

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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IRA GEARED TO A LONG WAR

A MASSIVE wave of co-ordinated bomb attacks launched by the Irish Republican Army, has rocked the British occupied six counties yet again. Last Thursday evening 30th November within just over an hour active service units attacked commercial targets in 16 towns.

This second wave of widespread bomb attacks including the use of car-bomb hundred-pounders came only a fortnight after co-ordinated IRA bombing raids had devastated several commercial centres. In a supplied statement the IRA said these latest attacks should completely dispel any speculation that previous attacks were a flash in the pan or a dying kick.

This second bomb wave came only days after the Republican execution of the Long Kesh H-Block Commandant.

SERIOUS WARNING

While causing hysterical shudders of anger in the corridors of Stormont and Whitehall this explosive display of disciplined IRA mil-

itary might have provided a tremendous morale boost for the nationalist people.

But the IRA has issued a serious warning to the nationalist people. The Republican Movement considers

that for both political and economic reasons the British remain extremely determined to hang on to the six occupied counties. Therefore owing entirely to this British intransigence the war to liberate and unify this country will be a bitter and long drawn-out struggle. There is no quick solution to our British problem. Certainly the recently much floated "solution" of six county "independence" will lead us nowhere but to disaster; there are no short cuts to our 32-county Socialist Republic.

As the IRA stated last

week: "We are committed to, and more importantly geared to, a long term war". The Brit media is promoting the recent attacks as being the opening blasts in a "Winter Offensive". Yet these attacks have in fact just been part of the IRA's on-going war effort. Certainly these attacks will not cease once the winter is over!

FLEXIBILITY IN TACTICS

Flexibility in military tactics (from commercial bombing to prestige bombing and from car bombs to incendiaries) and the ability

to surprise the Brits, remain decisive weapons in the IRA's arsenal.

Yet the rigid imperialist mentality of the Brits makes them incapable of understanding this, and the extent of the popular base upon which the IRA's war effort necessarily rests. A base which is superficially passive to an ignorant observer, but which in fact provides fertile pastures for Republican growth and renewal. Mason has been forced to eat his arrogant words of victory, his foolish claims of having defeated the IRA. Addressing diplomats' wives at a dinner in London last week he claimed that he always said the IRA retained its ability as an effective strike force!

GUTTER-PRESS

Almost a year ago to the day in an interview published in the Brit gutter-rag the 'Daily Express' (dated December 5th 1977) he claimed: "We are squeezing the terrorists like rolling up a toothpaste tube. We are squeezing them out of their safe havens. We are squeezing them away from their supplies of money and explosives".

Particularly in the past three weeks Mason has been forced to eat his words. The Republican "toothpaste" remains securely embedded in the "tube" which is the nationalist population of the six counties.



IRA BOMBING ON!

The "morning after" in Armagh City's Scotch Street which was one of the many commercial targets blasted by the I.R.A. in their second recent widespread wave of co-ordinated attacks.

WAR NEWS

IN SUPPLIED statements the Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for the following operations.

Tues. 28th Nov.
BELFAST
All the main traffic routes in and out of Belfast's city centre were choc-a-bloc with traffic due to an elaborate system of bomb hoaxes.

The rail line between Belfast and Bangor was also closed due to a bomb on the line.

An active service unit planted three bombs in the Windsor Carpet Wholesalers on the Donegall Road. The bombs exploded causing considerable damage to the building.

Wed. 29th Nov.
SOUTH FERMANAGH

Three RUC men were injured, one shot in the leg, when their vehicle came under fire in the townland of Esnadarragh, near the border. In their eagerness to escape a further ambush they crashed their vehicle into a lorry injuring two of the three RUC men.

Thurs. 30th Nov.
For the second time within a fortnight the IRA launched a widespread superbly co-ordinated bombing offensive. In all 16 towns were hit, causing devastation running into millions of pounds (the 'Newsletter' of Friday 31st estimated the damage at £7 million).

ARMAGH
A massive 200lb car bomb exploded in Scotch Street, in the town centre. The explosion started a raging fire in a paint shop which quickly spread to adjoining shops, burning Woolworths store to the ground. Blast damage to surrounding stores was

severe. Shops in the Linen Hall Street and Thomas Street area were also damaged.

STEWARTSTOWN

Another massive car bomb exploded in the town's Square wrecking the General Store and causing widespread blast damage to surrounding shops.

COAGH

Extensive damage was caused by a bomb planted in a public house in Main Street. Adequate warning was given and nobody was injured.

COOKSTOWN

Two blast bombs caused minor damage to a garage at Orritor Street. Later that evening the Gortreagh Printing Works was damaged by a bomb explosion.

MOY

Two bombs were planted at premises in Killyman Street.

BALLYGAWLEY

15 premises were damaged, two extensively, when bombs exploded at the Northern Bank and a hardware store in the town's Main Street. Two RUC men had to receive on-the-spot treatment for severe blast shock.

GORTIN

The town's Ulster Bank was damaged in an explosion. During the night the RUC/Brits had to deal with several co-ordinated bomb hoaxes in the nearby Clogher Valley and Omagh areas.

COALISLAND

A bomb was planted at a bakery on Dungannon Road.

LURGAN

Six bombs were planted in premises in the town's Market Street and Church

Place and also at the signal box on the rail line at William Street.

Four of the bombs exploded causing damage to McAreevey's Public Bar and the Bank of Ireland in Market Street; and McAlinden's freeze shop in Church Place. One bomb wrecked the signal box causing the rail line between Portadown and Lurgan to be closed.

LISNASKEA

Two incendiary bombs exploded in the town's Main Street completely destroying the main store in the town.

CALEDON

A bomb planted in a shop caused widespread traffic chaos, when it was removed from its target to the centre of the road, where it eventually exploded.

BELEEK

Two explosions caused fire damage to the border customs post.

DUNGANNON

Two explosions caused minor damage to the Housing Executives Offices and Holmes Coal Store.

NEWTOWNBUTLER

Two bombs were planted at Crilly's Garage, in the town centre.

BALLYMENA

A 500lb car bomb planted in Linenhall Street brought the town's traffic



and commercial activity to a standstill for a day, before the bomb was eventually defused.

Claiming responsibility for the bombing offensive the IRA issued the following statement:

"The Irish Republican Army claims responsibility for the bomb attacks across the Six Counties. These attacks, and the attacks of two weeks ago, will completely dispel any speculation that previous attacks were a flash in the pan or a dying kick. We are committed to and more importantly geared to a long term war. Finally, we are in total agreement with Harold McCusker that the security gates should not be re-erected."

Fri. 1st Dec.

DERRY

Several bombs were planted at the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society's warehouse at Newbuildings. The bombs exploded wrecking the building.

Sun. 3rd Dec.

LURGAN

A Brit foot patrol was ambushed in Hill Street. About twenty shots were fired as the Brits passed by a derelict house. No Brits were reported injured.



Masonic normality in Armagh's Scotch Street devastated by the IRA.

BRIT HELICOPTER CRASHES

TWO MORE Brits have died in South Armagh in the early hours of last Saturday morning whilst flying through a storm, their helicopter crashed into Lough Ross, a stretch of water south of Crossmaglen.

(As we have reported before, these days Brit car drivers and now pilots, seem particularly accident prone, perhaps this is a result of their low morale!) This time the dead Brits were a Captain and a Corporal.

Whilst their deaths are not directly attributable to the I.R.A., these fatalities are certainly part of the cost to the Brits of their war effort here and are an indirect result of Republican military activities. For in South Armagh it is the military effectiveness of the Irish Republican Army, backed by militant popular support which ensures an especially difficult time for the British occupation forces.

In particular due to the tight control maintained by the IRA on the ground, the Brits main method of transport is by helicopter. At least five Brit helicopters have now gone down in South Armagh in the last four years.

In May 1975 three Brits were injured when their helicopter crashed at Whitecross. In the same week another helicopter crashed at Fords Cross, near Crossmaglen, although unfortunately this time the Brits escaped unharmed.

Then in January 1976 two Brits were killed when a helicopter crashed at Crievekeeran near Crossmaglen. Just over two years later in February of this year the IRA scored a magnificent hit; they shot down a helicopter near Jonesborough, killing the arrogant Lieutenant-Colonel Corden-Lloyd, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Greenjackets.

TWO REMAND prisoners in Crumlin Road Jail missed their mother's funeral last Wednesday because they were not released on compassionate bail until minutes after she was buried.

Gerard McKinley, aged 23 and his 20-year-old brother, Henry, from White-well Walk, Divis Flats, Belfast, were granted compassionate bail in the High Court for five-and-a-half hours on Wednesday to attend the funeral. They were to have been released at noon but were not finally freed until 4.50 p.m.

Their mother had been buried 80 minutes earlier after the funeral was delayed for an hour-and-a-half.

BROTHERS HELD UNTIL AFTER MOTHER'S FUNERAL

RUC DELAY BAILSMEN

The brothers' bailsmen were deliberately delayed by RUC and court officials so that the bonds were not signed until very late in the afternoon.

Bail was granted on Tuesday morning and that afternoon two bailsmen reported to their local RUC barracks

(Springfield Road and Andersonstown) and were informed that they were 'cleared'.

On Wednesday, they went early to the bail office at Chichester Street where one of them was informed that Springfield Road RUC had rescinded his 'clearance' and the other told that he would have to

produce a bank statement.

Another bailsmen was found who took the bail money in cash to his local RUC barracks.

From there he was sent to the High Court in Crumlin Road and then to Chichester Street where he was told that both brothers would be released after the second bail certificate was

signed.

Accompanied by Mr. McKinley and two other sons they went to Crumlin Road jail only to be informed that the bail certificates had not been received and that no-one was available to sign the required release documents.

40 MINUTES ONLY

The funeral of Mrs. McKinley took place at 3.30 p.m. and her sons were finally released at 4.50 p.m. They had 40 minutes compassionate bail.

Here we have yet another typical callous example of British rule in Ireland.

Brit propaganda offensive in America

JAY DEFENDS H-BLOCK

A RECENT article by a well-known American columnist, Jack Anderson, which appeared in several newspapers across the United States of America has brought a renewed Brit propaganda offensive in the States.

