

IRELAND

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EDITORIAL

Referendum fallout

The referendum count centres were virtually empty as tellers waded through the votes on 19 June. The result was a 69.1% Yes to 30.9% No vote. Twenty-six-County voters were for a couple of hours a glittering prize on 19 June, though EC business went on regardless.

The Western European Union (WEU), described in the Maastricht Treaty as an "integral part" of European union, agreed to "take on peacekeeping and peacemaking roles", and plans for military interventions. The Dublin media revealed that Albert Reynolds approved low cost loans to the EC nuclear industry during the Dublin government's so called EC "green presidency" in 1990. The EC Sheepmeat Committee announced also on 19 June a 25% cut in payments to sheep producers leaving pro-Maastricht farming organisations incensed.

Politicians across Europe made statements and interpretations on the meaning of the 26-County referendum vote. Euro politicians spoke of the "restored momentum" and "their joy". We were told that the 26-County vote would "provide more steam for the European engine". The 26-County referendum result was greeted with a round of applause by EC foreign ministers attending a meeting of the WEU. In Dublin politicians were queueing up to claim that despite worries about neutrality and women's rights, "economic

issues had swung the day". This cliché was repeated by politicians who exhibit little understanding of the economic processes they have bound the 26-County economy into.

Citing the Yes vote as an endorsement for the economics of European union is a deliberate distortion of the No campaign. Economic arguments against the centralising economic forces of the EC, against monetary union, against the formation of anti-democratic EC institutions such as the European Central and European Investment Banks were an integral part of the No campaign. The economic inconsistencies of European Union as proposed under Maastricht Treaty were constantly highlighted.

The pro-life elements of the No campaign who did not share a platform with Sinn Féin or the National Platform were portrayed as being the main objectors to the Maastricht Treaty. The media made little attempt to analyse the important differences between the pro-life campaign and the other political groups and organisations who have spent the last three months campaigning against the Maastricht Treaty.

There can be no escaping that the referendum vote was a substantial Yes majority. This we are told puts "Ireland at the heart of Europe". However, the EC carried on regardless on 19 June making decisions without any Dublin government input.



Sinn Féin

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Inter-party talks stall

After two months, the talks which the British government is organising between the Unionist parties and the SDLP have come to an impasse.

Last May an irate Unionist politician leaked to the media the proposals which the SDLP had made to the other parties regarding the administration of the Six Counties: a six-member commission, with three elected commissioners from the parties in the North, and three appointed, one by London, one by Dublin and one by the European Community. This is anathema to unionists as it would institutionalise Dublin's input in North of Ireland affairs.

Since then delegates from the four parties to the talks, the Official Unionists, the Democratic Unionist Party of Ian Paisley, the 'moderate unionist' Alliance Party and the SDLP, have tried in vain to find some overlap between the SDLP proposals and the Unionists'. The latter is reported — again through leaks to the press as the talks' proceedings have been kept out of the media limelight by an agreement between the parties — to be very similar to what Unionists have proposed down the years: an assembly at Stormont, with a system of committees chaired according to the proportional strength of the parties. No formal or institutionalised power-sharing: Unionists are sure to get the lion's share of all posts in such a system because of the North's in-built majority. And of course: no role for Dublin at that level. As an SDLP source was reported to have said: "Unionists are more interested in exercising power than in sharing it".

Nevertheless a momentum has been created, and the four parties have not pulled out of the talks — yet. No party wants to be described as 'the party which wrecked the talks'. Unionists were reviled by the British media last year for what the British described as their intransigence, and they realise that they lost some goodwill with the British public in the exercise. They are now at pains to point out that if the talks are stalling it is because of Dublin or the SDLP.

In an effort to prevent an early crash the British government decided in June to initiate the so-called 'Strand Two' of the talks (Strand One is between the northern parties, Two between the northern parties and Dublin, and Three between the two governments). But Unionists have refused to sit down with the Dublin government informal talks until "an outline of an agreement" has been reached between the northern parties regarding a model of administration of the North.

Northern politicians nevertheless lent

themselves to a preliminary meeting in London with former Australian judge Sir Ninian Stephen, chosen to chair Strand Two. The meeting discussed "a possible agenda for Strand Two". Talks about talks, as it were. The Dublin government has expressed some impatience at the unionists' refusal to begin Strand Two, while the SDLP argues that the differences stalling Strand One can best be ironed out with the Dublin government present. Unionists however will not grant Dublin this formal recognition of an input in the North's administration, even at the level of talks.

