

An Phoblacht

Iml. 8. Uimhir 9. 10p. Marta 8, 1977.

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical and mental well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland.

(1st Dail Eireann)

Hunger Strike at Port Laoise

AS WE go to press it is understood that many of the political prisoners in Port Laoise Jail have resorted to a hunger strike in an attempt to regain their rights. A few weeks ago a token hunger strike took place to publicise their demands.

This peaceful protest was opposed by the Dublin authorities with solitary confinement punishment for all those who had taken part and the ending of all the few remaining facilities, including letters, newspapers and visits.

There was nothing else left for the prisoners but to go on voluntary hunger strike. The decision to strike was left to the individual prisoner, to be taken in view of his health and other considerations.

It is understood that the prisoners' demands include: Free association; ending of strip-searching; educational and craft facilities; improved, civilised visiting conditions; an end to barbaric summary trials, solitary confinement and other such punishments; an end to the crude and senseless censorship of mail; free access to newspapers, magazines and books.

The leadership of the Republican Movement stresses that any deaths resulting from this protest, or injury to health, will be the responsibility of the Dublin authorities who, in their administration of Port Laoise Jail, are in direct conflict with the prison code laid down by the United Nations Organisation and which they have accepted formally.

BRUTALITY TO PRISONERS

GARDA BRUTALITY to detained suspects was not the work of the odd "bad Garda" but a systemised, organised method of coercion, the solicitor, Myles Shevlin, told a Dublin Mansion House meeting on March 4, organised by the Prisoners' Committee on the theme of "Brutality to Prisoners and Detainees."

Names recurred in files of evidence of court cases to suggest the existence of a Garda "heavy" squad, as alleged in newspaper accounts and individual allegations, he stated.

The meeting passed a resolution of "citizens concerned with the rights of prisoners in both Irish and English prisons" which condemned:

The failure of the courts properly to supervise and protect the rights of prisoners from effective denial of their legal and civil rights by Gardai and prison staffs, both before trial, during trial and in the carrying out of prison sentences;

The refusal of the government to set up an independent tribunal of inquiry to investigate the large number of well documented instances of Garda brutality;

The British government's condoning of the inhuman ill-treatment of Irish political prisoners in British jails.

The meeting called for:

An amnesty for all political prisoners; The abolition of the existing prison acts and rules and their replacement by a humane prison code based on the rejection of the concept of punitive justice and its replacement by rehabilitative justice; and

The appointment of a permanent independent tribunal to supervise the rights of prisoners, to which all prisoners would have a right of direct communication.

The chairman of the meeting was Tomas Mac Anna, artistic director, the Abbey Theatre. The other lawyers who spoke were, Seamus Sorahan, Ciaran Mac an Aili and Michael Connelley.

Seamus Sorahan pointed out that torture of political prisoners was world-wide. Squares of Brazilian and Argentinian torturers had taught the techniques to the Chileans, he stated. Torture also existed in Russia, as well as in Iran, Indochina and elsewhere.

But Western observers had no reason to be sanctimonious about these obscenities abroad because, in the west, men and women were starting their 12th year without trial at the moment.

In Ireland and Britain, prisoners were being

punished far and above the sentences meted out. Housebreakers, rapists and other criminals were allowed to beat up the Irish political prisoners in English prisons.

He described the brutalities and tortures inflicted on the Irish prisoners of war in Britain and read out their names so that their sacrifices might be remembered. He pointed also to the long periods in solitary confinement to which the POWs are subjected, as punishment or "for their own protection" and told how 100 warders and police in riot gear had broken past the weak, token barricades of Father Fell, Con McFadden, Sean Campbell and others.

JUDGES' AND BISHOPS' RIGHTS

Mr. Sorahan pointed out that judges of the High Court and the bishops of the Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church have the right to visit Irish prisons. Few judges or bishops had availed themselves of that right.

"If judges were to exercise their rights to visit such prisons, perhaps some of the excesses of prison warders and the Gardai could be curbed," he urged.

He commented on the "able but reprehensible" performance of Patrick Conney in answering the allegations of police torture. It was clear that he was hoping that within a few weeks the issue would peter out. But would it?

The accusations appeared to have embarrassed the Minister but not the Garda superintendents and he challenged Conney's suggestion that the courts were the proper forum to deal with the charges. If there was nothing to hide why not set up an inquiry?

But it must have been known to Conney that excesses had taken place over the past few years and that people had been tortured.

On June 29, Judge Pringle in the Special Criminal Court had asked for the D.P.P. to have an investigation made into a case of alleged torture. It had taken eight months to have the result of the investigation placed before the court. Obviously, there was no respect for the court by those involved in making the investigation. He mentioned, also,



The platform party at the Mansion House meeting.

the appalling details of the tortures of Patrick Rehill, the man involved in the call for an inquiry.

CONTEMPT OF COURT

Ciaran Mac an Aili stated that courts and judges all had failed to protect prisoners charged before the courts while on remand and during sentences. The judiciary in this matter was not concerned with what was going on in prisons and this was blatantly untenable as an order of court, involving imprisonment, had to be carried out meticulously within the law as in the case of any other court order.

The courts, he pointed out, were empowered to penalise those who disregarded court orders by committing them for contempt. Why should prison administrators be exempt from these principles?

THE HEAVY GANG

Myles Shevlin said: "When I first read the reports of Garda torture in 'The Irish Times' I thought: 'What's all the fuss about? Sure, I have known this for years.'"

"I know men are being brutalised, not by a lone Garda but by the same men in nearly every case, all associated with one group, known as the 'heavy gang.'"

"Only once before did I hear that expression used. It was not from 'The Irish Times' but from members of the Garda Síochána."

Mr. Conney had said that the proper course



Mr. Seamus Sorahan

to deal with such accusations is use of the courts of the land: "He is a liar. Every lawyer practising in Ireland knows that the courts are not the appropriate areas."

He added that Section Two was being used as a punitive measure by the Gardai to inflict horrific brutalities on prisoners.

Brendan Magill said that what was happening in Port Laoise was happening also in Paddington Green, Albany and other English jails. He believed that the British intended quitting Ireland and that the brutalities being inflicted were a deliberate attempt to see that the country was left in the hands of the hirelings of torture.

The men in Port Laoise, he asserted, had great spirit and would withstand forever the torture being inflicted on them. They comprised one unit where loyalty was completely to the Republican Movement.

NOT ACCEPT

Rev. Piaras O Duill, who opened the meeting said:

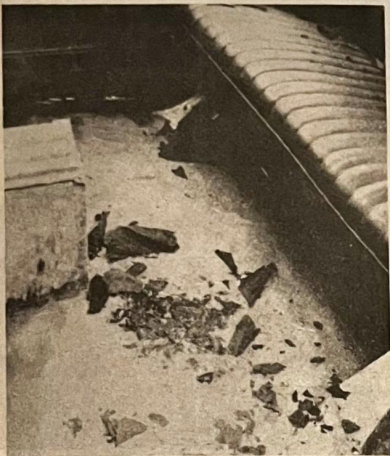
As long ago as April 12th, 1976, I drew attention in the media to allegations of brutality in Garda barracks. Further evidence was revealed by me of such brutality on October 25th last. On November 2nd an emergency phone number was made available to advise relatives and friends of persons detailed regarding their rights in the matter and in seeing that the prisoner was being treated in a right and just manner. With all, it took the recent dramatic attempt at suicide by a young Tipperary man to highlight a very serious situation. I ask now, what must it take to highlight the brutality that is evident to us in Port Laoise prison? — to us who have examined it to the best of our ability.

Sad when prisoners were made to suffer over and above the penalty imposed on them by the court. Contemptable... treated inhumanly... worse — by authority. For political considerations and expediency.

It is incumbent on the people of the south to steer clear of the mistakes of the north — we MUST NOT accept that the "law and order" situation is the kernel of our problems. We must show this government and its ministers that they are not succeeding in their attempts to prepare the minds of the people

(Ar leannint ar chul)

ATTACK ON PEOPLE'S TAXIS



Members of the Welsh Fusiliers and the Paras have recently carried out systematic attacks on individual members of the Falls Taxi Association. Over the past few weeks 5 taxis were burned, 3 being completely destroyed, 2 were badly damaged. On another night 2 taxis were burned in the Riverdale area of Andersonstown, the following night 2 were badly damaged by fire in Bingham Drive and on the Sunday night another taxi was destroyed in the Riverdale area. In the Ballymurphy and Turf Lodge areas over 30 taxis have had their tyres slashed. Only 2 weeks ago 12 taxis were attacked in one night in the Ballymurphy area. Complaints to the R.U.C. have been dealt with in an off-hand manner. One R.U.C. spokesman claimed it was "the lads going away present". Both regiments are due to leave soon.

POBLACHTOIR, Gael, Eireannach den scoth a bhí i Sean Ó Riordáin, an file cumasach a fuair bás i gCorcaigh an teachtáin seo caite. Fear ab ea e a sheas le Míseach on la a bunaíodh an t-eagrais, in eindi le beirt scríbhneoirí eile den scoth a mhaighis litríocht na Gaeilge lenar linn agus a glac pairt mhór gníomhach so pholaitíocht, mar ata Máirtín Ó Cadhain agus Diarmaid Ó Súilleabháin. Níl fagtha den trionóid fhearuil leannta seo anois ach an Súilleabhánach, bail ó Dhiar air. Is mor ar mbris.

Ta conscríbhneoir eile beo go foill a sheas le Míseach, nuair a

Sean Ó Riordáin, R.I.P.

bhí cosulacht ar an sceal go raibh Gluaiseacht na Gaeilge Ceannsuíthe agus ceannuithé, agus a labhair amach ar son cearta an náisiúin.

Ni dheanamuid na hainmnéacha sin a lua anois ar eagla na gearleannuna agus an díoltais; ach amach anseo, nuair a bheas an tsíochain sainbhunaithe agus cead againn feartlaí Emmet a scríobh, beidh na daoine sin chun tosáigh ar scrolla na glóire.

Deanamuid muid comhbhrón ó chroí le muintir Uí Riordáin. Ar dheis De ata a anam dhílis.

