

An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



ANNUAL SALE OF WORK AN CUMANN CABHRACH AONACH NA NOLLAG Mansion House, Dublin

DECEMBER 3rd, 4th & 5th

Friday 6pm to 10pm
Saturday 12 noon to 10pm
Sunday 2pm to 10pm

Toys, Food-stuffs, Raffles,
Wheel of Fortune, etc.

Buses 10, 11, 13, 15A,
15B & 20 pass the door

Christmas greetings

AS WE approach Christmas and the New Year, *An Phoblacht / Republican News* requests relatives, friends and organisations who wish to send greetings to the prisoners through *AP/RN* to do so as soon as possible.

Annually there is a last-minute rush of greetings and we do our best to accommodate the late arrivals but due to our Christmas printing schedule we shall be forced to rigidly adhere to our deadlines this year.

All Christmas greetings should be in our Belfast or Dublin offices by Thursday, December 16th.

Sraith Nua Iml 4 uimhir 48 Deardaoin Nollaig 2 Thursday, December 2nd, 1982 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

SOME



● James Prior is having his eyes opened by IRA military expertise

SECURITY!



● The RUC landrover target of Wednesday's RPG7 rocket attack



● The scene outside Springfield Road Barracks, long after the IRA had safely withdrawn

WELL WITHIN 24 hours of the much-heralded 'security' debate in the new Stormont assembly and the promises of James Prior of more repression, came a salutary lesson on Wednesday from the IRA's Belfast Brigade in the form of an RPG7 rocket attack outside Springfield Road Barracks.

Assembly or not, debate or not, the IRA hits the British presence in Ireland at every opportunity. But Wednesday's attack, coolly launched from the corner of Crocus Street, against an RUC landrover and which seriously injured at least two of the occupants, was strongly reminiscent of another IRA action in that same street in March

of this year.

On that occasion, a British army mobile patrol, which had just left the barracks, was fired on by the terrifying M60 machine gun. Three soldiers were killed. The previous day the RUC's chief constable, Jack Hermon, had announced that the IRA were 'reeling'.

Then, as now, the IRA Volunteers involved withdrew safely after the attack.

And this in the heart of the most militarised area of West Belfast!

More recently than that Crocus Street attack, of course, was another RPG7 assault on Springfield Road Barracks on September 20th.

In an almost carbon copy of this Wednesday's operation, the rocket was launched from the corner of the next street, Violet Street, and killed a British soldier in a concrete sentry

post.

Back in October 1979, two separate IRA attacks on the barracks in the space of 11 days, with an M60 and with sniper fire, resulted in the death of one British soldier, and the injuring of two RUC men and two other British soldiers.

Obsessed with 'security', demanding and promising more repression, the loyalist politicians and British directors do not seem able to grasp the simple point — it just is not possible to repress the IRA.

ONCE AGAIN a Free State election result has put the Labour Party in the enviable position of achieving its major political objectives. And there are few who doubt that following talks between the party's leader, Dick Spring, and the Fine Gael leader, Garret Fitzgerald, which began on Wednesday, those political objectives will be successfully achieved.

Spring is confident that he will get four full cabinet posts and four junior ministerial posts in the new Free State government to be formed when Leinster House reconvenes in a fortnight's time. In other words, jobs for exactly half the Labour Party's 16 deputies.

With the combined Fine Gael and Labour tally of 86 seats, against the 75 of Fianna Fail, plus two Workers' Party members and three independents, the Labour members can confidently also look forward to anything up to a full five-year term in power.

And that lengthy term means large ministerial salaries, large expenses, state cars and sundry perks stretching past the magical three years' service necessary to qualify for the life-long ministerial pensions.

Life is indeed sweet for the representatives of Labour in these heady days of political negotiations.

POLICIES

The incidental matter of the policies on which Dick Spring's invigorated Labour Party actually fought the election are not thought to cause any hiccup on the road to a new coalition — a term which has been renamed as 'power-sharing' by the Labour leader.

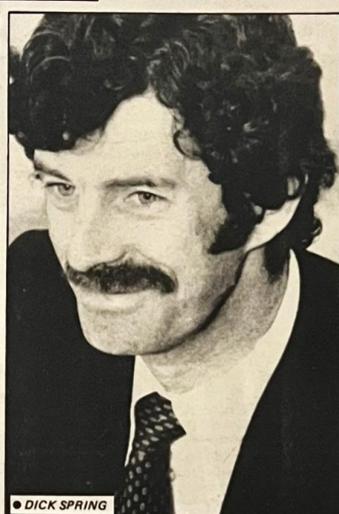
The fact that the Labour Party's semi-socialist policies clash with Fine Gael's on almost every major issue, and that in the course of Labour's 'go-it-alone' election campaign Spring himself declared Fine Gael's economic proposals as 'absolutely disastrous for the coun-

LABOUR SPRINGS FOR POWER

BY KEVIN BURKE



● GARRET FITZGERALD



● DICK SPRING

try', is regarded as trivial in the rush for office.

Getting the coalition agreement, which will emerge from the Fitzgerald/Spring discussions, past the

Labour Party's special delegate conference on Sunday, December 12th, is not expected to cause any difficulty either, even though the Galway conference, which bucked

its then leader Michael O'Leary and voted for this particular post-election sanctioning, only narrowly missed voting against coalition altogether.

This time things are different and with a bit of gloss in the form of a token increase in capital taxation and a nominal promised amount to be spent on job creation, Spring should have no problem in becoming deputy premier.

AMAZING

Spring, whose mustachioed visage is credited with the Labour Party's amazing survival at the polls, against all the odds, can hardly be rejected so soon by his party in conference.

The prospect of Spring, and no doubt other colleagues like Liam Kavanagh, following O'Leary into Fine Gael (as they had originally intended to do), would really seem to be the final straw for the party stalwarts.

And Spring is not slow to slip in a nice reminder to the Dublin militants in the party that the party's heart is very much a rural one now, with the strategic transfer of the conference from Dublin (where last time it took place at the Gaity Theatre) down to Limerick's Savoy Cinema, and very near to his own constituency base of North Kerry.

Even the socialist conscience of the party, its chairman Michael D. Higgins, appeared last weekend to be learning the salutary lesson of having been kicked out of his Galway seat by Fine Gael's deliberate campaign to withhold the life-giving transfers from him, as a punishment for his strong anti-coalitionist statements.

On Sunday and Monday, on RTE, Higgins was in a most understanding and conciliatory mood towards the idea of coalition.

ITGWU

And the ITGWU executive which met on Saturday and, according to leaks inspired by its Workers' Party members, came out firmly against coalition, quickly went back in again on the following day.

Union president John Carroll indicated that although they were opposed 'on principle' to coalitions with conservative capitalist parties, the union would follow its Galway conference vote and give the green light to whatever deal emerged.

Moyard protest at Stormont

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, following a meeting with residents from West Belfast's Moyard estate, Sinn Fein elected representative Gerry Adams requested a meeting on their behalf with Department of Environment Minister David Mitchell to demand the demolition of the flats and protest generally at the seriousness of the overall situation in West Belfast.

Mitchell agreed to the meeting which took place in Stormont on Monday this week, November 29th. But on his own initiative, and without consulting the Moyard residents, Mitchell invited along SDLP man Joe Hendron and Will Glendenning from the Alliance Party.

Members of the Moyard Action Committee forcefully presented their case, backed-up by technical and medical evidence, to show that the housing conditions, sewerage and drainage systems in the complex are totally inadequate. Predictably, Mitchell, whilst conceding that living conditions in the estate were unacceptable, stubbornly reverted to his old excuse that vandals were responsible for the breakdown in the sewerage system. He promised the residents, however, that he would give them an answer by Christmas on the question of demolition, but stated that there definitely would be no demolition between now and next winter.

Before the meeting began, Gerry Adams handed Mitchell a letter which clearly spelt out Sinn Fein's attitude. It read in part:

"Because of the housing crisis in West Belfast we sought this meeting with the British government department which asserts that it has responsibility over this issue. It is our intention to use this meeting to pin-point and expose your government's failure to deal with these problems and its failure to meet the needs of tenants in West Belfast.

"We have a responsibility to people we represent to focus attention on the deprivations they suffer and to expose those responsible for this situation."

During the course of the meeting, Adams delivered another letter to Mitchell from the residents of the Devonshire in West Belfast, outlining their demand for their wooden framed houses to be replaced by brick. Divis Flats and other black spots were also raised at the meeting as were inadequate repairs, high rents and the extent of bad housing throughout West Belfast.

Spokesperson for the Moyard residents, Mrs Margaret Keenan, told Mitchell that if the residents did not get the reply from him which they wanted — total demolition — they would 'fight dirty'. And she added:

"In the end we will get demolition of Moyard, the houses are just not fit for people to live in."



● Margaret Keenan of the Moyard Action Committee and Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams leave Stormont following their meeting with Environment Minister David Mitchell

Prior promises more RUC

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

ON TUESDAY this week, November 30th, British direct-ruler Jim Prior faced the unionist members of his assembly on the issue of 'security', following his promise to do so to the assembly's speaker Jim Killefder one week previously. The low-key debate which followed his address was a bit of an anti-climax, after all the drama and excitement of Monday and Tuesday week, when unionists had been vying with one another over the best and most draconian way to keep nationalists down.

At little cost to himself, Prior softened the unionists by publicly asking the Free State government to introduce extradition. But Prior's concrete offer was, predictably, an increase in RUC strength: 500 more full-time members, and 300 more reservists. He went on to praise the RUC, with a special mention for undercover squads, a nice touch which nationalists living in the Lurgan area will not fail to appreciate.

Referring to last week's proposal by Official Unionists to suspend assembly business until the British government had given in to loyalist demands for increased repression, Prior warned:

"Were we to allow the assembly to break down because of the actions of violent men on both sides of the community, their's would be the victory."

Amusingly, Prior added that the IRA's actions were "not remotely comparable to the threat from, say, the uniformed army of an invading foreign power."

CHURCHMEN

Prior also took the opportunity to mention the prominent churchmen, whose propagandising on behalf of the British has upset and angered many nationalists in the past weeks. He declared that he was encouraged "by the extent to which Church leaders, both Catholic and Protestant, have spoken out against the evil of violence, have utterly condemned those who have resorted to it, and have urged respect for the rule of law."