The differences are once again deep-rooted. They stem from the Unionists' view of the North as a part of the British state. The British government meanwhile has yet to apply serious pressure on the Unionists to make them more amenable to compromise. This is not unusual. Whenever Britain wants to curb the Unionists it can do so, if it does not it is simply cynically using what Nationalists call the 'Unionist veto' to curb Nationalist demands.

There can be no meaningful peace process out of the present talks, given the partitionist context they are placed in by the refusal of the British to accept the right of the Irish people to decide of their fate without outside interference.

Irish favour unity

The vast majority of people in the south of Ireland, some 75%, favour a 32-County republic with one central government. Most people disagreed with the view that the British government was: "even handed in dealing with Northern Ireland since 1969" and almost 50% said the British had "little respect" for the Irish.

Less than three per cent would deny people from the North of Ireland Irish citizenship and less than four per cent believed the entire island should become part of Great Britain.

Such were the findings of a major study entitled *Irish Political Attitudes and Opinions*, carried out by St Patrick's College, Maynooth. The study examined the attitudes of the 26-County populace on the North of Ireland and Britain.

It further found that the majority of people supported neutrality and were opposed to nuclear power or the placement of nuclear weapons in Ireland.

Sinn Féin said the survey's findings confirmed: "that the majority of people in this country not only want to see the establishment of a united, independent Ireland but know that only a sovereign independent country can provide the basis for peace, stability and prosperity for all its people."

"The Dublin government should start to represent the opinions and desires of Irish people, and pursue an agenda that can deliver their wishes. These results expose the distortions of censorship and revisionism which would have us believe that people in the 26 Counties "do not care" about the North. It is also a firm answer to those who have proposed the dropping of Articles Two and Three from the 1937 Constitution, which, among other things, would deny Irish northerners their right to full Irish citizenship."

SDLP faces legal challenge over West Belfast seat

The SDLP's controversial win in West Belfast during April's Westminster election is being legally challenged on the basis of the party's financial returns to the Six-County electoral office.

Papers were lodged in Belfast High Court this week by a West Belfast voter who stated that the SDLP submitted inaccurate expense returns and had, in contravention of the Representation of the People Act, overspent the official limit during its election campaign in West Belfast.

The High Court petition names Joe Hendron, his election agent Tom Kelly and the Director of Public Prosecutions as respondents. The petition is likely to be heard in front of two High Court judges following the summer recess. Hendron took the seat, formerly held on two previous occasions by Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, by a mere 589 votes. Tactical voting by some 3,500 Loyallists accounted for the SDLP gain.

Acceptable solutions to Northern Ireland problem

B. DON'T KNOWS excluded

Choice of Solution

1. A 32-County Republic with one central government	75%	13%	(88%)	12%
2. A 32-County Republic with provincial and central governments	48%	30%	(78%)	22%
3. A federal Republic of northern and southern Ireland	42%	33%	(75%)	25%
4. A totally independent Northern Ireland	22%	33%	(55%)	45%
5. The Status Quo with a devolved power-sharing northern administration	19%	32%	(50%)	49%
6. Northern Ireland as an integral part of the United Kingdom	10%	24%	(34%)	65%
7. The whole island to be part of the United Kingdom again	4%	3%	(7%)	93%

Peace train — non-starter

The 'Peace Train' organisers are initiating a new, mainly anti-republican campaign — ostensibly aimed at calling on 'the paramilitaries' to stop the violence — by collecting one million signatures throughout Ireland.

Ironically, the latest publicity exercise is being led by Seamus Lynch, a former senior member of the Workers' Party. Lynch, like those who split from the party earlier this year to form the Democratic Left, would have been privy to the gangster-like activities of the Workers' Party's armed wing, the 'Official IRA', including building site racketeering, extortion and armed robberies, the profits of which were used to bolster the Workers' Party.

Belfast civil liberties activist Fr. Des Wilson questioned not only the methods used by the 'Peace Train' organisers but their motives saying: "Are they seriously suggesting to Irish people that they can solve their political and economic problems in this way. The Irish it seems are the only people on the face of the earth who in the middle of a war are expected to solve their problems by riding in trains and signing petitions."

He said that the international community would be rightly sceptical of any suggestion that the key to peace in the Middle East could be achieved by releasing "black balloons, signing petitions and riding peace trains from Beirut to Damascus". It was time, said Fr Wilson, for the causes of conflict in the Six Counties to be addressed in order to solve the serious economic, moral and political problems in Ireland and between Britain and Ireland. This, he said, could only be achieved by inclusive dialogue followed by sensible political action.