- D.B.

POLITICAL NOTES

And so another E.E.C. Referendum campaign promise by the major political parties tumbles. Ireland's neutrality will soon be a thing of the past.

It has been left to Fianna Fail to fly the kite and right royally they are doing it. Both a front bench shadow Minister and a backroom boy have stated publicly there must be a European military alliance which would include Ireland.

So Irish soldiers will soon be standing guard on the East-West war line ready to be cannon fodder for the Brits and their European allies - as it was ever thus.

In return, no doubt, NATO help will be available to keep the status quo here. British soldiers, trained in the Six-Counties, will stamp the 26-Counties putting down anyone who threatens, albeit politically, the Fianna Fail-Fine Gael rule.

A sprinkling of French, German and Italians, carefully hand-picked, will join them but NATO military bosses will be adamant that the Brits have more experience in Paddy-bashing and the job should be left to them.

Already Irish troops are serving alongside their British counterparts in English training camps and further afield. They are learning the lessons the Brits have learned in the Six-Counties.

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael party chiefs are determined the Irish people will have no opportunity to dislodge them. In matters little to them which group has the voting edge in Leinster House, the policies are the same anyway.

If harassment of the ordinary people is necessary to maintain their grip on the loot, it will come. And it is immaterial, in the opinion of these men, what colour uniform is worn by their agents.

They would sell their souls, and practically have done, to keep power. You have been warned!

...

Any pretence that the Garda Síochána is not a politically motivated force has now disappeared. Their actions, on behalf of their political boss, in the "Brits Out-Peace In"

COME FLY WITH ME

by MAREN

campaign proves the point.

All around the countryside uniformed gardai were out tearing down posters and wiping out slogans painted on the roads. Men were arrested and held, despite the fact that their "crime" has been, and will be again, committed by representatives of all other political parties.

The orders for this came from the Government, red-faced with embarrassment at the support for the demand from the general public. The gardai carried them out without protest and so gave up their political neutrality.

There is unrest, we are told, in the ranks of the gardai. There should be. They should tell their superiors that they joined the force to safeguard the public, their homes and property - not to be political lackeys removing posters and painted slogans.

That is a menial task done by those unfortunate enough to have insufficient intelligence to do anything else. Is that how their political bosses rate them?

...

A news item in the Irish Times tells us that an Irish tennis team taking part in a tournament in England did not know the name or the words of the National Anthem.

Two of them hummed the tune but were not sure if it was correct. What harm, they said, if it is not the right tune nobody will know anyway.

Bad enough - but there was worse to come.

The Irish Embassy in London was contacted and it took three attempts before someone came up with the thought that the name might be "The Soldier's Song". Not too certain but fairly sure.

It was disclosed that the members of the tennis team came from Dublin but it was not said who works for us in the London Embassy. Maybe it is time we checked if there are any Irish-among them?

God help us - isn't Ireland rearing them yet!

Déile

BEART AN-MHAITHA a bhí i mbunú Rúnóg na gCeart de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge mar thug an bunú seo deis do Ghaeilgeoir ar bith aon ghearrán dá raibh aige maidir le húisid na teanga le stát nó leis na comhlachtaí móra a phróiseáil ar an mbealach is éifeachtaí.

Tá sé thart faoi cheithre mhí ó fógraíodh bunú na Rannóige agus an teachtáin seo caite ghairm an Conradh preasagallamh chun na torthaí a phlé.

Mheabhruigh an rúnai, Seán Mac Mathúna, gurbh í cuspóir na Rannóige déileáil le "gearán daoine a maslaíodh nó gur cuireadh móil orthu nó deacrachtaí ina dtreo toisc go raibh siad ag baint úsáid as Gaeilge agus tad ag déanamh gnó le ranna nó le hoifigí stáit".

Ba i bunchuspóir an fheachtas a chinntiú go mbeadh sé chomh héasca céanna ag duine ar rogha leis an teanga náisiúnta a úsáid, a ghnó a dhéanamh trín mheán sin agus a bheadh sé dó é dhéanamh trí Bhearla.

Lasmuigh de phreas na Gaeilge agus cumarsáid an Chonathas is beag pobliocht a fuair an feachtas. Mar sin féin, deir an Conradh gur cuireadh 44 gearrán faoi bhrídh na Rannóige; gur "cáin éide 21 díobh go dtí seo" agus go bhfuil na "sáin eile" ina gcamánaigh go fóill.

Gabhadh leithscéal

SEO A leanas, dar le preasáireas an Chonathas, na húdaráis a thug sámsadh don Chonradh faoi na gearrán a rinneadh: Roinn na Sláinte, Comhairle Cho-riordáin, Roinn Eas-Choilálaigh, Córas Iompair Airgeadais, Roinn Eas-Choilálaigh, Córas Iompair Eireann, Bord Soláthar an Leictreachais, Oifig na gComisúiní Ioncaim, Fórsa na Corónach, Bordas Chóirigh, Comhairle Dlíodóirí, Banc Antas Eireann, Bardas Bhaile Atha Cliath, Institiúid Náisiúnta na Scannán agus Banc Taisce Chóirigh.

"I bhformhór na gceistí sin bhain an gearrán le deacrach a bhí ag duine gnó a dhéanamh trí Bhearla, dar leis an ráiteas, 'nó foirm as Gaeilge a tháid. De thoradh áitinn na Rannóige, solatroidh an leagan Gaeilge den ghóim a gcoinaí agus gabhadh leithscéal leis an ngearáinai toisc gur cuireadh móil air.

"Is mór leis an Rannóg Cearta an dóigh cuitheacht agus clúirfeacht inar dhéileáil na dreamanna thuasluaite linn. Is ábhar spreagadh dúinn é an comhoibriú seo a fuair amár é institiúid agus gnóluachtaí príobháideacha, ach ag háidirthe".

Seo a leanas údaráis a bhfuil an Conradh ag plé leo i gcoinaí maidir le gearrán a rinneadh leis an Rannóg: Cliairthas na hEaglaise Caitlicí, Coimisiún

na Stáitseirbhíse, Roinn na Seirbhíse Poiblí, Comhluich Sídiere Eireann Tia, Roinn an Díl agus an Chirt, Health Education Bureau, Oifig na gComisúiní Ioncaim, Roinn an Phoist agus na Teilgráfanna, Bord Sláinte an Oirthear, Bord Soláthar an Leictreachais, Na Bainc Taisce agus Coláiste na hOllscoile i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Gailge faoi ghlas

MAIDIR LE Roinn Díl agus Cirt, Baile Átha Cliath, deir an Conradh gur coir áiseanna a chur ar fáil "trínar féidir le príosúnáigh ar mian leo an Gheille a fhoghlaim agus a chleachtadh", cuspóir math, dá bhféadfaí é bhaint amach.

Is cuimhneach liom, uair amháin, i gcomhlúadar a raibh Máirtín Ó Cadhain i láthair anois, go ndúirt sé nach raibh sé ar chumas éinne "an Gheille a fhoghlaim agus a labhairt, ós rud é gur fáin teanga ó thúis ama go dtí inniu tá i gceist" i "an Geille".

Ach má bhíonn an Conradh sásta an t-eileamh a mhaoladh beagán, agus "Gaeilge" a chur in áit "an Geille", ba dheacraí don deamhneán dhílitú dó. Ní hionann sin is a rá go bhfuil an deamhneán sin ag O Cuana; agus tá fhios ag an saol gur phobliúgh muid anseo a dhóiteadh chun a churú nach bhfuil an Roinn sláta leabhuir Gaeilge tá a dhíth ar ranganna, téipeanna, ceiríní ná gléas taifeadtha, a cheadú iteach sa phríosún ná cead thabhairt do chime a bhfuil Gaeilge mhaith aige an teanga a theagad do dhúine nó do dhaoine eile.

Tá gearrán déanta faoi sin leis na Náisiúin Aontuithé agus eile agus, dá bhrí sin, b'fhéil go mbeadh fíorasam i ndán do na cinn i bPortlaoise, maidir le foghlaim na Gaeilge, ar aon chuma, amach anseo, le cónamh Dá.

Gaeilge phoiblí

TA A lán lán Gaeilgeoirí anois, agus Poblachtóirí ina measc, nach mbeainnean feidhm as a bhfuil de Ghaeilge acu chun "tríoblóid" a sheachaint. Is éascaí Béalraí úsáid. Ach dá mbeidís sásta an tríoblóid bheag sin a chur orthu féin bheidís ag cinntiú go mbeadh éileamh ar eolas ar an teanga ag na fostóirí.

Chuidíodh sin le jobannai chur ar fáil do mhuintir na Gaeltachta, mar shampla, agus do Ghaeilgeoirí na Gailltachta, agus thabharfaidís sin uilig deis dínniú dána na teanga a leanú amach, i úsáid sin uilig, sa mhonaracha, tigh an óil, ag an gerrunniú poiblí, ag an agóid ar na sráideanna, ag cruinneith polaitiúla agus eile.

Anois, ó tá an Rannóg ag obair agus í in ann a

churú go bhfuil toradh ar an obair, b'fhéidir, le Dia, go spreagfaidh sin go leor dinn ar gcearta teanga a bhaint amach. Ní inár n-aonar a bheas muid feasta, san agóid tábhachtach seo agus ardóidh sin ar míseach, neartóidh sin ar fáil.

Tá gar amháin uaim, maidir le cearta teanga a éilimh, tá bí gaeilgeoirí, foghlamach agus tuiscanach. Ní b'fhéil goir ort. Ní bí votach leis an duine bocht nach bhfuil teanga traidisiúnta na hEireann ar a thoil agus. Ach ná géill sí. Seas an fód.

Obair Uf Chadhain

COLMAN Ó Raghallaigh, Coláiste Phádraig, Baile Átha Cliath, a chuir chugam cóip de "Scathán", iris bhreá an chloistáir a luagh mé anseo san eagrán deiridh, b'fhéidir gur b' an aiste le Colmán faoi "Máirtín Ó Cadhain, scríbhneoir agus foghlamach Poblachtánach" an ceann is mó a chuirfeas léitheoirí an chloistáir seo spéis inu, go mór mór na seanlaocha a raibh aithne acu air.

