

An Phoblacht

Iml. 8. Uimhir 15. 10p. Aibreán 19, 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)

LIAR COONEY

(Published proof that Cooney lies)

ON SUNDAY, April 17, Radio Eireann broadcast a propaganda exercise by Paddy Cooney, denying Republican allegations of inhumane conditions in Portlaoise Jail, refusing any mediation between himself and the hunger-strikers or an independent, sworn inquiry into jail conditions, and accusing the prisoners of lying about those conditions.

But there is published proof that, on two occasions at least, Cooney has lied about jail to the Irish public. One of them was over cockroaches. It was the incident that earned him his nickname.

Republicans had alleged that Portlaoise Jail was infested with these insects. Cooney denied this vehemently and invited journalists to make a conducted tour of the jail. They did. And the cockroaches revealed themselves. That was published. Cooney had no reply.

Following Cooney's RTE radio broadcast, at a hastily called news conference in Sinn Féin Dublin headquarters the party's uachtarán, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, reminded the

journalists of Cooney's lie on that occasion . . . and the proof of it in their own newspaper files. No paper referred to this obvious lie in accounts of the news conference next day.

The second obvious lie by Cooney was uttered during his Sunday broadcast. We quote from "Irish Independent" (page-one, April 18): "People, both lay and clerical, allege on behalf of these people that the hunger strikers when they were in Portlaoise were subjected to solitary confinement. There is no place in Portlaoise for solitary confinement."

Yet, on March 30, an order of certiorari was sought and granted in the Dublin High Court by the president, Mr. Justice Finlay, on behalf of a Portlaoise Jail prisoner, NOT a member of the Republican Movement, directing the prison governor to show within 10 days why an order sentencing him to two months separate confinement and loss of all privileges should not be quashed.

The case was reported in the Dublin dailies the following day: Irish Times (page

11, col. three); Irish Press (page-seven, cols. one and two); and Irish Independent (page-seven, col. one);

The word used in court was "separate" confinement. Nevertheless, the meaning, the effect and the punishment is the same, regardless of the legal term used. Or will quibbling Cooney make clear any great difference of meaning between the two words? Will he allow any of those who have been so punished to testify under oath in public tribunal? Will he allow an impartial investigation of this one allegation to prove who is lying and who is telling the truth?

After the cockroach lie, Cooney allowed no more tours, conducted or otherwise, in Portlaoise Jail because he dare not. After the solitary (or separate) confinement lie he dare not allow the sworn public testimony of a political prisoner from Portlaoise, nor a following independent investigation, with the governor under oath in the witness box, and the warders following him, because he dare not. The truth would destroy him as it

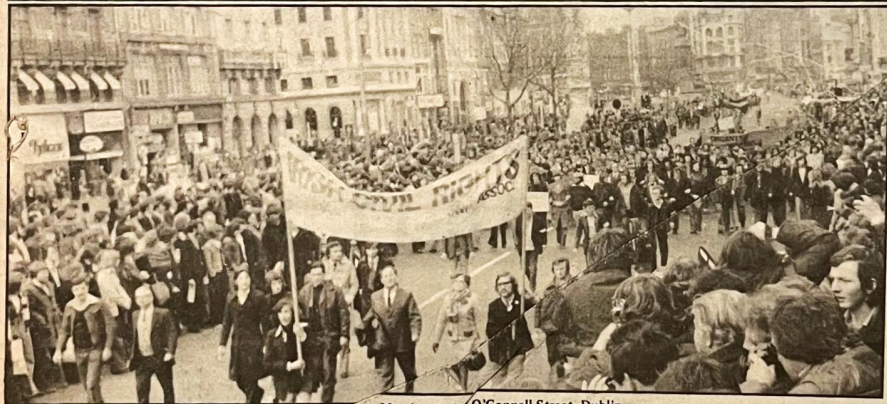
almost destroyed Donegan over the presidential scandal.

Will you, the Irish public, stand by while Cooney sidetracks the issue, piling major lie on major lie, while 18 men, 18 truthful men, making the only protest that is left to them in defence of their human dignity, go nearer to death's door with every agonising hour that passes?

The two facts we have given you may be checked easily and found to be correct. Cooney has told deliberate lies on these two occasions. The proof is in the newspaper files.

Will you let him lie, and lie and lie until some or most or all of those men die terribly? Liar Cooney must be driven from office by nailing his obvious lies across the length and breadth of Ireland.

The truth must not be allowed to come out too late, as it did in the cruel forties when it took the death by hunger and thirst strike in that same jail of a brave political prisoner to expose the scandal — and the Fianna Fáil lies — to the world.



The I.C.P. protest March enters O'Connell Street, Dublin.

Support grows

IT WOULD have been the happiest day in his life. Joe Stagg told a massive display of support for the hunger-strikers at the Dublin C.P.O. on Saturday afternoon (April 16), to see that splendid, disciplined march from St. Stephen's Green, and the generous men and women, boys and girls, before him, but for the gravity of the situation. For 18 men were lying at death's door in the Curragh.

The meeting was organised by the Irish Civil Rights Association and had speakers representative of a broad spectrum of Republican and Socialist opinion. Amongst those represented

(Ar leannun ar chul)

RESOLVE UNWAVERING

SINN FÉIN and the entire Republican Movement cannot make any contact with the 18 hunger strikers in Curragh Military Hospital: all roads have been blocked.

This statement came last (April 17), when a reporter Brádaigh, on Sunday said if the fasters' minimum demands at the news conference, perhaps, that some compromise were still the same, at Sinn Féin might be able to influence the men.

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, the condition decision had been taken freely by the men, ending their terrible protest had been decided by them; at that one could say was the judging from their letters received by their relatives, and by reports from the few who had seen them, their resolve was unwavering.

All that Sinn Féin could do was to try to inform public opinion, hampered by the right of reply on radio and television to outrageous and lying propaganda by the authorities, and organise protests, demonstrations, petitions.

A member of Leinster House, Dr. John O'Connell, T.D., had been refused permission to visit a hunger-striker, Daithí Ó Conaill, the Sinn Féin leas-uachtarán, who had asked to see him.

Daithí's letter to O'Connell, sent by registered mail, had not been delivered. A deputation from Louth Co. Council had been turned away. Five Co. Councils, seeking a public inquiry, had been spurned.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL

According to the state's constitution, judges and bishops had a right to visit and inspect prisoners but Dr. Daly of Derry, and the local prelate, Dr. Lennon, had been prohibited from exercising these rights, as had the Papal Nuncio.

A member of the Council of State, the actress, Siobhán

McKenna, had been turned away as had the secretary of the greatest trade union in the country, Senator Mullen of the I.T.G.W.U.

The G.A.A., Conradh na Gaeilge and other national groups and organisations had been treated likewise. Now, Amnesty International was investigating the allegations.

But all the time the men involved were coming closer and closer to death. Sinn Féin was very concerned and wanted to play a more vital role but was blocked by this "iron-clad administration."

Cooney, said Ruairí, had made much of the fact that complaints about the prison conditions had emanated from convicted I.R.A. prisoners but: "For God's sake, who else is in a position to make them?"

He pointed out that the Dublin government had used statements from similar people in the Six Counties in documenting successfully their torture case against the British in Stras-

(Ar leannun ar chul)

Imleabhar 8. Albéan 19, 1977. Uimhir 15
44 Cearnóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Éire. Guthán: 747611

That is in blatant conflict with EEC regulations does not trouble the Crown, just as the scandalous and illegal tariff on Irish lamb into France does not trouble the Paris government. The major powers play ducks and drakes with EEC regulations except when it is in their interest to see them applied strictly.

Large-scale smuggling could result in the price for

At the best, only occasional respite can be hoped for from official Dublin or official Brussels, always at the expense of insecurity and exploitation by legal robbers at home and abroad.

Athréimiú na teanga sna Saoirsí i mBaile Átha Cliath

Tá cuid den stair sin i gcló i mBéarla ag Grattan Flood ("A History of Irish Music"). Tá cuid eile i gcló i nGaeilge ag Donn Piatt. Sa cheantar seo a rugadh agus a tógadh Leo Rowsome, fear a galadh ar a chumas stair na háite, idir Ghaeilge agus cheol agus eile, a ríomh; agus is dócha go bhfuil an béaloideas agus an stair ar eolas ag a chlann, agus togha na Gaeilge agus an cheoil ag gach duine díobh, bail ó Dhia orthu.

