

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

EOLAS

IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

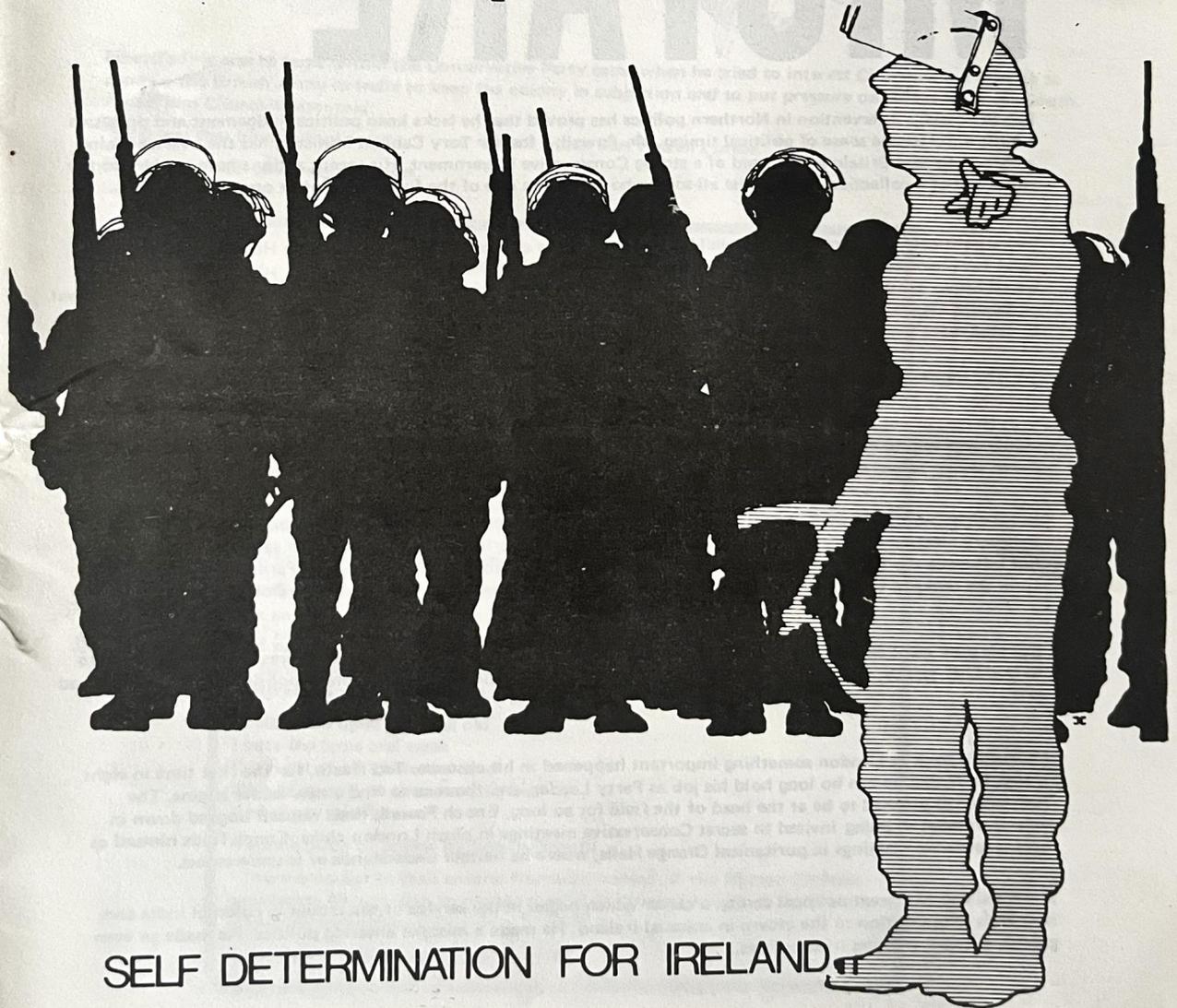
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UIMHIR 23 & 24

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1974

British Troops Out of Ireland



SELF DETERMINATION FOR IRELAND

POWELL'S POLITICAL MISTAKE

Enoch Powell's intervention in Northern politics has proved that he lacks keen political judgement and possesses a most unfortunate sense of political timing. Mr. Powell, a former Tory Cabinet Minister, has the overwhelming ambition to lead Britain at the head of a strong Conservative Government. His recent actions have led him to the rump end of a collection of Unionist all-sorts who now form one of the five Westminster opposition parties.

Every political move that Enoch Powell has made since the collapse of the Alec Douglas Hume Government in 1964 has been geared towards his take-over of the leadership of the Conservative Party. His racist outburst, which began in 1968, were aimed not at the removal of the immigrant population from Britain, but at the removal of Edward Heath from the leadership of the Conservative Party. His speeches while in opposition were usually directed more towards his own party membership than towards the Labour Government.

But Ted Heath absorbed Powell's new found racialism by incorporating part of it into Conservative Party policy and when the Conservatives won the 1970 election, Powell knew that it would take some issue other than race to shift Heath. In February this year he refused to stand for Parliament, in the hope that right wing Conservatives would urge him to stand as their new found Tory Messiah. But all he received was a deputation from the National Front saying he could stand for them if he liked.

In his eight months away from Parliament Enoch saw that the narrow margin of the Labour Party victory in the February election left Ulster Unionists in a position of great Parliamentary strength. He saw that if he could not influence the Tory Party from its own ranks, he could possibly influence it – and Parliament as a whole from the ranks of the Ulster Unionists. This explains why he is now the M.P. for South Down.

But his poor election performance here, coupled with his unending ability to say what was usually the opposite to U.U.C. policy, led him out to the position of party leader, but to the position of political nigger in the wood-pile.

Meanwhile back in London something important happened in his absence. Ted Heath, for the first time in eight years, finds that he can no longer hold his job as Party Leader, and the race to find a new leader begins. The man who had planned to be at the head of the field for so long, Enoch Powell, finds himself bogged down in Ireland. Instead of being invited to secret Conservative meetings in plush London clubs, Enoch finds himself at boring sectarian meetings in puritanical Orange Halls, where he neither understands or is understood.