"Tá fhios againn", a deir Colmán, "gur sear phost a gCar Mhór é, mar gheall ar a dheacrach polaitiúil. Bhí sé anois ag feidhmiú mar Oifigeach Earcaíochta don I.R.A. a bhí ag ullmhú géir feachtas baumála i Sasana... Toghadh mar ionadaf ó chúige Connacht ar choiste gó Chonradh na Gaeilge i 1935 é. Bhí sé ar Chomhairle an Air i 1939".

Tá eolas ansin nach bhfuil ag a lán. Ach ní son chaint ag Colmán faoin Republican Congress agus an scollt a tháinig san Air faoi. Leis an eite thraidisiúnta ba ea a chloigh Máirtín ainm agus arís, nuair a tháinig an scollt eile, seacht mbliana ó shin, rud a chuir sé in iúl domas, go pearsanta.

Ní son chaint ag Colmán, ach oiread, faoin bpáirt a bhí ag gCadhain i mbunú Míseach agus an t-ionchar bhí ag an eagrais sin ar athmhúil agus athdhúiseacht na Gluaiseachta. Ach is maitn agus eolaisch í, mar aiste. Mar thúis.

Earráid faoin gceol?

IN AISTE spéisúil eile, faoi cheol, deir Larry Fullam rud amháin nach bhfuil fóir, creidim, féach: "Tá fóiríocht na traidisiúnta na tíre cirta sa mhodh a úsáideann scáilí scatha" (sin, scáil na geig nó, creidim" - go háirithe i geas ceol cirta don chur".

Go bhfios dom, tá fóiríocht cheol na hEireann, mar atá fóiríocht cheol Sasana, sna gnáthmhodhanna. Níor chuala mé go raibh aon analís ar an gceol



Colm 39.

déanta go fóill chun go mbeadh ar gcumas a raic éad é go bailleach tá cumtha don chruit.

Aiste chosnóidheach ar fiú machnamh a dhéanamh uirthi óir tá ceisteanna bunúsacha eile é gcur ag Larry, go háirithe an ceann ag an deiridh: "An é seo ré na hAithbeochana nó ré díolacháin é gceoil?"

Tá go leor leor eile ar díol spéise é san iris seo agus b'fhéidir gur "Crosantacht na hEochrach" le Breandán Ó Conaire a bheireann an chraobh leis. Abhar scríbhneora den chéad scoth atá sa bhfeas go agus bhainfidh sé an-chlu go deo amach nó tá mise meallta.

Chun an tsóisialachais

THRACHT mé faoi "Ros", eagrán Fheabhra, an tseachtain seo caite, ach is dócha gur "Socialism and the National Question", agus go mór mór a raibh le rá ag Mícheál Mac Aonghusa, Coiste Gón an Chonathas, an rud is tábhachtaí tá i gcló anois.

An t-aon locht tá agam ar a scríbhneir nár thug se sainmhíniú dúinn faoin gceinéal sóisialachais a ba chuir dúinn a bhund in Erin, dar leis, b'fhéidir go ndéanfadh sé sin amach anseo.

Ag deir sé an méid seo: "The 26 County State in Ireland... has political autonomy but no control over its own economy. The predominant cultural influence is Anglo-American... Indeed, in Ireland, we have one of the great laboratories of neo-colonialism. The Irish people have no real voice in the shaping of their future. The vital decisions affecting Ireland are made in London, Brussels and New York".

Agus seo: "The adaptation of the programme of James Connolly to the conditions of today shows the way forward not only for Ireland but also for Wales".

BRITS OUT CAMPAIGN

PUBLIC meetings supporting the "Brits Out" campaign are continuing in all four provinces. Ruairi O Bradaigh spoke at a very successful meeting in Waterford and at an indoor meeting in Wexford. Sean Keenan spoke in Dungiven, Co. Derry and in Enniskillen the speakers were Niall Fagan, Tom Flatley and Joe Stagg. In Sligo, one of the biggest meetings in the town for years heard Bernadette Mc Alliskey and P.J. Kearney speak. The big crowds that assembled in the once Blueshirt strongholds of Sligo and Waterford ponders the question — is the big break through on the horizon?

A very successful public meeting was held in Sligo Town on Saturday, 12th February despite the attempt by the Sligo Champion and the Special Branch to ban an advertisement from appearing in the Champion. When approached about publishing the advertisement, one of the directors of the Champion, a Mr Niall Townsend, stated that they had been contacted by Dect. Sergeant, Jim Smith of the Special Branch who told them not to print anything of a Republican nature. When the Special Branch were got in touch with, they denied having any contact with the Champion about the advertisement. This message was relayed back to Mr Townsend who still refused to print it saying written permission would have to be obtained from a Garda Sergeant or someone of higher authority.

The Special Branch then stated that they had no power to ban the advertisement and they would get in touch with the Champion about the matter. However, the advertisement appeared in the Champion minus the slogan "Brits Out-Peace In". In our estimation this was an attempt to try and demoralise the movement by the very anti-republican Champion and the Special Branch.

The guest speaker at the meeting was Mrs. Bernadette Mc Alliskey. P.J. Kearney also spoke and Jack Mc Elduff acted as chairman. Traffic through the centre of the town had to be diverted due to the large numbers of people who had congregated in O'Connell Street to hear the speakers. In the course of her address, Mrs. McAlliskey said the problems in the six counties could be solved quite simply by a British Withdrawal. She also remarked at the similarity between this country and Vietnam. When the Americans withdrew the people of all political shades got together to

establish a just society which has lived in harmony since without any outside interference. This she said will happen when the British withdraw from Ireland.

Despite the huge success of the meeting and the interest created by it, the Sligo Champion completely ignored it and gave no news coverage.

After Mass meetings were also held at the following churches throughout the county, a total of thirty altogether: Grange, Clifoney, Ratchcoormac, Curry, Ballisodare, Collooney, Ballymore, Tubbercurry, Lavagh, Gurteen Sooley, Highwood, Ballyruch, Riverstown, Geveagh, Gleann, Dromore-West, Templeboy, Enniskrone, Easkey, Corballa, Rathchille, Ballintogher, Ballintralic, Skreen, Calry, Coolanney, Maugerow and Bunamadden.

P.J. Kearney, John S. Kilgallon, Aiden Tindley, Jack Mc Duff, Anthony Coleman, Brian Mc Hugh and Timothy Curran were the speakers. All these meetings were a great success and the republican message was got across to people for the first time in some areas. Leaflets were distributed at all the meetings.

Slogan Painting.

Every road throughout the county, both major and minor, were covered with the slogan "Brits Out-Peace In". Much to the annoyance of some Pro-British Councillors who called for the removal of the many (in their opinion) offensive slogans which had appeared all over the county.

Postering.

Posters bearing the message "Brits Out-Peace In" were put up in the major centres of population, i.e. Tubbercurry, Ballymore, Sligo and Gurteen.



This clear message, as seen by travellers on the road between Sutton cross and Howth head summit should leave Conor Cruise O'Brien in no doubt as to the wishes of the Irish people.

As the Cruiser passes this way at least twice a day when he "is in this country," he will have ample time to study this message, and to wonder how a truth of this sort with each letter over six feet high could be written on one of his now obsolete telephone structures right under his very nose.

He has three choices open to him: he can leave it alone and tolerate it, he can look for some steeple jacks amongst his special branch and have it painted over, or the last and most likely solution is his dilemma tear down the structure altogether and so avoid similar embarrassment in future. The structure is forty foot high and stands on top of Howth Hill.

Kildare and Meath campaign

FURTHER TO the very successful completion of slogan writing, posters and leaflets section of the campaign, during which every area of the country was covered (despite intimidation from the Special Branch, which culminated in the arrest of two Sinn Fein members, one being held for 36 hours and released without charge) the "public meetings" section is now well under way.

Sinn Fein members have held many and varied types of protests and meetings to get the British Out — Peace In message across.

Car Cavalcade

One major event was a car cavalcade. The cavalcade started from Abbridge at 2.30 p.m. and the long line of gaily decorated cars wound their way through Straffan, Clane, Salins, Naas, Newbridge and finally Kildare town.

In each town the cavalcade stopped and speakers addressed shoppers. In each town we were warmly received. At Naas, in particular, a fine speech by Mr. P. O'Neill got a very enthusiastic reception.

The Republican movement in Co. Kildare would like to

thank the people of this area for the wonderful reception given to us. Perhaps it is a measure of how fed up the local population are with the snooping of the Special Branch that, among the most vociferous, of the cheering crowd, were observed, many known members of the Labour and other parties.

Full support

Mr. G. Stagg, in the course of his address said that the people of Straffan had much in common with the beleaguered people of Derry and Belfast. "The people of Straffan know what it is like to have "armed mercenaries" snooping and sneaking around their back gardens at night," he said.

He continued: "In the new Ireland, no special place will be preserved for traitors, torturers or body-snatchers."

"The Straffan area was historically strongly republican and had not changed. I am confident therefore that the people of this area will give the 'Brits Out — Peace In' their full support," he concluded.

The very successful event in Straffan finished with the playing of "Come out ye Black and Tans."

— Report — Kildare Comhairleachtair.

OLDCASTLE WONDERFUL RECEPTION

Following the wonderful reception received recently in Oldcastle during our car cavalcade, it was decided to return to the town for a public meeting on Sunday, 27th February.

Once again the response from the local people was terrific. At 11.30 am on a bitterly cold morning a very large crowd assembled in the Square, in Oldcastle.

The meeting was organised by local Sinn Fein members and George Stagg of the Ard Chomhairle was the main speaker.

During his address, Mr. Stagg thanked the people of Oldcastle for their past and present support of the Republican Movement. He also praised the wonderful response of the local Sinn Fein members to the "Brits Out — Peace In" campaign.

Car cavalcade

Referring to the recent reports of Garda brutality he claimed that Mr. Cooney and others were playing politics with torture.