Catholic Church leader meets Sinn Féin

Prompted largely by meetings between Sinn Féin representatives and senior members of the Presbyterian Church, Bishop Edward Daly, a prominent member of the Catholic hierarchy, has also met with Sinn Féin to discuss a wide range of issues regarding the ongoing conflict.

The Bishop was careful to state that his primary motive was to "persuade Sinn Féin to influence the IRA to end its violence" because, in the Church's opinion, "it inhibits all political progress".

Sinn Féin members Martin McGuinness and Mitchel McLaughlin said they had wel-

comed the opportunity to present the republican analysis of the causes of conflict in Irish society, primarily the British presence, and to examine "the causes of injustice".

The meetings, they stated, had been: "honest and constructive" and they expressed the hope that since they had received official backing by Cardinal Cahal Daly, head of the Catholic Church in Ireland, that he should reconsider his stated position of opposing such dialogue. McGuinness said that the Catholic Church had: "a moral duty to the people to do so as Sinn Féin represents one in every three nationalists, basically Catholics, in the North."

JUSTICE

Judith Ward free

The credibility of the British criminal justice system was further undermined on 4 June when the Court of Appeal formally quashed the conviction of miscarriage of justice victim Judith Ward who was imprisoned in 1974 for IRA bomb attacks in Britain.

In one of the most stinging judgements ever delivered by Court of Appeal judges the entire criminal investigation methods, ranging from the police, forensic and prosecution services were lambasted for having suppressed vital evidence which would have cast serious doubt on Ms Ward's guilt at her original trial in 1974.

Conscious of the public attention focussed on the case, Judges Glidewell, Nolan and Steyn, said that the non-disclosure of evidence was a "potent source of injustice" which went right to the heart of her case.

But the strongest condemnation of all went to three senior government scientists who, said the judges: "took the law into their own hands" and acted in concert to conceal from the prosecution, the defence and the court "matters which might have changed the course of the trial".

"On the scientific case deployed against her, Miss Ward did not have a fair trial. Our law does not tolerate a conviction to be secured by ambush," the judges said.

They went on to name prosecution forensic science witnesses Douglas Higgs, Walter Elliott (now dead) and George Berryman as having "plainly succumbed to the dangers of partisanship... they misled both the prosecution and the defence in order to promote a cause which they had made their own, namely that Miss Ward had been in contact with nitroglycerine".

In other words, the scientists had conspired to conceal evidence which cast serious doubt on the credibility of forensic tests carried out by Dr Frank Skuze during Ms Ward's period of detention by police.

Skuze's testing methods were totally discredited during the appeal hearing of the Birmingham Six which subsequently led to their release in March 1991 after 16 years wrongful imprisonment.

Speaking to reporters following the judgement, which she had waited on for 18 long years, Judith Ward said that "from day one" the police and prosecution knew that she was innocent. She added they had known that she had been in Oxford at the time of the M62 coach explosion in which nine British soldiers and three civilians were killed. She admitted that at the time, she had been mentally unstable and unable to "handle any pressure" when police questioned her about the bombing.

(It was revealed during the three-week appeal hearing that police had sent 225 of the 1,700 statements they acquired during their investigations to the Director of Public Prosecutions.)

Ward judgement could assist McNamee case

Solicitors acting on behalf of Irish miscarriage of justice victim Danny McNamee from South Armagh, are hopeful that conclusions reached by the judges in the Ward appeal hearing could provide the key to unlocking the secrets behind his unjust conviction on charges of conspiracy to cause explosions in Britain.

McNamee, (31), is currently being held in Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight where he is serving a 25-year sentence. He was convicted in October 1987 on a charge of "conspiring, within the UK and elsewhere, with three named others and persons unknown, to cause explosions in the UK between 1982 and 1984". McNamee has consistently denied any involvement and last year Lord Lane (judge in the Birmingham Six case and now retired) rejected his application for leave to appeal against the conviction.

However, McNamee's solicitors believe that just as in the Ward case, the non-disclosure of vital pieces of evidence which the Defence could have used to prove his innocence, may help to exert pressure on the British Home Office to refer the case to the Court of Appeal.

Forensic scientists and state prosecutors named in the Ward appeal as having withheld vital evidence from the Defence also played a vital role in securing McNamee's conviction and in preventing his solicitors from having access to material vital for his unsuccessful appeal application hearing.