It is a sad end to a great political career, a career which began in the service of the crown in colonial India and now ends in opposition to the crown in colonial Ireland. He made a mistake entering politics. He made an even greater mistake entering Irish politics.



Powell's first rise to fame within the Conservative Party came when he tried to interest Churchill in a scheme to increase the British Army in India to keep the colony in subjection and to put pressure on Russia from the South. About him Churchill later said:

'Who was that bloody fool anyway?' a remark which hurt Powell's pride.

If only Churchill could see him now.

You Can Quote Him On This —

"In recent years I came before and you received me as a guest, as one who from across the water was caught up in total sympathy with your cause I am now one of you, entirely one of yourselves."

(Election speech to South-Down Unionists)

"I was born a Tory, I am a Tory and I will always remain a Tory."

(In an interview on BBC television).

"Often when I am kneeling down in church, I think to myself how much we should thank God, the Holy Ghost, for the gift of capitalism."

(In 'Enoch Powell, the man and his thinking' by T.E.Utley).

"When I see a rich man, I give thanks to God."

(In an interview in 'The Sun'.)

"Of course, if inflation is reduced, some people will get hurt. . . There will be bankruptcies and a rise in unemployment."

(Interview in 'The Daily Mail'.)

"I Hate the ugly, hate the old
I hate the lame and weak
But most of all I hate the dead
Who lie so still on their earthen bed
And never dare to rise."

(From a book of poems by Enoch Powell).

"There is no Berlin Wall around Northern Ireland. If the Roman Catholic population do not wish to remain part of the United Kingdom then no one is keeping them there."

(Interview on 'Weekend World' - ITV).

SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE

ISABEL PARRA was the central attraction at a concert in Liberty Hall on September 18 which was organised to raise funds for Chile Democratico by the Democracy in Chile sub-committee of the Irish Peace Group.

Chile Democratico is a committee representative of the democratic forces which were overthrown by the C.I.A.-inspired military coup in Chile on September 11, 1973. It is based in Rome and is in touch with the legitimate Government of Chile which has constituted itself within Chile on an underground basis.

Accompanied by Patricio Castillo on the guitar, Isabel Parra held the packed Liberty Hall audience spellbound. She sang songs of love, work and struggle. A stateless exile, her own songs express the determination of the political emigre to create conditions for a triumphant return, rather than any nostalgia for a lost Utopia. Two of her songs were rendered into English on the printed programme by Pearse Hutchinson; they contain these lines: "... the people can teach us lessons whose truth bites like a lash . . .", "... not even the whole world can ever be a bit of my country . . .", "... any bread that feeds me now is the bread of strangers . . .", "... our people are not alone . . . in every continent fraternal hands are raising their hands by the thousand . . ."

The audience loved her, and were prepared to express their love by buying up all the available copies of her records which were on sale in the foyer.

The concert opened up with some lively Irish music, played by Barney McKenna and Tony McMahon, both of whom are well known internationally for their talent and virtuosity on the banjo and melodeon. The best thanks of the committee are due to them for having given their support at such short notice.

Pearse Hutchinson read some of his own poems and some very relevant translations from the "Jail Journal" of the Uruguayan poet Gutierrez.

PABLO NERUDA

Kevin McHugh read some stanzas from the long poem "The Dead in the Square" by Pablo Neruda. This poem was inspired by a massacre of a peaceful demonstration which took place in 1946. The final stanza, with the refrain "I demand punishment" was read by McHugh after Isabel

Parra's final encore, as an epilogue. You could have heard a pin drop. A hushed and pensive audience filed out, having absorbed an unusually intense political message.

On the back of the programme was printed an account of Congressman Michael Harrington's charge against the C.I.A., which had appeared in the "Irish Times" on September 13: 5 million dollars had been authorised for "destabilisation efforts" in Chile from 1971 to 1973 by the "40 Committee" chaired by Henry Kissinger.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The concert was introduced by Jim Fitzgerald by dramatically interrupting the pre-performance background music by reminding the audience that the folk-singer to whom they were then listening, Victor Jara, had been publicly hanged in the Santiago football stadium one year ago the previous Sunday. He also explained that the concert was not a memorial to the dead on the anniversary of the coup, but a celebration of the birth of an international movement of solidarity.

The organising committee for the concert was an ad hoc sub-committee of the Irish Peace Group; this latter body developed from the group (composed of representative individuals prominent in the labour, trade union, student, language and other democratic movements in Ireland) which attended the World Congress of Peace Forces in Moscow, October 1973.

The sponsorship committee of the concert consisted of Pat Brady (President, U.S.I.), the Rev. Terence McCaughey, Tomas Mac Giolla, Noel Harris, Senator Michael Mullen, Seamus Scally, Pdraig O Snodaigh and Brigid Wilkinson.



Wants C.I.A. role in Ireland investigated

The National Association for Irish Freedom, based in the United States, has called on the Democratic candidate for Governor of New York, Congressman Hugh L. Carey, to make a full public disclosure of any knowledge he has regarding the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency in Ireland.

Congressman Carey said in a radio programme two years ago that the C.I.A. had been involved in the North and in the Republic.

The association, which is connected to the Northern Ireland Civil Rights' Association, has demanded a full Congressional investigation into C.I.A.'s role in Ireland.

Jobless up on same month last year

THE NUMBER of people unemployed in Northern Ireland on October 14th. This year was 30,880—4,694 less than last month. Although this shows a short-term decrease over last month's figures, the total is slightly up on the same month last year, with an increase of 3,318.

BROSNAN HOLDS CORK N.E. FOR FIANNA FAIL

Elected on third count; S.F. doubles its vote

NOVEMBER 15.

MR. SEAN BROSNAN, of Fianna Fail, won the Cork North-East by-election on the third count last night but just failed to hold the party's share of the first preference votes — it was 50.1% in the General Election.

The Coalition parties' share of the votes has also dropped, from 40% to 36%, while Sinn Fein more than doubled its total, from 6% to 13%.

Electorate, 55,830. Total poll, 40,698 (70%). Spoiled votes, 324. Valid poll, 40,374. Quota, 20,188.

FIRST COUNT

BROSNAN, Sean (F.F.)	19,928
BRODERICK, Michael (F.G.)	13,708
SHERLOCK, Joseph (S.F.)	5,363
HURLEY, Liam (Lab.)	1,243
CUNNINGHAM, Angela (Comm.)	132

As no candidate reached the quota, Miss Cunningham and Mr Hurley were eliminated and their votes distributed; representing 1,375 transfers.