Jack Anderson's article, mainly based on information gathered by the two American congressmen Hamilton Fish and Joshua Ellberg (who recently visited the six counties) claimed that the British were trampling on the rights of Irish people in a manner reminiscent of Cromwell.

The Brit propaganda offensive has been led by Peter Jay, Brit ambassador in Washington, who in an article in the 'Washington Post' attacked 'utterly misleading' accounts of the H-blocks. Brit consul-generals in other American cities have also been given propaganda space.

The decision by the Brits to mount this offensive reflects their growing concern that publicity about the horrific H-blocks, Castlereagh torture and routine Brit brutality is beginning to make an impact among the powerful Irish-American community. Particularly worrying for the Brits is the 121-strong Congressional ad hoc committee on Ireland which has repeatedly, although so far un-



Two American Senators attending a recently convened meeting in Belfast's Europa Hotel on the denial of human rights in the occupied Six Counties. On the left Benjamin Gilman and on the right Mario Biaggi, Chairman of the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Ireland.

successfully, called for open congressional hearings to investigate the mounting allegations.

In the state of Illinois, 64 members of the House of Representatives have tabled a motion to their General Assembly urging Amnesty International to

hold a formal in-depth investigation into the plight of Irish political prisoners.

In the city of Chicago the city council have passed a motion supporting the retention of political status by Irish Republican political prisoners.

THANKS FROM ARMAGH RAC

ARMAGH Relatives Action Committee wish to thank all those who took part in the march in Armagh City on Sunday 26th, November. A special thank you to all who travelled from different parts of Ireland, especially the speakers and the bands and all those who didn't manage to make it due to harassment by the forces of the Crown.

ONWARD TO FREEDOM—VICTORY WILL BE OURS.

DUBLIN H-BLOCK MARCH

Saturday 16th December

Assemble 2 p.m. at Traitors Gate St. Stephen's Green

March to G.P.O. for Meeting with Prominent Speakers

All Banners Welcome

SMASH H-BLOCK

Protest organised by Sinn Fein

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

SDLP SOMERSAULT AGAIN

FOLLOWING A motion passed at their party conference last month which stated that the SDLP believed British disengagement from Ireland to be inevitable and desirable, and calling for a constitutional conference following the next Westminster general election, they have now launched what they call the 'New Ireland Campaign'.

As readers know, the Irish for New Ireland is Eire Nua and significant sections of the party also support "federalism" (not, however, the same as the socialist devolution of powers)! Sounds a bit confusing coming from the party whose leaders are traitors to Ireland and whose leading light, Gerry Fitt, is a tout.

At their conference last month there was a groundswell of grass roots' opinion in favour of "special category" status for the blanket-men in H-Block, but a motion from rural members was referred back to the treacherous executive.

Clearly the SDLP are now emphasising an Irish face because of the heroic resistance of

the oppressed people to British rule. Their new turn is a recognition of the Irish will of the nationally dispossessed people in the 6-Counties to resist.

The 'New Ireland Campaign' is stated to be an attempt "to convince the British Government that a permanent solution to the problems of the North could only be found in an Irish context."

This somersault by the SDLP is an attempt to breach the major gap between them and the people. They are neurotic with the threat of Republicanism to their careers,



Fitt the tout now attempts to masquerade as the leader of a 'Brits Out' Party.

LAST WEDNESDAY (29 November) night's 'Play of the Week' on BBC2, 'The Vanishing Army' by Robert Holles, was a severe commentary on the British Army and on the regular soldier profession. It was a small masterpiece concerning girling the careerist soldier, and traced his descent into disillusionment.

When the play opens Sergeant Major Girling is raiding a house looking for an IRA man who has just escaped into the back entry. The old man of the house (eventually the victim of an arrest) is cringing, offers the Brits tea, and the IRA man's wife is portrayed as a dirty-looking, chain-smoking, pregnant hussy who curses the Brits in between breathing. In fact all the Irish protagonists were simply functional to Girling's eventual fate, upon which hinged the anti-war message. However, we are mature enough not to take this fault personally, though it would have helped if English viewers knew why the Irish were resisting their soldiers.

Looking out the window, over the distraction of bin-lid banging kids and a riot, Girling reflects upon his life, how he fell in love and was married to Morag, a warm-hearted and casual being, but unlike the old Irish man certainly not cringing. She takes up residence in the married wives quarters and her attempts to set up a nursery threaten to upset the petty status-quo power base of Mrs. Symington, the wife of Girling's Commanding Officer. He gets into trouble over Morag and is threatened with losing the vacant position of Regimental Sergeant Major, as well as suffering other humiliations.

However, his persecution is discovered by a senior officer

Television Review by Peter Arnalis

'THE VANISHING ARMY'



and girling becomes qualified for RSM if he signs on for six years, beginning with a "tour of duty" in Ireland. Morag, who has no interest in the military life, then tells him to choose between the Army and her. He chooses the Army.

His reflection is disturbed when the raiding party reports that nothing has been found. Girling orders a crying baby to be lifted from its cot and underneath discovers a gun. (at this

stage I could just hear 12 million mesmerised English viewers declare, "the yellow Irish pigs, imagine hiding a gun under a child blah, blah, blah..."). The old man is arrested and Girling goes to the back entry to continue the search of the sealed-off district. Up jumps the IRA man, tosses a handgrenade and he is shot as he tries to escape.

In the explosion Girling loses a leg, and he regains consciousness

in hospital still determined to soldier on. But to the Army he is no longer of any use and so he is pensioned off. 'Resettlement' attempts to get him work but wherever he is employed his regimented mentality — the product of the Brit machine — cannot adjust to civvy street or civvy street's civilians. He ends up embittered, as a car alone in a flat with a pet rat, no friends and no wife.

One day an ex-squaddie pays

him a visit and invites him to a regimental reunion. There he gets drunk and listens to the same officers — one of whom was notorious for getting shifted away from danger! — make the same heroic, almost standard, speeches. Girling breaks out of his self-imposed silence and heads for the stage. In a speech he attacks the Army for it took away his wife and left him maimed. He hands back his military medal the DCM, much to the chagrin of the Brass, and is then carried away drunk, back to his claustrophobic flat and his nothing-life.

TRUTH AND HONESTY

'The Vanishing Army' must certainly have displeased the General Creasys of this world. Domestically, the British government — the colonial power — can accept mild criticism, but had the play been more penetrating then it would certainly have encountered censorship. There's no lifting the lid on Ireland. Such a production or commentary based on an RUC or UDR man would never have reached the screen in the Six-Counties.

Though the Irish scene was functional to the plot I hope in the future that playwrights will make more use of the wealth of material of human tragedy and suffering in Ireland under British imperialist rule. It would be a corruption of the truth to sustain the myth of "peace-keeping", and would be an act of humanity in the light of the censorship of the news to forge this art form into a medium of the greatest values of all — truth and honesty.

Let us hope someone picks up the weight.

Listowel Sinn Fein AGM

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Listowel Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair held recently, was well attended by representatives of all Cumann.

The meeting was addressed by Ruairi O'Bradigh and Walter Lynch of the Ard Comhairle and emphasis being placed on the importance of the forth-coming Local Elections and the continued support for the men of H-Block in their demand for political status.

There was "one minute" silence for the late Con O'Shea, Chairman of the Cumann Cabraich.

The following were elected to the Officer Board: Cathaoirleach, J.P. Connolly; Leas-cathaoirleach, T. Neill; Ruairi, M. Lynch; Cisteoir, M. Higgins; Finisceoir, P. Campbell; P.R.O., E.M. Connolly.

BELFAST YOUTH SEMINAR

A seminar has been organised by Sinn Fein in the Lake Glen Hotel, Andersonstown Road, Belfast, on Sunday, December 17th, starting at 2.30 p.m.

The programme is as follows: 2.30 p.m. — Sinn Fein's Social and Economic Policies; 4.00 p.m. — The Role of Youth in Sinn Fein.

An open invitation is extended to the youth of West Belfast.

At the Annual General Meeting of Comhairle Chiuige Laighean '78, held in the Belvedere Hotel, Dublin on Sunday, November 19th, the following officers were elected.

From left to right: Denis Craggan, Regional Government Officer; Brendan Golden, Organiser; Sean Halpin, P.R.O.; Aine Ni Gabhann, Education Officer; Pat Duffy, Secretary; (Joe Cahill, Vice-President); George Lynch, Chairman; Larry Ryan, Treasurer; (Walter Lynch, National Joint General Sec.); Jack Crowe, Youth Officer.

★★★★★★



COMHAIRLE CHUIGE LAIGHEAN (Leinster Provincial Council)

Monthly Delegate Meeting
Sunday 17th December at 2.30 p.m.
in 5 Blessington Street, Dublin 1.

2 Delegates from each Comhairle Ceantair

West Dundalk Sinn Fein AGM THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL WORK

THE Annual General Meeting of the Worthington/Watters Brothers Sinn Fein Cumann, West Dundalk, was held recently.

The meeting was addressed by Sinn Fein Councillor Eric Browne and Pat Duffy — Louth Comhairle Ceantair. They spoke of the problems the people of the area, which is known as Cox's Demesne, faced over the previous year; and stressed the importance of local work on the people's behalf.

The delegates at the meeting then went on to discuss the various projects unaccomplished but were still being worked on by them. These projects included the erection of a playground for the children; the cleaning and levelling of waste

ground at the back of Ashling Park; the enforcement of speed limits in the area; the installation of telephone kiosks; and the solving of the growing problem of stray dogs.

General satisfaction was voiced at the New Street lighting in the Castletown Road area, and it was hoped this development would drastically reduce the number of Fatal Road accidents.

One delegate urged the Cumann to pressurise the local Council to provide playing facilities for the badly neglected children of the Fatima area.

The meeting welcomed the recent opening of the new local Community Centre and wished the centre's committee every success.

The meeting felt that this type of involvement by local people in local affairs was in keeping with Sinn Fein's policies on community control.

Before the meeting ended a motion of solidarity was passed with the prisoners on protest for political status and with prisoners in gaol in England.

The following officer board was elected to guide the Cumann in its activities during the forthcoming year.