And this they do: at the beginning of November, Protestant clergymen, in a blaze of publicity, organised a 'flying picket' to attend the funerals of nationalist victims of loyalist assassinations. However, they showed their hypocrisy by not attending the funeral of RUC victim Michael Tighe in Lurgan on Sunday. On the day of that funeral, Bishop Brooks demanded an en-



● James Prior, with eyes full of hope and a handful of promises, seeks to placate the unionists

quiry, not in order to find the truth about Michael's murder, but because "it would bolster the belief in the police."

Prior's references to the support he receives from the clergy have become embarrassingly frequent — during his American tour a fortnight ago, he disclosed that West Belfast priests had met him before he had

left Belfast, and that they had asked him to urge Irish-Americans to stop raising funds to buy guns for the IRA. This clerical delegation to Jim Prior has become a bit of a mystery, as no West Belfast priest has yet admitted to having been part of it.

SINN FEIN

Meanwhile, on Tuesday evening, following the Stormont debate, the BBC once again capitulated to the loyalists' refusal to go on the air with Sinn Fein representatives. A recorded interview with Mid-Ulster's elected representative Danny Morrison was transmitted on BBC's 'Scene Around Six', followed by a live interview of all the other party spokespersons. Official Unionist Harold McCusker, after watching a recording of Danny Morrison's reaction to Prior's address, felt safe enough to launch into an attack of his absent adversary:

"I resent having to listen to the apologist for murderers being given the freedom of the air-waves at my expense," he shrieked, adding:

"I pay my television licence. I bet he doesn't."

SDLP deputy leader, Seamus Mallon, in a rather weak intervention, admitted that successive British governments had "consistently ignored the SDLP's point of view."

Seamus Mallon is presently in danger of being unseated, if Harold McCusker is successful in bringing a case against him under the Representation of the People Act, for standing in the last assembly elections while a member of the now-defunct Free State Senate. His seat would then automatically fall into unionist hands if it came to a by-election, a development for which nationalist voters in Armagh are likely to blame the SDLP deputy leader as well as his unionist opponents.

In contrast to the reaction of the SDLP, Sinn Fein's was unequivocal. Danny Morrison described Prior's proposals as "typical measures for further repression."

LAST OPTION

Accusing the British government of using the assembly as a "first step to the reconstitution of the old Stormont," and of giving in to loyalist pressure, Danny Morrison concluded by reiterating the determination of nationalists to oppose the new assembly:

"The assembly is an institution which has to come down, before the British government is forced to look at its next option, and of course the IRA will continue to attack the British until the British are faced with no option but their last one, and that is to withdraw from Ireland and leave the Irish people to decide their own future."

'No British military solution'—IRA

A STATEMENT issued by the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin on Tuesday, November 30th, commented on the Stormont assembly meeting that day as follows:

"The Irish Republican Army promises that the war for national liberation will continue until every vestige of British rule is removed from Ireland. There can be no British military solution to the demand for peace with justice, to the demand for freedom."

"The Stormont assembly is now seen as a loyalist forum demanding the military repression of the nationalist people and suppression of their legitimate demands. If the British continue to ignore our rights then the millions they are promising to plough into repression may well end up as compensation payments for future RUC, UDR and British army fatalities and casualties. Only a British withdrawal and the Irish people exercising their legitimate right to self-determination can bring this war to an end."



... WAR NEWS ... WAR NEWS ... WAR NEWS ... WAR NEWS ...

UDR COMBATANT KILLED

VOLUNTEERS of the IRA's First Battalion, North Armagh Brigade, ambushed and executed a UDR soldier in Armagh city last Saturday night, November 28th, shooting him dead instantly at the Mall View petrol-filling station close to the city centre.

After the ambush the RUC circulated reports in the media claiming that the man had left the RUC, of which he had also been a member, three years ago.

To counter this false impression that the target was a civilian, the IRA issued a statement pointing out that it was aware that the man had left the RUC, but stating that he had subsequently joined the UDR and had been observed by IRA intelligence sources in the preceding two months taking part in UDR operations in Benburb and Armagh city.

BOMB HOAXES AND ATTACKS

In the first of two major attacks on successive days, Belfast Brigade IRA Volunteers carried out a widespread disruption of the city

RPG7 ROCKET ATTACK

At least two RUC men were seriously injured in the second Belfast Brigade attack of the week, this time an even more dramatic one.

Shortly after 12.45pm on Wednesday, December 1st, an IRA Volunteer stepped out at the junction of Springfield Road and Crocus Street in West Belfast and fired an RPG7 rocket at an RUC landrover, as it slowed down at ramps close to the entrance to the nearby RUC barracks.

In the immediate aftermath, other IRA Volunteers in the vicinity opened fire for several seconds, before the unit involved safely withdrew.

Although the RUC were noticeably reticent about detailing the precise injuries inflicted on the RUC patrol, it is known that the RPG7 rocket scored a direct hit on the driver's door of the landrover and that at least three other members of the RUC crew, in addition to the two seriously injured, were admitted to hospital for treatment.

Chief Superintendent Jimmy Crutchley, who last week was



revealed in court as the RUC man who personally ordered the plastic bullet to be fired which killed Nora McCabe in July 1981, later had the predictable audacity to comment that it was 'dammed lucky' that the IRA attack had

not resulted in civilian casualties. The IRA retorted that, unlike the RUC, its attack had only been launched after extensive preparation and when its Volunteers were confident that civilians were not at risk.

Boycott South Africa

BY SEAN HALPENNY

SOUTH AFRICA has hit the media headlines in recent days with the sentencing to death of a white British woman for the murder of her husband.

But the plight of black political prisoners, similarly under death sentence — and much more likely to die — gains little coverage from the Western press for the country that hangs more prisoners than any other.

Two recently released political prisoners, Tony Holliday and Ms Khosi Mbatha, provide typical examples of what political 'crime' is in South Africa. Holliday, a white journalist, had served six years for helping to produce pamphlets and magazines for the African National Congress. Ms Mbatha, a black South African, was jailed for helping squatters in Soweto.

They are two of the lucky ones, as many hundreds more prisoners either face death or are serving lengthy or indefinite sentences, with names like Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu finally forcing their way into the consciousness of people outside their country as representatives of their many nameless imprisoned comrades.

Information on these prisoners is suppressed by the South African regime, but nevertheless is disseminated by such concerned groups as Amnesty International and, more particularly, the Anti-Apartheid Movement which concentrates on campaigning on all aspects of the racist regime's brutal repression of the majority population.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement began in the late '50s and gained momentum after the Sharpeville Massacre of March 1960, when South African police opened fire on a peaceful demonstration, killing 67 people and wounding nearly 200 more. The horror of the slaughter spurred people around the world to organise in an effort to expose and isolate the regime.

BROAD SUPPORT

The Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement (IAAM) was eventually founded in 1963, largely due to the efforts of its present chairperson, Kader Asmal, himself a South African. Its aim has been to gather support on a broad a scale as possible.

Over the past 18 years, IAAM has developed considerably in campaigning on the various aspects of repression in South Africa, but has still to achieve what might be considered its most important current objectives of establishing an active boycott of South African goods in Ireland and pressurising the Dublin government to take a positive position on real sanctions both at the United Nations and within the EEC.

There are now numerous branches of the IAAM in Ireland, with the strongest in Dublin, Belfast and Cork. Nine major trade unions are affiliated to it, including the



● The thousands who marched against sporting links with the racist regime must be mobilised in a boycott against trading links

Irish Transport and General Workers' Union and the Federated Workers' Union of Ireland. Political organisations, including Sinn Féin, are also affiliated, and the IAAM has a number of prominent individual sponsors ranging from establishment politicians like Garret FitzGerald to more genuinely respected representatives of other fields, such as Sean McBride, Peadar O'Donnell, Seamus Heaney and Siobhan McKenna.

In recent years, activity by the IAAM has centred around conferences and solidarity weeks with some encouraging successes. In 1979 a conference in 'Aid to South Africa' resulted in the South African Relief Committee which has raised many thousands of

pounds and shipped consignments of essential supplies and educational materials to the African National Congress in Tanzania.

In February 1981 a conference for youth made something of a breakthrough in raising consciousness at this vital level. And around the same period the IAAM organised its most vigorous campaign ever in opposition to the Irish Rugby Football Union's tour of South Africa. Thousands of people were mobilised in a number of demonstrations and many organisations were forced to take up a public position on the issue.

FRUSTRATING

...But the political response achieved so far has been frustr-

ating and disappointing, particularly from those politicians who have paid hypocritical lip-service to anti-apartheid objectives.

In September last year an IAAM deputation failed to persuade Garret FitzGerald's Minister for Foreign Affairs, James Dooge, to support a United Nations call for 'comprehensive sanctions' against South Africa. And at an IAAM conference the following month, entitled 'Why Boycott South Africa — The Case for Sanctions', the then Coalition Minister for Labour, Liam Kavanagh of the Labour Party, illustrated the combined selfish and condescending attitude of the Dublin government.

He made a cynical plea, in

suitably impassioned tones, to urgently "mobilise support for the imposition of sanctions," whilst adding, however, that "sanctions must be carefully chosen and carefully orchestrated because economic sanctions will hurt the black majority and hurt us more than South Africa."

In other words, the demand of the black South Africans and their friends should be patronisingly ignored as the white man's pocket knows what is best for the black man's stomach.

But little more could be expected from that direction and many would question the IAAM policy of allowing such politicians to associate with it as sponsors. More disappointing, however, has been the equally hypocritical and inactive position of the affiliated trade unions.

Figures for 1980 show that the twenty-six counties imported £28 millions worth of South African goods and exported £11 millions worth. This did not include £21 millions in precious stones imported into the Shannon Free Zone for processing and distribution around the world.

TOKENISM

The trade union movement can be forced by concerned members to face the reality of benefitting from this support, however small, of the racist, blood-stained regime. Apart from the morality of the issue, there is no reason to believe that any long-term hardship would be suffered by a principled Irish lead in support of a major Third World objective.

Until such trade is stopped, trade union affiliation to IAAM and cosy verbal positions on apartheid are pure tokenism.

'Shot dead while handcuffed'

BY JACK MADDEN

ON MONDAY, November 22nd, armed Special Branch men surprised a group of men whom they had under surveillance for several hours and who, they say, were planning a robbery at the B&I Ferryport in Dublin.

One of the men, 20-year-old Eamonn Byrne of Sheriff Street, was shot dead. The gardai claimed that a Special Branch man had opened fire on him after he had turned his gun on the detectives.