He said, "It does not

'Brits Out' call at Louth Council meeting

AT THE monthly meeting of Louth County Council the following notice of motion was passed. "That this Council calls for the withdrawal of the British armed forces and administration from this country."

The matter was raised by Colr. F. Browne (Sinn Fein) and seconded by Colr. Nicky McCabe (Fianna Fail). Colr. Browne proposed the motion saying that the six-north eastern counties had had enough and that it was time now to call for an end to British rule in Ireland. He stated that a true and enduring peace must be based on justice. That to establish a lasting peace in Ireland the national rights of the Irish people must be respected and the basic cause of violence must be removed.

The chairman, Mr. Peter Moore (Coalition) said he agreed with the sentiments expressed by Colr. Browne.

Colr. Browne concluded by saying that the Provisionals were just to call a withdrawal as far back as 1972.

Maintain Political Status

matter a damn if there is a heavy gang or not, what is important is whether or not there is torture."

Playing politics

He continued— "Mr. Cooney is about to drop the Special Branch like a pig would drop a hot potato. Cooney does not deny the torture, only the existence of a 'heavy gang'. But this leaves the Garda in a much worse position. Because if the torture is not carried out by a heavy gang then every member of the force stands accused."

Mr. Stagg concluded: "Senator Mary Robinson's assertion that unlike British torture, Irish torture was not organised is not much comfort to the people being tortured."

Pointing to the Garda Barracks he said: "If you find yourself inside that establishment some day being kicked between the legs, by a six foot brute, you can say to yourself 'this doesn't hurt because it's not organised'."

The Garda and Sergeant Horgan in Oldcastle seem to have learned from our last visit to the town a few weeks previous, when leaflet were seized, etc., on this occasion the forces of "law and order" stood at a discrete distance and listened attentively to the speeches.

— Report: Meath Comhairleachtair.

CITY MORGUE
NO PARKING
DAY OR NIGHT
**BRITS
OUT
ON
HERE**

Without comment . . .

BRITS OUT — PEACE IN

To build a New Ireland join Sinn Fein

— DERRY SINN FEIN

“Brits go home” call at Dungiven rally

A crowd of very substantial proportion participated in a march through Dungiven organised by Sinn Fein, on Sunday, February 27th, culminating in a rally on the theme, “Brits Out — Peace In.”

The platform chairman Michael Hason introduced the first speaker Peter Duffy, who said that British perpetrated violence in Ireland had reached an all time record proportion, and all they were forced to witness the spectacle of the media pour out slander and lies as regards to the Republican Movement's struggle for National Liberation. A struggle for which many Irish men and women had sacrificed their lives or their freedom and were at present

enduring repression of the most vile imaginable in imperialist hell-holes in the six and twenty-six counties and in Britain “Republican Political Prisoners deprived of Political Status which are in contravention of the United Nations Charter on Human Rights.

The serenity of a cold damp cell in the H-Block Long Kesh is broken early in the morning by the shuffling of feet, the jingle of keys and the hoarse words which so readily exude from the mouths of loyalist minded prison warders. Men of principle, clothed only in blankets, await the opening of their cell doors which signals the beginning of a new day of beatings, degradation and harassment.

To the men of H-Block oppression has become a regular

occurrence. Each morning they are dragged before the governor and asked if they are going to comply with the prison rules, and their answer is always the same — “No.” No, because they are not criminals but P.O.W.'s.

Peter Duffy concluded that Political Status was not achieved in 1972, only through a protracted hunger-strike by Billy McKee and his comrades in Long Kesh. British attempts at removing it and the sustained campaign of British violence on the Nationalist Community was a symptom of Westminster's reign of tyranny, oppress and exploitation rapidly coming to an end.

The message to go out from the rally was that regardless of the vile repression, the fight for Political Status would be won, the fight for a British withdrawal would be won, British Out — Peace In, he stated.

The next speaker John Johnston said that Sinn Fein and the entire Provisional Movement, were the only people who could bring Peace and Freedom to the Irish people. He appealed to the local people to come into the streets in support of Political Status and in support of the campaign for a British withdrawal.

Sean Keenan then told the meeting that a British withdrawal from Ireland was an absolute certainty. He outlined the Sinn Fein proposal for a New Ireland, consisting of four tiers of self-government at community, district, regional and Provincial levels plus a federal parliament as the only basis for a just and lasting settlement.

Before introducing the final speaker, the platform chairman announced that pickets calling for political status and Brits Out, would recommence in Dungiven on Saturday, March 5th at 4.30.

Kevin Agnew, a veteran Republican, the final speaker said that there was room for people of all creeds in a 32-county independent Ireland. He called on Loyalists to disalienate themselves from the British crown but said that if they could not give their allegiance to a 32-county Ireland, there was plenty of room for them in Britain.

The rally ended with the National Anthem by the Maghera Sinn Fein band.

Finglas meeting

A VERY successful British Out — Peace In public meeting was held in Finglas Village Dublin. The speakers were Mrs. Cora Marshall, Mr. Sean Meagher, Mr. Jack Murphy, Mr. Peadar Tunney, all spoke on the National Demand Brits Out — Peace In.

We will not be deterred by pro-imperialist statements from people such as John Hume and Paddy Harte.

—P.R.O.,
Sinn Fein, Derry.

Tom Smith Commemoration



The second anniversary of the murder of Tom Smith at Port Laisie jail will be held in Dublin on Thursday, March 17.

ASSEMBLY: Berkeley Road Church after 10.45 Mass to parade to Glasnevin Cemetery for unveiling of monument.

Prominent Republican speakers.

Organised by the Republican Commemoration Committee.

Clonmult Commemoration

ON SUNDAY 27th February, the memory of the men of the East Cork Flying column who fought and died at Clonmult was honoured by Republican Cork.

Despite the cold, sleety rain, driven by gale force winds, the parade formed up on the Cork side of Middleton and headed by a Flanna Eireann Colour Party and the Cork Volunteer Pipe Band, marched to the graves of the Clonmult dead in the two cemeteries in the town. At each of the graves a wreath was laid and a decade of the Rosary recited by a member of Cumann na mBan. The Last Post and Reveille sounded by Flanna buglers and the parade then marched to the centre of the town where the following oration was delivered by Gearoid Mac Carthaigh, Cork city.

“A chairde, I do not mean to keep you here long in this cold and wet day, what I have to say will be short and simple. We have come today as we came every year to honour the memory of the men of the Irish Republican Army who fought and died at Clonmult. The men whom we honour today had one objective and one only and this was to get the Brits out of Ireland. In the years that have followed their deaths many more men and women have fought and died for the same cause and we find today the lawful successors of the men of Clonmult, the men and women of the Republican Movement of today, spitting out the same message in no uncertain manner — Brits, get out of our country.

THE SAME FIGHT

There are those who will tell you that the fight today is not the same fight that the men of Clonmult fought but I challenge them to come face to face with me and show me how the town of Crossmaglen is any less a part of Ireland than the town of Middleton; that the cottage in South Armagh where Peter Cleary was murdered by Paratroopers on last Holy Thursday is any different to the cottage at Clonmult where the East Cork Volunteers were murdered by the Black and

Tans following their surrender, that the Paratroopers in Sth Armagh were any less a part of the British Armed forces than the Black and Tans of Clonmult.

There has been much talk of Peace in Ireland recently, now let me tell you this, there are only two parties who can bring lasting peace in Ireland and they are neither Betty Williams or Mairead Corrigan. No, they are the Republican Movement and the British Government. The Republican Movement have spent out time out of number during the last few years their conditions for an end to hostilities. I repeat them once more for you. 1. A declaration of intent to withdraw her armed forces from Ireland by the British Government. 2. A declaration to recognise the right of the Irish people to govern themselves. 3. The release of all our prisoners of war.

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

We ask for no more and we will accept no less. This time there can be no surrender, there can be no compromise, there can be no drawing back until the Brits are finally gone and thus and thus only can we have peace. Make no mistake about it the Republican Movement has the man-power and the weapon power to keep fighting this war until final victory is won. Ireland demands and I demand on her behalf that every man or woman who calls him or her self Irish play their part in this last fight for freedom.

Let me say this to the politicians, to Gerry Fitt, Liam Cosgrave, Paddy Cooney, Conor Cruise O'Brien and to Jack Lynch, neither you individually or in any association you may form can stop the Brits from going. They are going and there is nothing you can do to stop them.

Before we leave let us send this message to the men and women who are in jail for Ireland today, no matter where they hold you you are not forgotten.”

The ceremonies concluded with a playing of the National Anthem by the Cork Volunteers Pipe band.

REPUBLICAN CRAFT CENTRE

LAST WEEKS OF SALE!

All Calendars, including Resistance Calendar reduced to *half price*

Resistance Calendar now 25p

SPECIAL OFFER: 10% off all Phoenix

Jewellery.

Long Playing Records including 'England's Vietnam' and 'Price of Justice' 99p plus 35p p&p

Assorted Plaques and Paints 99p + 35p p&p

Books, including 'Aisling' 10p

Avail now of our special offers as sale must end shortly.

In Memoriam

SMITH: In memory of Thomas Smith shot dead in Port Laisie prison on 17th March, 1975.

Ireland — The fight goes on. — Casement/Nolan Cumann Members, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Brits out — what next?

PUBLIC INDOOR MEETINGS

DERRY: Sunday, 13th March. Prominent Speakers.
MULLINGAR: Monday, 14th March. Lake County Hotel, 8.00 p.m. Speakers: Joe Cahill and Sean O Bradaigh.
LIMERICK: Tuesday, 15th March. Speaker: Ruairi O Bradaigh.
BELFAST: Sunday, 20th March. Prominent Speakers.

CARLOW: Wednesday, 23rd March. Oaklands Hotel, 8.00 p.m. Speakers: Ruairi O Bradaigh and Sean O Bradaigh.
MONAGHAN: Wednesday, 23rd March. Speaker: Joe Cahill.
TUAM: Thursday, 24th March. Imperial Hotel, 8.00 p.m. Speaker: R. O Bradaigh.

The general public are invited to come and listen to our
PLANS FOR EIRE NUA.