Danny McNamee's solicitors are now optimistic that the case will be re-examined by the British Home Secretary.

Rise in RUC complaints forces cosmetic action

During a debate on the Emergency Provisions Act in the House of Commons on 10 June — which was passed for another year — British secretary of State for the Six Counties, Sir Patrick Mayhew, announced the appointment of two new 'commissioners' to deal with the rocketing number of complaints against the British army and RUC.

In 1991 complaints rose to more than 2,500 representing the second highest total in the past eleven years and the highest since 1986. It marks an increase of 25% on the 1990 total, according to the fourth annual report of the Independent Commission for Police Complaints (ICPC).

But most objective observers view the appointment of the commissioners as a totally inadequate measure which will do nothing to defuse public disquiet at the aggressive behaviour by the British forces on the streets and in the interrogation centres. The reality is that while more members of the public are registering complaints, the overwhelming majority of people with genuine grievances are reluctant to do so for fear of being targeted for further abuse such as arrest, beatings and threats by the British forces.

Additionally, a major deterrent to complaints being lodged and why individuals lack confidence in the impartiality of the justice system is the relatively low number of cases referred to court by the DPP and the even lower conviction rate. In 1991 2,530 complaints were lodged by the public. The Independent Commission for Police Complaints referred 1,468 of these to the DPP but only a mere nine criminal charges were brought.

Diplock court system 'unfair'

A report by the Haldane Society of Lawyers in Britain has sharply criticised the convictions of the Casement Accused and in particular the 25-year recommended sentences handed down to three West Belfast men in connection to the killing of two British army corporals in 1988 during the funeral of IRA Volunteer Caoimhín Mac Brádaigh in West Belfast.

The undercover soldiers had driven at speed into mourners attending Mac Brádaigh's funeral leading the crowd to believe that they were about to be attacked by Loyalists. Three days earlier, Loyalist paramilitary Michael Stone killed three people,

including Caoimhín Mac Brádaigh, during the funeral of the Gibraltar Three.*

When the soldiers produced a gun and fired several shots they were disarmed and beaten by a section of the crowd. Later, the soldiers were killed by the IRA. None of the 34 people who were subsequently arrested and charged in connection to the incident were actually involved in or charged with the killings.

The Haldane Society report carefully examines the circumstances in the days prior to Mac Brádaigh's funeral and concludes that Diplock court judges convicted people without taking all the extraneous factors into account. Most importantly it states that individuals were convicted when there was no evidence of murderous intent by what was, ultimately, a "confused crowd".

These findings concur with those of an earlier case study in May on the trials of the Casement Accused carried out by Columbia University law student Joe Morrissey on behalf of the Belfast-based civil liberties council, the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ).

The report examines the Casement trials with a view to assessing the overall fairness of the Diplock no-jury court system and concludes that several features of that system call into question whether international standards on fair trials are being met.

Among those features are the lengthy pre-trial detention periods, the restrictions on access to solicitors, the curbs on the right to silence, the use of anonymous and hidden witnesses, and the privileges given to the Crown regarding the examination and presentation of evidence, especially film evidence.

On all this the CAJ observes: "It should be obvious to even the most blinkered of observers that if such elements of unfairness are combined with a prosecutorial and judicial thirst for vengeance the risk of miscarriages of justice grows greater by the minute."

And on the issue of miscarriages of justice arising from the Casement trials, the *Irish News* pointed out:

"... is it safe to assume that all those who surrounded the car knew precisely what was going on and intended to take part in murder?"

"Would not a wiser view be that when some of the onlookers saw a man in civilian clothes pull a gun, they would have concluded that they were dealing with another Michael Stone?"

"Surely the overall atmosphere would have been one of confusion... These issues will all have to be most carefully scrutinised and vigorously debated before the matter can be laid to rest. And in the meantime it seems likely that there are people locked away in prison who simply should not be there."

* The Gibraltar Three, Máiréad Farrell, Dan McCann and Seán Savage were gunned down on a Gibraltar street, while unarmed, by the SAS on 6 March 1988.

Colville Report widely criticised

The Committee for the Administration of Justice (CAJ), Sinn Féin and the SDLP have dismissed as "outrageous", claims made by British peer, Lord Colville, that detainees are making false allegations of wrongful arrest and assault against the police and are subsequently paying part of their financial compensation to "paramilitary organisations".

Colville's 70-page report on the operation of the Emergency Provisions Act 1991 was also sharply criticised because it dismissed the findings of human rights groups Amnesty International and Helsinki Watch regarding police brutality against detainees during interrogation.