SECOND COUNT

Brosnan	+103	20,031
Broderick	+853	14,561
Sherlock	+269	5,659

Mr. Sherlock was then eliminated and his votes distributed; there were 3,650 transfers, and 2,009 non-transferable.

THIRD COUNT

Brosnan	+1,881	21,912
Broderick	+1,769	16,330

Mr. Brosnan reached the quota and was declared elected.

The working-class vote that Labour might have expected clearly went to Sinn Fein, not only in Mr. Joe Sherlock's home town, Mallow, but in the eastern part of the constituency. This raises the possibility of a Sinn Fein rather than a Labour seat in Cork N.E. and must increase Labour fears of a loss of identity in Coalition.

Mr Sherlock said that Fianna Fail and Fine Gael had had at their disposal Ministers State cars and the entire Opposition front bench in the election campaign. Despite this, Sinn Fein had more than doubled its 1973 vote when there were over 5,000 less electors in the constituency. It now appeared clear that the people and in particular the young people, who had voted for the first time, were listening to the voice of Sinn Fein.

BRITISH WOULD VOTE TO QUIT N.I., SAYS PEER

NOVEMBER 15.

THE British Labour peer, Lord Longford, said yesterday that if a referendum on the future of Northern Ireland were now to be held in Britain a majority would vote that Britain should withdraw.

Lord Longford, in Belfast for a private one-day visit, said he felt that the majority in Britain no longer felt an emotional or strategic need to keep the North as an integral part of the United Kingdom.

This, aligned with the increasing cost of subsidising the North, had produced a situation where most

72,499
are now
unemployed

TEN thousand, seven hundred and fifty seven more people are registered as unemployed than there were a year ago. Unemployment rose by 938 between October 11th and October 18th and there was an increase of 750 in the newly unemployed industry and services.

The number of short-time workers—many of them in the footwear and car assembly industries — continues to rise. There were 2,975 on October 18th, compared with 41 on October 19th last year.

A total of 72,499 were registered as unemployed on October 18th as against 71,561 a week earlier, and 61,742 a year earlier. There were 37,936 applicants for unemployment benefit as against 29,875 on October 19th, 1973, and 37,130 on October 11th, 1974. Applicants for unemployment assistance increased to 30,943 last week from 28,527 in the corresponding week last year. Here there was a marginal decrease—from 30,949—since October 11th.

In Dublin, 19,779 are unemployed—an increase of 439 between October 11th and 18th; in Dun Laoghaire 1,698; and in Dundalk 1,757. In Limerick 237 more became unemployed, bringing the most recent total there to 2,669.

voters would reject Northern Ireland's membership of the United Kingdom in a straight "yes" or "no" referendum.

Lord Longford also expressed the view that internment in the North was counter-productive in the North.

Below is a report which was smuggled out of Long Kesh and it tells in vivid detail the story of the Battle of Long Kesh on the night of Sunday October 20 when the camp was set alight by Republican prisoners and the British troops moved in to quell the uprising using batons, vicious dogs, poison gas and even low flying helicopters in what proved to be one of the most horrific events in the sordid story of Europe's only Concentration Camp.

On Tuesday night last the Provisionals threatened to burn Long Kesh if Commandant Truesdale broke the agreements made during the recent negotiations between him and the four Officers Commanding different political groups in the camp.

The particular point of issue of Tuesday night was that Commandant Truesdale did not allow inter-cage travel for the OC of the Provisionals to find out what had happened in C13 where some Provisionals had beaten up two warders. The prison staff wanted those responsible out of the cage for punishment.

But since Truesdale did not keep the agreement relating to such matters we agreed to go along with burning the camp if the British were brought in.

We understand the Loyalists were going along the same lines but we had no direct contact with them.

Shortly after 9 p.m. the Provos started going over the wire and seized the keys of the gates of the cages. The Loyalists did the same.

The camp staff had fled.

Immediately the place was set on fire — the cage huts, Prison Officers bunks, the sentry boxes outside the gates, administration and medical offices, the tuck shop oil tanks, power generators, all internal guard towers, cookhouse, writing facilities, some damage to the hospital, the dog kennels and fences and various other items were all burned and damaged.

Most of the prison was thoroughly destroyed. The reception area survived being massively protected by British troops. As well two cages survived as they contained all the Loyalist prisoners including those who made their way there from other cages — some 400 altogether.

They did not take part in the burning as they did not want to get involved in a Provo war. However they set up a first aid post in C14 to look after injured Republicans.

They kept three of our sick during all the trouble. We left our cage

by breaking through the fence after the buildings were fired. We went to the football pitch, breaking through other fences on the way. Provos and Loyalists were marching in all directions, nobody seemed to know what was next. We used one of the football pitches as our command areas it was relatively free of smoke away from the fires and from the dangers of exploding gas and oil. As the night wore on sent ponagirl parties back to our cage to gather up blankets, clothing food and other items thrown out of the huts before they were fired. We also picked the cream of our books, perhaps £1,000 worth.

All this was burned by the Brits after they took over. The Provos made an attempt to put under their command, but we played independence to their annoyance. Otherwise they were very chummy, but some bastards did some looting on us, as they also did on the Loyalists abandoned cages which they fired.