E. Faulkner — Chairwoman,
P. Faulkner — Secretary,
J. Ashmore — Treasurer,
W. Newberry — Assistant Treasurer,
P. Carr — Vice-Chairman and PRO

BIRMINGHAM Jimmy Steele Cumann

Anyone wishing to join Sinn Fein in Birmingham please write to:

J. English,
6 Dale Rd., Selly Oak,
Birmingham or
W. Moreland,
316 Warwick Rd., Greet,
Birmingham.

CORRECTION

AN ITEM in 'Republican News' dated 25th November entitled "New Cumann Formed" should have reported a new cumann in Loughguill, County Antrim, rather than as incorrectly printed.

SMASH H-BLOCK!



Dear Brigadier,

I am writing to draw your attention to certain remarks made by Mr Lionel Read, QC at Exeter Crown Court last week. He was defending one of your lads, rifleman Stephen Cockett of the Royal Green Jackets who was up on a murder charge — he struck Marine Adrian Cook on the head with a wooden club and then stabbed him to death with a carving knife. In the course of his able defence of young Cockett, who got three years at the end of it, Mr. Read said that both men were "trained killers and fought like animals". Now it's bad enough when our soldiers go around killing each other instead of the Paddies, but it's much worse when learned members of the legal profession let the cat out of the bag and go around telling people that our boys are trained psychopaths. I trust that you, in your capacity of recruiting officer will, in future, stress the more positive aspects of soldiering, such as the basket weaving classes for the mentally bewildered, the forged letters classes for the illiterate — the Catholic mother of 10 ones for the Irish News — and the perjury lessons.

Yours etc,

O/C Green Cowards,
Aldergrove, Ireland.

THE BRIGADIER'S POST BAG

Dear Brigadier,

I am writing on behalf of my son Gunner James Ramsey Harris of the Royal Horse Artillery. He was stationed at Long Kesh, where he used to take great delight in taunting the prisoners and drinking with the screws. Well, last July he had a few too many and went and stabbed another soldier, one Robert Palmer. As a result he has been in army custody now for five months. I was wondering if you could do anything to help?

Mrs. Ramsey.

Dear Mrs. Ramsey,

Your story has touched my heart. I have seen to it that your son has been released on bail and can rejoin his gallant comrades in Germany. One thing though, can you impress upon him that the reason he is given a license to kill is that he should kill Paddies, not our own side. OK?

The Brigadier.



By the Brigadier

Dear Brigadier,

As you know I have been investigating a number of armed robberies in the London area, and in particular the £200,000 hold up at the Daily Mirror last June where a security man was shot dead. In this case and in two others — a raid on the Daily Express in May where £175,000 was grabbed and a bank robbery in Birch Lane last September, I now have

overwhelming evidence that a number of senior police officers are involved. I have suspended one Chief Inspector and advised him to scarp, but it looks as if I'll have to arrest a few. As a wellknown expert on so-called 'bad apples' I was wondering had you any advice?

Yours etc,

Assistant Chief Constable
Leonard Burt.

Dear Lennie,

These lads of yours do seem to have been a bit naughty. Still, just send them over here. They should be ideally suited for our new Whiter than white reformed RUC. Promotion guaranteed. Always vacancies. Free military funeral. Plenty of opportunities for sadism. You know it makes sense!

The Brigadier.

Dear Brigadier,

When are you going to do something about this fellow Cormac who keeps on making nasty and offensive remarks about Roy Mason. Personally speaking, he's a man I've always looked up to.

Yours most sincerely,

Tiny Tim.

Dear Tim,

You don't fool me for a moment. You are obviously a member of the DLF. I didn't get where I am today without being able to spot a spoof.

The Brigadier.

Bye for now, but I'll be back soon with news of my bumper Christmas bad apple competition. Lots of prizes and fun for all the family.

Your old chum,

The Brigadier.

No progress with new student unions' campaign

OVER THE last few months a leaflet, entitled 'Peace, Jobs, Progress' has been distributed around the colleges and universities in the Six Counties.

The sponsors of this leaflet are, The Union of Students in Ireland, The British National Union of Students and The International Union of Students. The leaflet has been produced as part of a campaign recently launched under the banner 'Students for Peace and Social Progress in Northern Ireland.'

PRO-BRIT

The leaflet claims its purpose is to mobilise students in Ireland and Britain around 'specific demands' which they claim are needed for a 'just peace and social progress' in the North of Ireland. In fact the specific demands, centred around a bill of rights lead nowhere, truly a campaign for No progress.

On reading the leaflet one would think from its naivety and terminology that it was produced by either the pro-Brit 'Peace People' or by the English students with no understanding of the situation. In fact the people behind it turn out, not surprisingly, to be the Sticks and their fellow reformists in the Communist Party.

The leaflet totally ignores the Brits role as an army of occupation, and conveniently omits any reference to RUC torture or the partition of this country.

The pro-Brit politics of the leaflet shines through when we read: "Violent activity continues, carried out by the various para-military groupings — whose actions merely serve to divide the community and aid

the cause of reaction and as a result of British army activity"; such a brief reference to Brit violence comes as a minor afterthought to avoid charges of pro-Brit bias. Nowhere does there appear the words 'Castlereagh', 'H-Block' or 'S.A.S.'

PASSIVITY

The campaign and leaflet is a vain attempt to extent the now non-existent trade union 'Better Life for all Campaign' into the students movement. No doubt those involved in this latest campaign will follow the same political line as the bureaucrats in the trade union movement whose actions only confused their followers, and strengthened the hand of the RUC/Brit torturers.

The leaflet perpetuates the most striking characteristic of the students movement over recent years, that is their passivity in the face of British brutality, torture and murder.

However the slavish attitude which has pervaded the students movement is now being challenged.

A few weeks ago Republican



Republican and Socialist students have given the thumbs down to the Student Unions' new 'Peace, Jobs, Progress' campaign and have set up a militant student campaign against repression.

and Socialist students in Queen's University, Belfast, set up an action group called 'Students Campaign Against Repression' (SCAR). This campaign is designed to combat the present collaborationist mentality of the

students movement. Its aim is to create a militant S.C.A.R. presence in every college and university throughout Ireland and to vigorously encourage students to become active and not only to oppose Brit repression in all its forms but to oppose the Brit presence itself.

S.C.A.R. is demanding that the forthcoming Students Union of Ireland Conference in Killarney in January should be bombarded with resolutions against Brit repression.

S.C.A.R.'s growth at Queen's encouraged those involved to march as a contingent in Armagh City two weeks ago. A sizeable number attended the R.A.C. protest and together with thousands of others told Mason and the Brit government in clear terms that the support for the P.O.W.'s will continue until the prisoners are victorious.

S.C.A.R. hopes to carry its banner in future marches and urges all students to march behind it. S.C.A.R.'s demands are Political Status for P.O.W.'s, An end to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, An end to the Emergency Provisions Act, and Self Determination for all the Irish people. S.C.A.R. believes that these demands are inter-linked and no lasting solution will be secured until they are met.

S.C.A.R. intends to work with any group to achieve these demands, and is open to all students who support its aims. S.C.A.R. believes it is necessary to build a National Student Campaign. Anyone seeking further information should contact F. Duffy, Students Union, Queens University, Belfast.

***** Solidarity Greetings

MORGAN, Eileen, 'B' Wing, Armagh Jail, God bless you Eileen on completing TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET on 2nd December. There's a prayer on our lips today, and pride in our hearts, as two years on the blanket ends and another cold year starts.

Love from Marion, Daddy, Phyllis, Jacinta, Brian, Mary and your brother Seamus, Cage 9, Long Kesh.

HODGINS, Gerard, H5 Block, Long Kesh. Congratulations Gerard on completing TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET. God bless you and all your comrades. You're always in our thoughts and prayers.

Your loving Mum and brother Eamonn, Turf Lodge.

HODGINS, Gerard, H5 Block, Long Kesh. Congratulations to my brother Gerard on completing TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET. You're a special brother and a special kind of man. A Republican fighting for your principles and we are proud of you. From your sister Agnes, Downpatrick.

ON 16th May 1926, Eamon de Valera announced the formation of a new political party to be known as 'Fianna Fail, the Republican Party'.

At the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis, two months previously, he had proposed that elected representatives should take their seats in the Dail. Entry to the Free State Parliament at that time entailed taking an oath of allegiance to the English King. De Valera's proposals were unceremoniously thrown out although as a former leader of the Republican forces during Easter Week 1916 de Valera commanded a great deal of respect and his stand with the anti-Treaty forces during the Civil War had further endeared him to Republican sympathisers.

A large number of Sinn Fein members, including TD's, joined de Valera when he split from the Republican Movement. A leading member of the new party was Dan Breen who had been elected on a Sinn Fein abstentionist ticket. Breen argued that all Fianna Fail TD's should take their seats immediately instead of waiting until after the forthcoming general election.

In January 1927 Breen took the oath, and his seat. Another member of the party, Patrick Belton, swore allegiance to the English King and joined Breen in the Dail. Feeling was so high among the people who had voted for the duo, that they were forced to drop the 'Fianna Fail' tag and called themselves 'Independent Republicans'.

In the General Election of June 1927 Fianna Fail won 44 seats, prior to the election the TD's...most elected as Sinn Fein abstentionists. The Fianna Fail deputies attempted to enter the Dail but the doors were bolted against them because of their unwillingness to take the oath, but, in August de Valera led his party into the Dail describing the oath as an "empty formula." Mary Mac Swiney, sister of Cork's martyred Lord Mayor, Terence Mac Swiney, spoke for a great number of people when she said, "Fianna Fail's decision to enter this illegal usurping assembly, under any circumstances, is utterly disgraceful."

1932 ELECTION

In the five years between the party's entry into the Dail and the next general election Fianna Fail agitated against the many repressive laws in operation under the Cosgrave Cumann na nGaedheal (later Fine Gael) Government. In the weeks prior to the February 1932 elections the de Valera group reverted to their former Republican policies and mounted a publicity campaign against the Free State Government similar to that against Britain in post-1916. They accused the Free State Government of being servants of British imperialism and vehemently attacked the coercion laws, police intimidation and the ill-treatment of the Republican prisoners.

The results of the general election proved the effectiveness of the traditional Republican stance when Fianna Fail swept into power. They won seventy two seats while Cosgrave's party could only win fifty seven. With the help of the Labour Party, who had seven deputies, Fianna Fail formed a new Government.