Faoi láthair, tá Seán Ó Brádaigh ar dhíscheall chun an tarna eagrán den leabhrá

Gór dtí gur thosaigh an Dr. McNamara le fhrithGhaelachas, más buan mo chuimhne

Idir eachais a bhunú, neamhspleách ar
stát agus ag na Catalánaigh

Gór dtí gur thosaigh an Dr. McNamara le fhrithGhaelachas, más buan mo chuimhne

News from the North

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

BELFAST: A ten-year-old boy was killed in an explosion when a parcel bomb exploded on the window of what was formerly Kennedy's Bakery. His 50 year-old uncle was shot dead three hours later following a scuffle outside Milltown Cemetery. The Belfast Brigade, Provisional IRA have claimed responsibility for the death of Mr. Short, an NLF member. The Provisionals have disclaimed responsibility for the death of the boy, Kevin McMenamin.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

DOWN: The British base at Bessbrook Mill, which controls the military operations in the Newry and South Armagh area, came under mortar bomb attack. Two rockets were fired at the camp, which is occupied by the Royal Highland Fusiliers, but an Army spokesman said last night that neither the

base nor the neighbouring police station was hit. RUC have not disclosed the casualty figures.

LISBURN: A fire gutted the Old Warren community centre.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

DUNGANNON: A garage was bombed and extensively damaged on Coalisland Road. A warning had been given and the area cleared.

BELFAST: In Belfast's Corporation Street, there was a fire at Associated Electronics Incorporated. Extensive damage was caused to the ground floor and to the staircase.

KEADY: The Brits spent several hours investigating bomb hoaxes.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

DERRY: The RUC were forced to flee from the Bog-

side after they attempted to arrest two youths in a car. Locals surged around and prevented the arrests.

The RUC fired two shots then turned and fled.

BELFAST: A shop was swept by fire and 80 per cent of the stock burned in Duncairn Gardens.

Flames also swept through the picturehouse, a disused cinema in the Mountpottinger district.

In the Eliza Street area, youths stoned a police land-rover.

The IRA has claimed responsibility for the bombing of Marlborough House, a city centre office block, in Victoria Street.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

DERRY: The IRA in Derry City accepted responsibility for the death of a "plain clothes" British soldier whose body was found. The Brit had been shot in the head.

ARMAGH: An RUC Special Branchman was shot and critically wounded as he sat in his car in Avenue Road, Lurgan.

BELFAST: The IRA in Belfast stated that they were making a "farce" of Brit security in the centre of the city.

This came after the IRA had planted bombs, which destroyed a store in College Square North. The store was gutted and finally collapsed into the street.

PORT LAOISE

Open letter to Editors from 87 journalists

SIR, — The State broadcasting service is prevented from dealing in adequate detail with the issues raised by the hunger-strike prisoners. This lays a heavy duty on newspapers to make vigorous efforts to uncover and report the facts and to examine critically statements about the hunger strike and about conditions in Port Laoise prison coming from the prisoners and their relatives and associates on the one hand and from the Department of Justice and the prison authorities on the other. Many people, including the journalists signing this letter, do not believe this duty has been fulfilled.

The result is that the general public has no way of knowing whether, as Mr. Cooney says, the strip-searching, solitary confinement, absence of educational facilities and so on are necessary in the interests of security or whether, as the prisoners and those supporting them insist, such measures are used capriciously and in circumstances in which no security consideration arises. In this situation we urge

you to support calls made not just by members and supporters of Provisional Sinn Féin but by clergymen, lawyers, members of the Oireachtas and others for an independent inquiry into conditions in Port Laoise prison — Yours, etc.,

Sean Kilfeather, Mary Cummins, Joe Breen, Michael MacConnell, Eric O'Leary, Dick Walsh, Joe Joyce, Mary Maher, Willie Clingan, Walter Ellis, Eileen O'Brien, Brendan O' Cathaoir, Terry Murphy, Paul Tansey, Maeve Donelan, Pat O'Hara, Peadar Mac Giolla Cearr, David Shanks, Dick Grogan, Michael Keogh, Paddy Downey, Pat Comerford, Tomas O'Duinn, Peter O'Malley, George Bear, Victor Kuss, Stephen Heron, Paul Gillespie, Nell Mc Cafferty.

(Irish Times)

Vincent Browne, Donal Corvin, Michael Deniffe, Frank Downey, Dermot O'Shea, A. S. Callaghan, John MacHale, Charlie Mallon, Maurice Hearne, Michael Gallagher, Thomas Murdoff, R. de Roiste, Arthur R.

Bateman, Rex Mac Gail, Jack Kearney, Ite Hynes, Trevor Danker, James Morrissey, Colm Boland, Nicholas Coffey, Mairtin Mac Cormaic. (Independent Newspapers)

John Keane, Liam O'Connor, Micheline McCormack, Martin Murray, Judith Elmes, Tom McElroy, Cathal O'Shea, Sam Smyth, Val Sheehan, Peter O'Neill, Bill Stuart, Pat Quigley, Liam Mac Gabhann, Eamonn McCann. (Sunday World)

Paul Murray, Michael Sharkey, Desmond Nix, Laurence Kilady, David Brazil, Peadar Mac Ruairi, Dan Coen, Gerry McMorrow, Patrick Holmes, Eoin O'Murchu, Hugh McFadden, Sean O'Sullivan, Donal Flanagan, Anthony Bradley, Frank Doherty, John Brophy, Richard Battley, Helen Rogers, Tony O'Callaghan. (Irish Press)

Brian Trench, Darach McDonald, Nuala O'Farrell, Deirdre Younge. (Hibernia)

EASTER COMMEMORATIONS

Newry

About 15,000 people assembled at the Mall, Newry, to march to the Republican Plot in St. Mary's Church. The Parade was led by a Colour Party of na Fianna Éireann carrying flags of the Four Provinces, the Starry Plough, the Flag of na Fianna and headed by the National Flag. Then came a contingent of na Fianna in military formation and followed by Cailini. The Chairman at the graveside ceremony was Gerry Marks, recently released from Long Kesh. The Roll of Honour was read by Elish Morley and the Statement from the Leadership was read by Dave Morley, who also was released a short time ago from Long Kesh.

Oration

Mr. Frank Graham, Sinn Féin, Dublin, who gave the oration said, "We are gathered here at this hallowed spot to pay tribute not only to the men who died in 1916, but to the men and women of every generation who gave their lives for Freedom. We are being told from countless quarters to give up the military struggle and use the ballot box, but in 1919 when the Irish people used the ballot box and voted overwhelmingly for an independent Ireland the answer given to us was the Black and Tans.

What will the answer be if we give up the struggle now? We will have conceded victory to the Brits who are even now at the point of withdrawal. All they are waiting for is a strong quelling regime composed of Fitz, Hume and their Unionist friends to emerge and they will then withdraw but will still rule Ireland. We

will not allow that to happen. We want peace — but not that kind of quelling peace. Who has suffered most in the recent struggle? Republicans. They have endured imprisonment, harassment, torture, and death. So above all, Republicans desire peace.

Silent on hunger strike

There is also a chorus of establishment voices lay and religious, raised in shrill condemnation of the Republican Movement. Plenty of peace marches, but no protest marches about inhuman treatment of prisoners on hunger strike the most non-violent form of protest.

We have also the disgraceful record of Irish Bishops who condemned the 1798 Rebellion, the Young Irelanders, the Fenians, and also refused to recognise the Republican government of 1920 — ex-communicating Republicans in the Civil War — then rushing to recognise the British puppet government of Cosgrave in 1922, and as we all know they are running true to form at the present time with their selective condemnation of those who are engaged in the noble cause of the struggle for freedom, and remaining silent about the torture of prisoners in British and Irish jails.

Republican aims

The aim of the Republican Movement is not merely to force the British to withdraw, but to radically change society North and South and to end exploitation of the people of Ireland. I ask you to continue to support those who are on hunger strike, in Port-

laoise and to go forward in what will be the final struggle for Irish Freedom."

The ceremonies concluded with a decade of the Rosary in Irish by Rose O'Hanlon, and a lament played by a lone piper for the Sons of Ireland buried in Newry's Republican Plot.

— Report courtesy our Newry Correspondent.

Listowel

The Annual Easter Commemoration was held in Listowel on Easter Sunday morning after 12 p.m. Mass. The parade was led by a Cumann na mBan Colour Party and Fianna Éireann.