Notes from London

AN Cumann Cabhrach in London, write to say that the Brixton Brigade are now at the following prisons: Joe O'Connell: H.M. Prison, 68 Hornby Rd., Walton, Liverpool 9, Lancs.

Harry Duggan: H.M. Prison, Wormwood Scrubs, Ducane Road, London W.12.

Hugh Doherty: H.M. Prison, Heathfield Road, Wandsworth, London S.W.18.

Eddie Butler: H.M. Prison, Winson Green Road, Birmingham 18.

All four would like to thank AN Cumann Cabhrach and the Republican Movement for their help and support during the long remand at Wandsworth and Brixton and the many other persons who sent food, clothing, toiletries and money and, friends in America who sent the dollars. A special word of thanks to the visitors and relatives from Scotland and Ireland who were so kind to all four.

Attacked

A prisoner attacked Joe O'Connell on his first day at Walton. I have been told that the Governor asked Joe to make a statement that it was 'only a fight with another prisoner and not the warders'.

Patrick Hackett has now got clean sheets and pillowcases due to much work on his behalf by a wee nun here called Sr. Sarah Clarke. He is still without his bed all day.

Patrick who is soon to finish his solitary is being provoked in hopes he would enable them to keep him in solitary right up to his trial in May.

ill-treatment of suspects

A.I.J. STATEMENT

THE Association for Legal Justice, Dublin Central Branch has in its possession documented evidence which is inclusive of medical evidence given to us by persons, who allege physical and mental torture while in Garda custody.

This evidence strongly points to a need for further safeguards to be written into the Judges' Rules.

We recommend that a provision be laid down whereby a confession or statement made by a person while in Garda custody must be made in the presence of a lawyer or of an independent witness, as we believe that it is of no avail to endeavour to conduct a fair trial, if the pre-trial investigation has not been fair. Indeed, many convictions have been obtained largely on confession evidence, and this being the case, it is only just, that new Rules should be instituted with regard to such confessions. This is more important now in view of the fact that the police have been given the power of Seven Day detention under the Emergency Powers Act 1976, so that the suspect has now to endure a longer period under interview.

SUSAN LANGLEY TRUST FOUNDATION
The whole issue of

incriminating statements or confessions demands an official inquiry. The number of cases of brutality reported to and investigated by the Association for Legal Justice in the past twelve months are in excess of forty in number, some thirty of which have been considered as proper cases demanding the intervention of the courts.

Consequently, the Susan Langley Trust Foundation was made available to the Association for Legal Justice to facilitate persons wishing to take action through the courts.

The Association for Legal Justice calls on the Minister for Justice to institute a sworn public inquiry in to the allegations of Garda brutality and thus help allay widespread public disquiet.

— Association for Legal Justice, Dublin Central Branch.

QUIZ

A Silver Phoenix Badge to be won each week. Winning entry will be drawn each week from all correct entries. Enclose 10p in postal orders with entry and mark it:

'An Phoblacht Quiz'
Box 7
44 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1.

To arrive not later than ten days' after date of issue.



QUESTIONS

- Send in the answers to the following four questions:
- 1 When was *An Phoblacht* first published?
- 2 What three Maymen died on hunger strike since 1940?
- 3 Who proposed the colour blue for blueshirt?
- 4 What hunger striker's funeral was attended by nearly two hundred priests?

VICTIMISATION OF BALLYMUN TENANT BY DUBLIN CORPORATION

MRS. X is a tenant at Eamonn Ceannt Tower. She took the flat on the understanding that she would be transferred to a Corporation house after five years. She is in the flat over five years and there is no sign of her house.

The flat was in very bad condition when Mrs. X moved in, partly through the neglect of the previous tenant and partly through the neglect of the Corporation.

Over the years the condition of the flat has gone from bad to worse and at the moment the flat is not fit to live in. The frame of the hall door is rotten and coming away from the wall thus making the latch lock faulty resulting in a number of breakins.

The bedroom door fell down and hit on one of her young children on the head.

The window frame came out in Mrs. X's arms when she was cleaning it; it was a miracle the glass did not smash on her head and face.

There are cracks in the wall which the Corporation already know about, one of their representatives shoved some paper into one of the cracks and it went right through the wall. The walls need papering, and the floor covering needs replacement.

The Corporation made a drastic mistake in Mrs. X's rent and I have a rent receipt stating she was £1158-78 in arrears dated the 18th of October 1976, they admitted their mistake and corrected it, now they are in debt to Mrs. X, of Ballymun.

Mrs. X has contacted the Corporation on numerous occasions (appalling condition of the flat). The window was repaired but other than that the Corporation 'has ignored her complaints.

The problem is now in the hands of the local Sinn Féin Cumann, and we will work to ensure that the victimisation of this woman and her family is ended.

In a letter to the Corporation the McCabe/Quigley S.F. Cumann have set out Mrs. X's demands, which are:

complete repairs and redecoration of the flat, or alternatively a new flat in another area.

— Report: P.R.O. McCabe/Quigley S.F. Cumann.

Frank Stagg remembered at Wakefield

A wreath-laying ceremony organised by the Fr. Murphy Cumann Sinn Féin, Nottingham was held outside Wakefield Prison on Sunday, 20th February 1977.

Members of Sinn Féin assembled outside the prison at 3.45 p.m. and a large floral wreath bordered and centred with Easter Lilies was laid beside the main entrance.

The wreath was laid on behalf of Sinn Féin England by 10-year-old Mary Ivory of Nottingham. A large framed photograph of Frank was placed beside the wreath.

Afterwards the members and their children 'the youngest being 3 years old walked in silence around the forecourt despite sleet, rain, and cold.

The screws who last year helped to murder Frank, stood silently watching from the main entrance and control room. The ceremony ended with two minutes silence and a short address from Paddy Ivory, in which he outlined Frank Stagg's arrest, his courageous stand and tragic death.

Some of the visitors to the prison showed interest in the ceremony and quite a few came to speak to the members and ended up sympathising with them.

SENTENCES

DURING the past week the corrupt judiciary in the 6 Counties dealt with some 'serious' cases. In both cases Brit soldiers were involved.

In case No. 1 a soldier who shot dead a passenger on a bus passing Fort George British Camp in Derry was jailed for 5 years. He was immediately flown back to England to serve his sentence.

A dead Irishman is worth 5 years

A dead Brit is worth life.

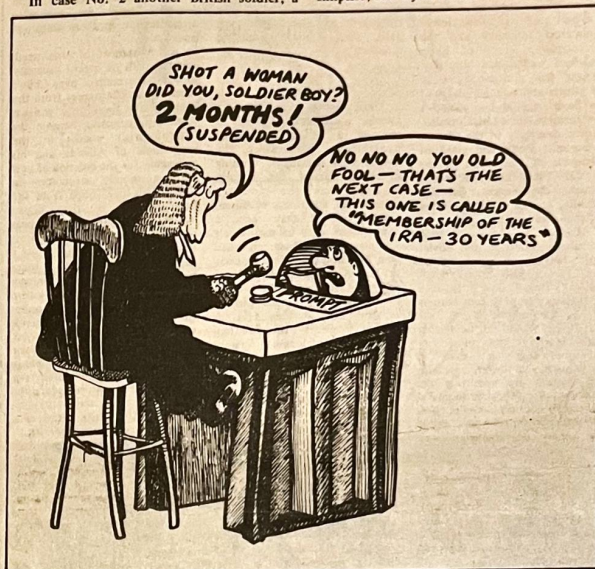
In case No. 2 another British soldier, a

member of the Royal Irish Rangers, attempted to hand over 15 sticks of gelignite to the U.D.A. He was caught by the R.U.C. (surprise, surprise). When brought before the courts he received a six year sentence.

A Brit soldier caught with explosives — 6 years.

An Irishman caught with explosives — 15 years.

The cartoon below says it all, so much simpler, don't you think?



Would you buy a used car from Herr Gunderlach?

HERR Gunderlach is the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture. As such he has had a great deal to do with Ireland's request to control her own 200 mile band of coastline. Well, 200 miles was never seriously considered, but 50 miles was, may even promised, by the prompt and fast speaking Dr. Garret FitzGerald.

It pained many of us who know Dr. FitzGerald to see how close he would gallop towards the brink of truth before he did the inevitable backtrack. But that in the event was no trouble at all for him, and a 50 mile nationally controlled band for Irish fishermen has now sunk below the horizon for ever.

For ever? Indeed yes; for short of an extraordinarily prompt, vigorous, and totally successful insurrection that is how it is likely to be as Ireland — the name by which the 26 county rump is known — slides quickly and ingloriously down the belly of the EEC.

But Herr Gunderlach; what of him? Well the presentation of these hard faced Commissioners from Sicco Mansholt to George Thompson as benevolent father figures from the EEC to the Irish people has always amused us. Is it really possible that the Irish people — and everyone knows a rural Irishman is not too easily taken in — have been fooled by these prolonged and patently inadequate three card tricksters? It hardly seems so, but there is a sense of shame somewhere at the ease with which they were cornered into voting overwhelmingly in the referendum of 1972, so that few people will now openly admit they were wrong. Indeed it is becoming difficult to find anyone who will own up to having voted Yes in that referendum.

Could it be therefore that the patent inadequacies and barefaced robbery which has characterised the dictatorship of the EEC over the Irish people is being silently borne with a steadily welling up of explosive force which may eventually overthrow it? Because that, mark you, is part of the stage we have travelled. We are already some way along a virtually irreversible process of subjugation

to a bureaucratic and multi national dictatorship that will encompass us completely to the extent shortly of a complete military takeover by their forces of this island.

£40,000 per annum

Among the teams of emissaries who are carrying this out Herr Gunderlach is merely one cipher. He is a nine to five bureaucratic working at a £40,000 per annum job, like Haferkamp, Thompson, Giolitti, Burke and all the rest of them. Indeed we might as well include the Irishmen, Ronan, Leydon, McNamara, Scully, Liam Hourli and the dozens of lesser minions they have recruited from within the civil services of Western Europe, including our own, who are going to see this job inexorably through. Men who, fifteen years ago, had income horizons of £2,000 per annum, suddenly now find themselves with incomes of £40,000 dazingly thrust upon them.