De Valera had now succeeded Cosgrave as President of the Ex-

ecutive Council of the Irish Free State. The new President was loath to use this title, a title at which his party had been slinging mud for many years. One of the first acts of the new Government was to declare an amnesty for all Republican POW's. In an obvious publicity exercise Frank Aiken, new Minister for Defence, and James Geoghegan, Minister for Justice, went in person to Arbour Hill to greet the released prisoners. 'We're in and you're out' the men were told. That same week the military courts were abolished.

In July the new Free State Government began an economic war against Britain. De Valera announced his refusal to contin-

Fianna Fail won seventy seven seats while Cumann na nGaedheal again lost support winning forty eight.

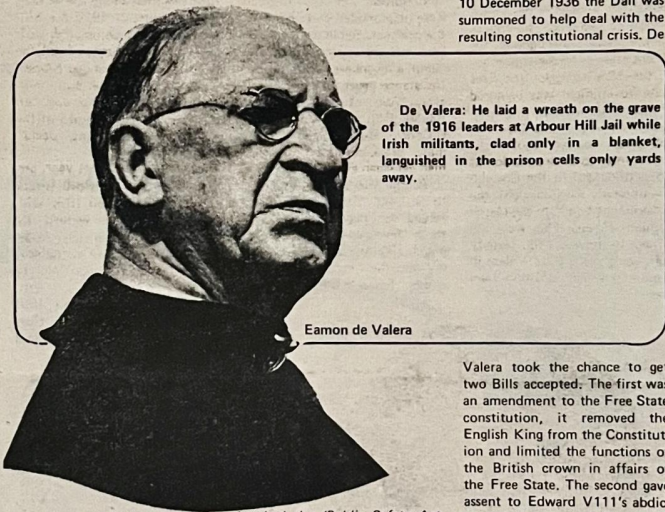
During the Civil War seventy seven IRA Volunteers had been executed by the Free State Government, and now many people saw the election of seventy seven Fianna Fail TD's as some sort of mystic sign. But in the years to come the de Valera Government was to match the Cosgrave regime for repression against Republicans.

Fianna Fail's first use of repressive legislation came not as a result of IRA activity, but of the growing threat of the Blueshirts, a fascist movement closely affiliated to Fine Gael. De Valera

waned as many militants, released by the party amid much publicity in 1932, now found themselves imprisoned again.

In 1936 a constitutional crisis erupted in Britain which was viewed by de Valera as a chance to recover some ground amongst his disillusioned supporters. Edward VIII had announced that he was to marry a divorcee, Mrs. Wallis Simpson. Such a move would mean his abdication. The Fianna Fail Cabinet were aware that to pass legislation giving assent to the abdication would mean a conference of British Commonwealth Governments of which the Free State was still a member.

Following the abdication on 10 December 1936 the Dail was summoned to help deal with the resulting constitutional crisis. De



Eamon de Valera

De Valera: He laid a wreath on the grave of the 1916 leaders at Arbour Hill Jail while Irish militants, clad only in a blanket, languished in the prison cells only yards away.

ue payment of the land annuities (in respect of loans advanced by the British in the previous century, to buy out the landlords and distribute their property among the smallholders) and other payments held to be due in accordance with the financial agreement of 1923-26 between the Brits and the Cosgrave regime.

Westminster immediately retaliated with a tariff wall against imports from Ireland. Fianna Fail in turn retaliated by imposing tariffs against imports from Britain. The ones to suffer most as a result of the economic hostilities were the farmers, wages fell and unemployment soared throughout the Free State.

De Valera was forced into a snap election when, in October, James Dillon and Frank McDermott formed the 'National Centre Party', a right wing group whose programme appealed to the wealthier farmers. In the election, of 24 January 1933,

invoked the 'Public Safety Act of 1931' which had been drafted by the Cosgrave regime to combat Republicanism. When asked by the media how Fianna Fail could invoke an Act which they had bitterly denounced in 1931, de Valera replied: 'I realise that I once described the Act as the most abominable piece of legislation this house was ever asked to pass. But that was when it was entrusted to the hands of the Cumann na nGaedheal Government.'

It was therefore implied that the special powers would not be abused by Fianna Fail...a hollow promise!

ABDICATION

In 1933 the Irish Republican Army had split following the short lived Republican Congress. De Valera took the chance to outlaw the IRA while morale within the movement was low. Fianna Fail's standing amongst the Republican population

Valera took the chance to get two Bills accepted. The first was an amendment to the Free State constitution, it removed the English King from the Constitution and limited the functions of the British crown in affairs of the Free State. The second gave assent to Edward VIII's abdication and recognised George VI as his successor.

In a debate on the twin Bills in the Dail Sean Mac Eoin said: 'To my mind this Bill means that the Fianna Fail party want to be able to say in the Bog of Allen that we are Republicans, and to be able to say in Piccadilly that we are Imperialists.'

A referendum for a new constitution was put to the electorate in May 1933, the voting (on party lines) was 685,105 votes for, and 526,945 against, from a seventy per cent poll. Although the word 'republic' did not appear in the new Act Fianna Fail argued that the 26 Counties was now a Republic. Mrs. Tom Clarke, widow of the martyred 1916 leader, opposed the constitution as it gave unlimited powers to de Valera and his Cabinet. Included in the constitution was provision for military tribunals, the banning of meetings, powers to suppress newspapers and other legislation

FIANNA F YEARS OF S

Following interest provoked by our recent series on the civil war, we are printing here an article on the history of Fianna Fail which shows how once the party had deviated from the Republican tradition in increasingly became trapped in the treacherous web of collaboration with the Brits.

Indeed in order to prove its 'respectability' and to deny its Republican origins Fianna Fail quickly mimicked the Brits in their methods of repression and especially in their inhuman treatment of Republican prisoners. Only two weeks ago, in the Free State Dail, Michael O'Kennedy, Fianna Fail cabinet

aimed at crushing the IRA.

CAMPAIGN IN ENGLAND

In January 1939 the IRA sent an ultimatum to Britain demanding that they withdraw completely from Ireland. The ultimatum warned that: 'The war in future will be carried into the streets of England.'

Shortly afterwards a series of successful attacks were made in England but in August a bomb exploded prematurely in Coventry and five people were killed. Fianna Fail seized the opportunity to invoke the new 'Offences Against the State Act.'

Gerry Boland, Fianna Fail's 'Minister for Justice,' ordered the internment of republicans. In Mountjoy Jail veteran republican Patrick McGrath led a hungerstrike of prisoners against their internment without trial. In November de Valera and Boland were informed that Patrick McGrath was near to death as appeals to release the hunger strikers grew.

The IRA voiced their own protest with a daring raid on the Military Magazine Fort in Phoenix Park. They got away with over a million rounds of rifle and machine gun ammunition without firing a shot.

Fianna Fail's discomfort was added to when the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the High Court that the prisoners in Mountjoy were illegally held. De Valera was forced to release all the Republican POW's.

War was now waging in Europe, 'Eire' had declared its neutrality. Fianna Fail pushed through a new Emergency Powers Bill on which the 'Tipperary Star' commented: 'People under suspicion will be interned under the E.P. Act unless or until it is proved contrary to the constitution. Many observers here felt that if the Government is again found to be technically wrong, we shall be looking for a new administration, a new Constitution, or perhaps, a different Sup.'

A prison camp was opened at the Curragh Military centre and IRA prisoners were sent there. That same week came the news that a Garda had been shot dead in Cork when a party of armed

Gardai were arresting a young Republican named Tomas Mac Curtain.

BY MARTIN ARMSTRONG

Fianna Fail found themselves in a terrible dilemma, they wanted the execution of MacCurtain, who had been sentenced to death, to go ahead, but Public pressure was mounting on them to commute the sentence. The campaign to reprieve Tomas escalated amid widespread anger when Gerry Boland admitted that he had contacted the English hangman, Pierrepoint, to carry out the execution. Fianna Fail were forced through sheer weight of public opinion to commute the sentence. Tomas MacCurtain was taken from his death cell and brought to Portlaoise Prison. He refused to wear the garb of a convict and spent the next eight years wrapped only in a blanket.

FIANNA FAIL PRISONS

To get some idea of what life was like for Republicans in Fianna Fail prisons in the forties I quote the following from Bowyer Bell's book, 'The Secret Army.'

'Key men were treated like common criminals. Among them were Tomas MacCurtain...Sean MacCaughy, who commuted with a death sentence, and Liam Rice, wounded in a gun battle with Irish detectives. Since they would not wear prison clothes, the authorities let them remain naked but for their blankets. Sitting month after month, year after year, in the bleak solitary cells...the life of an animal caged in a burrow. There were trapped in a burrow. There were no books, no contact with each other, no opportunity to talk to other, no opportunity to talk to anyone...On 11 May 1946, Sean MacCaughy died after 31 days on hungerstrike and the last twelve on their strike for his unconditional release....'

A FAIL'S F SHAME

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BY
MARTIN
STRONG

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minister, echoed Mason by claiming that since the H-Block prisoners had been convicted of a variety of "criminal offences" he could not accept that they are political prisoners and he thought that their condition was being cynically exploited for propaganda purposes.

'KILLED THE IRA'

Gerry Boland proclaimed to the world: "The IRA are dead and I killed them."

While Republicans languished in Finnia Fail's prison camps de Valera attempted to keep a veneer of Republicanism wrapped around his shoulders. On one occasion he went to Arbour Hill military prison to lay wreath at the grave of the executed 1916 leaders. A group of women headed him, among them was Fiona Plunkett, sister of Joseph Plunkett, one of the executed leaders, whose brother George was laying naked in a nearby cell.

A spate of executions followed as Finnia Fail attempted to give credibility to Boland's claim that he had 'killed the IRA.' Maurice O'Neill, convicted of shooting dead a Special Branch man was shot by a military firing squad. In the Curragh camp the Free State army opened fire on a group of IRA prisoners who had assembled to parade. One was mortally wounded.

