fashion these inglorious days in the South. Its demise on the everyday tongues of the people is part of an evil pattern; a conspiracy to silence dissent with the new departure of Co-governance and company away from the Constitution (which everybody else is invoked to obey) and towards a return to the Anglo-Irish Union, source of all our political evils.

Let it be re-emphasised — the great moral battle for Ireland's soul rests now at this critical stage with Separatists and their new comrades from the prisons and camps — the politically resurgent Protestant nationalists.

Since military methods to kill it are doomed to failure, Separatist (and allied) resistance forces are onslaught on its moral defences. It would be a laughable proposition to consider even cursorily in normal times when the media is reasonably free.

But in these dark days for liberty when RTE is neutered of independence by the Minister for Propaganda; when the daily newspapers rely more and more on English-dominated agency interpretations of news from the north; when even outspoken advocates of a free press are made weary by the multi-faced attacks, — it is vital for Republicans to reassert the moral legitimacy of their positions, and to hammer home truth to the point of tedium.

This might best be served by assessing some of the methods of the dual enemy — the British establishment, and its servile puppetry in Parliament here.

Firstly, there is the appeal to authority, which in most cases means the Dublin government, which tells its adherents that the alternative to acceptance of its will, is national anarchy. By this is meant, usually, loss of revenue from tourism, reduced investments from overseas, and ultimately, a kind of civil war, (a peasant shooting season among the cattle hungry small farmers of south and west, perhaps?).

The notion that a quarter of a million northern refugees will descend on us "and reduce our living standards" can be more seriously be discussed by some leisurely satirist.

But the question of acceptance of authority must be met squarely. The majority will of the Leinster House legislators, and indeed the majority vote in a 26-County general election, does appear a genuine moral fortress of an argument to the unsophisticated. Failure to heed it does indeed seem an anarchy.

The truth is that all such majorities and all such legislation dissolves on the rock of the Constitution which claims moral de jure sovereignty over the entire island and its surrounding seas. Majorities on national issues, which are artificially distorted in a political sense by the border, and in which northerners cannot participate, are a moral and legal fraud.

So the wily politicians now want to whitewash away at that "damnable Constitution". They would remove Articles 2 and 3 which clarify the sovereign people's claim; some as an "act of reparation" to Unionists! Until those Articles are removed by an all-Ireland referendum — since northerners are equally legally concerned — the moral authority of the case is with those who pursue this primary objective of the Constitution.

Now what is moral need not be legal in either State set up by Westminster. There is no need for a majority here. As to the means of effecting the sovereign claim, these rest on the dogma that only when a reasonable opportunity of success in a just revolution can be visualised, should physical force be employed.

The validity of this dogma is attested by most disinterested moral Theologians, and its conditions apply to Ireland as much as to those emerging African colonies, towards whose liberation the World Council of Churches, though subsidised, is paying for the armament of guerrilla freedom fighters.

Some Dublin and Belfast politicians thought they had found a moral solution in the appeal of power sharing. Since it further exposed the sectarian oligarchies by which the Six Counties are ruled (and falsely divided) it furthered only the designs of bigotry. And as Westminster frankly showed, shared power meant reduced power. So direct rule is at least more honest, though still morally devious.

Authority, to have democratic meaning, must be clearly moral. This is a sane doctrine. The designs of well meaning or opportunist politicians to carve (doubtful) harmony from compromise of the independence ideal founder from the start. Their frail craft is flotsam against the people's anger. The clash of politicians against the Constitutional claim to national sovereignty is already splintering party ranks.

Mac Thomais and the Journalists

The election of Eamonn Mac Thomais, jailed Editor of An Phoblacht, to membership of the National Union of Journalists, which is London based with 28,000 members in many countries, has created a carnival of reaction.

The trouble is not with London headquarters, or the Dublin Branch who voted him in by 29 votes to 19, but among those shocked trade unionists who feel they are colleagues of a "terrorist". The most spurious argument against Eamonn's membership was that the vote was not representative.

There was plenty of pre-election publicity, notably a front page story by Dick Walsh, political correspondent, in the Irish Times. Of about 400 Branch members, less than 50 turned up. Unusual? An average Branch meeting attracts fewer than 30.

Now the Mac Thomais case, and the implications of his membership, are being discussed at another Dublin N.U.J. meeting this week. The validity of his membership is no longer in doubt. But there may be some more to oppose union and for dependants. Voluntary contributions from members is surely the democratic solution to a possible levy problem or politically motivated wrangle.