But local disquiet about the circumstances of the shooting, and information from an un-named eye-witness to the incident, prompted Dublin Sinn Féin to release a statement on the matter last Saturday. (None of those involved had any political connections.)

Sinn Féin condemned what had become clear to have been a totally unnecessary shooting and added:

"Sources close to his family, and witnesses to the shooting claim that Mr Byrne was shot while he lay handcuffed on the ground and while his gun lay five to ten

feet away from him."

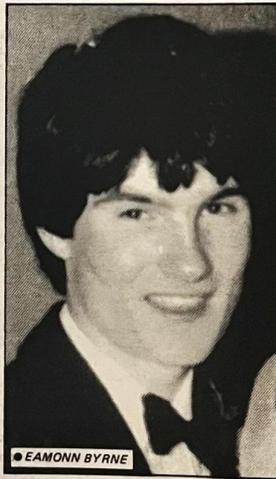
They added that an immediate investigation is necessary to establish the exact circumstances of the shooting.

In the wake of this new evidence, gardai sources, mirroring the RUC tactics in similar situations, changed the official version of events.

They now claim that the shooting happened accidentally when the garda's gun went off during a struggle, and they admitted that Byrne's gun was indeed on the ground — and not being pointed at them as they had initially stated.

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties and the Prisoners' Rights Organisation have since joined the demand for an independent investigation.

AP/RN reporter Jack Madden met some



friends of the dead man on Wednesday this week and heard of the recent background to the killing.

THREE years ago, Loughan House juvenile detention centre in County Cavan was opened in the face of strong opposition that it was simply a prison which would do nothing to stem the growing tide of violence and crime in Dublin's inner city, for whose young population the new jail was designated.

Eamonn Byrne, a young man from Sheriff Street who was shot dead last week, was Loughan House's first inmate — the original 'Bugsy'.

In early August of this year, an armed robbery on Donnycarney post-office in Dublin ended when the owner, Robert Belton, a member of the well-known Fine Gael family, was fatally wounded by one

of the gang.

Among those arrested in subsequent raids by the gardai was Eamonn Byrne. Two days later he was released bearing two black eyes and a bruised body. Within hours he had been re-arrested and charged with dangerous driving.

Peter Burke, a friend of Byrne, who was arrested with him, says that after their release, both of them visited the Prisoners' Rights Organisation and recounted the details of their detention, and, in particular, that both of them had been threatened by their Special Branch interrogators that they would be 'got'.

The next day they called to the offices of the Irish Press and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and told them also that their lives had been threatened.

In the following weeks, according to another friend of Eamonn Byrne's, Byrne was constantly being stopped and harassed by gardai.

"The situation became so ridiculous," he says, "that on one occasion he was arrested and charged with drunken driving even though he was sitting in the back seat of the car."

Gerry O'Callaghan, another friend, returned from holiday in England in August and discovered that his flat had been raided. Later he was himself arrested and told by gardai that they had information that he had organised the Donnycarney raid. In exchange for his release, they told him he would have to agree to 'set up' Eamonn Byrne. He refused.

Other acquaintances, including a number of drug addicts, were also approached and pressurised to agree to give evidence against Byrne.

Christy Dardis was one such person. His choice was simple — 'set up' Byrne or serve a three-month sentence for a petty larceny which had happened two years previously. He chose prison.

Last week the gardai — apparently adopting the role of judge, jury and executioner — were presented with an opportunity of disposing of Eamonn Byrne once and for all. They appear to have seized it with enthusiasm.

Loughan House's first 'graduate' is no longer a problem.



● Madrid Street RUC Barracks where last Saturday's sectarian assassination bid took place within sight of

Shots fired in Short Strand

THREE sectarian attacks in the space of seven days have been reported in the tiny enclave of Short Strand in East Belfast, with nationalists narrowly escaping death, on each occasion, when fired at by loyalist gunmen.

On Friday night last, November 26th, at about 7pm, 56-year-old Robert Murray was walking along Clondeboye Drive when a single bullet, fired from the direction of a 'security' wall separating the nationalist area from the loyalist one, hit the road just a few feet away from him.

Mr Murray, who takes this route

on most evenings to the Beechfield Community Centre, threw himself into an entry and lay there in fear for several minutes before venturing on his way.

On the following night, a group of five Short Strand teenagers, who were returning from a dance in the city centre, had just crossed the Albert Bridge and were turning

into Short Strand when a lone gunman emerged from the loyalist Ravenhill Road and fired four shots at them. Miraculously all missed their target, although fired from only a dozen yards away.

The attack took place within sight of the Madrid Street RUC Barracks.

The previous Saturday night, a woman was shot in the hand by a loyalist gunman when she answered her front door in the Mountpottinger Road.

Special Branch scare children



● SANDRA BURKE

SPECIAL Branch harassment of those using Dublin Sinn Fein's Blessington Street premises took on a new dimension on Saturday, November 28th, when members of the squad subjected two young girls to a frightening experience.

Sandra Burke, who is 12½ years old, and a friend of the same age, had just left the Sinn Fein offices where Sandra's father, Christy Burke, is a community officer in the advice centre. When men shouted at them from a car, they naturally quickened their pace.

The Special Branch car then mounted the footpath in front of them and one of its occupants jumped out and demanded to know their names and addresses and dates of birth. When the

frightened girls did not answer he threatened to take them away in the car.

Sandra, who had by then realised they were Special Branch men, recovered her voice and answered the questions, whilst her companion, who had never experienced anything like it, remained terrified and silent. The girls were then allowed to go.

Sandra, who is a chronic asthmatic, has suffered a number of attacks since the incident.

Protests, afterwards, by Christy Burke to the Special Branch men who regularly sit outside the Blessington Street premises in a cream-coloured Cortina car, were greeted with derision.

He has lodged an official complaint at the Fitzgibbon Street garda barracks and is taking legal advice on the matter.

DERRY ASSAULT

ON Wednesday night of last week, November 24th, four RUC men in Derry's city centre jumped on Michael McNaught as he was returning home and severely beat him, causing injuries and bruising to his nose and throat.

After several minutes of this, McNaught, from Bishop Street in the nationalist Bogside area of Derry, was arrested under Section 12 of the PTA and transferred to Strand Road RUC Barracks, where he was held for the full seven days period.

It is the sixth time in two years that Michael McNaught has been arrested and held for a seven-day period.

'In depth' damages paid

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

£10,000 in damages has been paid by the British Ministry of Defence to a Belfast man tortured during the internment swoops of 1971.

Gerard Maxwell, aged 49 years, from the nationalist Markets area of East Belfast has received the money in an out of court settlement agreed some weeks ago.

Maxwell was arrested in November 1971 and interrogated in Musgrave Street RUC Barracks and at the notorious Palace Barracks in Holywood. During the course of his interrogation at the latter venue he was literally beaten black and blue all over his body, but particularly around the lower portion of his buttocks, his thighs and legs.

He was also subjected to the 'in depth' torture techniques: being made to sit facing a wall for long periods, so as to lose track of time, having a bag placed over his head for lengthy periods to cause disorientation; and being put through prolonged interrogation.

During one long interrogation session, with the bag still over his head, a gun was placed near his temple and several blank cartridges fired.

As a result of this brutal treatment, Gerry Maxwell's health has been seriously affected. As well as spending 15 days in hospital on release from Palace Barracks, he has been in and out of hospital in the eleven years since then with various



● GERRY MAXWELL

complaints originating from the beatings.

A baker by trade, Maxwell has been forced to accept that his health will not allow him to work again.

After more than a decade of suffering, and waiting for compensation, the £10,000 damages is a paltry and pitiful sum. For Gerry Maxwell facing more years of pain and drastically reduced mobility, the long-awaited damages are of little comfort.



● This photograph taken following Gerry's torture in the notorious Palace Barracks in 1971 shows the extent of some of his injuries



● Meal-time at the Simon Community's shelter on Dublin's Sarsfield Quay

NO PLACE TO GO

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THERE ARE MANY reasons why people become homeless. Young people come to the cities to look for work, or perhaps after a dispute at home. They cannot afford to rent private accommodation.

Unless they get a permanent address they cannot get the dole, and an address at a hostel is not the best one to give when going for a job. The vicious circle of poverty soon takes control.

Older people, particularly the men, drift away from their families and lose all contact with them. Men who have worked in England come home and cannot find anyone belonging to them. And men who have been in the Free State or British armies retire and cannot cope with life outside a barrack-room.

The popular concept of the 'old drunk' is not a typical or correct description of homeless people.

Those who run the various free meal day centres, which are increasingly busy as the recession bites, tell of many homeless young people who are forced to come there for a meal,

being anxious to do some work in return, and of older men and women who struggle against terrible odds to stay clean and retain their dignity.

NO OPTION

At the moment, at least one thousand people in Dublin have no option but to seek accommodation in shelters and hostels. And there are at least that number again elsewhere in Ireland, North and South. They include a growing number of younger people.

It is not a new situation. In 1817 it was estimated that there were 7,000 poor people 'wandering abroad', and the solution

in those days was to commit them to lunatic asylums or the workhouse.

Attitudes towards the homeless have not changed much today. There is still no state body in the twenty-six counties charged with responsibility for them. The buck is constantly passed between the health boards, the local councils and corporations.

The buck is frequently let drop between them. And the authorities are quite happy to let it be picked up by the many religious orders and voluntary organisations who try to provide some sort of service for these people.

There are seven hostels for homeless men in Dublin, providing about 756 beds. Only 84 of these beds, in the Model Lodging House in Benburb

Street, are provided by Dublin Corporation.

And of the seven shelters, only two, the Simon Community shelter on Sarsfield Quay and the Night Shelter in Tara Street, cater specifically for older men.

There are 11 women's hostels, most of them catering for women and children or unmarried pregnant girls. There is a lack of beds for elderly women.

COUNTY HOMES

In rural areas the plight of the homeless, particularly the elderly who cannot, or do not want to, get permanent residence in old people's homes, has been worsened considerably by the increasing closures or restrictions of 'county homes', a hangover from the Famine days.

These institutions were usually situated in the grounds, or part of the buildings, of the older hospitals and were supposed to

be part of the 'Care of the Aged' programme, introduced in the Free State in 1969, which redesignated the 'country homes' as geriatric units.

However, accommodation that is available for 'casuals', as they are called, is either becoming restricted because of lack of funds in the health authority areas, or is being taken over by the pressing demands of the geriatric wards.

There is great confusion, genuine or otherwise, in the hospital service as to what their responsibilities are towards the homeless.