LOST SUPPORT

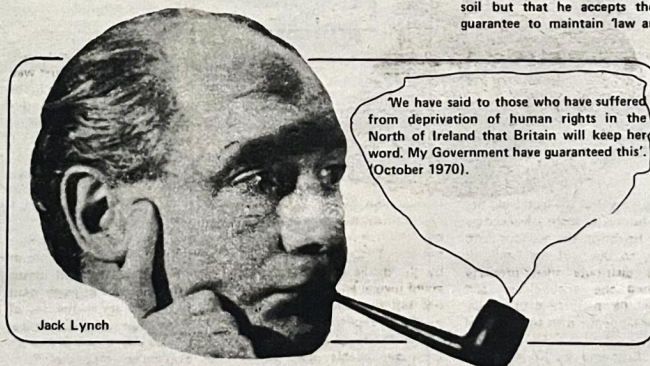
Finnia Fail, by 1948, had lost touch with the people who had brought them to power. Their dictatorial attitude and the internment and murder of Republicans had lost them considerable support. In the general election of February 1948 Finnia Fail lost eight crucial seats and its overall majority. The newly formed Clann na Poblachta (Republican Party) joined in a hotch-pot coalition with Labour, National Labour, Clann na Talmhan (Farmers' Party), Fine Gael and Independents to form a government. Finnia Fail was shattered, most of the party faithful were formerly of the opinion that a Finnia Fail government would remain in power for de Valera's lifetime.

In 1951 Finnia Fail again got back into government. Several Independent deputies gave de Valera their support to enable him to return to office, but in 1954 de Valera had to go to the country again and was defeated by a coalition of Fine Gael and Labour.

On 13 June 1954 an IRA unit carried out a daring raid on Gough Barracks in the centre of Armagh City. They left the barracks loaded with 340 rifles, 50 sten guns, 12 Bren guns plus a variety of other munitions.

On 12 December 1956 they carried out a co-ordinated series of attacks along the length and breadth of the border. In one attack a brand new Territorial Army barracks was completely destroyed. Free State Taoiseach Costello and Fine Gael, under pressure from Finnia Fail, ordered raids on the homes of Republican militants and sympathisers throughout the 26 Counties.

All were charged with 'failing to account for their movements' at various times. Most refused to recognise the courts. Debate raged throughout the 26 counties as to the legitimacy of the IRA struggle, the Free State Government was bemused as what to do with the prisoners. Sean McBride, of the Clann na Poblachta party took the opportunity to table a motion of 'no confidence' in the Costello Government. This brought the Government down. In the March election Finnia Fail were returned to power with seventy eight seats placing de Valera in a more powerful position than ever.



Jack Lynch

"We have said to those who have suffered from deprivation of human rights in the North of Ireland that Britain will keep her word. My Government have guaranteed this". (October 1970).

All the major parties involved in the election refused to answer questions concerning the war in the North or the plight of the political prisoners in the 26 Counties. Unemployment, housing, agriculture and any other domestic issue was up for debate. But the struggle taking place 150 miles from Leinster House was taboo.

Dissension reached into the heart of the Finnia Fail machine when Groups of County Councillors passed resolutions calling for the immediate release of the Republican hostages. The leadership of Finnia Fail, however, re-

iterated that the question of Irish unity could "only be brought about by common consent."

De Valera and his party aided the British by strengthening Free State army and Gardai patrols along the border.

CURRAGH REOPENED

On 4 July 1957, as the Orange marching season began, an RUC Land Rover was ambushed by the IRA near Forkhill in County Armagh. An RUC man was shot dead. The following day the Stormont Minister for Home Affairs, the notorious Colonel W.W.B. Topping, made a hysterical speech in which he demanded that Finnia Fail intern Republicans in the 26 Counties.

During the next few days Finnia Fail complied with his demands and arrested sixty three Republicans. Some were Belfast men and about half of those arrested had recently been released from Mountjoy after serving sentences for failure to 'give an account of their movements.'

The hypocrisy of many Finnia Fail TD's, who had signed resolutions demanding the former Costello Government to release all prisoners unconditionally, was shown when ALL supported the party's internment policies.

Conditions at the Curragh were deplorable, and many of the prisoners fell ill from various ailments connected with the damp atmosphere of the camp. Resistance never weakened however. Two of the prisoners, Ruairi O'Bradaigh and Daithi O'Connell escaped, and a later mass break-out saw fourteen men get clean away.

As the IRA's campaign came to an end Finnia Fail were forced to begin releasing all those held without trial. By March 1959 the last internee was out and the Curragh Camp was closed. Some months later de

It was at this time that Loyalists began organising themselves into armed groups ready to "Fight and die for Ulster". The Malvern Street murders were only a year and a half away.

On the death of Sean Lemass, Jack Lynch took control of Fianna Fail. His regime was to make use of all the apparatus of the Police State in the traditions set by de Valera. Malvern Street, Divis Street, Cromac Square...all had passed without any positive comment from the Leinster House Government. The lid was about to blow in the six occupied Counties.

BRITS MOVE IN

In August 1969 the people of the Bogside were fighting a courageous battle against the combined forces of the RUC and the B-Specials. In Belfast the people of the Falls, created a diversion to split the Orange militia and relieve the pressure on the people of Derry.

RUC Shoreland armoured cars fired their heavy Browning machine guns into Divis Flats killing nine year old Patrick Rooney and Trooper McCabe. Jack Lynch, who up until then had been saying little of the attacks on the Republican people of Belfast and Derry, ordered the Free State army to set up field hospitals along the border.

By August of 1970 the British army had completed their takeover of 'security' from the RUC and the disbanded B-Specials. The first British army murders had taken place and 'An Phoblacht,' official organ of the Republican Movement, declared:

"On 13 August last year, Mr. Lynch said that 'British troops are unacceptable on Irish soil', a pronouncement echoed by Dr. Hillary at the UN. What hidden motives have caused Mr. Lynch less than a year later to assert that not only are British troops welcome on Irish soil but that he accepts their guarantee to maintain law and

of human rights in the North of Ireland that Britain will keep her word. My Government have guaranteed this. In this regard we have put our trust in the good faith between our countries."

In December of 1970 Desmond O'Malley, the then Minister for Justice, issued a threat that Finnia Fail had informed the Council of Europe that they may have to derogate from certain provisions contained in the European Convention of Human Rights. In other words, internment was on the way in the 26 Counties if the IRA in the occupied North did not cease of offensive actions. Lynch was rocked by the volume of opposition to the statement. Finnia Fail were equally embarrassed by the support for the statement by every Orange bigot in the North, Ian Paisley, Bill Craig, Chichester-Clarke and Orange leader Martin Smythe all praised Finnia Fail. The idea was shelved.

PRESENT DAY

The history of Finnia Fail from 1969 until the present day is just as shameful as the period when de Valera reigned. In May 1972 Ruairi O'Bradaigh, President of Sinn Fein and Joe Cahill were arrested under the Offences Against the State Act. Lynch then revealed that Finnia Fail were to set up 'Special Courts'. It was during the Second Stage of the Offences Against the State Act (Amendment) Bill that two British bombs, exploded fatally in Dublin. The bombs were a welcome gift for Finnia Fail. Following the bombings many TD's, opposed to the amendment, changed sides and voted the Bill through. Armed with the greatest range of Special Powers available to any country in Western Europe Lynch ordered the Headquarters of Sinn Fein in Dublin to be closed. On 5 February 1973 Lynch dissolved the Dail and announced that a general election would be held on 28 February.

The repressive policies of the Finnia Fail Government had led to widespread disillusionment with Lynch's party which was reflected in the polls when the Fine Gael/Labour coalition came to power. Liam Cosgrave, son of the fascist Cumann na nGaedheal leader William Cosgrave was to follow in his father's footsteps as a repressive paranoic.

Finnia Fail's return to power at the last 26 County elections was, ironically, as a result of the Coalition's open collaboration with the Brits in their war against Irish Republicans in the north. Two of Cosgrave's leading Cabinet colleagues, most identified with repression, Conor Cruise O'Brien and Patrick 'Cockroach' Cooney could not even retain their seats. The spiral of repression, spawned by the Blueshirt Government of 1923 and nurtured by the de Valera regimes, was continued unabated under the helmship of Lynch.

As the British hold on the six Counties weakens, the Free Staters will feel more and more threatened, with good cause. We can expect repression in the south to continue and escalate as long as the people under the grip of Free State Gombeenism hand-in-glove with British colonialism.

order'...British style as evidenced by their recent jackboot invasion of the Lower Falls Road and their wanton taking of three Irish lives and that of a chance visitor. These are the 'British boys' to whom Mr. Lynch extends his apologies with no word of sympathy for their mere Irish victims."

At this time Finnia Fail were in the centre of the 'Arms Trial' controversy. Lynch, during the trial, spoke at the United Nations in New York on 22 October and made the remarkable claim:

"We have said to those who have suffered from deprivation

Post Prag

All letters should be addressed
to the Editor at 170a Falls Road,
Belfast.

WINTER IN H-BLOCK 6

A Chas,

Winter has arrived in the H-Blocks in full force within the last few days. We, remand P.O.W.'s in H6, still have our clothes to wear but we are freezing with only one blanket and two dirty sheets, which have not been changed since the 20th October. We are lying on mattresses on the grounds.

As we lie here in these siberian conditions we think continuously of our comrades on the blanket who are in even worse conditions than we are. One can only imagine the torture these men are being forced to endure by living in such conditions.

Here in H6 a number of men have gone down with the flu, these past few days and as the weather gets colder it is only a matter of time before a serious flu epidemic breaks out.

This winter will illustrate to the world, if indeed such evidence is needed, the extent to which the British colonial administration is prepared to go in order to torture the Irish people.

The treatment of Republican P.O.W.'s is just a mirror of the attitudes of the British administra-

tion to the Irish nation. The only settlement to events in this country, including the situation the blanket men are in, is the withdrawal of the Brits. This has been the aim of the Republican movement since the war started. It was this target the blanket men had when they were involved in the campaign outside. As they suffer nightly in the ice-boxes which are their cells, they do so in the sure knowledge that they are right.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why they are able to endure such torture. We see the occasional blanket man on his way to, or coming back from, his monthly visit, and we can only admire their spirit. The rougher it gets the more confident they seem to get. Tonight they freeze but tonight also they win a great victory. That is the spirit which has and will continue to bring their aim of a united Ireland closer. Amid the torture of the H-Blocks a new Ireland is being born through a horrific test of human endurance.