Conditions in Magilligan Concentration Camp

FOLLOWING is a copy of a letter sent by the P.R.O. for the Political Hostages in Magilligan to the American Press on September 25.

a chara

We the Sentenced Republican Prisoners of War in Magilligan concentration camp, which is situated 25 miles north-west of Derry, in the British occupied Six Counties of Ireland, would like to take this opportunity to enlighten you, the American people, as to the real conditions that we find ourselves here. We are only too aware of the propaganda which the British war machine is churning out daily from their embassy in America and indeed throughout the world in regard to Northern Ireland.

Firstly we would like to state that there are two main concentration camps here in the British occupied Six Counties, namely Long Kesh (in which many of us were held previous to our transportation here) and Magilligan. This concentration camp has been "played up" by the British in that it is called a £1 million "luxury hotel". We will proceed to enlighten you as to what these so-called "luxuries" are.

It is in fact a very bleak and barren peninsula, jutting sharply into the Atlantic Ocean, and you could easily say that it is not unlike the camp outside Hanoi in North Vietnam. The camp itself is 1 mile in length and ½ mile in width. The cages or "living quarters" consist of tin Nissen huts, each housing 80 men. There is a total of 280 men in this concentration camp. The cages are surrounded by four tiers of 18 ft. high barbed wire entanglements which are lit up 24 hours per day and are constantly patrolled for that same period of time by armed British soldiers and their vicious war-dogs. These dogs are used on the camp inmates when there is a token protest against the inhuman conditions in the camp.

Needless to say, the treatment meted out is contrary to certain sections under the Convention of Human Rights. The camp is also surrounded by watch-towers which are manned by heavy machine-guns and arc lights. At the minute the situation here is so bad that we have been refusing ALL prison food from 18th September, 1974, in protest against the inhuman conditions here and we have to rely solely on food-parcels sent in by our own hard-pressed people and although we are allowed parcels they are restricted to a size which means that they will only do one man for a day. We have listed a few of our demands below.

* **COMPASSIONATE PAROLE:** The situation is at present 6 HOURS' parole in event of a death in the immediate family. We are demanding a longer period of time and this parole system to cover the deaths of other members of the family. We would also like to have parole extended to the 26 Counties as recently a young man by the name of Johnston was refused parole to attend his mother's funeral in Dublin. She had a long, serious illness and died while in hospital. We as Republicans have always honoured any parole given to us.

* **EDUCATION:** The educational facilities here at present are non-existent. The Education Officer comes here every six months to see what courses men would like to sit. After taking a list of these he goes away and that is the last you hear of him and the courses. There are men who have applied for university courses and had got the necessary literature for the courses, but were forced to give them up as there was no place suitable for studying. These men had taken the trouble to get the literature themselves. It has come to our notice that a tutor who did come to the camp was turned away at the gate on a flimsy pretext.

* **VISITING:** Each man is allowed one visit per week and at present we are only getting 20 visits per day. This is totally inadequate for a Saturday as we would need a greater number of visits for that particular

day to facilitate our relatives who are working during the week. At the minute there are between 10 and 15 men in each cage going without visits each week as a result of the authorities' refusal to give extra visits.

* **MEDICAL FACILITIES:** An old and retired doctor visits the camp three days a week. He usually only stays 1½ hours each visit. During this time he has to deal with the sick of four cages totalling 280 men. The sick-bay is only a matter of yards from the nearest cage and still if a man takes sick in any of the huts after lock-up (this happens often due to the inhuman conditions) it could be half an hour or longer before the Medical Officer arrives. In the event of a man taking seriously ill, there is a probability that he could be dead before he receives medical attention. This has already happened twice in Long Kesh.

* **FOOD:** The food is of a poor quality in substance and is badly cooked. The food is inspected before it is allowed into the cages and if it is inedible it is turned away again. This has happened on numerous occasions since our arrival here 8 months ago.

We are only allowed 20 pints of milk per day for a total of 80 men, which, needless to say, is inadequate.

* **GENERAL LIVING CONDITIONS:** 1 - Huts leaking. If it rains during the night men have to rise and move their beds to avoid getting wet, as the huts leak continuously. Those who are unfortunate enough to get wet usually contract severe colds and influenza. 2 - Drying room. The drying room facilities are non-existent; therefore we are forced to use a small store behind the toilets to dry our clothes. The clothes take several days to dry as there is no form of heating. 3 - Hot-water system. There is never any hot water most mornings for washing, shaving etc. Men called for visits (if they are lucky to get them) in the morning usually have to shave with cold water. 4 - Sewerage system. The sewerage system is blocked almost constantly; therefore men have to flush the toilets before using them.