Colville called for the retention of emergency legislation saying that considering the allegiance of some of those who complained of brutality, it was "not fanciful to suppose that terrorist organisations take at least part of the damages awarded so that they are being financed directly at the taxpayers' expense."

The CAJ, Sinn Féin and SDLP challenged Colville to produce evidence of this and contrary to his claims, pointed to the hundreds of successful compensation claims processed by the courts resulting from police brutality.

The CAJ also stated that it no longer gave any credence to Lord Colville's report as the British government generally ignored any positive suggestions made by him and acted on the most negative.

Clearly, the overriding function of the Colville review of Emergency Legislation is to close down any legal loopholes exposed by human rights groups and to tighten up the repressive powers available to the state.

REPRESSION

Women take action against military forces

The intensification of sexual and physical harassment by the British military forces against nationalist women, both on the streets and in the interrogation centres, has prompted a major initiative by Belfast Sinn Féin Women's Department to leaflet every nationalist household in the city informing

women of their rights.

The move follows countless incidents not only in Belfast but throughout the Six Counties where women, more than ever before, are coming forward to publicise the abuse they have received from the British army and RUC. Two incidents between 15 and 20 June, reported in the *Irish News*, told of how two mothers, one from Belfast, the other from County Fermanagh were subjected to both threatening and physical abuse while stopped by soldiers under emergency legislation.

Lorraine Healey, a mother-of-two young children, accused British soldiers of pinning her hands against a fence and sexually assaulting her after they stopped her in the Andersonstown area of West Belfast. She has since been taunted about the incident by soldiers and the RUC and has been told that RUC security files containing her personal details are in the possession of loyalist death squads.

In the second incident on 20 June mother-of-four, Teresa McGovern from Kinawley was stopped at a British army vehicle checkpoint and detained for over two hours, resulting in her having to feed and change her young baby son at the roadside.

She described the soldiers attitude as "nasty" and said they pointed rifles at her in a threatening manner while asking questions about her husband.

Former 'torture' commands Paras

The British Minister of Defence's appointment of a new commanding officer of the Parachute Regiment in Tyrone who was once charged with torturing and assaulting a civilian in an interrogation centre has been interpreted as a deliberate move to offend and antagonise the entire Nationalist population.

Brigadier Douglas Erskine Crum appeared in court along with two other soldiers in 1974 accused of beating a former internee in Springfield Road Barracks Belfast. The 34-year-old internee said the then lieutenant was one of three soldiers who tortured him during interrogation at the barracks.

Crum was sent to the Six Counties to replace Brigadier Tom Longland who was removed following the Parachute Regiment's involvement in a number of clashes with the local civilian population which led to them opening fire with live rounds on a crowd in Coalisland, County Tyrone, injuring three people.

Coalisland Sinn Féin Councillor Francie Molloy described the appointment as an "insulting two finger gesture to the entire nationalist community".

Army brutality victim arrested in London

Police in London detained a County Tyrone man on his way home after a political meeting with Labour MPs. The meeting discussed the aggressive behaviour of the Parachute Regiment and the British forces in general toward the Nationalist people in Coalisland recently which led to three people being shot.

Feargal O'Donnell, whose brother Kevin was one of four IRA Volunteers killed in an SAS ambush earlier this year, missed his flight as a result of being arrested for questioning by police at Heathrow Airport. O'Donnell was returning to the North after a three-day visit in which he met the MPs to "give them the full facts of Coalisland".

O'Donnell who was in England to seek justice and as a result was subjected to the type of injustice he is campaigning against required eight stitches to a face wound after being struck on the head by a soldier during clashes in Coalisland.

Commissioner "totally inadequate"

The appointment of an 'independent commissioner' to monitor complaints by detainees in RUC interrogation centres in the Six Counties was described by Sinn Féin's Councillor Paddy McManus as "totally inadequate".

He said it would not stop the serious violations of human rights which have taken place in the RUC's interrogations centres for the last two decades.

The possibility of the appointment comes in the wake of the rejection by the RUC of the Police Authority's suggestion of an extension of the role of 'lay visitors' which would allow them access to prisoners being questioned under emergency legislation.

The Committee on the Administration of Justice, said it would prefer to "wait and see" just what powers any commissioner would have before welcoming the news. It said the commissioner would have to be able to "carry out spot checks" without prior notice at the three main interrogation centres, but that they would also rather see an extension of the lay visiting scheme.