Give no thought: therefore to the fact that we — 26 County Ireland anyway — have Richard Burke as Commissioner for Transport Affairs or Eamonn Gallagher on Fisheries.

These men now are Brussels careerists, whose entire loyalty, by virtue of the enormous stipend paid to them, is the Brussels bureaucracy. As civil servants they are more blinkered than a goose stepping soldier; but they are also more loyal. Their loyalty is a total one, so too is the peril for the Irish people.

Sauve qui peut.

Chile's lesson

FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU

THE recent exchange of prisoners-of-conscience by such very unlikely trading partners as Comrade Leonid Brezhnev and Senor Augusto Pinochet again focuses our attention on the tragic debate that was the Chileans improbable and reckless grab at true independence, social justice and democracy.

As a result of the trade, Moscow has acquired a new symbol of international communist solidarity and the ever-increasing corps of Latin American 'exiles' and 'displaced persons' that one encounters in the streets and meeting places of the Soviet capital has gained a new member. He is Luis Corvalan, General Secretary of the Chilean Communist Party and steadfast supporter of the ideals of the Popular Unity coalition which brought the Marxist, Salvador Allende, to the highest elected office in Chile in 1970.

Moscow's instance that Corvalan's arrival in the Soviet Union heralds a major victory for proletarian and international solidarity rings hollow in the face of criticisms from various corners of the 'Communist' world that the Soviets should not be dealing with Pinochet's junta under any circumstances and that, in participating in the arrangement, the Soviets are admitting the presence of political prisoners in their own country. Despite these doubts, the bargain was struck

picture of what remains of a country that so recently embarked on that bright new path, that 'Chilean road to socialism'.

Until recent years, to most people, a revolution in Chile seemed a rather improbable possibility. Not since the anti-colonial nationalist uprising of 1810 against the Spanish Powers has the country experienced any mass rebellion. Unlikely as it may seem, a conspicuous part in that revolt was played by an Irishman called Don Bernardo O'Higgins who was the son of one of the last viceroys of Peru. O'Higgins was to become the first ruler of the new Chilean republic and, to this day, his name appears in Santiago place names. No longer a Spanish colony, the country enjoyed a unique isolation with the Pacific to the West, the long Andes range of mountains to the East and deserts separating it from Peru and Bolivia to the north. Apart

of the one-product economy. The desperate need for economic diversification in these countries is obvious.

An awareness of this need, coupled with an urgent necessity to wrest the control over Chile's economy and resources from the hands of foreign, mainly American, concerns became the fundamental plank in the programme of Allende and his colleagues for the creation of new socio-economic structures in Chile. This new hope from the Left revealed to the Chilean people the sinister circumstances of their existence - the utter dependence on foreign capital, the exploitation of their resources by outsiders, the collaboration with the foreigners of native Chilean business interests under the Frei government, whose aim it was to preserve the status quo, and the total absence of the voice of the Chilean working people in the administration of their own economy. The people understood Allende's message and elected him as "popular Unity Presidential candidate into power in 1970.



and Corvalan has been welcomed by the Soviet people even though his rejection of a revolutionary road to socialism and belief that "socialism will be built through argument, not force" seem oddly out of place in Lenin's Kremlin. His recent statement regarding the Soviet Union that the members of the Chilean Communist Party "are not unconditional supporters of anyone" and his words "I am neither a Moscow man nor a Peking man, I am a Santiago man" bode ominously for that same international solidarity.

The situation in Corvalan's Santiago continues to be extremely dismal. We are reminded daily of the atrocities of Pinochet's regime. Since the bloody 1973 coup 40,000 people have died, 100,000 people have been held for varying periods of detention in concentration camps, tens of thousands have been tortured, and over 2,000 are "Missing" following detention by the state police, the Direccion Nacional de Inteligencia or "DINA". The labour movement has been crushed, the democratic trade unions banned, strikes declared illegal, and even the use of the word 'worker' is prohibited. Priests have been detained for demanding respect for basic human rights. The 'official' unemployment figures admit to 20% and the average daily inflation rate is 1%. These gruesome facts depict a terrifying

from minor civil disorders and the odd territorial dispute, the country enjoyed an unheard-of stability in Latin America and was never plagued by the traditional unrest in other South American states. Chile was even christened the "England of South America" because of this constitutional stability.

But, having succeeded in throwing off the colonial yoke, Chile, like many other Latin American countries, soon fell victim to the even more insidious machinations of foreign neo-colonial powers. Like other young republics on the continent, Chile was easy prey. Although rich in primary products and raw materials, most of the Latin American states have what is called a 'one-product economy', that is, the whole economic development and wellbeing of the country depends on the exploitation of one major raw material. In Chile, this all-important commodity is copper, whereas in Argentina, it is beef; in Venezuela - oil; in Columbia - timber; in Bolivia - tin; and in Cuba, the economic activities revolve around its major raw material which is sugar. The one-product economy often results in dependency on a major market which in turn can dictate the prices to be paid for the product. The present Cuban dependence on the Soviet Union is a classic example of this curse

ALLENDE'S VICTORY

Allende's victory represented the first indication that perhaps it was indeed possible to re-align the 'Chilean road to Socialism', that is, an alternative, non-violent and peaceful road to a socialist system. Almost overnight, left-wing politicians all over the world turned their attention to Chile and waited. Allende's country became a test bed for the 'parliamentary' road to socialism. It replaced the USSR as a totally new 'socialist' model that might become worthy of emulation by communists and socialists throughout the world.

The situation in Chile was unique. The left-wing parties there had never restored to revolutionary means to gain their demands. A Marxist President had been elected in an ultra-capitalist, bourgeois-oriented, state that struggled in the grip of external neo-colonial control. Irish Leftists, with their own preoccupations with colonial and neo-colonial problems, were among those who watched and waited. What would the outcome be? Would this extra-ordinary experiment in Chile actually work?

- Foreign affairs
Correspondent "Cyrilla",
(To be continued next week)

THE past week saw the attacks on businessmen increasing. Three were shot dead and one critically wounded. A British agent was shot dead by the I.R.A.'s third Battalion in Belfast. Two members of the U.V.F. were killed when their bomb, meant for a Catholicismens working club, exploded prematurely. A member of the Judiciary was shot dead in Coalisland. A new bomb was introduced called the "Flue bomb". Several more lives were destroyed.

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

NEWRY: A leading member of the Orange Order a former leading businessman and a Justice of the Peace was shot dead as he returned to his home in Windsor Hill. He was named as Robert Mitchell.

BELFAST: Two floors of Thompson Reid's car showrooms were completely gutted after incendiary devices exploded. Reports from the area indicated that three youths climbed into the premises just before the fire.

Two men were admitted to hospital after a gun battle with the R.U.C. in the Shankill Road area of the city. An R.U.C. man was also shot in the same incident.

SUNDAY, FEB. 27

BELFAST: Two members of the East Belfast Battalion of the Ulster Defence Force were blown to bits by their own bomb as they were about to place it beside a Catholic Workmen's club. The explosion took place in Corporation St. only yards from the club. They were named as Thomas Long and James Corder, Corder had a conviction and suspended sentence for possession of a firearm.

The Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for killing a former paratrooper in Belfast and alleged that he was a British undercover agent.

Mr. John Lee, 35, was shot dead by two men as he and his wife walked home through Ardoyne after leaving a club.

A statement purporting to come from the "Third Battalion" of the Provisional IRA in Ardoyne said "We executed John Lee at Balholm Drive. He was an undercover agent for the Brits".

Another stabbing incident took place near Andersonstown. An 18-year-old youth who had been stabbed in the back and shoulders was rushed to the City Hospital.

News from the North

MONDAY, FEB. 28

CO. ANTRIM: Five buses were burned out at Ballymena depot in a fire believed to have been caused by incendiary devices. British soldiers refused to go near the depot because of a bomb warning. Ulsterbus later stated that they had lost 110 buses since September of last year.

BELFAST: Edward Rooney, a 25-year-old architect was rushed to hospital after injuries received when he "jumped" (sic) from a window at the R.U.C. torture centre at Springfield Road. The R.U.C. claimed in a statement that Rooney had been treated humanely at all times. A full inquiry was demanded by Father Faul who said the R.U.C. statement was 'totally unacceptable'.

TUESDAY, MAR. 1

CO. ARMAGH: Another prominent Orangeman and a Justice of the Peace was shot. He was Walker Whitten, a brother of Loyalist politician, Herbert Whitten. Whitten was on his way to work when a man opened fire with a handgun. He was rushed to hospital where his condition was described as 'critical'.

CO. DOWN: The I.R.A. in South Down claimed responsibility for the fire bomb attack on the Ardmore Hotel in Newry.

Two cassette-type incendiaries exploded in the hotel around midnight.

The hotel had been cleared after a warning telephone call to the nearby Daisy Hill Hospital.

BELFAST: Several youths attacked the R.U.C. station at Mountpottinger with stones and bottles. The R.U.C. stayed indoors.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 2

BELFAST: A 56-year-old businessman was shot dead at his office in Lawrence St.

Three men had earlier entered the office and held up the staff.

The businessman, Mr. Donald Robinson was then shot. He died instantly.

CO. TYRONE: The R.U.C. and British Army both expressed their alarm at

the functioning of a new type of bomb called the "Flue Bomb". It was discovered down the chimney of a Reserve R.U.C. mans house at Seskinore, Omagh. His wife is also a member of the R.U.C. reserve. A Brit Disposal unit defused the 15lb. device.

BELFAST: Yet another two businessmen's homes were attacked.

The first was at Haberton Drive in the luxury Malone Road area. A bomb placed at a rear window exploded starting a small fire. There were no injuries.

The second attack occurred nearby at Derryvolgie Av. A phone call to the Samaritans warned of a bomb in the garage of the house. The occupants were cleared before the bomb exploded causing minor damage.

An RUC reservist was shot in the hand from a passing car. He returned fire but the car speed off.