The Commemoration took place at the Republican Plot in Listowel Cemetery. Robert Beasley was chairman. Wreaths were laid on behalf of all branches of the Republican Movement. The Proclamation was read by Christopher Campbell, the Rosary was recited by Tomas O'Loinsigh and the oration was delivered by J.J. McGill of Ballinamore Co. Leitrim.

In the course of his address he called on all present to give their full support to the 20 men on hunger strike as he stated these men are on hunger strike for simple conditions of human decency.

Limerick

The Easter Commemoration was held on Easter Sunday. The parade left Bedford Row at 1.00 p.m. for the Republican Plot at Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery. It was headed by a Colour Party, St. John's Band, and units of Cumann na mBan, Cumann na



Pictured during a 24-hour-fast held in Limerick to call for an inquiry into prison conditions in Portlaoise are (left to right) Mr John Gilligan (N.A.T.O.), Mr Eirí Fitzgerald (Trades Council), Miss Pat Nix (Social Worker) and Mr Gordon Hayes (Solicitor).

Limerick

A PUBLIC meeting in support of the hunger-strikers was held in the centre of Limerick on Easter Saturday. Before the meeting began over forty people, many carrying placards, marched through the main streets of the city to protest at the conditions in the prison.

The public meeting was addressed by Pádraig O Maol-Cathaigh, Des Long, and Pádraig Malone all of the Limerick Comhairle Ceannair, Sinn Féin. The speakers outlined the conditions in Portlaoise, the demands of the men, and the need for public support for the hunger-strike. The public were urged to put pressure on their Public Representatives to demand an inquiry into Portlaoise.

Sinn Féin held four church-gate meetings on the hunger strike, on Easter Sunday morning.

Co. Clare

In Co. Clare, commemoration ceremonies were addressed by Richard Behal at Doonbeg and Lisdounnava.

Unveiling of plaque

At Lisdounnava a plaque was unveiled at the grave of the late Máirtín de Faolte (Martin Whyte).

Support the hunger strikers: their fight is your fight

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS

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

EASTER COMMEMORATIONS

ROSCOMMON

THERE was a record attendance at the annual Co. Roscommon Easter ceremony which was held at Ballingar. Speaking at the Ballingar Ceremony, Brendan Magill, the main speaker said:

"The future of this Country rests not with the Politicians but with the ordinary people, we call again for the voice of the people to be heard, Ireland belongs to them and no one has the right to barter the birthright of this Nation. The first priority must be Brits get out of Ireland and the establishment of a New Ireland wherein all the people will be cherished equally irrespective of creed, wherein the class system will be abolished.

"It would not be in keeping with our traditions if we did not recall the plight of our less fortunate comrades who today lie in the Hell Holes that are called prisons. We think today of the boys and girls in England and we feel, for them in their suffering, we have a special place in our hearts for the girls in Armagh and Rita O'Hare and Christine Graham here in the South. We send greetings to our men in Long Kesh and Magilligan Camp and especially 'H' Block (CRumlin Rd. Jail) where 27 men are naked except for blankets and assure all of them that we will do all in our power to achieve Political Status for their fight is ours and we accept fully our responsibility.

The actions of the R.U.C. Garda and British Special Branch have not gone unnoticed and we are well aware of the torture and brutality in Police Stations from Kerry to Antrim and assure those responsible that their actions will be made known to the world. It is free society throughout the world who will see them for what they are.

"We must speak with restraint and charity in the presence of our dead but its difficult to speak with charity and restraint about Port Laoise. Its difficult to speak with charity about the worst prison in Europe wherein Republicans are daily brutalised and mentally tortured, kept in conditions under which we would not expect animals to survive. What man could face years of solitary confinement with nothing to do only look at the walls of his cell 22 1/2 hours a day, no activity to engage in other than talk to himself? Is it any wonder that 20 of our comrades have resorted to

the only protest left to them, is it surprising that men prefer death to living in such conditions. Today we salute the brave men in the Curragh and their comrades in Port Laoise and we say to Dave O'Connell, Kevin Mallon and their comrades, they do not now and will never stand alone. We your friends are with you every inch of the way, we know what you are suffering, what your wives and families are going through and even now we are doing all in our power to save your lives.

"To this end we must be more active than ever before. We must make the people of Ireland well aware of what's being done in their name and that the responsibility for Port Laoise rests squarely on the heads of all who sit in Leinster House and its no use each blaming the other, Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, and the so-called Labour Party are equally responsible and they must be made aware that they will answer to the People of Ireland for their Acts and that those who serve them will also have to answer. We are taught to believe that we all answer finally for our actions before the supreme judge, do Cosgrave and his minions think they will not? Do they think there will be no reckoning before God? One is led to believe that the same Cosgrave thinks he is God.

Righteous cause

"In conclusion, I quote the words of Pearse, when he spoke at the grave of O'Donovan-Ross: 'Let no man blaspheme the cause of the dead generations of Ireland by giving it a name or definition other than their name and their definition'.

"Let us remember those words today and go from this place knowing the righteousness of our cause and with the determination to achieve in our day a just and lasting peace in Ireland.

To work for anything less, to settle for anything less would be a complete sellout of the dead who died for Ireland. I know the people of Roscommon have never shirked from their duty and will not be found wanting.

"May we meet soon in a free, peaceful, united country."



London the Easter commemoration march, from Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park to Kilburn north London was led by Sinn Fein. Many other organisations and groupings took part.

DRUMBOE

Ten thousand people from all over Donegal West Tyrone and Derry took part in the Easter Commemoration ceremonies at Drumboe, Co. Donegal.

The parade, led by a colour party marched through the towns of Stranorlar and Ballybofey and back to the memorial in Stranorlar, where wreaths were laid on behalf of O'Leigh na hEireann, Cumann na mBan, Sinn Fein and the Drumboe Commemoration Committee. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded.

The parade then reformed and marched up to the monument at the spot when the Drumboe martyrs were shot dead by Free State forces in 1923. The Chairman, M.J. Begley, introduced Eddie Fullerton of Buncrana, who read the Donegal Roll of Honour; Seamus Quigley of Strabane recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish; Sorcha McElhinney of Strabane read the Proclamation. The Easter Message from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read

and then the Chairman introduced the speaker, Geroid Mac Carthaigh of Cork, who in the course of his oration called for support for the Port Laoise hunger strikers, who now in the Curragh Military Hospital on their 35th day of protest for humane conditions.

He also called for support for the men in the 'H' Blocks in Long Kesh and for all men and women in jail for their country. He called on all present, if they were not already members of the Republican Movement, to join it and play their part in building the New Ireland.

After his oration, the Chief Marshall, Joe O'Neill, instructed the people to reform behind the colour party and march back to the Burt Hall, Ballybofey, where the ceremonies ended with the playing of the National Anthem. During the oration a Free State helicopter hovered overhead, trying to drown out the speakers words, there was also a heavy Garda presence at the commemoration.

Galway Ceremonies

SPEAKING at Easter Commemoration ceremonies in Uachtar Ard and Headford, Mr. Domhnall O Lubhail said that: "History shows that no nation has fought so long and so continuously for its freedom" and that he knew of no history where the pattern of the struggle was so unchanging as it has been in Ireland.

"While each rising", he continued, "was subsequently praised by its generation, those who praised it were among those who most vociferously condemned each next effort at achieving freedom. This phenomenon occurs again and again in our history right up to the present day. Part at least of the reason for this was that in the aftermath of each uprising, some small concession would be won and those who lived, including those who had fought, during that period were subsequently convinced by the ruling power

that 'things had changed' and that 'to fight was no longer necessary', that while the preceding uprising had been a just one, the current one was not".

Declaration of intent

He reiterated the Republican Movement's demand for a declaration of intent to withdraw by England and said that as soon as such a declaration was made, the Republican Movement would help the orderly and phased withdrawal.

Mr. O Lubhail strongly condemned the Government of the Southern State and the Authorities at Port Laoise prison for the inhuman conditions under which Republican prisoners were held there and asked for support for the 20 Republican prisoners who are now more than four weeks on hunger strike.

'Ulsterisation has failed'



Cyril Toman giving the oration at Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery.

ULSTERISATION of the Irish war had been tried by the imperialists and their lackeys and it had failed: this was the main point in the oration given by Cyril Toman of Newry, speaking in Irish and English on Easter Sunday, in the morning in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, and, in the afternoon, in Cluain Chaoin Cemetery, Co. Dublin.