In response to a questionnaire sent to the hospitals by the Simon Community as part of the research for their recently published report 'Closing Down the County Homes', some hospitals stated categorically that they have no such responsibility. Others accept that they do, and two hospitals, St Felim's in Cavan and the Sacred Heart in Castlebar, have actually improved their accommodation.

Most of the remainder are trying to phase out their service to the homeless altogether and hope that it will be taken over somehow by the voluntary organisations.

ILLNESSES

And homelessness is not just the simple problem of having no permanent place to rest your head. Trust, a voluntary organisation which provides medical treatment for the homeless, list the illnesses which go with sleeping out or sleeping in the poorest conditions.

They include TB, skin diseases, bleeding and damaged feet from constant walking and a variety of respiratory infections from the constant wet and cold.

Hospitals, already overcrowded, treat the homeless and then deliver them back to a cubicle in a hostel to recover as they can.



● Part of the inadequate and overcrowded sleeping accommodation in Simon's Sarsfield Quay shelter

SIM
THE SIMON
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The Simon
night shelters
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support any of
residents who h
accommodations.
The Simon
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came to Dublin
workers for Sim
He had set up
there in 1963
least 10% of the
for were Irish.
RAP
He felt that the
Irish people to
work for Simon
that their rap
fellow countrymen



•Night shelter residents participate in a work project chopping up fire-wood to sell

SIMON—CARING AND CAMPAIGNING

THE SIMON COMMUNITY in Dublin buried 45 people between January 1978 and January 1982. Forty-five old, homeless and lonely people without a relative or friend to attend their funeral. Single people for whom no state authority will take responsibility.

The Simon Community, a voluntary organisation, has night shelters in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Galway and Dundalk. They run two residential homes in Dublin for old and infirm people and have projects to provide medical help, food and visitors for others who do not use their shelters.

These include a 'soup-run' operated by part-time workers which goes round about 40 men and women who sleep out, giving tea, sandwiches, soup, cigarettes and help — if it is wanted. They organise visitors for any of their regulars who are in hospital or prison and also visit and support any of their former residents who have found private accommodation.

The Simon Community was started in Ireland when a man named Anton Wallich Clifford came to Dublin in 1969 to recruit workers for Simon in England. He had set up his organisation there in 1963 and found that at least 10% of the men he was caring for were Irish.

RAPPORT
He felt that he could get young Irish people to go to England to work for Simon there, feeling that their rapport with their fellow countrymen would be an

trace relatives if someone dies... And we get people coming here to try to trace relatives all the time."

STRENUOUS
Simon's full-time workers are recruited on a three-month basis, the first month of which is probationary. They rarely last longer than a year as it is an extremely strenuous job, both physically and mentally. The Simon workers live in the shelters or homes and are on call 24 hours a day for four days at a time.

Carmel Bradley stresses that this work cannot be regarded as an ordinary job or as a fill-in until something else comes along. It needs a great deal of genuine commitment and personal resolve. Part-time, or co-workers, last longer, as there is not the same amount of strain. Simon value their part-timers enormously as they provide continuity and win the trust of their people, especially those served by the soup-runs, the men and women so alienated from society that they cannot even come to the shelters.

All workers are warned, however, to avoid getting too personally involved as usually the relationships cannot be kept up.

REACTIONS

Simon has reluctantly given up trying to establish long-stay homes in 'residential areas' after the violent reactions from local people.

In Galway last August, a vicious petrol-bomb attack destroyed the Simon shelter there. But at a subsequent public meeting 200 people turned up to show their support for Simon's work and the people of the Claddagh area welcomed the Simon residents to the local Legion of Mary hostel until alternative accommodation was organised.

Similarly, the two residential homes in Dublin's Sean McDermott Street, which house 24 old and mainly infirm people, have consistently received support and help from local residents.

The houses are at present being renovated by work-teams of prisoners from Mountjoy organised by AnCO. This rare scheme has worked ideally, providing prisoners with rewarding work as well as the Simon residents with improved accommodation.

It cost £140,000 to run Simon's shelters, homes and other projects last year. The Eastern Health Board gave a grant of 2% towards

that, but a recent letter has warned that even this figure is to be reduced this year as part of the overall health-cuts.

Dublin Corporation provided a food allowance of £5,000 last year — again a drop in the ocean considering the 26,000 dinners provided by Simon in the period.

Fund-raising therefore is by necessity a constant obsession for the Simon organisers. The organisation has two main fund-raising projects in Dublin, a shop in Camden Street and a waste recycling scheme behind the Simon shelter on Sarsfield Quay.

They welcome clothes, ornaments and anything else saleable for the shop, and bottles, scrap timber and rags at Sarsfield Quay.

POLICY

Simon is a national organisation which makes overall policy decisions in consultation with all groups of workers, but each area has autonomy for practical everyday working. Central organisation, fund-raising and staff-recruitment is based at its national office in Dublin's Fleet Street.

This office also organises the other side of Simon's activity — its educational and campaigning role. The organisation realises that the only way the worsening situation of homelessness can be altered is to force the state to

accept responsibility for the single homeless.

As well as addressing schools, colleges, community and professional groups on the issues, Simon has published several reports aimed at increasing public awareness of the problems.

In 1977, Simon decided to enter the political arena, with some reservations among some of its members, and pressed their demands through a 'poverty' candidate in the Free State's Senate elections. In 1981, and again in 1982, its candidate, Brendan Ryan, was elected from the university panel.

INTEREST

Whilst in that debating chamber he has spoken on neglected children, travellers, unemployment and extradition as well as his main platform of the homeless, and, indeed, has prepared a Homeless Persons Bill, but Ryan has also acknowledged the powerlessness of that chamber. Nevertheless, he has attracted considerable interest to the issue as a result.

And, in the final analysis, Simon acknowledges that the problem of homelessness, as all the other social problems, has its roots in the structuralised inequalities and deprivations in society and can only be tackled at that, very radical, level.

Mála poist... Mála poist.

ALL letters should be addressed to The Editor, Republican News, 11733 Park Road, Belfast or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Letters should be written as clearly as possible, preferably on one side, and only names and addresses should always be included, even when not for publication.

The way forward

A Chomrád,
Fáilte roimh thuirimí Antóin Uí Labhradh maidir leis an mbealach ar aghaidh chun na saoirse.

I agree with your correspondent that the way forward is to intensify the struggle politically and militarily, nationally and locally. I would add: 'and above all, culturally'. Or, as Connolly forecast, we will see the day when all the post-boxes are coloured green, and the Tricolour flies above all, but we will still be in thrall.

Connolly spent much of his life emphasising another point. It is a simple, easily understood one. Nevertheless, the Republican Movement has not yet given proof that it has been learned.

It is this: there is no use talking to the working people — and it is the working people who will conclude the revolution — in terms of objectives they do not understand. The workers will support us when they understand that we mean to change the system, putting them in power instead of those who run the system at present.

But it is not enough to say that, to sloganise the revolution. We must explain in detail.

The people must control production and the means of production, including banks and insurance companies, hire-purchase companies, the lot.

Also the working people must be guaranteed work, full education, health and other protection for the entire family.

We stand for complete freedom.

Sinn Féin has yet to make full control of production and the means of production part of its policies. It has refused to do so to date.

Sinn Féin at the last ad fheis accepted the policy document on culture but not even one member of the ard comhairle without a knowledge of Irish is attending an Irish class.

The policy document also points out that it has been Sinn Féin policy for years to use the Irish form of one's name. I see no evidence to suggest that Sinn Féin — or this newspaper — intends to honour this policy.

The immediate way forward, therefore, I would suggest, is to turn our backs on hypocrisy and get down to it honestly and with determination on all fronts.

We have the excellent example of the prisoners of war to kindle our idealism and to show that it can be done.

Dara MacDara,
Baile Átha Cliath.



James Connolly articulated the need not to just sloganise about the revolution but explain in detail what it actually means

A Chara,
As the 99th anniversary of Pat O'Donnell approaches, and a year which witnessed the rise of the 'super-grasses' comes to an end, the words of a ballad composed in O'Donnell's honour come to mind: "I am, you know, a venomous foe, to traitors one and all."

One week prior to Christmas 1883, on December 17th, Pat O'Donnell was executed in London for the killing of James Carey, the former leader of the Dublin group of Invincibles involved in the assassinations in Phoenix Park, Dublin, on May 6th, 1882, of Lord Cavendish, the Chief Secretary of Ireland, and Thomas Henry Burke, his permanent under-secretary.

As a result of Carey's treachery five Invincibles went to the scaffold within the walls of Kilmainham Jail — Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Timothy Kelly, Michael Fagan and Thomas Caffrey.

There were no confessions made. The Invincibles simply said: "We did it to make history." During the year following the assassinations the Invincibles had become folk heroes.

Even the servile nationalist and Home Rule press referred to them as 'brave... self-sacrificing... patriots'. They found a proud place as defiant victims of British tyranny, whilst Carey was universally denounced and despised.

Informers in the pay of the British government were dispersed to different parts of the world



Face to face with oppression

Youth conference

A Chara,
The Sinn Féin Youth Department are holding a conference for Belfast youth in the Marinn Forsythe Social Club, Turf Lodge, on Sunday, December 5th, commencing at 1pm.

The conference is being held to discuss the future and development of the Youth Department and how to tackle the ever-growing problems faced by the oppressed nationalist youth of Belfast.

Since the establishment of the British colonial state in Ireland the youth, more than any other section of the Irish people, have suffered the brunt of British rule. In our everyday lives we witness and experience the effects of British government policies in our country, from the murder of children with live and plastic bullets to mass unemployment, discrimination and a lack of social amenities.

Last year, the youth showed their potential and determination in their thousands by protesting in support of the prisoners' five just demands.

In the recent assembly elections, the youth played a major part in working for and electing the Sinn Féin representatives.

Once again we call upon the youth of Belfast to demonstrate their opposition to British rule by attending the conference.

Our aim is to help the youth to help themselves.
Chris McKenna,
Sinn Féin Youth Department,
Belfast.

INFORMERS



The Phoenix Park assassinations of Lord Cavendish and his under-secretary by the Invincibles in 1882

with varying financial rewards for their treachery.

Carey and his family, though, were accorded special 'cover' treatment.

Under his new identity of Power, he, together with his wife and six children, embarked on the

Withdrawal movement

Dear Comrades,
Once again, the hoary myth that a withdrawal movement can be built in England on humanitarian grounds has been proposed in your newspaper (AP/RN, November 4th).