Things came to a head at around 9 a.m. Wednesday morning as the Brits started pushing the internees back towards the upper end of the camp. The internees had taken the brunt of the fighting during the night. Up to this we scarcely saw the Brits but now they came in hordes attacking from two directions catching the internees in a pincer which left them no way out except to come into our football pitch. Before the Brits attacked helicopters firing CS and CR gas swooped on the internees and even hit a section of our men engaged in sealing up a gateway. The Brits plan was to force all the prisoners into the two football pitches. The Provos were concentrated in the other football pitch adjoining us. The Brits plan succeeded and this left them free to pour gas on the prisoners from the air with helicopters and from the ground by the troops. Showers of rubber bullets were being fired too, and one helicopter tried to injure on hill prisoners by diving among them to a few feet off the ground. Sticks

and stones rained off it as it went up and away again. Both pitches were now filled with gas and loads of prisoners ran all over the place trying to avoid it, screaming, choking and collapsing. They fought bravely, as best they could in the circumstances, but the Brits broke through the fences surrounding the pitches, led by Saracens. The prisoners became split, part retreating along the alleyway routes outside the cages, the other party was trapped on the football pitches where gas and rubber bullets were poured on them even when they had collapsed in clouds of gas. They were then batoned and kicked and assaulted in various vicious ways. The prisoners trapped in the alleyways had gas fired at them from the helicopters and by the troops. The whole position was helpless and without mercy. I was in contact with Spence who suggested that he act as intermediary between the Brits and the Republicans by approaching a perimeter gun tower where he had been in contact with the Brits the previous night, or early morning. I agreed though it was impossible to contact Morley as he was trapped on the football pitch. After Spence and McKeague approached them, the Brits said they would call a halt to allow the prisoners time to get back into their cages. To prevent even greater suffering and maybe death, we agreed, but Morely was still not contacted. Spence and McKeague set off to contact him. The provos did not seem to know what to do, however we formed our men into ranks and marched them back to our cage. This seemed to make up the Provos, who also went back to their cages. Our men threw down their weapons and awaited the Brits who sought a head count. They came in shortly. A number of our men were missing by our check. After the Brit check we were told to line up against the cage wire. Then we were searched after prison staff checked us with their files. Then the exercises started, first we were made to lean

with our fingertips against the wire and shuffle our feet backwards until our fingers bearing the brunt of the weight of our bodies. Press-ups, squatting with our hands clasped behind our necks, and various other torturous exercises were used. Anybody who failed to do them were beaten with batons. Many of the prisoners had been injured and others had previously been receiving medical treatment but it did not matter, the exercises were on for about seven hours.

During that time we received a bit of bread and a drink of milk

Monday 21st October.

I asked the officer in charge to allow us into the canteen for the night. It had not burned as it should have and was largely intact, and proves a lifesaver now. At last we were moved into it, pushed burnt rubbish to one side and lay down.

We were exhausted and sore. Before we went into the canteen an army bulldozer came into the cage and pushed the remains of the burnt out huts into a pile. The army also had repaired our fence.

During the night we received one blanket each. The following day Thursday, we received one meal of bread and milk. We were told by a medical orderly at the cage that medical treatment was being allowed into cages. We had about 20 men injured, four of them needing hospitalisation. Brendan O'Hagan, three stitches in his head, Colin Wisdom who was in the hospital owing to an attack of asthma and threatened pneumonia and had to escape from it with the help of Loyalists who broke into it, he received gassing, which aggravated his problem.

Peter McFarlane, who had been made do exercises with an injured back, and Frank Weir who had been ill from a stomach complaint for some time and who was badly affected by gas. All our men were gassed, a number were knocked unconscious from it and from blows of batons.

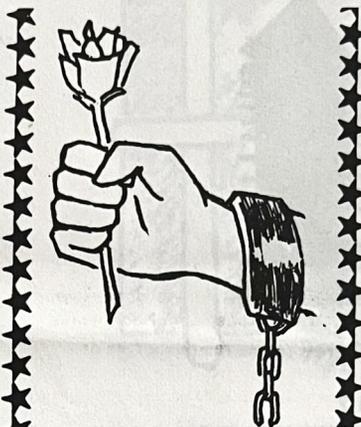
Some were bitten by dogs.

By Friday, the prison doctor arrived to examine men, but he had not a thing to work with however, he got two of them to an outside hospital. Peter McFarlane and Brendan Mackin. They returned after a check and treatment.

At mid-day Friday, we received hot stew. A mattress per man was provided, also two blankets per

man. Reports of delegations coming on Saturday did not materialise.

These are various reports, rumours, and speculations on our future, but nobody knows. Various parties have been into see things but only one of these made contact with prisoners, the Board of Visitors



Fraternal
Greetings to
our Comrades
Both At
Home and
abroad

We
Want

(1) Sack Truesdale. (2) Introduction of proper conditions for prisoners. (3) The ending of internment (4) An amnesty for political prisoners in this respect we will be stressing our ceasefire.

We are totally opposed to concentration camps, if they are rebuilt without an attempt, one move to implement our demands, we will burn them down again. All political prisoners should be released to take part in the Convention, allegedly a democratic process. If there is something refused and healed and prisoners denied the right to have their voice heard in it, then it will be a farce. They will have been denied the chance of taking part in a 'democratic process'

Instant concern for the public is the present state of prisoners, lying on tarmack, under sheets of tin. This is the position of most of the Provos, we have been lucky that our canteen survived. We need immediate change of underclothing and socks, also our food parcels restored.

Word has been sent out twice on this matter. The compounds have no washing facilities, power or heating. Toilet facilities have also been destroyed. The Brits keep walking around the cages at night, periodically shouting and yelling and beating sheets of iron, to keep the prisoners awake.

Warders are on duty at the cage gates, but they are not very cooperative.

All Provos removed from Belfast Prison into Long Kesh cages. All our co-op library and personal gear destroyed.

Ceannfort
(P. G. M.)

*British Army in
Germany steps
up security*

The British Army of the Rhine has stepped up its security precautions in the wake of the bombings at two Gullford public houses used by military personnel, an Army spokesman confirmed.

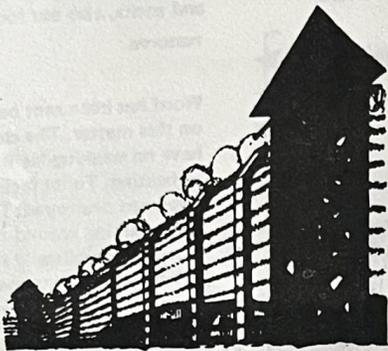
British troops stationed in West Germany have been conducting searches of persons and vehicles calling at Army installations. The precautions are in force all over northern Germany where British troops are stationed.

**MacBride's 'fight
for freedom'
praised**

Mr. Peter Katjavivi, the South West African People's Organisation representative in Western Europe has welcomed the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Sean MacBride, the U.N. Commissioner for Namibia.