The British were beaten in the north-east, knew it and no longer had the will to win or even continue the struggle, he stated. The "Brits-out" slogans all over the country showed that the mass of the Irish people in the four provinces wanted them to leave forever.

A well organised political party might succeed in having such a political slogan appear in a few places throughout the country, where cumann were particularly strong, and active but it could not hope to meet with the tremendous success of the "Brits-out" campaign without mass support everywhere.

This expression of the mass will of the Irish people was supported by individuals and organisations not all of whom or which were in complete sympathy with Sinn Fein ideology, he continued.

At the end of every colonial war the imperialists seek to hand over to a local garrison element which can be trusted to look after their various interests and, ideally, form the nucleus of neo-colonialism.

In the north-east that caretaker role had been chosen by London for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, backed by the Ulster Defence Regiment. In Indochina, such a policy was called "Vietnamisation"; in Ireland's north-east it was called "ulsterisation."

But the R.U.C., with heavy casualties and the

prospects of more, had objected to this role. They had opposed re-arming of the force and had been over-ruled. Now they were putting up a stiff opposition to being thrown into the front line through their Police Federation and he had the amazing spectacle recently, he continued, of witnessing the G.O.C. of Crown forces in the north-east travelling specially to Enniskillen to assure and reassure the R.U.C. that the British presence would remain, though every sensible person knew that this was a lie.

The objective, of course, was to prop up the sagging morale of the R.U.C. which, though re-armed and given all the paramilitary equipment needed, refused to believe that it could beat the armed resistance against the Crown.

"The R.U.C. has lost the will to win, even to fight," he pointed out. Therefore Ulsterisation had failed when it had barely begun. What had happened to the R.U.C. had happened even more strikingly to the U.D.R.

It was important to recognise this important turning point in the anti-imperialist war. It could very easily be overlooked or its significance estimated. He believed that its importance could not be over-estimated. The armed struggle was moving to a victorious conclusion.

ARDOYNE MEMORIAL UNVEILED

ON Easter Tuesday a memorial was unveiled in Ardoyne, Belfast to all those from Ardoyne, Ligoniel and the Bone who had died in the struggle for Irish freedom.

Mary McGuigan, who was Chairperson, introduced Nora Connolly O'Brien, daughter of James Connolly, who unveiled the memorial. Mrs. Connolly O'Brien said that she felt ten foot tall "at the honour you have given me of being present at the unveiling of this wonderful and beautiful memorial to those who died for Ireland. I think in my heart and soul I have been with you all through the fight and I remember the unbroken tradition we had in Ireland, way back centuries old, the unbroken tradition that every generation would have an armed rising against the power of the British."

"The tradition goes on and will go on until the last Irish leaves Ireland", Mrs. Connolly O'Brien

said.

She spoke of her father and how he had told her before he died that this was not the end — that Ireland would rise again and she said that she was sure in her heart that this was the last fight one that would ensure victory — that this would be the final defeat of the British at the hands of the Irish people.

She ended by quoting from Constance Markievicz's Battle Hymn of the Republic — "Those who for Ireland fall never shall die" and added: "neither will they as long as memorials such as this are kept up". She called an all present to pray and work for the 20 men on Hunger Strike in the Curragh Military Hospital for

humane conditions.

The memorial was then blessed by Fr. Frank Goodall who recited a decade of the Rosary.

TRIBUTE

Mary McGuigan paid tribute to Maire Drumm, who had always been present at this commemoration and who was sadly missed. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the 3rd Batt. Oglaiha na hEireann, Cumann na mBan and na Flanna Eireann; on behalf of the McCaughey/Saunders Sinn Féin Cumann; the O'Hanlon/McCusker Cumann; the Colm Keenan Cumann, Cookstown and the Green Cross. Many other wreaths were laid on behalf of individuals and organisations.

The Last Post was sounded, a volley of shots was fired and Reveille was then sounded.

The names of the dead commemorated by this memorial were then read out.

ORATION

Billy McKee delivered the oration. He said that they were gathered to pay homage and tribute to the dead of Ardoyne who died over the last eight years in the struggle for freedom and independence of this country. No area has made more sacrifices, no area has been more faithful to the principles of Irish Republicanism than Ardoyne. We are proud to have known and worked with them and it is fitting that in death we should remember them, for remembrance is the best test of loyalty.

He referred to the unbroken tradition in Irish Republicanism, through Tone — 1916 — to the present day. The people commemorated today have made the same sacrifice as Pearse and Connolly and the other martyrs of the past had made.

LIVING DEAD

He went on to say "that whilst remembering our dead, let us not



ABOVE: A plaque bearing the names of all those from Ar doyne, Ligoniel and the Bone (Belfast) who have died in the present struggle for Irish freedom; the plaque was unveiled by Nora Connolly O'Brien.



forget the living — or should I say, the living dead — those who are incarcerated in the dungeons of British and Irish prisons. Men who are today on the brink of death in the Curragh Military Hospital, preferring to join those we commemorate today rather than to bow to the indignities offered to them by Westminster lackies in Leinster House. And in Long Kesh Concentration Camp are large numbers of our men lying in solitary confinement, clad only in a rough, Army blanket, their only communication with the outside world is a prison chaplain who has to divide his time between them and hundreds of other inmates of

Long Kesh and of course, their jailers whose favourite practice is to jibe the prisoners about their nakedness; their political beliefs and their religious beliefs. This brutal treatment of defenceless prisoners will not be tolerated by the Republican Movement and we warn these sadists in the Prison Service to mend their ways or to seek a more honourable occupation. I will ask all here to support any protest in connection with our prisoners here in Ireland and in England."

He concluded by thanking the organisers for honouring him by inviting him to speak on this occasion. He said "that this fine

cross which the people of Ardoyne have raised here to commemorate the heroic dead will always bear witness to the true nature of their love and gratitude to those who died in their defence and in defence of the principles that were so dear to them."

Barney McKenna then thanked, on behalf of the committee, all those who had donated and all the bands and the large crowd who were present.

Over 5,000 people and several bands, including the James Connolly Pipe Band from Scotland took part.



MRS. Nora Connolly O'Brien standing beside the cross which was unveiled in Ardoyne to the memory of all from those from Ardoyne, Ligoniel and the Bone who have died in the present troubles.

The most heroic generation yet: - Ó Brádaigh

THE North Louth Easter Commemoration led by a colour party of Fianna Eireann took place from the Square, Dundalk. Martial music was supplied by the Dundalk Brass band and the Killen Accordion Band.

At the republican plot the ceremonies were presided over by Sinn Féin councillor, Fr. Browne, U.D.C. M.C.C. and chairman of the North Louth Easter commemoration committee. A member of Cumann na mBan recited a decade of the Rosary. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Oglaiha na hEireann, Fianna Eireann (Dundalk), Cumann na mBan (Dundalk) and Sinn Féin (Dundalk). The Proclamation of 1916 was read and the last post having been played, the Easter message from the leadership of the Republican Movement was read.

The oration by Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, president of Sinn Féin, followed. In the course of his oration Mr. Ó Brádaigh said:

"We stand here in continuity with all those who have gone before us, down the centuries and down the years in an unbroken chain of resistance against imperialism and against foreign rule in Ireland. We choose Easter Sunday because it is the Sunday nearest to the proclamation of the Irish Republic outside the G.P.O. in Dublin on Easter Monday in 1917. From 1916 to '23 it continued, again in 1939 and in 1940, once more from 1956 to 1962. Until we came to the final phase of the struggle, the phase that began in 1969 and brings us up to the present day. It is truly said that this generation of heroic phase of the struggle that this generation of boys and girls, who have carried the fight to the Motherland throughout the long centuries and that theirs is rightfully the victory which is their due. They have paid the price of freedom over and over

again.

"They have shown themselves willing to sacrifice as demanded, whether on the fields of battle, whether in the prison cell, whether on the longest death of all, on hunger strike, whether in the torture chamber in the torture mills of Castlereagh and Palace barracks; Yes and the different places throughout England and latest of all there in the Free State surrounded by their enemy and their captors.

"There is this about Republicanism which those opposed to us and those allied to British Imperialism in this country cannot and will not understand; and that is the exaltation of spirit which we derive from our communion with those who have paid the supreme sacrifice down the years.