Let me state the untenability of such an approach in simple terms.

As an Englishman, why the hell should I be concerned about (as Kevin Burke quoting a Troops Out Movement document puts it), "plastic bullets, emergency legislation and armed atrocities" or, indeed, torture, hunger-strikes or anything else?

How can you talk about humanitarianism after M62, Aldershot Chelsea, Hyde Park, etc?

Asking English people to sympathise with your cause on humanitarian grounds is sheer hypocrisy and cant as well as revealing a startling political backwardness and ignorance regarding the situation in one of our imperialist heartlands.

The actions mentioned above were not carried out for humanitarian motives but for political reasons and can only be understood on that basis.

The struggle for Irish independence will only be supported over here by groups or individuals who have attained a sufficient level of political awareness to perceive that their interests lie not in opposing other groups of workers but in opposing the system that divides us.

This does not mean crudely eulogising the republican struggle, but all the posturing that entails, but fighting for Marxist politics amongst our own people.

Even after 14 years, no effective movement (of any description) in support of the Irish struggle, exists in Britain.

Short-lived 'campaigns' — concerned mainly with promoting the interests of English left groups — have failed as have the 'lowest common denominator' approaches, of which the humanitarian style is one.

— Pat O'Donnell, a man who had lived in the United States since his involvement with the Fenians. O'Donnell's tracking-down of the informer is viewed not as part of any major plan laid by the Fenians but simply the spontaneous reaction of deeply-felt emotion to the hated name of Carey.

Whether or not O'Donnell personified the 'long reach of the Fenians', he read a newspaper report of Carey's presence on "The Kinfaun's Castle", studied a drawing of his quarry and then followed him.

One day's sailing from Cape Town, O'Donnell asked 'Mrs Power' to call her husband into the cabin. He then confronted Carey and shot him three times with a revolver.

O'Donnell, who made no attempt to escape, was taken to England under heavy guard, tried at the Old Bailey and sentenced to death.

Leaving the dock he cried out: "Three cheers for Ireland! Good-bye, United States! To hell with the British and the British crown!"

Carey was buried in the prison cemetery in Port Elizabeth where the district surgeon was the only person to be found to say a prayer over his grave.

Patrick Ford, owner of the Irish World (founded in New York in 1870), set up the Martyrs Fund for the Invincibles and financed the erection of the monument in Glasnevin Cemetery which commemorates brave Pat O'Donnell who "heroically gave up his life for Ireland."

M. O'Callaghan,
London NW10.

Seánadh dúchais

A Chara,
Thug se croí dom ag léamh na litreacha sa pháipéir seo ar 11 Samhain. Bhí dhá litir i nGaeilge, ceann eile ó bhunrang '82, agus dhá litir eile a raibh an leagan Gaeilge dá n-aimneacha á úsáid ag na scríbhneoirí.

Chuir me speis san abairt seo a leanas ó litir na bunrangas: "The other 'nationalist' parties evidently are unaware that Irish people respect their native tongue — let the Irish people take note!" Bhain sin go hionlán le heachtra a tharla in ollscoil Bhaile Éireann roimh an toghán do chomhionóid Phríor.

Bhí John Hume ag áras na mac léinn chun labhairt leis na scríbhneoirí. Is chun éisteacht le ceisteanna ina dhiaidh. Deirinnis 'éisteacht' mar de réir gach tuairisc níos tuosáil se freagra sáúil do cheist ar bith.

Sheasaigh mac léinn suas agus thosaigh sé a rá i mBéarla go raibh a fhios aige go raibh Gaeilge ag John Hume, ach nach raibh sé sásta í a úsáid.

Ansin thiontaigh mó dhúine



JOHN HUME

chuing an Ghaeilge agus thagair sé do bhunreacht an SDLP a dhéanadh fionnóg do bhfuil sé mar aghaidh acu na heolaíochas agus a chuir sé chur chun cinn, an cutúir dúchais ach go hairithe.

Dúirt sé nach ndearna an SDLP faoi chun cuidió leis an Ghaeilge.

Thug an t-Ianóin Hume an cheist ach gan nátra ar bith 'd'fhreagair' sé i mBéarla. Thosaigh sé a rá go bhfuil daoine ann a bhfuil dearcadh cúng acu ar chad is náisiúnachas ann.

Bhí daoine ag éisteacht leis a raibh dearcadh cúng acu ar chad is mó nuair a bhí an mar níor thosaigh dúine ar bith acu dá mháidil.

Ansin dúirt Hume go bhfuil traidisiún éagsula ann in Éirinn agus nach féidir ceann amháin a bhí ar cheann eile.

D'fhanigh an mac léinn leis ach chuir sé in íd go raibh Hume ag brú Béarla airseas agus gur amháin a bhí sé go ró-mhíniú nuair a dhéanadh Gaeil irraidh a gcearta a chur i bhfeidhm.

Dúirt sé, mar sin de, go raibh Hume ag iarraidh an teanga a mhéad agus rinne sé comparáid idir Hume agus Crommáil Ní dhéigh liom go raibh freagra ar bith ag Hume.

Ach ná déanaimis dearmad gurb é Hume an fírinneach a bhíonn ag caint faoi 'cearta na mionteangacha' agus é ag tairseal ar fud na hEorpa. Ansin bhíonn daoine ag iarraidh orainne muintín a chur sa toisc gur 'deas- theagmháil' é.

Ní dhéanfaid tú sparán síoda as cluas muice agus is fear Hume a fháigil ar ár.

Toobhaigil le Sinn Féin. Scríob ar Shasain. Saor agus Gaeilch.

Seosamh Ó Néill,
Béal Feirsta.



Is flu gach seans a usaid chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn

Spregadh

A Chara,
Leigh mé deánaf ar nuachtán Bhaile Átha Cliath mar gheall ar smaoineamh a bhí ag fear chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Smaoineamh simplí atá ann ach smaoineamh fírinneach is ea é.

Is é a rimeas ná focal faire 'labhair Gaeilge' agus 'Tá Gaeilge agam' a chaitheamh ar a gheasail le linn de a bheith páirteach sa Mharatóin in Áth Cliath le gairid.

Ba chúis iontais dó é a mhéid a spreg sé sin ar dhaoine chun Gaeilge a labhairt leis, toradh maith nó mhíste dhúine uile a thabhairt in ath-chuimhne ní an-háin ó thaobh na Maratóin de, ach maidir le gach ann imeacht dá leithéid sin.

Má thagann an fall is ceart do chéid déanmhar mar a rinne an reathail Gaeilch i mBaile Átha Cliath.

B'fhéidir go mbeadh roinnt Gaeilgeoirí ábalta bheith páirteach ina leithéid d'imeacht agus iad le chéile ag spregadh na Gaeilge.
Donncha MacNiailis,
H-Block B,
An Chéilí Fhada.

The Caucus and the bishop

Burke's at the back
BY KEVIN BURKE

THE BEGGING LETTERS of Fr Sean McManus of the US-based Irish National Caucus have, as regular readers will know, long been a source of astonishment to me.

The latest one, aimed specifically at members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, is no disappointment.

It begins thus:
"In the old days in Ireland, when a Catholic Bishop and his Priest sent up a signal from the hills, they could always depend on the Hibernians to rally round."

"That, of course, is how the Ancient Order of Hibernians originated..."

"And signals are still being sent up from a HILL by an Irish Bishop and Priest calling on Hibernians to help..."

The duo, we learn, are a buddy of McManus's, called Bishop Drury of Corpus Christi and, of course, McManus himself, who continues:

"But the difference is this:
"This signal comes not from the poor defenceless hills of Ireland of long ago, but rather from the most powerful HILL in the entire world - CAPITOL HILL."

As usual McManus is 'signalling' for funds to keep his Washington office going, reminding his victims that "the Irish National Caucus is tax-exempt. All donations are tax-deductible." INC he repeatedly tells us in the letter is peace-loving and inspiring non-violent. And in keeping with this, his organisation is supporting a congressional motion calling on the US to end all military aid to Britain "which is related to the oppression of Catholics in Northern Ireland."

All very fine, you may say. But the peace-loving McManus continues:

"Now, of course, the Irish National Caucus is not calling on the US government to cut off military aid which would make it impossible for Great Britain to honour its NATO commitments. The Irish Caucus campaign is only to end all American military aid to Great Britain which is used for the oppression of Catholics in Northern Ireland."

And, of course, the British wouldn't dream of using any NATO rifles in the North. Not with McManus watching them.

☆☆☆

A full-scale alert took place in Omagh town centre on Tuesday of last week after a 'suspect package' was spotted on the floor of a cafe in Market Street.

The package in question was a cigarette packet with what appeared to be an aerial protruding from it.

Several hours later, after the most careful examination, a British army bomb disposal expert finally discovered it to be an empty cigarette packet lying on top of a broken piece of an aerial.

But it did have a warning on the side that smoking can damage your health.

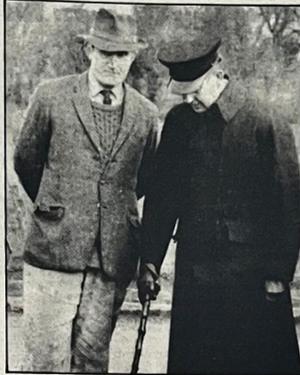
☆☆☆

An intriguing court case involving the former Stormont prime minister, Lord Moyola, who, as Sir James Chichester-Clarke was premier from 1969 to 1971, has adjourned frustratingly in the Belfast High Court.

The legal battle, between Lord and Lady Moyola, their two daughters and the trustees of Moyola's marriage settlement, paused for private negotiations just after the case had opened.

In that time it was revealed that Moyola had made a settlement just before his 1959 marriage to his present wife, in which he had put an unspecified amount into trust for his children. What the Moyolas seek now is a declaration from the court that the two Moyola daughters are the only beneficiaries.

Unfortunately the settlement refers to the children 'of the husband' instead of the children 'of the marriage'. Quite a different matter. But what awakens the interest further is the



● Lord Moyola (left): something to hide?

● remark of the Moyolas' barrister in seeking the adjournment to allow for further discussions on an agreement.

"I have no notion of the value of the settlement," he said, "and there are other parties whose attitudes must be considered."

Other parties whose claim might not be quite as legitimate, perhaps?