Presently lay visitors have been monitoring 'holding' conditions for prisoners at five designated RUC stations, but they are not allowed to monitor conditions for prisoners being detained under emergency legislation. There was a unanimous call at a recent Lay Visitors Conference to include interrogation centres at Castlereagh,

Belfast; Strand Road, Derry; and Gough Barracks, Armagh in the monitoring scheme.

A United Nations Commission on Torture has welcomed the idea of an independent commissioner but has also called for solicitors to be present during interviews.

SHOOT-TO-KILL

RUC member charged with murder

On 17 June, a member of the RUC appeared in a Belfast court charged with the murder of a nationalist student in Cookstown, September 1991.

Kevin McGovern (19), an agricultural student, was walking with two friends to a disco when he was shot several times in the back by heavily-armed undercover RUC units. The RUC claimed later that the dead youth had appeared to have "thrown an object" at its members, that he had been challenged and then shot as he ran away. However as it became evident that Kevin McGovern was neither armed nor had been involved in an attack against the RUC, these allegations were subsequently retracted.

It further transpired that British military undercover units had been heavily deployed around the the Greenvale estate, where the fatal killing occurred, as a result of a 'tip-off' from a member of the public that an IRA active service unit was about to launch an attack.

The subsequent killing of Kevin McGovern in such highly controversial circumstances provided further evidence of the shoot-to-kill policy operated by the British forces.

Reacting to the charging of an RUC member with murder, Kevin McGovern's family stated that they are highly sceptical that justice will be done.

In the last 22 years, only 19 cases have been taken against members of the British military forces involved in the fatal killings of over 300 people. Only a handful of these have been found guilty of murder or manslaughter. The most notorious case involved the conviction, to life imprisonment, of British army private Ian Thain for the murder of West Belfast man Thomas 'Kiddo' Reilly. Thain served only two years and three months of his life sentence, which he served in Britain not the Six Counties, before being released and immediately reinstated in the British army. He was promoted to training officer.

INSENSITIVE DECISION ANGERS RELATIVES

Three British paratroopers charged with the killing of West Belfast teenagers Martin Peake (17) and Karen Reilly (18) in

September 1990 have been released from military custody by a judge so that they can "spend more time with their families". Karen Reilly's father Seán has demanded to know "what system of justice can allow soldiers charged with the murder of two children out of jail so they can enjoy the company of their families... What about the family life that we have lost, what about the family life that my daughter will never know?"

Inquest halted by legal challenge

The longest-running inquest in the legal history of the Six Counties has been halted once again due to a legal challenge regarding witnesses' statements by the widow of one of three IRA Volunteers gunned down in 1982.

The inquest into the shoot-to-kill operation which led to the deaths of unarmed Volunteers Gervaise McKerr, Sean Burns and Eugene Toman in Lurgan, County Armagh, by undercover RUC, was suspended while Mrs Eleanor McKerr's legal counsel processed an application for a judicial review in the High Court. They are challenging the coroner's decision not to allow Mrs McKerr's counsel to examine a document which an RUC witness had read at RUC headquarters to refresh his memory prior to giving evidence.

The RUC witness, under cross-examination, admitted that he had given one account of his role in the killings in a statement at a previous inquest and another version to detectives investigating the incident: "so as not to implicate the planned operation". He agreed with counsel that he had fired at the back seat passenger in the car intending to kill, not immobilise or capture him.

The result of the judicial review may be delayed until after the court's summer recess.

PRISONS

Long Kesh escapees arrested in US

Two Irishmen, who escaped during the mass breakout by republican prisoners from Long Kesh Prison in 1983, have been arrested in the United States. Kevin Barry Artt and James Joseph Smith were arrested separately in dawn raids in San Francisco and San Diego and charged with 'falsifying documents'.

At the time of their escape Artt from North Belfast had been serving a life sentence after it was alleged during the RUC supergrass Christopher Black mass show-trial that he was implicated in the killing of

Long Kesh Assistant Governor Albert Miles in 1978. Smith, also from North Belfast, was serving a 20-year sentence on a charge of attempting to kill a prison officer. They were among 38 political prisoners who escaped from Long Kesh in the biggest jail break in British penal history.

Since the FBI reportedly had both men's fingerprints on file for over five years while they lived openly in the US, and have only now decided to arrest them, the incident indicates increased pressure from Britain aimed at forcing official US collaboration in its war against Irish Republicans.

It is expected that the British will apply for their extradition.