The exaltation of spirit which comes from serving a cause which is bigger and greater and grander and nobler than any of us that they will not and cannot understand and that it is that will ultimately defeat them and reduce them to the dust.

Republicans want peace

"During the past year the struggle has continued and since last Autumn the cry was raised aloud throughout Ireland and on the streets of Ireland, that there should be peace in this country of ours. There are no people more than the Republican people who would subscribe to that call. Who wants peace more in this country of ours than the faithful Irish Republicans. Stand back and look at it; examine the situation; ask yourselves who suffered in this country of ours through the absence of peace. Who suffers because of the conflict here? Is it those in high places? Is it those in secure employment? Is it those who enjoy the favours of the establishment north and south and in England?

"We say NO; we say: 'It is the faithful Irish Republicans themselves; they and their families suffer most through the absence of peace; they who are torn from their families who have known the early morning raids, who have known the arrests,

"The chain of resistance is unbroken, it lasts to this very day and it brings up to the men who are fighting for Ireland today, the men and women, the detention, the beatings; who have known the victimisation in their employment. Who have been harried and hounded from one end of this country to the other. Who have felt the lash of coercion laid across their backs in every generation; Yes the faithful Republican people of this country want peace more than anyone else in this country of ours.

"But they are rational people. They realise that peace will not drop from heaven, just because we call for it. They realise that peace has to be built and has to be worked for and that there is no peace of any value, except a lasting peace. We had temporary, before, for six or eight or ten years and then the recurrent cycle of repression and violence breaks out once more.

"That is no good. A peace must not be patched up; it must be a lasting peace. And what is the basis on which a lasting peace can be built? Republicans submit that it must be built on justice and that the minimum requirement for justice in this country of ours is this (that the British Government make up its mind and take a decision in Principal that it is going to quit Ireland for good.

Unbroken chain of resistance

Continuing, Mr. Ó Brádaigh said: "We stand here at this graveside in Dundalk in all humility. We stand at the graves of the men who were executed (six of them by the Irish Free State) here in Dundalk in 1923. We stand not far from where Richard Goss is buried, who was executed in the notorious Port Laisie prison in 1941, and where his comrade Liam Gaughan is buried who died from treatment received while in an English prison in the same decade. We stand beside the plot where the men who died at Edenbuter in 1957 are buried and not far from here is Faughart where Sean Campbell is buried, who died in South Armagh with Jim Lochrie last Christmas twelve months.

boys and girls, our most heroic generation yet; the generation that has its finger on the hand of destiny; the generation which is about to bring history around the corner, which is about to achieve what has been striving for at so much cost, down through the hundreds of years. This is the generation which is about to bring that to a successful conclusion at last.

Prisoners-of-war

"And while we stand here at these gravesides, these are those who cannot be with us because they are prisoners of the enemy. And I refer to your own Steven Nordone a prisoner of the British government in close confinement over in England. I refer to the other Dundalk men who are in Long Kesh, Crumlin Road, and Port Laisie.

"I refer to their sacrifice. I refer to the men in H Block in Long Kesh. Close on eighty of them who are in their cells this afternoon striped naked as the day they were born. Held in close confinement and fenced off from the fellow man because they will not don the prison garb the convict garb of England; because they will not admit they are other than Irish Political Prisoners; prisoners of war, soldiers of Ireland.

"They are there in their skin suffering — suffering every deprivation because the seek to uphold the nobility of the cause which we hope most people in this country

Hunger strikers

Referring to the hunger strikers, Mr. Ó Brádaigh said: "We think of our twenty comrades on their beds of pain in the Curragh Military Hospital and we know what their message is we know how they stand as they tell us, they would rather die in dignity in the Curragh than go back to the degradation of that hell hole which is Port Laisie prison."

At the graveside ceremonies had ended, the parade formed up and returned to the Square where the marchers dispensed following the playing of the National Anthem.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR PRISONERS

Dutch Support

WE, the Ireland Committee and the Medical-Judicial Committee for political prisoners, in the Netherlands want to express our solidarity with the hunger strikers in Port Laoise prison.

We want to inform you that we sent a protest letter to the Irish ambassador in Holland condemning the conditions in Port Laoise and demanding that the Irish government concede the demands of the hunger strikers.

We told him we consider the Irish government responsible for the consequences of the hunger strike.

We also wrote to the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Van der Stoep, to inform him about the inhuman conditions in Port Laoise. We asked him to do his utmost best to press the Irish government to follow the U.N. standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, and asked him to support the demand for a public inquiry on the conditions in Port Laoise.

On the 5th April we released a press-statement informing the press about the hunger strike and the terrible situation in Port Laoise and explaining the demands of the hunger strikers.

In this press-statement we pointed out that by treating the political prisoners in this way the Irish government is guilty of violating human rights and so committing the same criminal offences as those she lodged a complaint about at the European Court of Human Rights. Besides, this, treatment of political

prisoners can only be understood as part of the increasing repression in West-Europe of any resistance against the imperialist western states system under the leadership of the U.S.A.

Prisoners of revolutionary movements like the IRA, the RAF (Germany), the ETA (Basque), Brigade Rosse (Italy) and the Palestinian movement, as the armed vanguard of this resistance, are broken mentally and or physical to maintain the illusion of the almighty power of this states system.

We very strongly wish the hunger strikers success in their struggle!

— Fraternal greetings, from the Ireland Committee in the Netherlands and the Medical-Judicial Committee for Political Prisoners.

Telegram To Minister

AT A meeting of the Dundalk Urban District Council on 12th April Fra Browne, Sinn Féin member of the Council, proposed that a telegram be sent to the Minister For Justice, Mr. Cooney, asking him to start negotiations with the 20 men on Hunger Strike in the Curragh Military Hospital immediately.

The motion was passed unanimously by the members, including Coalition members and a telegram was despatched to the Minister.

United States pickets

ON Saturday, March 26th pickets were placed across the United States to support of the hunger strikers.

The chosen targets, Aer Lingus and The Irish Tourist Board, were faced with the problem of picketers carrying signs exhorting intending tourists to "Boycott British Airways and Aer Lingus", in support of the hunger strikers.

In Chicago the picketers decided to continue on a daily basis during business hours — a move that was proven to be most successful. Surprising indeed is the fact that the general public, despite the bitter hostility of the worst segments of the anglo-American media, is very understanding, sympathetic and eager to read all available literature handed out by the pickets, and relating to the conditions that have to be responsible for forcing political prisoners to resort to this most extreme of all forms of protest viz, hunger strike.

Worker League Support

THE Workers League supports the demands of the Republican prisoners for an end to the brutal, callous, sadistic, and murderous treatment they are receiving from the Cosgrave regime.

Strip-searches, solitary confinement, beatings, torture, suspension of visits, the harassment of visitors, have all failed to extinguish the revolutionary spirits of these comrades.

Behind the mask of 'Parliamentary Democracy', Imperialism through its stooges in the Coalition Government, operates, unhindered by the Dail and Senate, a ruthless and organised campaign of terrorism against the Irish masses.

The courage and tenacity of these Republican prisoners in the face of all the legal thuggery of the Gardaí and prison staff expresses the unbreakable resolve of the exploited masses to shake off the yoke of Imperialism for once and for all. By their determined resistance to the Coalition's savagery they not only expose the Free State lackeys but place before the unemployed, the youth, the wage-restricted trade unionists, the impoverished and bankrupted small farmers, etc., yet another reason for bringing down this band of Imperialism's middle-men.

The Workers' League salutes the courage of the hunger-strikers and all other anti-imperialist prisoners. We call for an end not only to their maltreatment and abuse but for an end to their 'custodians' — the Fine Gael/Labour government.

— Yours fraternally, Donal O'Sullivan, (on behalf of the Central Committee).

Workers' League, c/o Bulletin Publications, 27 Middle Abbey St. Dublin. International support for hunger strikers.

WAKEFIELD

REPORTS from here indicate that Philip Sheridan has been placed in the CONTROL UNIT of the prison. He is confined in a cell, painted white all over. The walls are padded and the windows opaque (similar to the 'cell' in which the late Frank Stagg was held whilst on hunger-strike here). Even the exercise-yard is painted white and completely enclosed. The light in his cell is kept burning 24 hours a day and he is kept in complete isolation from the rest of the world.