P.R.O. Remand Republican
P.O.W.'s, H Block 6, Long Kesh.

Mason wrong again

Sinn Fein are amused by Mason's dinner speech in London last week where he stated that Britain would never stand in the way of a United Ireland if the majority of people in "Northern Ireland" wished it. Surely he has his priorities wrong. "Northern Ireland" is an "Artificial state" set up by the British against the wishes of the Irish people and it is they who should decide the future of this part of their country. The only reason the state is still in existence is because of the British military presence. The only political parties allowed to operate unhindered are the pro-British Union-

ists and establishment "pets" such as the S.D.L.P., Republican Clubs.

The chief opposition to British presence here is without a doubt Sinn Fein but their attempts to put across Republican Policy to the general public suffers from continual harassment and even acts of naked aggression against its members. They suffer beatings and imprisonment, their homes and offices raided and often wrecked, literature and office equipment is confiscated and destroyed.

The Republican News, the North of Ireland's only Republican Paper suffers most with constant attempts

made to suppress it. Last Sunday in Armagh we witnessed another facet of British type politics when thousands of armed troops and police sealed off the City to prevent the citizens from protesting against the treatment of Irish POWs and against British presence here. Like all other strong arm attempts to harass and suppress Republicans it ended in failure.

— P.R.O., South Tyrone,
Comhairle Ceantair,
Sinn Fein.

Australian appeal from Fenian's great grand-daughter

Dear Sir,

I am the great grand-daughter of a Fenian political prisoner who was sent to Botany Bay. I am shocked and appalled at British torture of Irish political prisoners. I spent my childhood in institutions which were little better than glorified prisons.

I have always wanted a mother and father to acknowledge for Christmas and birthdays etc. I would like to adopt an Irish Mum and Dad whose children might be in prison so I could write to that family and send them presents for festive occasions, Mothers and Father's Day and birthdays.

I am 38 years of age doing a B.A. at University. I am finishing my education but it is taking most of my money to stay at university, so I am in no way rich, but I would very much like to write to a family to bring comfort to them.

I am a militant socialist. I write to people in prison all over the world. My interests are literature, music and I am keenly interested in Countess Markievicz and all the rebel patriots.

In Australia things are very grim. We have the worst unemployment record since the Depression in 1929. Our Liberal Prime Minister is one of the wealthiest graziers in the country. His favourite expression is "Life Wasn't Meant to be Easy!"

Recently he went on a popular radio station and chose a song for his wife, Elvis Presley singing "In the Ghetto!" How ironic he should have played "Oh We Ain't Got a Barrel of Money" as an encore.

I would like my correspondents to have a good sense of humour because I appreciate a good laugh particularly at politicians. I do not

know much about the Irish politicians but we have a motley crew over here — a rum lot!

If anyone would like me to write to their relatives in prison, send me their addresses. From spending years in institutions myself I know only too well how one looks forward to letters and cards.

Yours sincerely,
Anna Eaton, 144 Ravenscar
Street, Doubleview 6018, Perth,
Western Australia.

2,000 years of conformity

A Chas,

As a layman I cannot hope to delve into the great philosophies practised by church leaders. However when I hear Irish pastors condemning from time to time "bombers" (as patriots are now called by such men) while continuing to ignore the bodies in H-Block, racked and torn by a foreign power which should have quit Ireland long ago. I sometimes wonder about these men.

It sickens me to see some of our pastors genuflecting to masters of the crown and bless their blasphemies against the Irish people when they defy all the laws of God by false witness in order to incarcerate men in hell holes like H-Block.

I say to you men of the cloth, so often used by the crown, do you want the men of H-Block as your sheep or will you continue to be subservient to the conqueror?

Freedom from hell is life to the soul of truth and cleans a bad conscience.

Liam O Cleirigh, Andersonstown,
Belfast.

Andersonstown pedestrian protest

Dear Sir,

The lack of pedestrian crossings in the Andersonstown area of Belfast on the Glen Road, Andersonstown Road and Shaws Road, coupled with the inadequate street lighting in the area has long been a cause for concern to local residents — Duty last week an elderly man was knocked down on the Andersonstown Road while in recent weeks a fatal accident on Upper Glen Road claimed the lives of two young men.

I would point out that there are no pedestrian crossings on the stretch of Glen Road from Andersonstown R.U.C. barracks to the Shaws/Glen Road junction. Local people are very concerned about the hazards on the roads and demand that pedestrian crossings be laid down without delay, firstly at the Cross and Passion School, secondly on Shaws Road, opposite Ramoon and thirdly, Andersonstown Road opposite the Lake Glen Hotel.

The lives of children and adults are at risk daily on these roads, particularly in the vicinity of the Cross and Passion School where the pupils of three schools and the employees of Bass Champion have no safeguard when crossing the busy road.

If the Department of the Environment is not prepared to act immediately in this matter, then members of the local Sinn Fein Cumann together with concerned local people will be forced to provide their own crossings.

Is Mice,
Secretary, O'Carroll/Tierny Sinn
Fein Cumann, Andersonstown,
Belfast.

Sinn Fein alternative for youth

Why are there more Irish people living abroad than in Ireland? Why is there so much vandalism in working class areas?

Why is youth so disenchanted with the establishment in general? These questions and many similar ones are being asked increasingly by the young people of Ireland. They query the very existence of the present set-up in this unfortunate country.

Unfortunately? Yes, indeed. Unfortunately in that a ruthless foreign government occupies part of our country by force of arms, torture, repression and murder; but much more unfortunate is that those who are supposed to look after our interests, i.e. those who we elected to represent us, have completely betrayed us, having used us to further their own interests.

Sinn Fein believes that the root cause of Ireland's problems is the division of both our country and our people. In such a climate it is easy for those who wish to exploit us to set Irishman against Irishman while they rob us of our country's wealth, and robbery is the word for it. Nothing else describes the taking, via

taxation, of thousands of pounds from each one of our people, and then spending billions of pounds of that money to pay and equip the armed thugs who roam our streets, arresting five year old kids, assaulting our womenfolk and murdering anyone who happens to get in the way.

So now the question is: What can we do to eradicate this fundamental problem?

Idealistic young people have continually asked themselves this question and have responded in various ways. Some joined the SDLP only to be shunned by their sell-out of the internest and their 25p per week levy on the same people that they asked to go on rent and rates strike. Some joined the 'Republican Clubs' but now find their leaders calling for a restoration of Stormont and 'majority' rule. Some even joined the 'peace' people only to realize that their 'peace' meant surrender to the forces of occupation.

Many, however, realized that the best way to build a new Ireland with peace, justice and freedom for ALL the people, was by means of a

Federal Democratic Socialist Republic, where power would rest with the people and not with the privileged few at the top of the pyramid, as it is at present in both the puppet 'state' in Ireland.

Young Sinn Fein members have seen their party sticking rigidly to its principles, despite censorship, raids and arrests. They have seen several other parties try to catch up with the mood of the people, who are, in turn, being led by Sinn Fein, in calling for a British withdrawal.

It is hoped to arrange a youth conference in Andersonstown in the near future, when several of these young Sinn Fein members will explain why they joined the movement, and answer any questions which young people may care to ask on the policies of Sinn Fein. Details of this conference will be published later. Meanwhile information on Sinn Fein is available by contacting 858 Falls Road, Belfast or by phoning Belfast 23214.

Youth Officer,
Belfast Comhairle Ceantair,
Sinn Fein.

THE OBSERVER

£70,000 libel Fund

Dear Brother/Sister,

I am appealing to you on behalf of the Workers Revolutionary Party for a substantial donation to meet the costs of the recent libel action against 'The Observer' newspaper.

This case arose out of a malicious front page libel against leaders of the Workers Revolutionary Party and the Party's education college at White Meadows, Parwich, Derbyshire, printed on September 28, 1975.

The publication of the article—claiming among other things arms caches in the grounds of the college—was orchestrated with the Special Branch and Derbyshire police to coincide with a massive 70-strong raid on the night of September 27-28, 1975. The raid was carried out on a warrant issued under the Firearms Act, even though, according to a document written by Victor Gilbert—ex-head of the Special Branch—and submitted in court, neither the Special Branch nor 'The Observer' believed these allegations!

We unhesitatingly decided to fight this libel in court because we felt then—and now—that it was designed to witch-hunt and smear left-wing groups and undermine our basic right to function as a legal political party and exist as a legitimate part of the Labour movement. If the precedent was established with the WRP, it could then happen to any working-class party or trade union organisation.

After a three-week trial the jury unanimously agreed that the plaintiffs had been defamed by 'The Observer' and that all the words complained of in the article were not true. The plaintiffs were: Gerry Healy, Vanessa Redgrave, Corin Redgrave, Roy Battersby, Roger Smith and Mike Harrigan.

Yet we are now forced to make this appeal because the jury ruled, on the judge's advice, that the plaintiffs' reputations were not materially injured by the defamations.

The judge gave judgement to 'The Observer' and awarded full costs against the Workers Revolutionary Party. This could well be in the region of £70,000 or more—a sum which is beyond our limited resources to find.

This unprecedented judgement is a vicious blow aimed against the Labour movement and an inspiration to every Tory and reactionary employer. It gave a licence to the editor of

every capitalist daily newspaper to malign the integrity of political leaders with impunity and organise bigger conspiracies against the unions with the police and Special Branch.

'The Times', in an editorial dissenting from the verdict, said: 'The Observer has not come out of the case with credit. The Redgraves have in a sense, been denied justice.' ('The Times', Saturday, November 11.) And 'The Sun' said the same day: 'What kind of justice is this? Where is the fairness or the wisdom? The libel laws of Britain are crazy.'

Our party has been in the forefront of the struggle to defend basic rights and our daily newspaper, the 'News Line', has never hesitated to support workers fighting to defend jobs and wages and political rights such as free collective bargaining from the attacks of employers and the state. We shall continue to do so, regardless of libels and fines. But we cannot do this as effectively as we would like to without your support.

An injury to one is an injury to all. I am sure you will respond with the urgency and generosity which this appeal demands.