FRIDAY, MAR. 5

CO. TYRONE: A member of the British war machine against the revolutionary forces was shot dead in Coalisland.

Roy O'Kelly, a lawyer who worked for the D.P.P. office had just entered a pub when he was shot from close range. He died immediately. O'Kelly had been a former election agent for Austin Currie.

The Mid-Ulster Brigade of the I.R.A. later accepted responsibility in a supplied statement.

A device left outside the house of a Democratic Unionist member of the Stormont convention exploded causing exterior damage but no casualties.

DERRY: Kelly supermarket in the Waterside district of the city was damaged in a blast bomb attack. The area of Spencer Street had been evacuated after a telephone warning.

BELFAST: Two small bombs exploded soon after noon inside the city-centre security zone. The first damaged the women's toilet of the Royal Bar, in Ann Street and blew out most of the windows in the pub. Half an hour later, a second device went off beside the Globe Tavern, in an entry off Ann Street, causing little damage. There were no injuries from either blast.



McCabe/Quigley S.F. Cumann demanding withdrawal of British troops.

What is England's debt to Ireland?

THERE have been references recently to the necessity for 'subsidies' from England when she withdraws from this country or takes the initial steps in that process of complete and final disengagement. But is not *restitution* a more accurate term for use in this connection?

To go no further back than the Act of Union the Irish national debt was 21 million. Even of that a considerable portion arose from the charges for bribery of members of the Irish Parliament and the buying up of nomination boroughs — for the purpose of passing the Act of Union. Under the terms of the union each country was to remain liable for its own annual debt charges. The English National Debt was then £446 million.

To quote John Mitchell: England beats all mankind in book-keeping by double entry and in 1817 — less than a score of years from the final silencing of the Irish Parliament by bribery and corruption and intimidation — she passed into law a consolidation Act. But as Daniel O'Connell said, they made a fair exchange; they took half of our debt and gave us half of theirs!

In addition to this new impost it was calculated that at least 5 millions her annuum was paid to absentee landlords — rent for lands which had been seized from their Irish owners who were not obliged to pay rent for same to the grabbers. Nor was this all; just before the end of the nineteenth century a Royal Commission was established by Westminster to

investigate the financial relations between the two countries and this (English) Commission reported that Ireland had not only been charged with the English level of taxation plus the cost of the R.I.C. and the English Army of Occupation, but had been *overtaxed* approximately £300 million! During the early years of this century the annual tax increased substantially rising to nearly £50 million p.a. in the post world War I years. What then is the debt which England owes to Ireland?

When one considers these figures in the light of present day values; when one considers further on the human background, the confiscations, the despoliations, the artificial famines, the massacres that colour every century of English occupation; the systematic destruction of trade and industry, the pillage and arson, the disruption of the national economy following on the enforced establishment of two partitioned states against the clearly expressed will of the people and in defiance of the stated aims of the World War I winners, the amount of restitution due assumes a truly staggering figure.

How much do they owe us?
E. O. hEochaigh.

us who feel more English than Irish. I think it would be a good idea if the queen came here and invited all those who wanted to be British subjects to return to England with her and leave the rest of us to remain Irishmen. That would solve a lot of problems.

There isn't much chance of that and the vomiting will go on every day about how the Queen actually shook hands with one of the mindless minions whose hard earned money goes to pay for the up keep of her many palaces and castles. It is a wonder that the English press doesn't suggest that the Queen isn't human at all. After all they have suggested in the past that she is above us commoners and that she has blue blood and such like. Why don't they go the whole way and say that she is a goddess.

By the way it is interesting to notice that members of the Royal Family can be members of all three of the armed forces at once. Navy, Army and Air Force. In a society where people are treated as Gods how can we ever hope to have equality.

—J. Hogan,
Cage D, Magilligan.

GANDHI, KING AND McKEOWN

CIARAN McKeown, has recently talked quite a lot about Martin Luther King and Gandhi. It would appear he believes himself and his movement to be in the same "Pacifist" mould as these two great men.

However if we examine what exactly these two individuals were trying to do and what the Peace Movement is about, we find certain basic contradictions. Both Gandhi and King directed their efforts at the establishment which they believed to be the cause of the problem. In the case of their struggle both of these men condemned the violence of fringe groups which existed in the periphery of their movements, for example, the Black Panther in America. However despite their condemnation of those organisations they never

This year the Queen of England is actually going to come here to Ireland to examine the land which her Army holds in her name by force of Arms. I suppose there will be a lot of Lording it over the peasants and slaves, maybe even a bit of flag waving by those among

Drumboe Martyrs

I guimhne Commandant-General Charlie Daly (Kerry), Brigadier General Sean Larkin (Derry), Lieutenant Timothy O'Sullivan (Kerry) and Lieutenant Dan Enright shot by Free Staters at Drumboe, March 14th, 1923.

Near the town of old Stranorlar, Where the quiet Finn does flow,

There's a lonely grave still open

In the green woods of Drumboe.

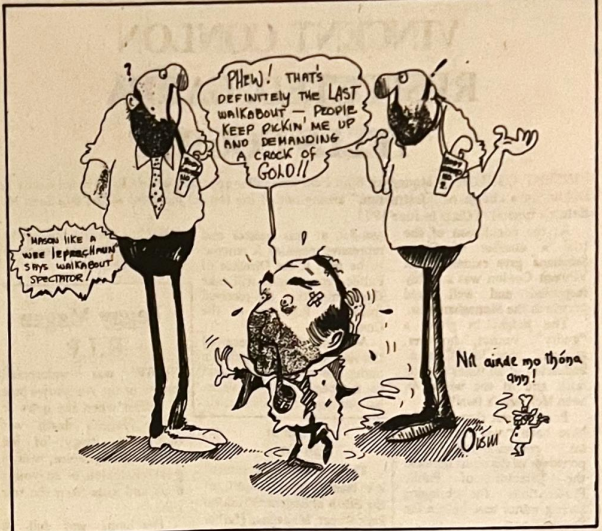
And there, each Easter Sunday,

They gather, proud and sad,

Where four faithful Irish soldiers

Fell before the firing squad.

The annual Drumboe Martyrs Commemoration will take place as usual on Easter Sunday, 10th April, 1977.



allowed themselves to be diverted away from the source of the conflict which in the case of India as in our own, was British occupation and domination.

The Peace Movement in their six months of life have spent almost all that time condemning the "barbarous" acts of the Provisional I.R.A. They have it must be said mentioned the Loyalist groups on one or two occasions, and at one time they even mentioned the Security Forces, however, due to the unpopularity in middle class circles of condemning establishment violence they have directed most of their efforts at the I.R.A.

Here then we have the basic contradiction in their claim to be in the same mould as King and Gandhi. Their energies were spent fighting the established system which they regarded as the major factor, the Peace Movement refuse to recognise that the same is the case in the six Counties and continues to attack the symptoms rather than the cause of the illness British Presence and the artificial division of our country.

Many people for a variety of reasons have predicted the failure of the Peace Movement to achieve Peace. I believe that when that failure is seen to have occurred most people when they analyse the reasons for its inability to achieve its started objective will find that it was the result of not attacking the root

I gGuimhne

In memory of Proinsias Stagg, Honorary Member (posthumous) of Ker Aaver, the National Library of Brittany.

God bless his soul, his family, his friends. Real peace to Ireland.

—Julia Perlarand
Federal President. Ker Arvor,
44430 Loron Bothar,
Brittany.

Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta

(Republican Commemoration Committee)

Applications for speakers for Easter Commemorations should be made not later than March 21st, 1977, giving time and full details to: An Runai, Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Easter Lilies

ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES NOW

Price £10.00 per 1,000

AVAILABLE FROM: Mrs. P. King, 29, All Saint's Park, Raheny, Dublin 5.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

BIRTHDAY Greetings on the 1st March to my dear Husband Paddy Shanahan in Port Laoise Prison.

— All my love — Lil.

BIRTHDAY Greetings to our Dad in Port Laoise Prison. We love you.

Deirdre, Martina and Rita. U.T.P.

BIRTHDAY Greetings to Dad, Paddy Shanahan in Port Laoise Prison. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

From Mary, Tony and Barry.

HAPPY Birthday to my Dad Paddy Shanahan in Port Laoise Prison.

— From Sean and Rita.

BIRTHDAY Greetings on the 1st of March to our dear Dad, Paddy Shanahan in Port Laoise Prison. See you soon.

— Paddy and Catherine.

BIRTHDAY Greetings on the 1st of March to our brother Paddy Shanahan in Port Laoise Prison.

— From Margaret and Julia.

HAPPY Birthday to the "Bard" of Port Laoise, Paddy from three old muckers, Sean, Martin and Gerry.

BIRTHDAY Greetings to John McCluskey (Wakefield prison). Always thinking of you John, especially on your birthday.

All our love and strength, Helen, Louise, Nuala and families (Leicester).

I gGUIMHNE

In proud and loving memory of Colm P. Keenan and Eugene McGilligan who died for Ireland on 14th March 1972.

The dead who died for Ireland, let not their memory die.

Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a namana.

Inserted by the comrades, families and friends.

An Cumann Cabhrach

(Baile Atha Cliath)

A supper ceili will be held at Ostan John Devoy on

Thursday, 17 March

RINNCE 8.30 p.m. to 1 a.m.
TAILLE £2.00

Bus leaves 44 Parnell Square at 8 p.m.

WEAR AN EASTER LILY



HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD

VINCENT CONLON RESPECTED: GARDA TELLS COURT

VINCENT CONLON, a Monaghan Sinn Féin councillor appeared before the Special Court in Dublin on a charge of "obstruction" arising out of the funeral incidents at the late Sean McKenna's funeral at Clara in June 1975.

At the conclusion of the trial a number of Garda Síochána gave evidence that Vincent Conlon was a highly respected and well liked person in the Monaghan area. The judges in giving a "guilty" verdict, however, accepted that Mr. Conlon had acted at all times in good faith and at the wishes of Sean McKenna's family.

Pointing out that he might have been "over zealous" in his responsibilities the president of the court rebuked the Director of Public Prosecutions for bringing such a minor case before the Special Court.