* **RECREATION:** The recreational facilities are practically nil. This being so, the tension builds up in the men very easily when they have no outlet for it. The officer in charge of sports only comes around once a week and is not able to give all his time to the cages he has in his charge. Therefore the men are not getting the time they should be at recreation. There is also no proper library in any of the cages. Any books that we have were sent in by our own people.

The above points are only a few of our demands which have been outstanding for a long time and nothing has been done about them.

We are now forced into a situation where we feel that we must take action to ensure that our just and human demands are met.

P.R.O.
Sentenced Republican Prisoners, Magilligan Concentration Camp, Co. Derry, Ireland.

Prisoners' Dependents

A social function will be held in the Temperance Hall, Longford on Friday, October 25.

Music by the Shaskeen Ceili Band. A prominent Republican will give an address.

Proceeds in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach.



Our picture shows a section of the 6,000 people who took part in an anti-internment march to the Guildhall, Derry, on Thursday, October 10. The Society of Friends and Relations of the Political Hostages who organised the protest have said that their protests against internment will continue until the gates of all dungeons and concentration camps are thrown open and all Irish Political Hostages set free.

A.L.J. appeal for funds

THE Dublin Central Branch of the Association for Legal Justice was formed in April 1972 in order to spread and publicise the work being done by the Belfast Association.

The Northern Association was at this time busily engaged in collecting evidence from the prisoners who had been tortured and interrogated in Girdwood and Palace Barracks, Belfast.

This evidence was placed at the disposal of the Irish Government on which was based their case which is now being prosecuted before the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. This evidence was also widely publicised throughout the world. One of the primary objects of this Branch is and has been to draw attention to the continuing harassment and internment of Irish people by the British Security Forces in the North of

Ireland.

The Dublin Central Branch has also concerned itself with drawing public attention to the legal dangers inherent in many of the new proposals put forward by our public representatives, such as the proposed re-activation of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, the Amendment to the Offences Against the State Act 1939, the impossibility and undesirability of implementing the demands of the British Government for the extradition of prisoners for political offences because of our international commitments on this subject and the provisions of our Constitution. This has been done through the medium of our regular Bulletin, statements to the Press, radio and television, and by public meetings.

We are primarily concerned with the upholding of the concept of the Rule of Law throughout the whole island and so we are deeply disturbed at its gradual erosion. We are convinced that tampering with the law for political expediency solves no political or social problems but rather accentuates existing ones

with possible appalling consequences.

Great though the importance of our work is, it has not the mass appeal of many other organisations and it is therefore very difficult for us to raise the necessary funds to continue the work in which we are involved.

We now find it necessary to request such people as have sympathy with our aims and objects to help us financially. We hope that you would like to preserve the quality of life in our country and we therefore appeal to you to subscribe as generously as your means permit.

All subscriptions should be sent to the address below or to the Churchtown Branch of the Bank of Ireland, Dublin 14. Cheques and postal orders should be crossed and made payable to the "Association for Legal Justice, Dublin Central Branch". All subscriptions will be acknowledged.

— Secretary,
Association for Legal Justice,
Dublin Central Branch, 11, South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

EIRE NUA CITIZENS INFORMATION CENTRE

Advice on Social Problems
Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings
7.30 - 10.00 p.m.
5 Blessington Street, Dublin 1
Fáilte roimh cách.

TARGET : 50,000 BY CHRISTMAS

OUR circulation target is 50,000 copies sold per week by Christmas. At present our sales are around 40,000 weekly. Sales are increasing slowly but not anything like fast enough to reach our target according to plan.

If every member of the Republican Movement sells only one dozen copies per week - a half hour's work in town or city - our target can be reached well before Christmas. Much the same result can be achieved if existing sellers double their sales.

There are hundreds of parishes where the paper is never seen, where the voice of Republicanism is never heard, where only enemy propaganda gets a chance, where the truth is unknown. To win the war the voice of Republicanism must be heard clearly throughout the land. Revolutions begin with thoughts; the thoughts are clothed with words; and the roar of the people soon heralds their victory.

Strengthen the voice of the Republic today by helping in the circulation drive at home and abroad and dealing a telling blow to British propaganda and that of its lackeys. Help smack imperialism and speed the revolution by spreading the truth and pinning the lies.

Support Eamonn Mac Thomáis. Increase our circulation NOW.

AROUND THE COUNTRY



le Maire Ni Bhaoill

FRANK STAGG ON HUNGER STRIKE

On Friday last, October 18, the governor of Long Lartin prison, England, admitted for the first time that Frank Stagg was forced to strip naked for searches before and after every visit. Relatives wish to emphasise that the indecent nature of these searches is the reason for Frank's hunger strike which began on Sunday, October 6.