Please address all donations to:
The Observer Libel Fund
Workers Revolutionary Party
21b Old Town, Clapham
London SW4 0JT

Thanking you,
Yours fraternally,
MIKE BANDA
General Secretary

Gaelic Appeal

A Chas,
Bhíodh i mbailé Atha Cliath mí o shin agus ansin ag an eard-Fheis bhí moran caint faoi na gaeilge sa sinn fein. Bhí me ag caint le cupla daoine faoi an gaeilge agus anois, tá an t-am ceart a dhanamh aon rud faoi an gaeilge.

Ba mhaith liom cupla rudal i ngaeilge sa "Republican News"; mar rangas na gaeilge, ní raib na gaeilge. Níl moran gaeilge sa cumann no mo thainc ba mhaith linn a chuidiú.

Is Mice
Cathaoirleach,
Emmett/Liggett Sinn Fein
Cumann.



MEDICAL ABUSE IN ARMAGH GAOL



OVER RECENT weeks 'Republican News' has carried articles and statements condemning members of the medical profession in Long Kesh and in gaols in Britain for abusing political prisoners under their care. Our latest information about prisoners receiving inadequate medical attention comes from the women political prisoners in Armagh Gaol.

The details concern three prisoners, one who was recently released, Monica Craig, because she was gravely ill, Jeannie Hamill and Rose McAlister.

DON A WHITE COAT

In Armagh Gaol there is a team of four on the medical staff; one of the four is a 'doctor' named Cole. He is accompanied by three screws, who when they are not on duty locking prisoners up, don a white coat and call themselves 'medical orderlies' (M.O's).

This team's attitude towards sick prisoners is one of total indifference. This callous attitude is not surprising when one considers the practise the so called doctor is engaged in. He is a full time 'police doctor'. In other words he gives a clean bill of health to brutalised victims processed through the hands of RUC torturers; the screws in white coats know nothing about medication other than giving out tablets as if they were sweets.

MONICA CRAIG

The effect this combination of ignorance and indifference has on sick prisoners is all too obvious; A case which showed up Doctor Cole's glaring indifference was that of Monica Craig.

From the outset Cole's diagnosis was correct, Monica Craig suffered from anorexia nervosa. What was not correct and which

proved almost fatal for this girl was his prescribed medication to treat her illness.

Daily she had to take three doses of Valium tablets; which Cole claimed would eventually cure her. But in fact the opposite happened. Monica Craig's condition worsened, until she was a walking skeleton; resembling more a hardened drug addict than someone on the 'road to recovery' as Cole repeatedly assured her. But for the efforts of Father Murray, Monica Craig would have died under Cole's supervision. In fact on her release the first medical instruction given to her was to cease taking Valium tablets.

JEANNIE HAMILL

Another case which not only shows up Cole but also the role of screws acting as M.O's. The victim, Jeannie Hamill was four months pregnant. One morning she awoke suffering from severe pains in her stomach. The M.O. was sent for and she diagnosed the cause of pains as 'morning sickness'. She handed Jeannie Hamill two tablets. The tablets did nothing to relieve the pains. Several hours later the M.O. was sent for again, again she gave the same advice and medication, but as expected the pain continued. A request

for a doctor was denied, due to his unavailability.

Later on the girl passed uncontrollable water and her pains worsened. The M.O. was sent for, she arrived three hours later, to find Jeannie Hamill writhing in pain. She told her not to worry, and to get up and walk around the cell! Then she left. She was sent for two hours later and was told by Jeannie Hamill's cell mate, that her condition resembled a threat-



ening miscarriage. At long last the doctor was sent for. Fortunately it wasn't Cole. Jeannie Hamill was rushed to an outside

hospital. After spending a few days there she was once again returned to Cole's control.

ROSE McALLISTER

A similar lack of treatment occurred in the case of Rose McAlister.

Before going to gaol she had been attending a doctor for a serious gallbladder illness. Being in gaol, having to eat greasy and half-cooked food exacerbated the problem. When Cole examined her his advice was to take 'plenty of painkillers'. The painkillers were called 'DE 118'. A side effect of this drug is to produce hallucinations, which this woman almost daily suffered. Frequently she believed she was being pushed around by someone, or on other occasions she thought someone was talking to her. These illus-

terrible side effects.

When the pain became unbearable she made a request to Cole to be removed to an outside hospital. He bluntly refused. She continues to suffer the pains daily, occasionally easing it by taking DE 118 and undergoing its hallucinatory side effects. Since the protest for P.O.W.' status began the situation for the prisoners has all the time become more intolerable. Most suffer from mental stress, being confined 21 hours per day in their cells.

REMOVAL OF COAL

The main physical problem for the women is menstruation. Many women have not taken their periods for over a year, and others are completely irregular.

Because of the completely inadequate quality of the food others have constipation, pains in their stomachs, and migraine headaches.

When complaints are made to 'Doctor' Cole he responds in his usual manner and prescribes tablets.

In a statement from the women Republicans in Armagh gaol they have demanded the removal of Cole pointing out

that they would even prefer no doctor than to suffer at the hands of this person masquerading as a doctor.

5,000 march in London to defend POW Status

"AN INSPIRATION TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD"

ON THE same day (Sunday 26th November) that thousands were marching in Armagh City to defend POW status and calling for Brits Out, 5,000 people were marching in London for the same demands.

The James Connolly Glasgow Flute Band was next in line, followed by the PAC banner and the Glasgow Sinn Féin banner. The march went from Speakers Corner along Oxford Street to Ceruenwell Green where exactly 111 years ago a demonstration of 25,000 was organised by Karl Marx and others to protest the execution of the three Manchester Martyrs, Republicans framed for the death of a policeman.

Five Trades Councils, from Edinburgh to London supported

the protest as well as Trade Union Branches from the following unions: NUJ, ASTMS, TGWU, TGWU/ACTSS, AUEW, COHSE and UCATT.

The United Troops Out Movement had a large contingent on the PAC organised march which was also supported by numerous Left-Wing groups including the SWP, WRP, IMG and RCG.

A large delegation from the Asian Youth Movement, Bradford, was also warmly welcomed on the march.

Peter Turton (PAC), the Chairman of the rally held after the march, opened the meeting by asking for a minute's silence for all the Irish political prisoners who have died in British jails.

Platform speakers included Corin Redgrave (WRP) — He saluted the courage and heroism of the prisoners on the blanket in the H-Blocks. He said that the Irish prisoners are an inspiration to freedom fighters throughout the world.

There were several Sinn Féin



A section of the 5,000 strong March held in London two weeks ago.

speakers. Henry Daly (Scotland) said the demonstration 111 years ago was organised against British barbarity — it was the same today.

Jim Reilly (Luton) said the message is plain: The war will continue until we get the British out.

Kevin Colfer (London) read out messages of support from Republican POW's in Albany Prison, Isle of Wight and from other prisons throughout Britain.

The final speaker was Jackie Kaye, PAC Secretary. She emphasised that repeated attempts to break the spirit of the prisoners had failed. She went on to announce that the PAC have formed a Trade Union Committee to campaign for support for the prisoners within the British Trades Unions. She concluded: "Go away determined to build a mass solidarity movement — not 5,000 but 25,000 next time."

WHEN I travelled into Tanzania on the night bus across the desert from Kenya on a visit to Africa a few years ago, there were differences noticeable to even the most casual observer. Kenya is a neo-colonial state with great contrast between a small, wealthy westernised elite who live in the former colonial suburbs, and the mass of the people, conditioned to wish to emulate them, but largely trapped by obvious poverty.

Tanzania is different. There were no large groups of unemployed men passing the days sitting by the roadsides as I had seen in Kenya. In Tanzania there could be many people working on a small task, but at least they were all active, and purposeful. A poor country—but no ostentatious wealth of the few. Buildings were functional, never garish. Swahili has replaced English as the national language and is spoken throughout. Tanzanians do not copy European and American ways in the slavish way some other emergent African states do, but are proudly independent. They do not buy quantities of imported consumer goods—but either produce their own—or do without. They give support to those in Africa still fighting for national liberation.

SELF-HELP

If there is one man responsible for creating this atmosphere of self-help, it is 56 year old Julius Nyerere who must be the only head of state in the world to accept only £60 a week salary. When the country faced economic problems he and his ministers took a cut in their salaries. (Try suggesting that to Fianna Fail or the SDLP.) Nyerere is small, unpretentious and with a sense of humour, but is a political theorist of world importance. The 16 million Tanzanians know him as 'Mwalimu' which means 'Teacher'.

His country's first graduate, he taught in Catholic mission

schools before doing a degree at Edinburgh University in 1952. His Catholic beliefs are very real to him and his ideas about how to weld a caring, prosperous self-reliant nation out of a poverty-stricken people emerging from colonialism owes more to practical Christianity than theoretical Marxism. His conclusions are that the only way to achieve this progress is through socialism.



Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania.

BUILDING A NATION IN TANZANIA

By Eldrida, Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs



ONE NATION • ONE PEOPLE • ONE DESTINY
SELF-RELIANCE

Nyerere's socialism is based on the traditional African extended family, and the keystone of his policies since becoming President in 1964 is the co-operative village community. These 'ujamaa' (from the Swahili word meaning 'familyhood') villages now contain 14 million peasants resettled from poor, remote areas to ensure them access to school, hospitals and sanitation. Each family has a private farm or 'shamba' on which to grow their own food, but they are also encouraged to work in communal projects as well.

Decentralisation away from the colonial port of Dar-es-Salaam, to open up the less developed interior is the other major part of Nyerere's policy. A month ago he and his wife Maria, five sons and two daughters, moved from the old colonial governor's mansion in Dar-es-Salaam to live in an ujamaa village near the new capital Dodoma—a small town in the centre of the country.

Tanzania faces many prob-

lems—it is an agricultural country suffering from falling prices for commodities such as sisal (for rope), cotton, coffee. It ranks among the world's poorest nations with an average individual income of less than £1 a week. But since independence the earnings difference between the highest and lowest paid has dropped from 100 to 1 to 9 to 1. Life expectancy has risen from 40 to 47 years.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

The economy is run on a combination of state ownership and co-operative enterprise. All major industries, banks, insurance companies, wholesale firms and import-export concerns are publically owned.

SMASH H-BLOCK!