Mr. Katjavivi said that the award was a tribute to Mr. MacBride's long fight for freedom, initially in Ireland and recently in the liberation struggle for Namibia

Long Kesh Conditions



COMBAT

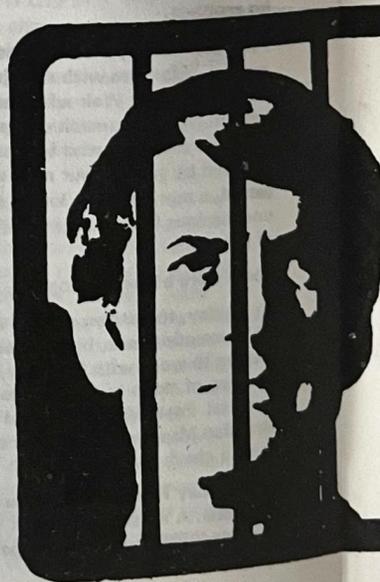
(Journal of the Ulster Volunteer Force)

LONG Kesh Prison Camp, that collection of cages, huts and gun-towers that sprawls obscenely across acres of County Antrim countryside, houses both sentenced prisoners and detainees. Its design is basically the same as the Camps erected by the Nazis to incarcerate all the unwanted peoples of Europe during the last war. Apologists for the Northern Ireland Office have attempted to portray Long Kesh as being akin to a modern army barrack, some have even likened it to a holiday camp. The thousands of inmates, past and present, know different. To them, Long Kesh speaks of an inhuman, vicious, shameful scorn of incarceration. It is a disgusting, degrading hell-hole commanded by an equally disgusting and degenerate Commandant in the form of Herr Truesdale.

The recent "food dumping" protests made by both Loyalist and Republican prisoners and detainees highlights the chronic faults that have been lingering and festering for the past twelve months and more. From the list of complaints it would seem that Long Kesh would be better suited for animals. Despite the mouth-watering appeals of the official menu, food served to the inmates is always virtually cold and of the poorest quality. Prisoners have to use one small wash basin in which to wash their clothes, eating utensils, sheets and blankets. They must also wash and shave in this same basin which caters for upwards of thirty men. Many of the huts in which the men live and sleep are in a poor state of repair. Those which are not damp from leaking roofs are rat-infested and over-crowded. On top of this there is the inhuman attitude of the Camp Commandant towards all inmates.

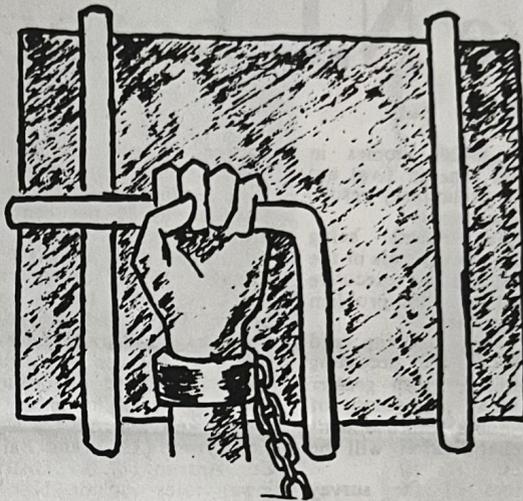
Long Kesh, with its small over-crowded absolute lack of privacy, its constant diabolical pressure on the mental and being of the men demands that every Ulsterman, every Irishman, every Brit and on the Mainland should campaign and thorough investigation into the atrocity at this accursed Camp. To remain silent to turn aside and close one's ears to someone else, to refuse to learn the crime of Long Kesh, this is to share the sadistic Truesdale and his henchmen extreme pleasure from inflicting pain on their fellow human beings.

Let there be no doubt about it, Long Kesh is a foul evil crime against the people of this man or woman who refuses to join in this will not raise his voice in righteous anger for a better deal for our prisoners and detainees as the degenerate barbarians who are responsible for the present conditions there. We who value our freedom must act together to stop this. We must join with our colleagues both here and demanding immediate action to have an end to the and deplorable conditions at Long Kesh. The present state of affairs can only serve to make our prisoners more embittered and to build up further violence. No one can say "this is not me", for what is being done in Long Kesh is done in the name of every British citizen.



OUR FIGHT IS YOUR FIGHT; YOUR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT - TO VICTORY

crowded cages, its
instant tension, its
and spiritual well-
at everyone, every
Britisher, in Ulster
ign for an immediate
atrocious conditions
silent. to do nothing,
bars, to leave it to
the truth about the
share in the guilt of
men who derive
n and suffering upon



Long Kesh is a crime,
le of Ulster and any
in the protest, who
s anger to demand a
detainees is as guilty
are responsible for
who have our relative
op this inhumanity.
s behind the wire in
ve the vile, inhuman
Kesh rectified. The
serve to make the
build up a legacy of
his does not concern
Long Kesh is being
citizen.

REALITY

Working man Labouring all the Long Day,
The prisoner tripping through the slush of a Long Kesh Cage,
Correctly The soldier marching upon the barrack yard;
Everywhere is man in all his rage,
A rage calculated by the Hypocrite,
The manager behind the stage,
It is the age old story,
Unfolded our life has been decided,
Long before you or I were born:
Of how reality has been derided,
And by falsity our future sworn : . . .
Those who sought to propose the truth,
Have been held to ignorant scorn,
The myth must be propagated,
Everything else is labelled foreign,
Politican, capitalist and clergyman
Will one and all seek to subdue,
So that they won't have any trouble
In manipulatiog me and you:
We must not recognise the truth,
But perform their act upon thier stage,
Where you and I will act ignorant,
So that they might appear sage,

**LONG KESH:
ENGLANDS
SHAME**

Prisoners Thoughts

What? Long Kesh a Prison,
A maze of light and wire,
Cages, cages, full with men,
Men in jail for special reasons,
Reasons for which they are willing to die,
Fighting for what they believe,
Fighting for the kind of peace,
Place they want to live in,
Yet the system fights against the majority,
And sides with the minority capitalist,
Why? Why?
This question hundreds, thousands, millions, ask
themselves every day.

Survey shows one in five N.I. homes unfit

A TOTAL of 89,200 homes in Northern Ireland (one in five) are statutorily unfit, preliminary results of a survey indicate.

A confidential report being circulated among top officials in the Northern Ireland housing executive says: "The enormity of the problem cannot be exaggerated."