Mr. Conlon along with other S.F. members had originally appeared before the local District Court and had elected for a trial by judge and jury. To everyone's astonishment, including that of the three judges at the Special Court, the Director of Public Prosecutions transferred the cases to Green Street.

Some of the alleged "offences" are not listed "scheduled" one can only

wonder at this sinister and repressive measure. It remains to be seen if the Director of Public Prosecutions will take the admonition he received from the President of the Court.

Vincent Conlon received the simplest sentence possible under the act. He was bound to the peace for two years. No problem to Vincent at all.

Bron ar an mbas

The Republican Movement has learned with regret of the death of Eugene O'Hanlon Park Street, Monaghan (father of Fergal O'Hanlon) which took place on March 3rd, 1977.

Leaba i measc na bhfinní go raibh aige.

I gCuimhne

SMITH: In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Tom Smith, shot dead by Free State troops at Port Laoise prison, March 17th, 1975. Always remembered by his loving mother, brothers and sister.

Didn't the Garda themselves say he was a highly respected man in his area.

Peggy Magee R.I.P.

THERE was widespread sorrow in the Andytown area of Belfast when the news of Peggy Magee's death was announced. Peggy, of the lovely singing voice, was a great champion of all young boys and girls from the war zone.

Her home was full of warmth and hospitality - her back door was never locked.

Peggy's many friends in Belfast and Dublin have cause to mourn her passing. A friend and champion of the Political Prisoner is no more.

To her sorrowing husband, Paddy and family, the Republican Movement extend their deepest sympathy.

Grasta De da hanam.

"Cannonballed"

DE MORTUIS nil nisi bonum (about the dead one should speak only good) is a saying which goes back many hundreds of years in Europe. But there are times when it should be ignored, in the interests of truth, Brian Faulkner's death under a horse in Co. Antrim last week was such an occasion.

Even Ireland has produced few politicians to equal the ruthlessness, lack of scruple and personal faithlessness, even to his closest colleagues, that characterised the Faulkner life-style.

Greatest personal power at all costs was his motto, even in the tiny parochial dunghill over which, eventually, for a short period, he reigned virtually supreme. One hardly could believe that such was his record, listening and reading the sickening eulogies of the bought or intimidated media last week. Hypocrisy, not physical violence is Ireland's greatest contemporary ill. Brian Faulkner was not really a convinced bigot. He did not worry overmuch about the religion or social status of those on whom he stamped or with whom he found it convenient to ally himself. But he knew when to avail himself to the full of more stupid and convinced bigots than the well-spoken, shifty-eyed fox with the traditional Irish surname from Oirialla.

ment as minister for torture. How conveniently the Dublin and other papers forgot that the man they were eulogising last week was the man being condemned in Strasbourg! When Premier over Stormont Brian Faulkner also was minister of home affairs and his signature was appended to every internment order.

Bellowing slaves

However poor or ill-informed the memories of the enthusiastic Dublin media may have been last week the internees, seeking redress for their sufferings, made it quite clear in the documentation of their court actions that they regarded Brian Faulkner as the villain of the piece.

All court actions "settled" by the Crown, providing minor financial recompense for injuries suffered, named Brian Faulkner as "defendant".

The real irony of the situation is that very, very few will regret the death of this evil person, even within the ranks of the colonialist enclave, all of which makes all the more remarkable the huge amount of space devoted to his praise after an act of God, in the form of his favourite horse, ended his life. But, as Mitchell said in his time - and it is as true today - Dublin's "city of bellowing slaves," at least in what it shows for the official record. How well the Dublin prints lived up to that description last week.

Lead bigots

On a July 12 of the early fifties he donned that bigotry as a well-fitting suit to lead more than 2,000 B Specials through the predominantly Republican area of the Longstone Road in Co. Down. It was, indeed, a famous victory. Overcome by his daring he marched them back again.

On two occasions he presided as minister over internment. On the second occasion he presided over inter-

BRUTALITY TO PRISONERS

(Ar lean, o. le. 1)

towards a tacid acceptance tyranny and oppression.

I have submitted a personal investigation into the conditions that prevail in Port Laoise. If Mr. Cooney is not satisfied with that, I challenge him to institute a more public inquiry. The demand is there. A public inquiry is demanded by the people of Ireland North and South, county by county.

Conditions in Port Laoise represent an alarming degree of brutality - more ruthless even than that of the Garda barracks. More ruthless, given the fact of the lack of freedom to communicate these conditions to the outside world and the length of time that the brutality there must be endured by the prisoners. Thank God for those released - Cooney has still to devise a way to silence them.

The cruel fact of Port Laoise is this: When the dignity of the men there is brought into question and they are treated with less than common decency, when attempts are made to strip them of self-respect by repetitive humiliations - under such conditions the prisoner in his cell will either break under the stress and strain of the situation, or else he will revolt. Given such a choice the latter seems preferable and revolt becomes the more intelligible choice to the prisoner's mind. He may even see it as reaching the proportions of a moral obligation.

Joe Stagg of I.C.R.A. said "In condemning the torture and barbarity that is taking place across the country at the present time - in police barracks dungeons and in the squalor of the solitary confinement cells of Port Laoise prison, we must ask ourselves what has civilisation done for Ireland in the 20th century?"

Institutionalised violence, when it is carried as far as it has been carried in the Ireland of today, depraves in the ultimate not the victims of state violence but the perpetrators of it. Therefore, one of the great problems facing the Ireland of the future will be to rehabilitate back into society the sad, sick group of people who, at the command of political expediency, were like the officers allotted to Rommel in the desert - absolutely stupid.

Indeed one could say they were absolutely unchristian as well, applying torture techniques, crudely copied from the handbooks of the paratroopers and the S.A.S. to their own fellow Irishmen.

CONCERN TO ALL

The journalist and writer Jack Bennett stated that the conditions of prisoners in society was not a political issue. It was a matter of concern to all. He was critical of the minister who kept a file on published letter to 'the

editor and pointed out that to disagree with the government in Dublin could mean seven days' detention.

"We have here a government of contemptible old old women but old women whose days are numbered," he said, and congratulated the Irish Civil Rights Association and the Association for Legal Justice for their stand: they were necessary in combatting repression.

WHAT SIDE ARE YOU ON

Another journalist, Eamonn McCann then spoke and said:

"Only the guileless and the hopelessly gullible can accept the rotten-apple theory, the suggestion that the torture of prisoners North and South is the work of a small, unrepresentative minority of the security forces, operating without the knowledge and against the wishes of their political masters. It is clear from the mass of evidence that the torture is part of a pattern of repression which could not possibly have emerged without at least tacit ministerial connivance. If, for example, Mr. Cooney really, genuinely doesn't know of the daily savagery of Port Laoise prison, he is too stupid, to be a Cabinet Minister. I do not believe he is stupid, or that the thugs in Port Laoise, the Garda heavy gang or those in Castlereagh barracks are rotten apples which could be plucked out of the barrel to leave a



Ciarán Uas Mac an Ailb

healthy crop. The whole barrel is rotten, and on grounds of political hygiene, ought forthwith to be consigned to the refuse heap."

The issue at stake today is, what side are you on? Are you on the side of progressive policies against British imperialism in Ireland, or are you on the side of the lackeys of British Imperialism who enforce these brutal laws?

The veteran Republican, journalist and author Maire Comerford pointed to the parallel in the Fenian days of what was happening today and spoke of the torturing of O'Donovan Rosa and his comrades in British jails. The people who inflict such barbarities go down in ignominy, she pointed out.

The truth of all that was happening was endangered because of censorship, she pointed out.

There was a current of thought in the world that wanted an end to repression: "Let us hope that the political prisoners in Port Laoise and Limerick will be the last political prisoners," she said.

Joe O'Neill and John Hickey who was recently released from Port Laoise described present conditions in the jail.

John pointed out that summary courts handed out incredible sentences at a whim of the prison regime. Visits, the highlights of a man's week, were no more because nearly all the prisoners now were on solitary confinement.

He finished with a question to Delaney, spokesman of the Prisoners' Association: "I was in Port Laoise Prison for 21 months and I never saw you (Delaney) there. How then could you speak on the radio and say there was no trouble in Port Laoise?"

NO VISITS

Maire Sullivan (whose husband has been in solitary confinement for three months) spoke of behalf of the Prisoners' Relatives' Committee and told how she had been kept waiting last Christmas outside Port Laoise Jail and had failed to get in. Young children were victimised, she alleged, if they became restless during visits.

The government had refused all requests to tell her why her husband was in solitary confinement.

Seamus Costello, the leader of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, expressed surprise at the timing of the Irish Times torture expose. The evidence had been available for more than 10 months. He made no apologies for express-



Mr. Michael Conely

ing his suspicions as to the timing but, nevertheless, welcomed the matter published. He urged all radical groups to continue to agitate against the forces of repression within the state.

The barrister, Michael Conely, spoke of the work of the Association for Legal Justice in Dublin and Belfast in completing documents giving details of torture suffered at the hands of the R.U.C. and the Gardaí.

The final demoralising effect on the Gardaí, he stated was the Sunningdale agreement which brought about the full collaboration with the discredited R.U.C. and all its horrible methods. The methods in use today in the 26 Counties were similarly degrading and dehumanising.

The meeting ended with an appeal from Sean O'Connell, manager, "An Phoblacht," who urged all to support the Prisoners' Relatives' Committee. He spoke of some of the prominent people to whom he and others had made approaches on behalf of the prisoners, including the trade union leader, Michael Mullen, one of the Auxiliary Bishops of Dublin and civil liberties groups.

He warned those who dismissed the allegations of torture as "propaganda" to remember that, in the north-east, the early word of R.U.C. tortures in 1971 had been similarly dismissed by many.

"Yesterday's 'propaganda' has turned out to be the 'guilty' verdict of today in Strasbourg," he pointed out. "Today's allegations are just as factual as those of 1971."

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS

Send a subscription today to: An Cumann Cabhrach,
44 Cearnóg Pharnell, Baile Átha Cliath, 1, ÉIRE.