☆☆☆

The North's independent Downtown Radio inadvertently demonstrated the deplorable lack of historical knowledge among some of its listeners, during a morning quiz show last Monday. On the show, 'Come On Over', presenter Lynda Jayne was questioning 'Dorothy', a caller on the phone.

"What was the crop that failed and caused the Irish famine?" asked Lynda Jayne.

"Uhm. That's difficult," replied Dot. "Could I have some clues?"

"Well, was it Guinness, potato, carrot or sugar beet?"

"It was Guinness," plumped the excited caller confidently.

"None," replied Jayne. "I'm sorry. It was the potato."

☆☆☆

Last March I reported here, with some relish, an attack on an RUC man in Cookstown by an assailant who had bitten off parts of his eyebrow and bits of both ears. The case was in court last week, where it emerged that he had kicked him in the right spot as well.



But it is easy to be flip about these things too.

The court was told that the assailant in question, a 22-year-old Cookstown man had a serious drink problem. That his father had been killed in a cycling accident three weeks previously, at the very spot where his sister had been killed, also in a cycling accident, three years before that. In addition his mother had cancer and was in ill-health.

None of which made any impression on Judge Robert Barington, who sent the man to prison for five years.

☆☆☆

A somewhat foolish RUC man appeared at Dungannon Magistrates Court last week on charges relating to a forged cheque.

William Mitchell of Kilmuir Avenue, Ballybeen, Dundonald, a constable in the force, now apparently sacked, had received a cheque for £4.60 from the RUC finance officer. He carefully altered this to read £94.60 and cashed it at the Ranfurly Bar in Dungannon's Market Square, which appears to be a place where RUC men drink, being handy to the local barracks.

He was rewarded for his ingenuity with a one month suspended prison sentence and the loss of his job.

☆☆☆

Still in the British army, however, are Haydn Windle, Martin Mold, Stephen Apps, Keith Hoish and Glyn Davis, who, in March, whilst 'stationed at Lisanelly Barracks, in Omagh, caused almost £4,000 worth of damage whilst searching a house at Sheekinsshule. Their search had included breaking most of the windows, presumably to make sure nothing was hidden between the double-glazing.

They were each fined £50.

☆☆☆

Scare stories during the recent twenty-six counties general election of RUC men arriving in Kerry appear to be without foundation. They are not even prepared to travel as far south as Dublin.

After 'careful consideration' the RUC men's hockey team has announced that it will not play in the Irish Senior Cup third round tie against St Brendan's in Dublin on Saturday, as the gardai cannot guarantee their safety.

All the same, I am rather puzzled as to how the DUP have so far overlooked the RUC's official participation in an all-Ireland institution. Even if it is only a hockey league.

Can it be they don't give a puck about it?

WHAT'S ON

CHARLIE KERINS COMMEMORATION
8.30pm Friday 3rd December
Denny Street
TRALEE
County Kerry
Speaker: Ruairi O Bradraig

DAY OF ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID
Saturday 4th December
Pickets from 10.30am to 2.30pm at Henry Street, Phibsboro, Stillorgan, Rathfarnham & Bray
DUBLIN
Boycott South African goods
Organised by Irish Anti-Apartheid, phone Dublin 895035 for details

OLLPHCEAD GAELGE AR RTE
3in Sathain 4u Nollag
Gestal RTE
Dornnach Broc
BAILE ATHA CLIATH
A sagru ag FREGRA

BELFAST SINN FEIN YOUTH CONFERENCE
1pm Sunday 5th December
Martin Foyrythe Club
Turf Lodge
BELFAST
All Belfast youth welcome

COMHAIRLE CUIGE MUMHAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2pm Sunday 5th December
LIMERICK
Two delegates from each cumann must attend

JOE McKELVEY COMMEMORATION
(60th Anniversary)
2pm Sunday 5th December
Republican Plot
Milltown Cemetery
BELFAST
Organised by the National Graves Association

COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH MEETING
Tuesday 7th December
Officer board: 7.30pm
Delegates: 8.30pm
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN

'NIGHT AT THE RACES'
Tuesday 7th December
The Red Lion
The New Market
(off Ardree Street)
DUBLIN
Admission 50p
First race at 8pm sharp
Organised by Sinn Fein

LIAM MELLOWS LECTURE
8.30pm Tuesday 7th December
Atlanta Hotel
Dominick Street
GALWAY
Speaker: Phil Flynn

FOUR MARTYRS 60th ANNIVERSARY MASS
11am Wednesday 8th December
St. Patrick's Church
Forster Street
GALWAY

LIAM MELLOWS COMMEMORATION
(60th Anniversary)
12 noon Wednesday 8th December
Eyre Square
GALWAY
Speaker: Jim McAllister

FOUR MARTYRS COMMEMORATION CONCERT
Wednesday 8th December
Andersonstown
BELFAST
Taille E1

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring 'Brimmer'
8pm Wednesday 8th December
The Fiddlers Green
Cianbrasil Street
(near Harold's Cross Bridge)
DUBLIN
Admission E1.50

DONEGAL COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR AGM CHANGE OF DATE
Sunday 12th December
Jackson's Hotel
BALLYBOFEY
County Donegal
Two delegates to attend from each cumann
COUNTY MONAGHAN NGA INAUGURAL MEETING
3pm Sunday 12th December
The Hope Arms
CASTLEBLAYNEY
County Monaghan
Speaker: Sean Fitzpatrick (NGA sec)
Everyone welcome to attend

Death of Michael Mangan

THE death has taken place of veteran republican Michael Mangan of Devlin, County Westmeath, at the age of 72 years. His funeral took place on Thursday last week, November 25th.

A life-long staunch republican, Mick Mangan was a regular seller of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* up to the time of his final illness.

Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a anam.

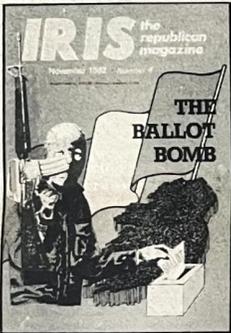
Christmas swim

TWO Dublin Sinn Fein cumainn are holding sponsored swims on Christmas Day in aid of the republican prisoners' dependants.

The swims, organised by Inchicore's Robert Emmet and Clondalkin's Maire Drumm cumainn, will be held at the Grand Canal's 3rd lock, Bluebell, and the 7th lock, Clondalkin, at 11am on Christmas morning.

Sponsorship cards are available from 5 Blessington Street, Dublin, or *AP/RN*, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin, where pledges or donations can also be sent.

Sponsors of the Robert Emmet cumainn's swim will be included in a free draw at the end of January for ten purses or wallets made by republican prisoners in Portlaoise.



IRIS No.4 on sale

THE latest issue of *IRIS — the republican magazine* is now on sale through all the usual republican outlets and costs £1 (sterling); IRE1.20; or £1.50 in Britain and elsewhere.

NO TO THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT

KILLED BY PLASTIC BULLETS

BAN PLASTIC BULLETS

New badges

THE Troops Out Movement in Britain has produced three new badges with the slogans 'No to the Prevention of Terrorism Act' (black on green), 'Ban Plastic Bullets' (yellow on black), and 'Killed by Plastic Bullets' (red and blue on green).

They are priced at 20p each, with a 25% discount on orders of 20 or more, and available from TOM, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

Buíochas

SEO admháil ón gCumann Cábhrach as an £40 a fuarathas de bharr ráitísi Easpag Dhoire.

TV & RADIO REVIEW

An Eye on informers

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

LAST Thursday's 'TV Eye' on UTV was entitled 'The Year of the Informer' and covered the cases of two men, Jackie Goodman of Belfast and Raymond Gilmore of Derry, who were arrested by the RUC earlier and turned informer.

As a result of their accusations 38 people have been charged in Derry and more than 20 in Belfast.

Goodman has since retracted his evidence and he was interviewed in Dublin where he is now living. He claimed it was fear of going back to prison which had inspired him to give false evidence against his friends, plus a 'new life' and immunity from prosecution for bombings, attempted killings and killings, to which he had confessed.

One of those Goodman implicated was a man whose family had befriended him and looked after him when he fled to Derry after an INLA feud in Belfast.

After agreeing to inform, Goodman was taken to a hotel on the Antrim coast with his wife and children, under RUC guard. They stayed in 10 different hotels in three weeks whilst every ounce of information and false accusation was milked out of him.

The Goodmans were then moved to a semi-detached house in the village of Battle in Sussex. Three RUC men moved into the house next door and watched their every move.

Goodman and his wife became increasingly unhappy and homesick, and the enormity of what he had done began to prey heavily on his mind. They decided to try and come home. Goodman managed to slip away from the RUC watch-dogs and contact the INLA. He was assured of

immunity from them if he withdrew his evidence and refused to testify in court, which he has now done, and some of those implicated by him solely have been released.

'TV Eye' showed film of inside Castlereagh's isolation cells and pointed out that though there are video cameras in all the interrogation rooms, there is no sound recording. So the film monitoring the interrogations does not record the nature of the intensive questioning, threats and inducements.

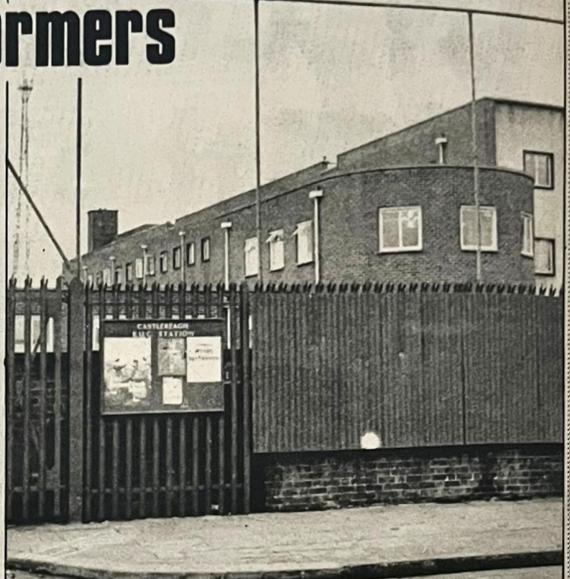
1,400 people have been held in Castlereagh this year, under Section 12 of the PTA; the majority for the full seven days allowed under the act.

SUSPICIOUS

'Quincy' is a far from recent American series, currently showing on UTV, about a fictional coroner who investigates deaths in suspicious circumstances. Monday night's episode concerned a former serviceman in the United States army who was dishonourably discharged from his regiment for aggressive behaviour, which was totally out of character.