At a time when building and financial resources are becoming much more limited, much greater effort and a new redirection of priorities into home improvements and general rehabilitation will be needed, it states.

The originators of the survey hope to use its results to suggest modifications to the housing legislation which will help tackle the serious housing situation in the North, particularly in Belfast and in Fermanagh.

The survey covered each of the 26 newly-constituted local government districts and was completed in the summer.

Local Government public health inspectors visited a random selection of 25,000 homes from the 455,000 in Northern Ireland.

Information was gathered on unfitness, disrepair, possession of amenities and other important characteristics.

According to the report, about 19.6% of the total dwelling stock in Northern Ireland is statutorily unfit compared with 7.3 per cent in England and Wales. Of this total, nearly half the homes are in areas which could be dealt with in accordance with the housing Executive's redevelopment and slum clearance powers.

Most of these 89,200 unfit homes, says the report, urgently require considerable repairs and 82 per cent require spending more than £1,000. Ninety one per cent lack at least four of the five basic standard amenities, a fixed bath, a wash basin, an internal lavatory, a kitchen sink and hot and cold water at three points.

There are distinctive urban and rural differences to the problem. Sixty per cent of all unfit homes which should be dealt with on a comprehensive area basis are in the Belfast district while 39 per cent (5,400 buildings) in County Fermanagh are unfit and should be dealt with individually.

The problem of unfitness is mainly associated with two types of tenure—owner-occupied homes and those which are privately rented and unfurnished. Of the total number of unfit houses in Northern Ireland 39% (34,900) are owner-occupied, while 32.5 per cent (29,100) are private rented. The pro-

portion of privately rented unfit homes varies from district to district, ranging from 76 per cent in Strabane to 20 per cent in Newtownabbey.

Unfitness rates are highest in Fermanagh (42 per cent), where 57.1 per cent of all homes were built before 1919, and lowest in the Castlereagh district, near Belfast, where 87 per cent were built after 1944. There are disturbingly high unfitness rates in areas such as Newry and Mourne (27.2), Omagh, Co. Tyrone (33.6), and Ballymoney, Co. Antrim (27.3). Districts with lower rates include North Down (6), Derry (13) and Antrim (11).

Typically the average unfit home is a terraced house built before 1919, owner-occupied or privately tenanted. It lacks at least four basic amenities, is in a high state of disrepair and has a net annual valuation less than £14.

The survey suggests that attention should be focused on new ways to prevent homes becoming unfit through severe disrepair.

The problem of disrepair is closely associated with owner-occupation and the privately rented sector and again the problem, like

unfitness, varies from district to district. In total, 76,500 dwellings require repair spending of £1,000 or more.

Detailed information on standard amenities was also collected. In total, 119,400 homes (26.2%) lack at least one of the five basic amenities and 101,700 (22.3%) lack at least four of the five basics. In England and Wales in 1971 the respective percentages were 16.8% and 7.7%.

Again, the faults lie mainly in owner-occupied and privately rented unfurnished property, but many former local authority homes, inherited by the Housing Executive, lack at least one amenity.

Conditions are exceptionally bad in Belfast where it is estimated that 52% of the buildings require positive remedial action of some kind, but each district has its own particular problems.



Russians write to Belfast daughter of jailed couple

LETTERS from all over Russia have been reaching a Belfast girl whose parents are being held without trial in two Northern Ireland prisons.

Dozens of children were touched by the story of seven-year-old Mary Kennedy which appeared in the Russian youth paper, Pioneer Pravda and wrote to her.

Mrs. Mary Kennedy was sent to Armagh jail three months ago. Mr. Billy Kennedy, was already in Long Kesh.

Mary wrote to the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Mr. Rees, pleading that at least one parent be released to look after her and the five other children.

Meanwhile to stop the family being broken up social workers and neighbours are caring for the children who live in Divis Flats.

A world-wide campaign to

have the parents freed was launched and Pioneer Pravda carried the story.

A week later dozens of letters from Russian youngsters arrived at the Belfast headquarters of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association.

A professor at Queen's University, Belfast, translated them. One, from a sixth-form school-girl named Ira, read: "Hello Mary, I know everything about you and your brothers and sisters. Practically all the children in the world know about you. I shall pray that God return your parents".

Another letter said: "It is hard to believe that children in Ireland could have their mothers and fathers taken away". A friend of the Kennedy family said yesterday that Mary would write back to the Russian children.

PROVISIONAL I.R.A. BLAMED FOR RISE OF FASCISM

MacGiolla tells ard-fheis British Army and Craig want civil war

IN HIS presidential address to the Sinn Fein ard-fheis in Dublin yesterday, Mr. Tomas Mac Giolla, blamed the Provisional I.R.A. and Loyalist leaders like Mr. William Craig for the "increasing strength of fascism" in the North.

DECEMBER 2.

There were three groups in the North which believed that civil war would aid them in their objectives, Mr. Craig and his fascists who wanted a totalitarian state, the Provisionals who saw it as their last desperate hope of survival and the British generals who saw it as the final solution to the Irish problem achieved with an economy of British lives. "Let there be no doubt where the primary responsibility lies; it is on the British Army," he said.

On the Republican side, progressive politics had been fighting an uphill battle against the fascist tactics of the right. "The Provisionals continue to do the dirty work by keeping up the terror tactics but the leading forces of the right, while dissociating themselves from the Provisionals, welcome their presence and use them as a weapon to beat down the progressive forces of the left."

Mr. Mac Giolla defended the recent occupation of a school in the Glen Road, Belfast, by members of his movement. They had carried nothing more lethal than a set of demands for educational reform but instead of being commended as a better outlet for the energy of youth than planting bombs, they met with the most massive condemnation by Church, State and mass media ever witnessed in Belfast.

He described the reaction as "an exercise to preserve right wing control of education."

CAGE OF SECTARIANISM

This incident had illustrated more than anything else the growing strength of the reactionary forces among the Catholic community to complement the dominance of reaction in the Protestant community, he said. "Sectarianism of the most vicious kind is again being copper fastened on both communities like a cage to enslave them."