All of which is contrary to the European Convention of Human rights and contrary to British Home Office statements that the use of sensory-deprivation units, CONTROL UNITS, had been suspended in British Jails. Britain, it will be remembered, was recently found guilty before the European Court of Human Rights of using the same sort of torture-techniques in Ireland and S. I., falsely, that she had given-up such activities in 1971. Who do they think they are kidding?

GARTREE

Paul Holmes (Belfast) is still in solitary confinement here. His latest term of such isolation ends in May.

Reading material, especially about Ireland, is wanted by the P.O.W. here and elsewhere. We have already sent some in but the more they get the better. Remember the political prisoners of today are the leaders of tomorrow, history teaches us so.

ALBANY

Five of the six P.O.W. beaten-up by a special squad

of warders here last September, have been moved to other, separate prisons. The Home Office has denied that the men were ill-treated in any way, contrary to all the evidence. Such denials confirm the view that the Home Office quite deliberately lies to cover-up the misdeeds of its hirelings and show that their statements referring to Irish political prisoners are completely unreliable.



WORMWOOD SCRUBS, LONDON

Shane O'Doherty (Derry) is now in his 7th month of protest, seeking treatment as a POLITICAL PRISONER. He is still wearing only a small towel to keep warm and cover himself. During daylight hours all his cell-furniture, including mattress and chair, is removed leaving him nothing to rest on.

The prison is being picketed every weekend in support of his just struggle. Reports from other P.O.W.'s here indicate that the food served-up to Irish prisoners is of a particularly poor standard and that this practice is quite deliberate. One P.O.W. lost almost a

stone in weight in the first four weeks of his stay here, all due to the inedible 'food'.

WANDSWORTH

Last month Ray McLoughlin (Donegal) was badly beaten-up by warders who entered his cell whilst he was asleep. He suffered extensive bruising on his body and a damaged black eye which took weeks to 'clear-up'. Ray (it will be remembered from previous issues) is one of those prisoners who have been kept in complete isolation since last September, following the Hull disturbances. His case is but the latest in a long line of assaults by warders on Irish political prisoners held in isolation in the prisons here all of which are covered-up by their superiors as a matter of form.

BRIXTON

The 'trial' of Eddie Caughey and John Higgins ended, April 6, at the Old Bailey. Eddie was acquitted on the charge against him (2 other charges having been dropped). John was convicted on 2 counts, and received the maximum of 5 years on each count, the sentences to run consecutively. Two Britons who had been charged along with John received 8 and 2 years respectively.

The judge for the 'trial', which started on 21 February was Griffith-Jones, the Common Sergeant. He adjourned the trial last Friday to pass 'sentence' on a fellow Old Etonian and member of the Guards brigade, a suspended sentence for bank-robbery and attempted robbery. The old-school tie still rules O.K., obviously.

—P.O.W., Bulletin of the Irish Political Prisoners in Britain.

London Pickets



Supporters of People Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act formed a picket at the Irish Embassy in London, in support of the Port Laoise hunger strikers, now in the Curragh military hospital. A leaflet handed out on their picket gave details of the treatment suffered by the prisoners.

Fr Fell Protest By Donegal County Council

THE Government and the Catholic Hierarchy in Ireland and Britain have ignored Fr. Fell", said Cllr. Brendan Murrin at Donegal Co. Council on Monday when the Council passed a resolution by Cllr. Murrin calling on the Irish Government and in particular the Department of Foreign Affairs, to bring to the notice of the British Government, the ill-treatment meted out to Fr. Patrick Fell, and also to urge the British Government to return Fr. Fell to a prison in the Six Counties in view of the family domestic situation.

Cllr. Murrin accused the Government the Minister for Foreign Affairs in particular, and the Catholic Hierarchy of being selective in when and where they made protests and referred to the cases of Bishop Lamont and Fr. Rice. He said Fr. Fell had been ignored by the Government and the Hierarchy. "Are we going to allow a resident of this county to be treated in

this double standard fashion", he said.

FRAMED

Cllr. Murrin said he was satisfied that Fr. Fell had been "framed" and they should call on the Irish Government to urge the British Government to return Fr. Fell to a prison in Northern Ireland where he would be near his father, who lived outside Donegal Town. He said Fr. Fell had been ignored by the public representatives in the country, with the exception of one.

Cllr. Harry Blaney said they read every day of Irish prisoners being ill-treated in British jails and many of those prisoners should not be there. He felt Fr. Fell should be returned to a prison nearer home, and he proposed that Cllr. Murrin's proposal be circulated to all Co. Councils in the country.

UNANIMOUS

Cllr. Murrin said: "Bishop Lamont was accused of being involved with 'terrorists' in Rhodesia, and the same reference was made about Fr. Rice. Fr. Fell, however, was accused of being involved with Irish 'terrorists' and the Government and the Hierarchy have been selective because it was Irish 'terrorists'".

The resolution was passed unanimously and it was agreed to circulate it to the other County Councils in the country.

Gala Charity Show

DUBLIN CITY RAMBLERS
28th April 1977
DONAGHMEDE INN
COMMENCING 8 O'CLOCK
ADMISSION — — — 80p

Republican Post Bag

People against the prevention of Terrorism Act

COMRADES: I am writing to you on behalf of PAPTA in the hope that you will publish this letter in order to correct an error in the 22 March issue of An Phoblacht.

On Page 6 of that issue, you published in full a press statement released by us after the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act by the British Parliament.

We were very pleased to see our statement used in its entirety in your paper, but must point out that it was quite wrongly placed under the heading - "Trade Union Committee Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act".

The "Trade Union Committee" exists only in London and directs its main efforts towards British trade unions.

"People Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act" (PAPTA) is a national grouping which sees the Act as aimed directly at destroying the base of support for Republicanism among the Irish in Britain, by intimidation and harassment. We therefore seek to build a campaign against the Act involving not only those in the organised working-class, but also organisations and individuals in the Irish community which the Act attacks directly.

We have produced a pamphlet called "Apartheid in Britain - an analysis of the Prevention of Terrorism Act", which builds up a very strong case for repeal of the Act, and demands the right of republicans to campaign for a united Ireland free from harassment by the British State.

We organised a picket of the Irish Embassy in London on Saturday 26 March, following the disclosures in the Sunday World about conditions in Port Laoise, and are giving full support to the picket Sinn Féin has organised there for Sunday 3 April.

I hope the confusion between PAPTA and the London T.U. Committee has now been cleared up. We will continue to keep you informed of our activities, and will send a copy of the pamphlet as soon as it is available.

OPEN LETTER TO MR. LIAM COSGRAVE, T.D., TAOISEACH

ARISING from the statements you are reported to have made at Finner Camp recently, I suggest that on behalf of the people of Ireland you deliver the letter set out hereunder to No. 10 Downing Street, London.

"Dear Jim,
On behalf of the people of 26 counties of Ireland I am to state that we cannot afford to pay £170,000,000 annually to prop up your corrupt sectarian regime in the six counties of Ulster which you occupy against our interests and our will. Neither is it sane for us to brutally repress ourselves and deprive ourselves of our basic human rights in order to enable you to carry on your cruel harassment of our brothers in the same six counties. Besides, we want our police forces to patrol our towns and cities, preventing crime, instead of shooting for no reason at all, as you do to the British Army (including the S.A.S.) and the R.U.C. in the commission of crime."

After all, Jim, your government created partition. It has ruined our country and guaranteed even greater disaster in the future so it would be stark madness for us to maintain it for one day longer and, consequently, from this day forward our attitude is going to be the sensible one of resentment and non-cooperation. If you want the curse of partition it is up to you to maintain it."

Having delivered that letter please proceed to do the intelligent thing. Cancel all those orders you spoke about for new guns and bullets and tanks and barracks and prisons with which you say you propose to procure peace "by consent". Open the prison gates and join with the released prisoners in building a just society. Dismantle the national shame of the Special Criminal Court. Withdraw the Gardaí from partisan support of British Colonialism along the border and assign them to their proper duties of preserving civic order throughout the country.

That way peace will be established by willing consent and partition will become a bad memory, for, without the great sums of money you are squandering and the very precious manpower you have engaged preserving it, the evil of partition could not possibly survive. On its peaceful demise the British would have the two million they are spending on bloody harassment and compensation with which to ease the six counties into a prosperous all-Ireland republic and you would have the two hundred million pounds you mention to use for the good of all the people of Ireland.

Better spend those enormous sums on the joys of peace than on the obscenities of war as is being done at present.