The governor also stated that Frank was "very ill" and that "he would get in touch with relatives if his condition worsened over the weekend".

ARMAGH VETERAN'S FUNERAL

The recent death of Mr. Liam McDonagh of Armagh city has occasioned much regret. A dedicated Republican, he spent many years of his life imprisoned in Crumlin Road Jail, Derry jail and the prison ship, Al Rawdah, in Belfast Lough.

A guard of honour of his old comrades flanked the tricolour draped coffin as his remains were borne to their last resting place. Wreaths, on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann and the G.A.A. were laid on the grave.

The oration was delivered by Frank McGeough. Tim Fields recited a decade of the Rosary and the last Post and Revellie were sounded by Emmett Trainor. Fr. Raymond Murray officiated at the graveside.

Much sympathy is extended to his wife, Jeannie; Seamus, his son; daughters, Carmel, Joan, Cinead, and Nuala; brothers Patrick, Michael and Francis; and sisters Bridie and Kathleen.

CUMMANN NEWSHEET

The Michael McVerry Sinn Fein Cumann, which covers the Kimmage and Crumlin areas of Dublin has published the first edition of a monthly newsheet. Entitled "Saoirse" the newsheet is well produced. It is the intention of the Cumann to use it to highlight local grievances and social problems.

The Cumann wishes to thank the people of the Kimmage/Crumlin area for their contributions to An Cumann Cabhrach collections.

SCOIL PHOBAIL GHAOTH DOBHAIIR

Tá tuismitheoirí Ghaoth Dobhair agus Rinn na Feirste iontach mi-shásta f'n séal a thug an Roinn Oideachais amach i rith na míosa seo, nach mbeadh fóirneamhár gur curtha ar fáil do'n aon Scoil-Phobail amháin atá i nGaeltacht Thír Chonaill ag cionn trí bliana eile ar a laghad. Ní léir uaidh seo go bhfuil rún ag an Rialtas cothrom na féinne a thabhairt don Thír-Ghaeltacht.

Tá na tuismitheoirí ag cur ceist go poiblí anois ar an Roinn an rún acu an scoil a thógáil ar chor ar bith, nó an ag magadh ar mhuintir Ghaoth Dobhair agus Rinn na Feirste atá siad.

SINN FEIN MAN'S HOME BOMBED

The home of Mr. Aidan Corrigan of Orpheus Drive, Dungannon, was damaged in an explosion on Friday, October 11. Windows in nearby houses were also shattered. Mr. Corrigan, who is a native of Co. Fermanagh is a member of Sinn Fein and has long been associated with the struggle for civil rights in the Six Counties.

For some months past, homes of many who have opposed foreign occupation have been the targets of a well-organised campaign of bombing.

MID-LOUTH

At a meeting of the Heeney-Duffy Sinn Fein cumann, mid-Louth, held in Castlebellingham on October 15, a resolution was passed demanding the immediate release of Joe Cahill from and demanding the conditions under which Republican prisoners are held in Portlaoise prison.

SLIGO

At their weekly meeting, the Tommy Langan Sinn Fein cumann, Sligo, passed a resolution condemning the imprisonment of Eamonn Mac Thomais. Copies of the resolution have been sent to the members of the Sligo Corporation and to the Editor of the Sligo Champion.

ARMAGH SINN FEIN ELECTIONS

North Armagh Comhairle-cheantair of Sinn Fein have elected the following officer board: Chairman, Joe Haugahan; vice-chairman, Dermot McAlinden; secretary, Terry Brady; treasurer, David Williamson; finance officer, Mrs. M. Haugahan; P.R.O. Liam Haddock; joint education officers - Patrick Crossley and Owen McKenna.

The Comhairle-cheantair demanded an immediate end to internment and an amnesty for all political prisoners and pledged wholehearted support to the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

INTERNEES' DEPENDENTS FUND

In Co. Fermanagh, a collection in support of the dependents of internees and political prisoners will be taken up outside all churches on Sunday, November 3. The public are asked to subscribe generously to this worthy cause.

CEILI MÓR

in aid of the John Mulvihill (Ogligh na hEireann) Memorial Fund will be held in

Sliaoh an Iarainn Hotel Ballinamore on Wed., Oct. 30. Music by Doonaree Ceili Band.

Subscriptions optional

Write a prisoner a letter a week

Ó Brádaigh statements

MR. Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President of Sinn Fein said in a statement on Wednesday, October 16:

Last night's destruction of Long Kesh Concentration Camp and today's responsive action at Armagh Prison, Magilligan Camp and cities and towns throughout the Six Counties demonstrates dramatically to the whole world that it is impossible to hold an entire people in subjection indefinitely. The heroism of the prisoners in opposing the British Military machine even when trapped within the confines of the jails and prison camps bears witness once again to the determination of this generation to end for all time the underlying causes of last night's and today's events.