Condemning the apparent extension of the Provisionals' bombing campaign to Britain, he said it would strengthen the Right-wing forces of reaction and destroy the possibility of getting support from the British working-class for the struggle in Ireland. "Is this their purpose? It

seems clear that there are some sinister forces at work driving the Provisionals to do precisely what Brigadier Kitson wants done both in Britain and Ireland."

He continued: "I shed no tears for the Provisionals in their death pangs but unfortunately, like Hitler in Germany, they seem determined to bring the whole house down with them. Waiting in the wings to climb upon the ashes are those who conceived, bore and suckled the Provisionals with money, guns and propaganda."

But the Left was now in retreat and the forces of right wing fascism were rampant. Left-wing politics had also been damaged considerably by the fact that Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien spoke in the name of the Labour Party. His concept of democracy was that the lower classes might be given the right to vote him into power but they had no right to tell him what to do or say.

LEFT IN DISARRAY

"There was never more need for a strong united political movement, of the Left in Ireland, but it was seldom if ever in such disarray," he said.

Mr. Mac Giolla claimed that a grave crisis, if not disaster, faced both workers and small farmers in the North and South because of the exploited nations' decision to take control of their raw materials, and because of membership of the E.E.C. "As an underdeveloped and exploited nation Ireland's place is shoulder to shoulder with the other Third World countries where each would help the other. Instead we have been tied closely to the highly industrialised imperialist,

powers and linked our economy with theirs. Thus we will suffer for their crimes, with collapse of industries, loss of jobs and lower living standards."

Farmers seemed to think that the present crisis was temporary and had nothing whatever to do with the E.E.C. directive on the Farm Modernisation Scheme. He appealed to them to believe him when he said it had everything to do with it. The transitional farmer was the real sufferer who was now being forced out of farming by deliberate economic pressures. All the E.E.C. assistance to farmers was designed to ensure that very little help got down to the man they wanted to force out of farming.

Councillors empowered to attend again

THE ARD-FHEIS yesterday removed the ban on its 11 members of local authorities in the North from attending council meetings. The ban had been imposed after the introduction of internment.

A large majority of delegates voted in favour of a resolution instructing their local authority members to take their seats and to participate, if elected, in the proposed Northern convention as well. They defined abstentionism as a tactic and not a principle and recommended that a sub-committee be set up to deal with these tactics in future.

Programme for North accepted

DECEMBER 2.

A RESOLUTION, moved by the ard comhairle of the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis in Dublin yesterday, was passed unanimously calling upon the incoming executive to contact all interested organisations in the North to strive for united action on the basis of the following programme: "Withdrawal of troops to barracks pending their total withdrawal; ending of the bombing campaign; ending of internment; repeal of the Emergency Provisions Act and other repressive legislation, and passing of a bill of rights and the co-ordination of community defence organisations to give security to people in their homes "irrespective of what political or constitutional structures were eventually agreed or imposed.

The resolution added that the achievement of these demands would bring a measure of peace and security within which normal political development could take place. It added that Sinn Fein should prepare a campaign against the E.E.C. in both urban and rural areas North and South with the objective of mobilising the people to demand withdrawal from the E.E.C. A central part of the campaign must be the presentation of the alternative which was put before the people North and South before the referendum and which included nationalisation of banks, retention and development by the State of our natural resources of minerals, oil and gas, and negotiation of a trading agreement with the E.E.C. countries."

LIBERATION FRONT

The resolution also reaffirmed the commitment to the building of a national liberation front as a genuine fighting weapon which would unite workers, farmers, fishermen, cultural groups, and political parties.

Speaking to the resolution, Mr. MacGiolla said that the reality of the position in the North was that they were going to have direct rule for at least another two years. What they wanted was action, action that would lead to peace in the North in order that political development could take place.

He added that the prisoners' welfare fund had raised over £20,000 in the North, £6,000 in the South and several thousands in Britain. This money was being spent on the replacement of material lost or destroyed in Long Kesh by the British Army, legal aid, clothing, educational facilities and other things.

An industrial resolution calling for the nationalisation of the banks and insurance companies was also passed unanimously. The resolution moved by Mr. Eamonn Smullen, ard comhairle, also stated that "we must insist that no ore, natural gas or oil leaves our country as raw material for the industrial machine in some other land," and demanded that the State establish national state-owned companies to process our resources to the final finished goods.

An addendum to the resolution that demands by certain industries for Government subsidies be rejected because these subsidies come out of the people's pockets and this money should be put into State-sponsored bodies formed to utilise the nation's natural resources, was agreed.

EDUCATION POLICY

The ard fheis also carried a resolution that a group committee be established consisting of those interested in education to draft a comprehensive and realistic policy on education for presentation to the next ard fheis and to continuously review the State's policy on education. A resolution supporting the U.S.I. and the N.U.S. in their campaign for a more constructive grants scheme was also accepted.

Speaking to the resolution Mr. Mr. Brendan Lynch, of Trim, said that the most Right-wing member of the Coalition Government was the Minister for Education. Because of superstitions in education the Irish people had handed over the education of their children to sectarian clerics and because of that they now had the monster of sectarianism in the country today.

Mr. Peadar Doyle, of Carrickmacross, claimed there was blatant discrimination in education in the Republic. He said we seemed to have gone from Catholic emancipation to Catholic domination as we had from Daniel O'Connell to Daithi O Conaill.

THE WEALTH OF IRELAND FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

Detained over name in Irish

December 2.

The president of Conradh na Gaeilge, Padraig O Snodaigh, said last night that a member of his executive—Coiste Gno—had been held for an hour at Fishguard, Wales, on Saturday, because she refused to give "a British version of her name."