- Patrick A. Saunderson, "Fearannasor", Bóthar Fhearrán na Góille, Dun Laoghaire.

OVER 600 people took part in a very well organised commemoration at Killorossanty, West Waterford. The proceedings got under way under the chairmanship of Johnny Drohan; Pax Whelan was the organiser and Pat Keating (a nephew of Pat and Tom Keating who are interred in the Republican Plot) was Chief Marshal.

The oration was given by Brendan Golden of Dublin in the course of which he said:

"We are here today to honour all the men and women who died for the successful conclusion of the struggle for total national liberation". He mentions that over the last twelve months we saw the passing away of the veteran Joe Clarke and Maura Drumm; the vicious murders of Peter Cheary and Majella O'Hare, the death in very mysterious circumstances of Noel Jenkinson in an English prison.

Republican programme

He reiterated the Republican demands for a cessation of hostilities:

- * a declaration of intent by Britain to withdraw from Ireland.
- * Mr. Golden continued: "The border an amnesty for all political prisoners.

- * that the Irish people be allowed to decide their own destiny.

"We have a programme to solve the Irish problem, he added. Mr. Golden continued: "The Republican programme includes a four province, federal, socialist system based on community government where pomp and privilege vanish where wealth and power is evenly distributed among the people."

"He stressed that a socialist Ireland will be achieved only when the British stranglehold on our economy is broken. In the north, he said we have the military, and economic presence while in the south we have the economic presence and pro-British elements who control the means of production, distribution and exchange, as well as the radio, television, press, periodicals and children's books

alternatives to the two statelets in our island. We must set about the creation of a just society with the people in control of the means of production, distribution and exchange. We must set about the setting up of co-operatives and worker-owned industries. Banks, insurance, lending houses - the whole array of financial institutions must be nationalised. We may raise the green flag over a 32-County Republic but unless we set about organising a socialist Republic our efforts will be in vain. Britain and pro-British elements in our society will rule us through a whole array of financial institutions".

Solidarity with prisoners

"At this stage", he went on, "I would like to express solidarity with our comrades in gaol, the prisoners in England who have suffered extreme beatings and hangings; seventy 75 prisoners in H-Block, Long Kesh who have been in solitary confinement for the past nine months; and thirty the prisoners in Port Laoise who suffer

- * solitary confinement,
- * humiliating strip searches where their private parts are examined,
- * beatings, torture,
- * lack of education, recreational or handicrafts,
- * no visits.

Finally the "Hunger Strikers" who started their hunger for justice strike on March 7th, 1977. They are now 35 days in their agony."

"Their struggle is the self same struggle in which the patriots who lie in the quiet graves of Killorossanty were involved. You must protest, picket and agitate on their behalf.

"The present struggle for full national liberation will go on", Mr. Golden told his listeners. "We will not abandon the struggle leaving our children to suffer as we have done.

KILLROSSANTY COMMEMORATION

STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE

all of which are used, he said, to turn the people to work against their own interests.

He named a number of companies that make millions every year on the blood and sweat of Irish workers. During the month of February five companies announced that a total of £644,000,000 had been made: these include:

Guinness Group £39,000,000.
Green Group, £363,522
Rank Group £1,672,820
"Irish" Distillers Group £2,088,322
P.S. Carroll, £6829,000
Unidare, £1,470,000
Independent Newspapers, £1,400,000

He also mentioned Paddy McGrath's company "Waterford Glass" whose profits for this year alone was £6753,000 (43% up on last year).

"How long is it since the workers got a 43% increase", he said.

He went on: "When is this imbalance going to stop? When is there going to be an equitable distribution of wealth in Ireland? The answers lie with you the people", he said, "you must get involved in the issues that affect your lives".

He made economic comparison between the economic situation in the 26 Counties and in the Six. "In the 26 Counties 75% of the wealth is owned by 50% of the people while in the North 72% of the wealth is owned by 7% of the people; the unemployment rate in the 16 is 10.7% and in the Six Counties 10.1% of the people are without work".

Amid applause he went on: "We must set about creating

NCCL report condemns Government secrecy

PUBLIC debate in 1976 showed a growing concern about individual freedom and the power of Governments', says the National Council for Civil Liberties in their report for 1976.

But concern for individual liberty was often one-sided, the report claims. "The press, for instance, defended individual privacy against the proposed new powers for tax inspectors". But most newspapers ignored the operation of immigration controls "which involve probing into the private lives of would-be immigrants in a fashion no journalist would tolerate if it were officers, doing the questioning, and white tax-payers rather than Asian dependants who were being questioned".

The report strongly criticises the Government's "continuing commitment to secrecy". The combination of more Green Papers and a new secrecy law which will protect government more effectively does not add up to the badly-needed freedom of information law which would place a duty on government to disclose details of its operations.

Finally, the report regrets the decisions by an increasing number of local authorities to ban right-wing organisations from public meeting halls. "We share the abhorrence of racism... but we deplore any attempt to decide which organisations may exercise political freedoms and which may not".

The report shows that NCCL has managed to cope with the financial crisis which faced it early last year. Instead of a predicted £17,000 deficit, it has ended 1976 with a deficit just under £3,000.

GREETINGS

EASTER GREETINGS to the Irish Prisoners at Port Laoise and Curragh Camp from Canadian Friends. Working on your cause. God Bless.

- Anne V Sherbrook International Prisoners Relief, 1919 Davie Street, Victoria, BC, Canada.

BUIOCHAS

An Cumann Cabrach wish to acknowledge £1 received at G.P.O. on Saturday, 2nd April, also 50p received in Portlaoise on Sunday, 3rd April

WESTMEATH

AN Cumann Cabrach (Central Committee) wish to acknowledge receipt of £14 from the Colm Keenan S.F. Cumann, Co. Westmeath.

QUIZ No. 7

A Silver Phoenix Badge to be won each week. Winning entry will be drawn each week from all correct entries. Give the answers to the following four questions. Enclose 10p in postal orders and send your entry to: "An Phoblacht Quiz", Box 7, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. to arrive not later than ten days after date of issue.

QUESTIONS

1 On what date was O'Donovan Rossa buried in Glasnevin?

SINN FEIN NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE CROCK OF GOLD

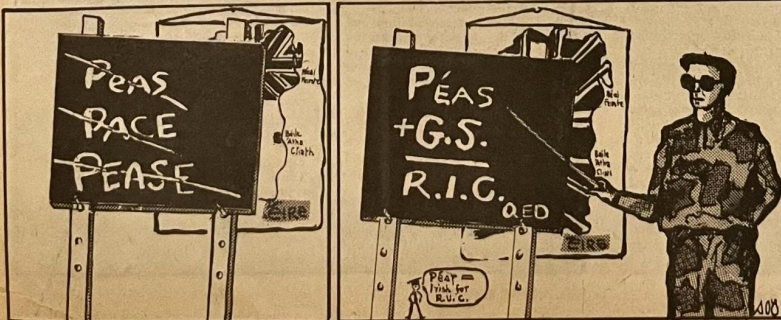
All Sinn Féin members who have not yet received their quota of

CROCK-OF-GOLD CARDS

are instructed to contact Jack Murphy, Secretary, National Finance Committee at Head Office, 2a Lower Kevin Street, Dublin 8, immediately.

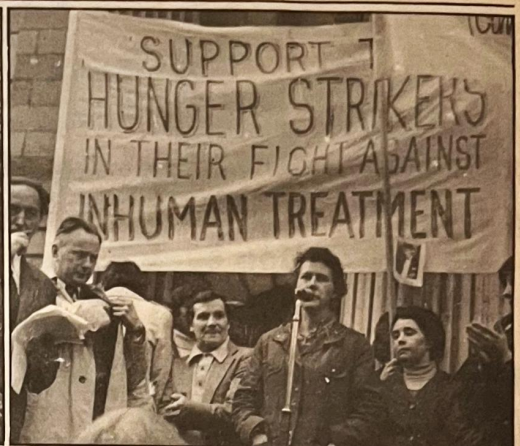
Monies already collected should be forwarded to the National Finance Committee NOW.

- George Lynch, P.R.O.





A section of the large crowd at the G.P.O.



Deirdre O'Connell thanking the gathering at the G.P.O. for their support.

RESOLVE UNWAVERING

(Ar leannuit o lch 1)

bourg. Now, Cooney was asking the people to believe that such people could not be relied upon when they made allegations about Portlaoise Jail.