He then attacks and kills a cop and hangs himself in a prison cell.

Quincy, pressurised to investigate by the dead man's friend, finds traces of radiation in an old bone fracture and discovers that he was subjected to experiments with hallucinatory



● Castlereagh interrogation centre where prisoners are variously bribed, threatened and psychologically pressurised into becoming informers

drugs by the American army.

The series is usually rather 'hammy', but this particular episode, considering it was made and shown in the US several years ago, was a brave attempt to expose the callous use of US army soldiers in drug interrogation experiments.

OLDIES

I found myself almost liking Gay Byrne last Thursday morn-

ing. He had Ian Wickham, former, and very brief, pop star of the '60s, on his morning radio show on RTE Radio 1. Wickham

has written a book about the pop scene then and the programme was taken up with a selection of 'golden oldies' — Chuck Berry, Eddie Cochran, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley.

BBC News on Monday night

breathlessly told us how the queen of England was helping to solve that country's millions' unemployment problem. Jean Potter, who has not been able to get a job since she left school four years ago, wrote to her asking for help. Her majesty graciously gave her a job as a housemaid at Sandringham. She had to buy her own uniform though.

MARTYRS MARCH MOCKED

APPROXIMATELY 800 people took part in a march and rally in Manchester on Sunday, November 21st, to commemorate the execution 115 years ago of the Manchester Martyrs, William Allen, Michael O'Brien and Michael Larkin, who became known as the Manchester Martyrs.

Before the march, a rally in Platt Fields, Rusholme, was addressed by Frankie Molloy of the Sinn Fein and comhairle, who the previous day had lain wreaths at the Manchester Martyrs memorial in Moston Cemetery, from which the annual commemoration has been excluded by the Catholic bishop of Salford for the last eight years.

This year's parade, through the Rusholme and Longsight areas of Manchester included three bands and attracted mainly supportive attention from on-lookers in the predominantly Irish and Asian part of the city.

At one point a group of about 20 or 30 counter-demonstrators, including National Front members and loyalist supporters — among them unionist assembly member Jeremy Burchill — jeered and hurled insults at the marchers, but there were no disturbances.



● Members of the fascist National Front and loyalists attempt to intimidate the Manchester Martyrs commemoration



● The funeral of Eileen Lennon (inset)

Death of a dedicated activist

THE DEATH of Eileen Lennon of Bingham Drive in Andersonstown occurred on Friday morning, November 26th, several weeks after she had suffered a coronary attack.

Aged 59, Eileen was a republican all her life, joining Cumann na mBan at 17 and remaining a dedicated activist to her death.

From 1969, she protested on the streets, from anti-internment marches through to the hunger-strikes and after. During the same period she was a constant visitor to Crumlin Road and Long Kesh where her sons were, at various times, imprisoned. And, indeed, two of her sons, Damian and Sean, are still incarcerated in the H-Blocks, whilst the third, Kieran, was only recently released.

Mrs Lennon suffered the loss of her other

son, IRA Volunteer Danny Lennon, when he was shot dead by British soldiers in August 1976, at the wheel of a car which then went out of control and killed the three Maguire children.

Eileen Lennon, always a thoughtful and kind-hearted woman, visited other prisoners in Armagh and Long Kesh regularly, especially those who had no-one to visit them. As a result she was loved and respected by them all. She was also a regular Green Cross collector.

On Monday morning, Mrs Lennon was accorded a republican funeral and her Tricolour-draped coffin was followed by hundreds of mourners including many of her comrades in Cumann na mBan.

A final salute to Charlie McGlade

THE traditional honours accorded a dead IRA Volunteer were finally concluded in Glasnevin Cemetery last week when two IRA Volunteers fired a volley of shots over the grave of veteran republican Charlie McGlade.

His funeral took place on September 21st last, following his death four days previously at the age of 73.



In Loving Memory of **TERESA McGLADE** DIED ON SEPTEMBER 1982.

Irish Lesson 7

go maith (gu moh) - well, good.
 go dona (gu donna) - badly
 go bré (gu braw) - fine
 go deas (gu dyass) - nice (ly).
 an lá (un law) - the day
 an oíche (un ehsh) - the night
 an aimsir (un ime-shar) - the weather.
 an mhaidin (un vodyun) - the morning.
 an tráthnóis (un thrav-none-uh) - the evening.

Tá an lá go bré - the day is fine.
 Tá an oíche go dona - the night is bad.
 Níl an mhaidin go deas - the morning is not nice.

PRONUNCIATION: The pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the sound.

CH is sounded as in LOCH ERNE.
 D and before A, O and U are thick; spoken with the tongue pressed against the upper front teeth.
 DH and GH are like a G far back in the throat - almost a gargle.

Níl an talmh go maith - the land is not good.
 Tá an infon go deas - the daughter is nice.

Tá an buachaill go maith - the boy is good.
 Níl an tráthnóis go dona - the evening isn't bad.
 Níl an aimsir go bré inniu - the weather isn't fine today.

PHRASES
 Cé bhuailigh é? (kay voo-ig ay) - who won it?
 Níl fhios agam (neel is oggam) - I don't know.
 Tá fhios ag Seán (thaw is egg Shawn) - John knows.
 Clarráí abú (keeree uboo) - up Kerry.

REMEMBERING THE PAST Hanged by Pierpoint

BY PETER O'ROURKE

IN 1942, Free State coercion under the Fianna Fail government was at its height. Imprisonment and internment had depleted the ranks of active IRA Volunteers to an alarming degree.

But in September of that year, the Free State Special Branch's false sense of security was rudely shaken when Detective Sergeant Dinny O'Brien was shot dead outside his home in Ballyboden, Rathfarnham, County Dublin.

Of all the Branch men, O'Brien, an original Broy Herrier, had achieved by far the greatest notoriety, not only for his successes but for his brutality. He sought and hunted IRA Volunteers with far more dedication and satisfaction than any of his colleagues.

A number of people were, at various times, charged with his death, but only one was executed for it - Charlie Kerins.

TRALEE
 Kerins was born in Tralee, County Kerry, in 1918. On leaving school, at the age of 17, he joined the local IRA unit and in 1942 moved to Dublin onto the IRA's GHQ Staff, he was 'on the run' from then onwards.

The following year, at the age of 25, he became Chief of Staff after the arrest of Hugh McAteer.

In 1944, he was arrested at the home of close friends, the Farrells, in Dublin's Rathmines Road and charged before the military court with the shooting of O'Brien. He refused to recognise the court or enter any plea whatsoever. He was found guilty on the flimsiest circumstantial evidence.

At the end of the trial, the Free State army officer presiding adjourned for several hours in order that Kerins might change his mind and make an application whereby he might have avoided the death penalty. But when the court resumed, Kerins told the military 'judges':

"You could have adjourned it for six years as far as I'm concerned, as my attitude towards this court will always be the same."

In a last message, he wrote:

"All I ask is that the ideals and principles for which I am about to die will be kept alive until the Irish republic is finally enthroned."

At 8am on Friday, December 1st, 1944, Charlie Kerins was hanged in Mountjoy Jail by the English hangman Pierpoint.



CHARLIE KERINS

Remembrance

BRADY, Terry. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Terry Brady, Oglagh na hÉireann, North Armagh, who died on December 6th 1975. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a anam. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, North Armagh.

CAMPBELL, Sean; LOUGHREY, James. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Sean Campbell and James Loughrey, South Armagh Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on December 8th 1975. Fuair slaid bás ag troid ar son saoirse mhuintir na hÉireann. Never forgotten by their friends and comrades in the South Armagh Brigade.

CAMPBELL, Sean. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Sean Campbell, 1st Battalion, South Armagh Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died in action on December 6th 1975. Always remembered by the Loughrey family, Dromintee.

CAMPBELL, Sean; LOUGHREY, Jim. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Sean Campbell and Jim 'Finn' Loughrey, 1st Battalion, South Armagh Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were killed in action on December 8th 1975. Never forgotten by the members of Bearna Uialadh Executive Sinn Féin, South Armagh; Jim Loughrey cumann; Dromintee; Sean Campbell cumann, Jonesborough; Michael Watters cumann, Aghdavoyle, and the O'Reilly Brothers cumann, Killeen.

CRAWFORD, Laura. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Laura Crawford, Belfast Brigade, Cumann na mBan, who died on active service on December 1st 1975. "Lay her away on the hillside, along with the brave and the bold, inscribe her name on the roll of fame, in letters of purest gold." Always remembered by her friend and comrade Ellen McGulgan, 'A' Wing, Armagh.

CRAWFORD, Laura; FOX, Paul. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my fallen comrades Vol Laura Crawford, Cumann na mBan, and Vol Paul Fox, Irish Republican Army, who saved their lives for the freedom of Ireland on December 1st 1975. Every day which passes is a day more not to forget but to remember and draw strength from your sacrifice." Always remembered by Danny.

CRAWFORD, Laura; FOX, Paul. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Laura Crawford, Cumann na mBan, and Vol Paul 'Basill' Fox, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were killed on active service on December 1st 1975. Always remembered by the Albert Kavanagh/Gerard O'Callaghan Sinn Féin cumann, Beechmount, Belfast.

FOX, Paul. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Paul Fox, Belfast Brigade, Irish Republican Army, who was killed in action on December 1st 1975. Always remembered by his twin sister Jacqueline, brother-in-law Pat and niece Sandra, all in Ireland.

FOX, Paul. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Paul Fox, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on December 1st 1975. "He loved his god, he loved his land, he served the right of right, to wage the age-old fight. A martyr for Ireland, so young but brave, though his body is laid in a grave, never forgotten by his brother Richard, St Martin, pray for him."

FOX, Paul. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Paul Fox, Irish Republican Army, who died on active service on December 1st 1975. Always remembered by his friends Sandra and Kevin.

FOX, Paul; CRAWFORD, Laura. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Paul 'Basill' Fox and Vol Laura Crawford who died in action on December 1st 1975. "Courage, we are winning and in the hour of our victory let us not forget our comrades who have stood by us. Never had a person a grander cause, never was a cause so grandly served." Always remembered by their comrades in the cages and H-Blocks, Long Kesh, in Crumlin Road Jail and Armagh Jail.

FOX, Bernard; HUGHES, Sean. (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan Bernard Fox and Sean Hughes who died on December 4th 1972. Thug slad a raibh acu ar son na saoirse. Never forgotten by their friends and comrades in Na Fianna Éireann.