The executive member, Lila Nic Oireachtaigh, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, on her way home from the University College of Swansea where she works, alleged that a detective at Fishguard had told her that he had "all power now" and that she would not be allowed to travel until she had given a British version of her name. Eventually after being searched by a police-woman, she was allowed on board the Rosslare ferry. "Speaking Irish means that one is guilty," said Mr. O Snodaigh.

renegotiate EEC terms

SINCE unemployment was reaching disaster proportions, it was time for the Government to demand that the EEC deliver on its promises and to serve notice of its intention to renegotiate our terms of EEC membership. Mr. Matt Merrigan, general secretary of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union, warned in Dublin,

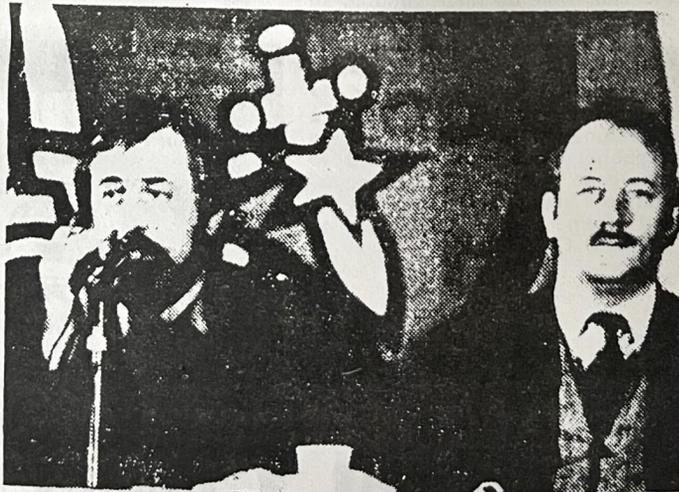
END
INTERNMENT



Vote
REPUBLICAN
CLUBS



Mr. Tomas Mac Giolla, president of Sinn Fein at his party's Ard fheis with E. J. N. Sambo, a fraternal delegate from the Zimbabwe African National Union in Southern Rhodesia.



Mr. Malachy McGurran, vice-president, with Donnchadha Mac Raghnaill, treasurer.

The ard fheis elected the following to be members of the ard comhairle for the next year: Mr. Tomas Mac Giolla, president, re-elected unopposed; Mr. Malachy McGurran, Mr. Cathal Goulding, Mr. Sean Garland, Mr. Dessie O'Hagan, Mr. Eamonn Smullen, Mr. Francie Donnelly, Mr. Michael Ryan, Mr. Liam McMillan, Ms. Mairin de Burca, Mr. Jim Sullivan, Mr. Sean O Cionnaith, Mr. Donnachta Mac Raghnaill, Mr. Tony Heffernon, Mr. Michael Montgomery, Mr. Brian Brennan and Mr. Andy Smith.

TO STUDY NEW LAW FOR RACE ACT VIOLATIONS

DECEMBER 2.

THE NATIONAL organiser of Clann na hEireann in Britain, Mr. Danny Ryan, told the ard-fheis on Saturday that it intended examining new British legislation in the light of the Race Relations Act there.

Speaking in a debate on international relations, he pointed out that some Irish people had been killed, too, in the Birmingham bombs which had split and divided the working class in Britain. There was now a very real danger of a racial conflict in Britain similar to the sectarianism in the North. He condemned the bombing campaign for dragging down the name of Republicanism and the possibility of pushing British workers into the capitalist camp.

Introducing a motion from the party's ard comhairle seeking closer association with socialist countries and opposition to imperialist countries, Mr. Sean O Cionnaith said that not one of the Irish embassies abroad had made any statements about the British Army's harrassment and terrorism in the North since 1969. Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien had proved that he was Britain's man in Ireland and his views had been spread around the world by the British wire services. It was Sinn Fein's job to counter his propoganda.

Mr. Tony Heffernan, joint secretary said that they had only begun to mobilise support for their struggle abroad in the last few years. But they did not want people's support on an emotional basis. They rejected the type of support the Provisionals had been getting from groups like Northern Aid in the U.S. which saw everything wrong in the North and nothing wrong in the South. Since 1970 they had built up a strong organisation in America of people committed to a united socialist Ireland.

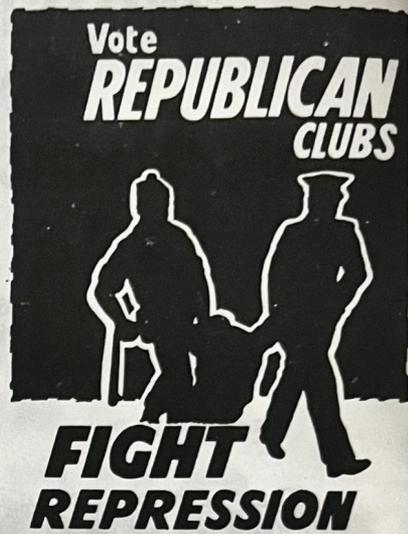
The party's director of Education, Mr. Des O'Hagan, said they must reject attacks mounted against socialist countries, particularly those in Eastern Europe. He asked their support organisation in Britain to disassociate itself from groups which supported the Provisional Alliances' bombing campaign.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

In the debate on housing, Miss de Burca introduced a motion demanding that the building industry, building societies and building land be nationalised. She said that Mr. Tully must be the most devious Minister for Local Government that this country had ever had. His main occupation seemed to be opening new building society offices. There was no indication that old ground were going to be abolished although this was also a Labour Party demand.

One of the problems with housing in Dublin was that the system of allocation was completely arbitrary and there was no way a member of the public could find out how to get to the top of the housing list. A points system of allocation was an obvious cure for this and would be no hardship or put any strain on anybody. A housing list could also be published.

The ard fheis also instructed the ard comhairle to mount a co-ordinated 32-county agitation on all aspects of housing, condemned the bad standard of housing caused by the lump system and urged its members on local authorities to campaign for a points system. It called for a national housing fund to provide money at nominal interest rates for people to build their own



houses and urged local authorities to engage in direct building schemes and to purchase building materials directly.

Another motion demanded a flat-dwellers bill of rights which would include statutory rent control, minimum standards of accommodation, registration, and the prohibition of discrimination against tenants on the grounds of marital status, sex, occupation, nationality or religion.

REJECT I.F.A.

The party president, Mr. Tomas Mac Giolla, opened the debate on agriculture by urging small farmers to reject the I.F.A. as the I.F.A. had rejected them by favouring the E.E.C. directive on the Farm Modernisation Scheme. The farming crisis was deliberately contrived, he said. There was no fall in the price of beef in the shops nor in the price paid to big farmers for fat cattle because they had a guaranteed price. The big farmers were robbing the small farmers by paying them half the price for their cattle. The man selling cattle in the marts did not get a penny from intervention, the Green £ or the beef incentive scheme. The I.F.A. had now sought a floor price for them but they wanted the Government to pay it. The buyers should pay a guaranteed price, he said.

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