The Sinn Féin leader pointed to the chivalry and loyalty of those hunger-strikers due for release within a few months and who, probably, would have been able to put up with the conditions until June, August, September, October and November.

These dedicated men were laying their lives on the line for their comrades who have very long prison terms still to serve. It was for the sake of others rather than themselves that they were making this dreadful sacrifice.

Other points made during the interview covered:

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT: The administration stated that Portlaoise Jail had no basement. This was true. But the bottom storey was known by the authorities themselves as the "base" and this term had been used in good faith.

It was not this area that men were brought for punishment. They could be seen from the next storey only through the wire mesh. They were put, alone, into punishment cells, a warder standing duty outside.

The "base" was used, apart from punishment, to house prisoners only when the rest of the jail was overcrowded, and for the so-called "hospital wing."

EXTRA CLOTHING: Cooney stated on radio that alleged denial of such was a lie. Deirdre Bean Uí Chonaill read to the newsmen portion of a letter from her husband, Daithí, referring to a campaign of eight months to get a duffle coat in. It had been given him only after the first fortnight of his hunger strike.

NEWS TO RELATIVES: Cooney said Republicans were lying when they said relatives were not being kept informed of prisoners' health.

Deirdre, pointing to the same letter, said that the first she had heard of her husband having collapsed after the first fortnight (after which he was given the coat) was in his letter to her from the Curragh Military Hospital. The governor had given no such information.

OTHER DENIALS: Ruairí said that Sinn Féin had to rely on reports from prisoners as to current conditions and was satisfied that conditions, as reported and complained of, were factual up to the release of those prisoners.

What happened on occasions was that, following a published complaint by Sinn Féin, the administration made certain

changes, then announced them, denouncing Sinn Féin speakers as liars. All such statements were checked carefully and made in good faith by Sinn Féin.

STRIP SEARCHES: Cooney denied on the radio that the anus was probed with an instrument during strip searches. Ruairí replied that he had no record of Sinn Féin having made this accusation. It had been stated that the area of the anus was probed by fingers. Possibly, this was even worse.

Later on the day of the Cooney broadcast RTE reported a statement from the Prisoners' Rights Committee demanding an independent, sworn inquiry into ALL prisons where, now, strip searches were being made, parcels for prisoners prohibited and other new repressive measures in force.

MOUSE DROPPINGS

In this context it is worth reporting what Rita O'Hare has to say about Limerick Jail (she was released last week after serving a 3 year sentence to be arraigned on release on an extradition charge and then let out on bail).

Rita told of degrading, brutal and repressive conditions in Limerick Jail and of "food of excellent quality" fouled by mouse droppings.

She described how, after a jail incident, two Gardai had held down Rose Dugdale while another had broken a plate and gashed the woman's face with it, a long, deep wound. Rose, then, had been returned to her cell. It was only after many hours later that she had got medical treatment.

"The entire system in Limerick Jail," said Rita, "is designed to humiliate, degrade and break one's spirit."

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES: The Sunday news conference was told that Cooney never had answered the allegations made against the lack of these, the refusal to provide them, the prohibition against one prisoner educating another, the bias against the teaching and use of Irish, the obligation in the minimum rules of the U.N. for prisons against prisoners being allowed to become "human vegetables."

SCHOOLING DENIED

Over the past four years this paper has detailed attempts to have university courses provided in jail (having arranged for such with qualified lecturers, pending permission); of courses in music (instruments are prohibited, even a tin whistle); of instruction by records and tapes (banned); of crash courses

in Irish (Gael-Linn was willing to help but permission was withheld).

In many cases university courses are allowed political prisoners in England. Lecturers are allowed to give courses in the Long Kesh and Armagh Jail.

Men and women who have no Irish before being jailed in the Six Counties come out fluent speakers. But not in the "republic" (the only concession appears to be in Limerick Jail where limited facilities have been granted after a long campaign but very reluctantly).

The library facilities in ALL the jails are grossly inadequate, consisting of "thrillers," for the most part, or maudlin love stories.

But Portlaoise Jail has seen the ordered, organised destruction of good books, some of them priceless, others very valuable, by the warders, following a prison demonstration against prison conditions.

The best known owner of such books was Eamonn Mac Thomais, himself a distinguished writer and lecturer. His case got considerable publicity at the time and the facts became so well known, so well documented, involving so many people, that Cooney did not dare to lie on that issue. He refused even to comment.

PROPERTY STOLEN

Mac Thomais — and many of the other prisoners — lost more than their books and Mac Thomais maintains to this day that prison authorities stole his property and that of his colleagues, another allegation that Cooney dare not deny.

But far the greater issues are involved this time, the health, even the lives of the flower of our country and the fearful, inevitable repercussions, if they are allowed to die.

Liam Cosgrave's father allowed 77 prisoners of war to be executed. His son will allow 18 prisoners of war in the Curragh Military Hospital to die unless stopped now.

Only an overwhelming and non-stop campaign throughout the entire country, a massive threat to their political future in this general election year, will stop these men of violence in their tracks.

**Support the Hunger Strikers:
their fight is your fight**

Support grows

(Ar leannuit o lch 1)

were Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the Murray Defence Committee, People's Democracy, the Relatives' Action Group of Belfast and the Galway Civil Liberation Action Committee.

Joe Stagg, I.C.R.A. chairman, told his listeners at one stage that the meeting would have been greater still had not 20 buses been stopped at the Border by the British. Their fuel tanks had been interfered with and they could not travel further.

It was an obvious attempt by the British to sabotage the meeting or to weaken the attendance. Such massive support for the hunger strikers undoubtedly would make news not only at home but abroad as well, to be compared with the dwindling support for the peace women.

Among the speakers at the Saturday meeting, which took place without incident, despite the massed presence of more than 300 Gardai in riot gear, were:

Aindrias O Ceallachain (S.F.), Seamus Costello (I.R.S.P.), Miriam Daly (Murray Defence), Sean Carr (Irish Front, Derry), Michael Farrell (P.D.), Sean Mac Stiofain, Mrs. McRory (Belfast Action Group), Prionsias O Conghaile (Galway group), and Elizabeth Murphy (I.C.R.A. secretary, who described a strip search at 62 years of age in the Dublin Bridewell, after she had picketed the Mason-FitzGerald Dublin meeting recently).

Another successful I.C.R.A. meeting was held at the Dublin G.P.O. the following evening, for the benefit of those returning from the Dublin-Kerry game in Croke Park.

The meeting was moved to Mountjoy Square, Dublin, when word came that six young men who carried a protest banner on to the Croke Park pitch had been mauled by two of the players John McCarthy and Paud O'Shea — Gardai out of uniform — and had been taken off to nearby Fitz-

Gibbon Street Garda Station, to be held there under Section-Two of the Emergency Powers Act.

Joe Stagg visited the six in the Garda station and said they were: C. O Fearghail (who had a foot-long gash from the Garda-player's boot on his leg); Pat Tierney (also brutally assaulted); and G. O Gribin, Christy Reilly and M. Kiernan and J. Power.

Five of them, he said, had decided to go on hunger and thirst strike in protest at being detained under Section-Two.

Protest meetings, demonstrations and collection of signatures for petitions, on behalf of the hunger strikers, continued in many parts of the country. We will publish brief details when supplied to this office.

Radio na Gaeltachta reported such a protest meeting in An Spideal, Connemara, addressed by the lawyer, Caoimhin Mac Cathmhaoil. The leaflet on Portlaoise by Rev. Piaras O Duill was distributed.

Sympathy hunger strikes were reported from three places in Australia as well as the collection of signatures for petitions.

The important thing to remember is that these demonstrations must be continued; the pressure must be steadily increased rather than relaxed; local representatives, clergy, anyone who can help, must be worried, tormented, forced to take action, as stressed by Miriam Daly and Sean MacStiofain at the Saturday meeting.

The people's conscience must not only be stirred but agitated, forcing a mass movement, a mass demand which cannot be resisted by Britain's agents who control most of Ireland.

Otherwise brave and intelligent men, whom we need to build our Eire Nua, will wither away and die, or if they survive, following a much delayed sensible decision by the authorities, will have their health destroyed.

This must happen. It depends on YOU. Remember Sean McCaughey. Remember Terence McSwiney. Remember Tomas Aghas. Remember Michael Gaughan, Noel Jenkinson, Proinsias Stagg.

Na lig doibh bás a thail, in ainm dhúis De.