It is not sufficient to call for the closing down of Long Kesh and an end to internment. The institutions erected in this country in 1921 to hold it for British Rule have required internment without trial to prop them up North and South in every decade for the past 50 years. British Rule itself which gives rise to internment must be closed down once and for all and last night's participation by loyalist prisoners is an indication of how radically the present struggle differs from previous occasions.

Certain Cabinet Ministers in Dublin, specifically, the Minister for Defence have called for "unpleasant tasks" to be performed by the 26 County Army in the near future. Does the Minister envisage the importation of the spirit of Long Kesh into the 26 Counties? The past 24 hours have shown Long Kesh to be a political time bomb in British occupied Ireland.

The following statement was issued by Mr. Ó Brádaigh on October 17:

While the number of prisoners hurt or suffering from burns at Long Kesh is certainly much greater than official figures indicate, food and clothing from the relatives are not allowed into the camp although the prison authorities say they are unable to provide these themselves.

Mrs. Maire Drumm, Vice President of Sinn Fein and Seamus Loughran, Chairman of Belfast Comhairle Ceantair are still refused access to the camp although they represent 1/4 of prisoners at Long Kesh. They have heard from U.D.A. leaders who were met at the perimeter of the camp by an Assistant Governor and a high ranking Stormont Official (name available) that the prisoners remained herded together on a bare patch of ground known as the "football field". The Northern Ireland Office denies in the face of all the evidence that either the U.D.A. delegation or representatives of the Bogside Community Association were met and the position inside the camp discussed with them.

KEVIN BARRY MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Annual Kevin Barry Memorial Mass will be held in the Franciscan Church, Church Street, Dublin on Friday, November 1, at 10.45 a.m.

THE FIGHT GOES ON



As our picture shows, the resistance struggle in the North continues. In this incident, the British Army admitted to a soldier killed and three others injured.

However, the wreck which was all that remained of their landrover would indicate heavier casualties. Watch the newspapers for reports of fatal 'accidents' befalling

British soldiers in Germany in the coming weeks - it's Lisburn's old, old trick to conceal their real losses in the Six Counties.

"VICTORY IS ALMOST WON"

Speaking at the Sean Tracy Commemoration at Killeekle, Co. Tipperary recently, Mr. Gerry O'Donachair said that "after five long years of determined resistance to British rule in Ireland, victory is almost won."

Earlier in his oration, he had said that "we should never forget that the cause in which Sean Tracy gave his life, was the struggle for a free and united Irish Republic. The Ireland which Tracy died for was not a Free State or any variation of it, it was a Republic and it still remains for it to be achieved. There is no difference between the fight waged by Tracy and his comrades and that being waged today by the freedom fighters in the North. The

Provisionals are the true inheritors of the Republican legacy, they and they alone are following in Sean Tracy's footsteps."

Mr. O'Donachair then went on to criticise "the hypocrisy of those church and political 'leaders' who condemn the freedom struggle of 1974 but are afraid to condemn the patriots of the past. Perhaps it is because they see no reason to fear the dead. But the spirit of men like Tracy lives on and their places are well filled today - and their cause, our cause, Ireland's cause is on the road to victory."

The commemoration, which was organised by the National Graves Association was well attended and a wreath was laid by An Phoblacht manager, Sean Keenan.

Keenan answers Faul

Uproar broke out in the packed Roundroom of the Mansion House, Dublin, last week when Fr. Denis Faul of Dungannon, speaking at a *Hibernia* anti-internment rally, said that he was "against the I.R.A." and did not differentiate between them and "Protestant murder gangs".

From all corners of the Roundroom came shouts and protests which finally resulted in Mr. Sean Keenan, manager of An Phoblacht, addressing the meeting.

Mr. Keenan said that "no one in this hall has more right to talk of the I.R.A. than Fr. Faul, but to compare them with the assassins who are stalking the streets of Belfast is to defame the I.R.A. and to defame those gallant young

men and women who have given their lives. Fr. Faul should know better than to say that the I.R.A. ever killed anyone because of their religion".

In the words of the Irish Times report, he was drowned out with applause. He then continued: "I believe that internment will stay in the '70s, '80s and into the next century unless we destroy the system that brings internment about".

"Do not go home saying 'what a fine meeting' instead picket every British establishment this side of the border and the biggest is Leinster House".