Dublin government vindictiveness

The vindictive decision by the Dublin government to persist in detaining, in almost total isolation a woman Republican prisoner in Limerick Jail, has now resulted in another prisoner, suffering from the HIV virus, being exposed to additional health problems.

The family and friends of Republican prisoner Pamela Kane are calling for her to be transferred to Mountjoy Jail, Dublin, where she would have the companionship of other women prisoners and where she could avail of more family visits as they live in the city.

However, in a bid to justify keeping her in Limerick and to offset allegations that she is being held in isolation, the Dublin government has authorised the transfer of a woman prisoner suffering from the HIV virus to the jail, this was after Kane had been the only prisoner on the wing for a full week. Kane was not made aware that this prisoner has the virus. Limerick Jail is also not equipped to deal with any medical complications which may arise due to the prisoner's condition. Indeed, while one government minister has expressed concern about Pamela Kane's treatment and has referred the matter to Justice Minister Pádraig Flynn, the majority seem to ignore the fact that Limerick Jail was condemned as unfit for human habitation in 1948 and was closed in 1987 when it was found unfit for women prisoners.

The Friends of Pamela Kane support group request that letters of protest should be sent to the Justice Minister, Pádraig Flynn, Leinster House, Dublin 1 and further information can be obtained from the group at 20 Grange Park, Baldoyle, Dublin 13.

Hardship for prisoners mother

A Belfast mother may be forced to travel hundreds of extra miles to

visit her two sons in English jails because the authorities refuse to keep them together for a few more weeks.

According to prisoners' support group, the Committee for the Transfer of Irish Prisoners (CTIP), Mrs Cecelia McComb, mother of John and Damien, requested that her two sons be kept together until the end of July in order to facilitate her travelling to one prison. The Governor refused this simple request and as a consequence she could end up travelling to two separate prisons which are several hundred miles apart.

A CTIP spokesperson said "If the McComb brothers were transferred to a prison in Ireland, their mother and many other relatives of Irish prisoners in England would be spared the long and arduous journey to visit their loved ones."

For further information contact: CTIP, PO Box 303, Tomb Street, Belfast BT1 1AA, County Antrim, North of Ireland.

ECONOMIC

Irish economic unity proposed

An economic study, commissioned by the Dublin government, has recommended a radical shake-up of Ireland's 'one island, two economies system'.

The report, which was launched by Dublin Premier Albert Reynolds early in June, proposes the development of a single, strong Irish economy, north and south, which will be able to compete with the European economies in the EC's single market.

The study warned that if the island remained split it would have an 'inhibiting' effect on economic growth. It made a number of proposals, including a new all-Ireland venture capital fund to help support new businesses and a single economic system on the island with financial institutions fully integrated and joint marketing of Irish food products.

Recent comments by Dublin opposition politician John Bruton along similar lines to those proposed by this study and by leaders of business north and south, have lent weight to the argument contained in the government report.

Meanwhile, the dire state of the North's economy and of Britain's mismanagement, was spotlighted by an increase in the jobless total. At 103, 796, or 14.2% of the workforce, it is an increase of 5,845 on the same period last year.

At the same time the small business agency LEDU revealed that more jobs had been lost at client companies over the last

12 months than the agency was able to create. According to LEDU it claims to have helped create 1,800 jobs but this must be set against the 2,400 lost in LEDU-supported firms.

The LEDU revelations followed on from a report by the Industrial Development Board (IDB), which is also a government jobs creation agency. Last year the IDB created just 80 jobs.

DISCRIMINATION

University guilty of discrimination

Eight cases of religious discrimination by Queen's University of Belfast, the oldest academic institution in the Six Counties, are currently before the Fair Employment Tribunal (FET).

The revelations followed settlements in two other cases of discrimination where one Catholic was awarded £20,000 compensation and another was awarded £25,000. In the latter, the FET found that Mr James Copeland had been placed at a "significant disadvantage" by being given less opportunity to prepare for his interview than other candidates when he applied for promotion to a top management position within the university.

Seriously embarrassed by its long-standing record of discrimination, Queen's has earmarked £1/2 million from its 1992/93 budget to help pay legal costs likely to arise from the outstanding eight cases.

The controversy has led to the university holding an independent review while attempting simultaneously to limit damage to its credibility internationally by claiming that since 1987's criticisms by the Fair Employment Agency the number of Catholics in Queen's workforce had risen by almost seven per cent. However three years ago Queen's was the subject of a highly critical Fair Employment Commission report and has since been lambasted on an annual basis.