LOUGHREY, Jim. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Jim 'Finn' Loughrey, 1st Battalion, South Armagh Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed in action with his comrade Vol Sean Campbell on December 6th 1975. Remembered with pride by his loving mother, brother and sisters, Dromintee.

WALKER, Joe. (9th Anniversary). Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, remembers with pride Vol Joe Walker who died on active service on December 3rd 1975. Throid sé agus fuair sé bás ag troid ar son saoirse.

WALKER, Joe. (9th Anniversary). Derry comhairle ceantair, Sinn Féin, remembers with pride Vol Joe Walker, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died in action on December 3rd 1973. Thit sé sa Bhearna Bhaoil, ní dhéanfar dearmad air.

SYMPATHY

our deepest sympathy to our comrades Sean and Damien and the Lennon family circle on the death of their mother Ellen. Go ndána Dia tréaire ar a h-anam.

LENNON. The republican POWs (Armagh), extend their deepest sympathy to their comrade Mossy on the sudden death of his uncle Paddy. Go ndána Dia tréaire ar a anam.

DONNELLY. Deepest sympathy is extended to our comrades Mossy on the death of his uncle. From Johnny and Joe (Portlaoise).

DONNELLY. The Sinn Féin POW Dept., Dublin, extend their deepest sympathy to Mossy Donnelly (Portlaoise) on the death of his uncle Paddy.

ENWRIGHT. The Listowel comhairle ceantair, Sinn Féin, extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Joe Enwright.

LENNON. Deepest sympathy to our comrades Sean and Damien and their family on the death of their mother Ellen. Ar dheis Dá go raibh a h-anam. From Jack, Bik, Scobie, Seamy and Rab, H-Block, Long Kesh.

LENNON. The republican POWs in the cages and H-Blocks, Long Kesh, extend

Birthday memories

HARKER, Tony. Birthday memories of Tony Harker, Armagh, brutally murdered by the IRA on a road near Thomagh on 22nd November 1975. Saddy missed and never forgotten by Paddy, Dublin.

HARKER, Tony. Birthday memories of Tony, murdered by crown forces, who would have been 22 years old on December 1st. We'll never forget you.

McGOWAN, Brian; Paul McGovern, JB, the Higgins family and Soapy.

McELWEE, Thomas. Birthday memories of our beloved son and brother Thomas who died on August 8th 1981 after 62 days on hunger-strike and whose 62nd birthday would have occurred on Tuesday 30th November 1982. Saddy missed and always remembered by his loving mother, father, brothers and sisters.

GREETINGS

on your birthday, Sean. "We must concentrate on youth, salvation of the country lies in this... Fianna Ideals can save the future." (Liam Mellows). Victory to the oppressed! From Shane Crowley, Cork, UTP.

McALLISTER, David. (H-Block). Best wishes, David. Beir bua agus dea-mhéin. From Gearóid MacAoldair.

O'LEARY, Declan. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Declan. From mam, dad, Finola, Martin, Mary and Aoife.

ROONEY, Gerald. (Arla). Belated birthday greetings to you, Gerald. Sam.

ROONEY, Gerald. (Portlaoise). Greetings to you on your birthday, Gerry. From 'Geeky'.

ROONEY, Gerald. (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings and best wishes, Gerry. From all your friends and comrades in the Short Strand.

ROONEY, Gerald. (Portlaoise). Belated birthday greetings to our son and brother Gerald on 27th November. Thinking of you always, especially at this time. From mam, dad, Bernie, Paula and Stephen; Eddie, Maiste and kids; Jim, Theresa and kids; Martin, 'Cocker' and kids; Patrick, Annette and kids; Dolores, Thomas and kids; Brendan, Susan, child; and Philip and Hughie (H-Block).



● The coffin of 17-year-old Michael Tighe is carried into St Patrick's Chapel, Derrymacash.

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER LATEST LURGAN KILLING

Many unanswered questions

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

MICHAEL TIGHE, the 17-year-old North Armagh youth shot down in cold-blood by the RUC last Wednesday evening, November 25th, was buried on Saturday after Requiem Mass in St Patrick's Chapel, Derrymacash.

Meanwhile, the condition of his seriously wounded companion, 20-year-old Martin McAuley, is causing concern after six operations in Craigavon Hospital.

Coming barely two weeks after the deliberate murder of the three IRA Volunteers, Gervais McKerr, Eugene Toman and Sean Burns, by the RUC on the outskirts of Lurgan, on November 14th, the killing of Michael Tighe and the wounding of Martin McAuley, bear all the hallmarks of another well-planned and premeditated SAS-type operation.

CLOSE FRIENDS

Michael Tighe and Martin McAuley were close friends, living only yards away from each other in Ballinavy, North Armagh. They were well thought of by local people and regarded as being kind-hearted and always willing to 'lend a hand'. They recently bought an old Honda motorbike and used it for scrambling in the fields around their homes. Both were enthusiastic 'Kung Fu' fanatics and loved animals, only a few weeks ago they bought a Staffordshire Terrier pup. Pat Morgan, a close friend, described Michael Tighe as "always one for a joke, a happy-go-lucky lad."

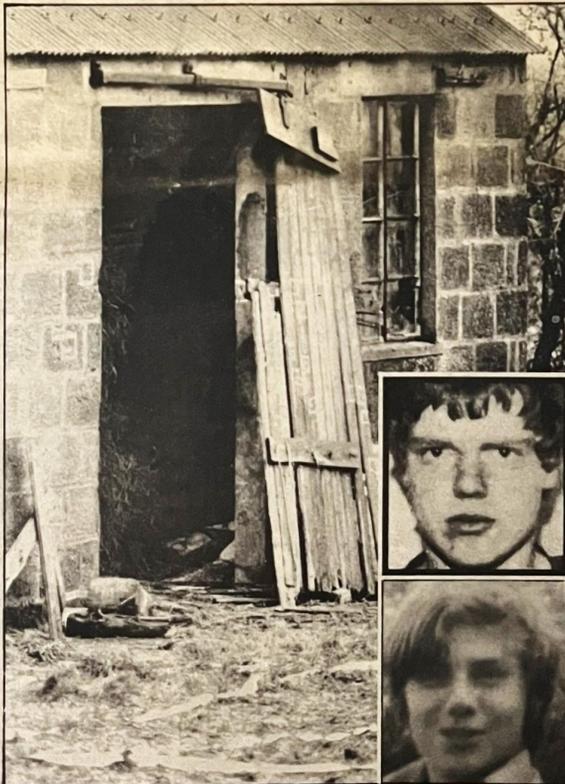
Two weeks ago, one of their neighbours, 72-year-old Mrs Kitty Kearns, asked them to look after her animals for her while she was in Tandragee with her sick sister. They willingly agreed and each evening would go up to the farm, feed her dog, cats and fowl and generally keep an eye on the house.

In the countryside immediately around the Derrymacash area where Mrs Kearns' home is situated, low-level undercover Brit and RUC surveillance operations are an accepted fact of life. The RUC patrol in heavy, armour-plated unmarked cars, sporadically setting up roadblocks while UDR and Brit undercover troops are regularly dropped off in helicopters on high ground. With such undercover activity in the area there is little doubt that the comings and goings of Michael Tighe and Martin McAuley did not go unnoticed during the past two weeks.

It is highly unlikely that they were not aware of the reason why they were there and also of what they were doing.

CONTRADICT

At present, all the circumstances surrounding the shooting last Wednesday night have yet to be firmly established and will,



● The scene of the shooting where Michael Tighe (top inset) and Martin McAuley (bottom inset) were gunned down by the RUC; the bullet holes are marked in chalk.

in all probability, not come to light until Martin McAuley's condition is stabilised. However, there are several factors which contradict the initial RUC statement issued four hours after the shootings.

Firstly, the RUC claimed that one of their 'routine mobile patrols' fired on two men carrying rifles at a shed. Yet, a statement from eyewitness Pearse Heaney, who came forward shortly after the incident, shows there was absolutely no possibility that the RUC could positively have identified anything, or anyone for that matter, in the

gathering darkness.

Secondly, the shed is situated at least 40 yards away off the main road where the two RUC cars stopped and, more importantly, is not visible from the road. Heaney was travelling along the Ballinavy Road when two RUC cars passed him, they braked in front of him and then waved at him to drive on.

"As I drove on," recalls Heaney, "I kept thinking of what happened to those Volunteers at the roadcheck the other week. Just as I got past them they opened

up, I thought for a minute I'd been shot."

Thirdly, Pearse Heaney observed another RUC car sinisterly positioned in a lane towards the rear of the shed, indicating that its function was to cut off the line of retreat of anyone trying to escape — hardly a 'routine patrol' as they claimed.

Instead, indications point to a deliberate stake-out of the farmyard and outbuildings with the sole intention of executing Michael Tighe and Martin McAuley. The extent of their injuries leaves no doubt that the RUC intended to kill them. There was never any question of using the minimum force, or of trying to detain the youths. Michael Tighe was shot straight through the heart and chest, killed instantly, and Martin McAuley sustained five wounds, one to his neck which severed an artery, the others to his shoulders and legs.

Furthermore, the time lapse of almost four hours between the time of the shooting and when the RUC actually released their version of what happened, gave them ample time to concoct a whitewashed version of events which was eagerly churned out by the media on face value alone. The four-hour lapse, during which time the immediate area was sealed off and both Tighe's and McAuley's homes were raided and searched, also saw the appearance on the scene of the three mysterious dilapidated rifles of pre-1917 vintage, unaccompanied by any ammunition.

OUTRAGES

These latest RUC outrages have caused, not surprisingly, an upsurge in militancy in the Lurgan area and a corresponding dissatisfaction with constitutional nationalism as represented by the SDLP, who have issued useless calls for public inquiries after the shootings.

On the other hand, calls from loyalists and unionist politicians have been for more of the same arbitrary killings of nationalists as a regular feature of RUC activity. During Requiem Mass for Michael Tighe on Saturday, a letter was read out from local bishop, Gerard Brooks, backing SDLP calls for an inquiry, but with the sole purpose of 'dispelling present mistrust' in the community for the RUC.

Sinn Fein's elected representative for Armagh, Jim McAllister, who attended the funeral, later issued a biting attack on the bishop, stating:

"I would challenge the SDLP, Seamus Mallon and Bishop Brooks as to what they are going to do when their call for yet another useless independent inquiry is turned down. Will they then support the call for the disbandment of the RUC or was their standard cry for an inquiry only made to bail them out of an immediate situation?"