Unionists label FEC 'biased'

During a heated monthly meeting of Belfast City Council, Unionist councillors demanded that the Fair Employment Commission (FEC) supply the council with information on the employment practices of large companies. This followed last month's revelations contained in an FEC report which showed that 68.2% of the council's permanent staff were Protestant and only 28.4% Catholic.

Unionist councillor Fred Cobain said he wanted information on other organisations to help the council when considering fair employment matters and he accused both the *Irish News* and the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools of discriminating against Protestants. And despite all the evidence of a serious imbalance in the council's workforce, he claimed the FEC was, "making exceptions to the rule".

The FEC responded by dismissing Unionist claims that there was over representation of Catholics on its board or that it was, as Cobain claimed "favouring cases taken by Catholics".

During the council meeting Sinn Féin called for the Finance Committee to report next month on what action would be taken in the wake of the damning FEC findings.

Prison service reflects employment imbalance

International human rights group Helsinki Watch has hit out at conditions in Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast and stated that more Catholic prison officers must be recruited to avoid a situation where religious bias is a strong factor in the mistreatment of prisoners.

The US-based organisation demanded an end to harassment of Catholic prisoners by the prison's staff, 93 % of which are Protestant.

Ford Motors — new controversy

Ford Motors, West Belfast's largest manufacturing employer, continues to implement a policy of blatant discrimination by continuing to allocate jobs to Protestants instead of trying to redress the disgraceful imbalance in its workforce.

The latest row to seriously embarrass Ford occurred in June when three vacancies within the already heavily Protestant engineering section were all filled by Protestants. It is further claimed by Catholic workers at the plant that out of the last ten appointments and promotions made in the same section over recent months, only two have been Catholics.

Catholic workers have complained that in spite of management promises to New York Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman last year that the Ford Fair Employment Principles would redress discrimination, the reality is: "that the whole thing is nothing more than a huge, meaningless publicity stunt. These posts were the perfect opportunity for plant management to pass the message that things were about to change. Instead,

they have decided to thumb their noses at the Catholic people of West Belfast."

IRA military operations

Britain's military chiefs have been forced by sustained IRA offensives to reassess the usefulness of continuing to maintain permanent vehicle checkpoints along the North/South Irish border.

At the beginning of June, following yet another bomb attack on 1 May, British engineers began dismantling one of the biggest checkpoints at Killeen on the main Dublin to Belfast road. This base has been attacked on several occasions, resulting in the deaths of British military personnel.

Attacks in Britain and in the occupied Six Counties have cost the British exchequer millions and caused the government serious embarrassment. On 10 June a bomb rocked Victoria Street, Westminster, the heart of the British government, just 20 minutes after a handful of MPs in the House of Commons voted in favour of renewing the Emergency Provisions Act, aimed at crushing Irish nationalist resistance! The bomb was one of three placed in the centre of London in June. There were no civilian injuries.

And in the Six Counties several towns and cities, as well as the main Belfast to Dublin rail line, were brought to a standstill by hoax bombs, stretching the British forces to their limit.

The IRA also successfully penetrated districts where the British forces usually feel 'safe', by targeting premises frequented by them for social purposes. Strategically placed bombs placed in Belfast's city centre on 16 and 23 June resulted in up to 15 members of the RUC and British army being injured, several seriously.

Throughout the month countless sniper and bomb attacks were carried out by IRA Volunteers throughout the Six Counties. In just some examples, military bases and mobile patrols were frequently attacked in several parts of Belfast while in Lackey South Fermanagh over 100 shots were fired at a foot patrol on 18 June. In Cookstown premises used by the British forces were targeted after the owners failed to adhere to an IRA warning to desist while in Pomeroy, County Tyrone, several shots were fired at the home of a British army captain. Many other attacks were either aborted due to the proximity of civilians or unsuccessful because devices failed to detonate or were defused by British bomb disposal teams.

Sinn Féin's demands

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

- The ending of partition arising from British rule in six of Ireland's 32 counties;
- British disengagement from Ireland and the restoration to the Irish people of the right to exercise self-sovereignty, independence and national self-determination;
- The setting of a definite date within the lifetime of a British government for the completion of this withdrawal;
- The disarming and disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment as part of the military withdrawal;
- The calling of a Constitutional Conference to which all political parties would be invited. This conference to be responsible for determining the nature and composition of an emergent national police service and the judiciary. If Britain was sincere about disengaging and was committed to an orderly transference of power, this could be achieved with a minimum of disorder; and
- The unconditional release of all political prisoners.

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