A NEW FILM

'Prisoners of war'



"Prisoners of War" is a film on the campaign for political status by Irish POWs in England and Ireland. The film was made as a contribution by the (British) Workers Revolutionary Party to the work of the Prisoners' Aid Committee for Irish prisoners in England. It was filmed in August, largely during the weekend of the massive Coalisland-Dungannon march for political status and consists of interviews with members of Tyrone and Belfast Relatives Action Committees about the conditions and situation of the prisoners in the H-Blocks, Long Kesh. The film also has a detailed interview with ex-H-Block prisoner, Martin McKenna and with relatives of Irish prisoners in England, as well as with PAC secretary Jackie Kaye. The film is in colour and lasts only 20 minutes as it is meant to be used as part of the public campaign for political status. But in spite of its brevity it contains accurate and moving information about the political status campaign and will undoubtedly have a strong impact. It will be given a premiere showing at the Conway Hall Red Lion Square London WC1 at 7.30 pm on 18 December when it will be followed by a meeting with speakers from the PAC and Belfast RAC. Tickets price £1 are available from PAC 2a St. Pauls Road London N1.

AS ADVERTISED in last week's 'Republican News', to mark the 30th anniversary of the United National declaration on human rights, the United Troops Out Movement planned to hold a public meeting and rally in Trafalgar Square in London. But typically, the British government has refused permission for them to use Trafalgar Square and reminded them that they are banned from there.

So the U.T.O.M. have cancelled both their meeting and the rally. Instead on this Sunday 10th December at 2 p.m. they are holding a vigil on King Charles Traffic Island, at the top of Whitehall, adjacent to Trafalgar Square.

The U.T.O.M. are asking for support to show opposition to British colonialist policies in Ireland and are demanding 'troops out now' and the release of all POWs.

In the letter the U.T.O.M. received from the 'Department of the Environment' refusing their application to use Trafalgar Square they were told that during December the Square is reserved for 'The Norwegian Christmas Tree, the Crib and Carol Singing Sessions.'

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTEST IN LONDON BANNED

Therefore on this occasion "your application has not been considered in the context of the policy to ban the use of Trafalgar Square for rallies about Northern Ireland. However you should also be aware that the rallies of the Peace People and the Better Life for All Campaign were considered to be exceptions to this policy."

Thus the British government

are making it clear that the U.T.O.M. should have no false hopes that, but for carol singing, freedom of speech on Ireland might be allowed.

The only surprising aspect about this Brit refusal is the honesty with which they openly proclaim their support for their allies the Peace People and the Sticks: 'Better Life for All Campaign'.

The United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights

MANY BROKEN ARTICLES



THE 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 occurs on Sunday 10th December.

Britain is a signatory to this declaration, yet day and daily in order to maintain its military grip upon the six North-Eastern counties of Ireland Britain openly breaches this declaration. Indeed in the first half of the declaration (the first 15 of the 30 articles) it is difficult to find an article Britain does not break.

ARTICLE 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

The Irish are considered not as "equal" as the English, a racist mentality which is used to justify the British army's murderous acts of "brotherhood".

ARTICLE 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

British national oppression of Ireland breaches this article as does the sectarianism practised in the six occupied counties.

ARTICLE 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. Not according to the British army.

ARTICLE 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Whilst slavery is officially abolished, the appalling working conditions in some of the small, and not so small, factories might make you wonder.



ARTICLE 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Castlereagh H-Blocks!

ARTICLE 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

ARTICLE 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

ARTICLE 9

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Not in Diplock courts under an Orange judge.

ARTICLE 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Each is explicitly provided for in the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Emergency Provisions Act.

ARTICLE 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Again - not applicable in Diplock courts under an Orange judge.

ARTICLE 11

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Under the Emergency Provisions Act those charged with arms offences are 'guilty until proven innocent' - the burden of proof is on the defence.

ARTICLE 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

The Emergency Provisions Act is deliberately designed to interfere with "privacy" and interception of "correspondence" is a common practice.

ARTICLE 13

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Not under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Under this Act the British have the power, which they have used, to exclude an Irishman (born in the twenty six counties) from a part (the six counties) of his own country.



ARTICLE 14

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.



(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The Brits have repeatedly tried to extradite Irish Republicans for political 'offences'.

ARTICLE 15

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

But in practice, it's 'better' to be British.



ARTICLES 16 to 30

These deal mainly with the following rights: freedom to marry, ownership of property, freedom of thought, freedom of peaceful assembly, taking part in government, social security benefits, employment opportunities, equal pay, right to rest and leisure, availability of education, and freedom to participate in cultural activity.

Although some of these 'rights' are not officially legislated against in the six counties, sectarian discrimination ensures that many of these basic rights are not fully available to the nationalist population. For example is there equality of ownership of property between loyalists and nationalists? Official breaches include regularly breaking article 20 which affirms 'the right to freedom of peaceful assembly'. A right denied the RAC in Armagh City only two weeks ago.

THE DENIAL OF ALL THESE BASIC 'HUMAN RIGHTS' BY THE BRITISH IN THE NORTH-EAST OF IRELAND IS A SURE INDICATION OF THE TOTALLY UNJUST AND UNDEMOCRATIC NATURE OF THE SIX-COUNTY STATELET ITSELF, AND THAT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN 'HUMAN RIGHTS' BOTH PARTITION AND THE BRITS MUST GO.

French solidarity with Ireland T shirts



PICTURED HERE are two t-shirts produced in France. The slogans read 'Self-determination for the Irish People' and 'Irish Solidarity'. They are produced by the Paris-based 'Ireland Committee', a solidarity grouping whose publicity actions we have reported before.

The latest edition of their magazine 'Irlande en Lutte' No. 5 is now out. T-shirts and magazine are both available from:

Comite Irlande,
14 Rue de Nanteuil,
Paris 75015,
FRANCE.

★★★★★★★★

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

★★★★★★★★

McNEILL, Jimmy, P.O.W. H3 Block. Greetings to you Factor on your birthday. It will take more than thick concrete walls and barbed wire of that hell-hole to conquer a spirit like yours.

From Colette and Colum H3 Block.

McELWEE, Thomas, P.O.W. H4 Block. Greetings on your 21st Birthday Thomas. They may break you in body but never in spirit. From the Scullion family, also Colum HBlock 3.

DOHERTY, Hugh, Durham gaol, England. Both water and prison bars divide us and keep us far apart. They may have you in their keeping but I have you in my heart. From your loving sister Roisin.

WHELAN, Peter, H3 Block, Long Kesh. Happy 21st Birthday Peter. We are thinking of you always, never forget that.

Love from Mum, Dad, sisters and brother.

On the blanket Solidarity



ONE YEAR

SCULLION, Colm, H Block 3. Congratulations Colm on completing **ONE YEAR ON THE BLANKET.** It does not take a special day to bring you to our mind, for a day without a thought of you is very hard to find. God bless you and all your brave comrades.
From you Mum, Dad, Eugene, Brenda and Cathy. xxxxxxx.

SCULLION, Colm, H Block 3. The James Connolly Sinn Féin Cumann, Bellaghy, salute you on completing **ONE YEAR ON THE BLANKET.** Your courage and determination is an inspiration to us all.

SCULLION, Colm, H Block 3. No one could be prouder than I am of you today and this message comes to tell you that we're with you all the way. Congratulations on completing **ONE YEAR ON THE BLANKET.** With love from your sister Colette.

SCULLION, Colm, H3 Long Kesh. Congratulations to our friend Colm on having completed **ONE YEAR ON THE BLANKET.** Best wishes to you and your comrades.
From Pat and Brenda.

SCULLION, Colm, H3, Long Kesh. Congratulations Colm on completing **ONE YEAR ON THE BLANKET.** All the best from Mick, Jack, Spud, Helen, Gnasher and Brendan.

SCULLION, Colm, H3 Block. Congratulations on completing **ONE YEAR ON THE BLANKET.** All the best from Mick, Jack, Spud, Helen, Gnasher and Brendan.

McPEAKE, Shaun, P.O.W. H Block 5. Congratulations Shaun on completing **ONE YEAR ON THE BLANKET.** From your loving parents and family. No price too high for Ireland's freedom.

TWO YEARS

McGRANDLES, Paddy, (Bullroot). Congratulations Paddy on having completed **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** Ireland's last hero. Your crack keeps all our spirits high. We hope next year sees you with your D.M.'s and wranglers on!

All the best kid from all the lads in 'D' Wing, H4.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, Hell Block 5. **2 YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** From the Edwards family, Meadowbrook, U.T.P.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, Hell Block 5. **2 YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** God bless you all.
From the Sweeney family, Meadowbrook.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, H Block 5. **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** We all know who put you there, we all know who to blame, as the truth of England's dirty deeds, travels with her name.

Congratulations to you and your comrades from the Finnegan family, Australia.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, H Block 5. **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** Congratulations Brendan. Your fight has not gone unnoticed and your day will come. From your brother Tony and all the boys in Cage 9, Long Kesh.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, Hell Block 5. **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** Wear your blanket with pride my love, for we are with you all the way.
From your loving Wife Avril and daughter Lisa, U.T.P.

McGIBBON, Maurice, H5 Block. **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** Congratulations Maurice. Victory is assured!

From the Brian Smyth Sinn Féin Cumann, Craigavon/New City.

McVEIGH, Sean, H Block 5. Congratulations to our Nephew Sean on completing **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** A felon's cap is the noblest crown an Irish head can wear. All our love.
From Aunt Kathleen and Uncle Willie.

McVEIGH, Sean H5 Block. Congratulations to my brother Sean on completing **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** Sean, we are very proud of you.

Love from your sister Ann and brother-in-law Paddy.

McVEIGH, Sean H5 Block. Congratulations to our son Sean on completing **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** Your courage and that of your comrades is an inspiration to us all.
Your sister Rosemarie and brother-in-law Gerry (H6 Block).

McVEIGH, Sean, H5 Block. Congratulations to our son Sean on completing **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** Thinking and praying for you as always. All our love.
Daddy, Mammy, Jim, Catherine, Michael.

McGILNCHIEY, Paul, P.O.W. H5 Block. Congratulations Paul on completing **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** Your courage and determination is an inspiration to us all.
From the James Connolly Sinn Féin Cumann, Bellaghy.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, Hell Block 5. **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** No family could be prouder than we are of you today. Bless you and all your comrades.
From Mum, Dad and all the family, Lurgan.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, H5 Block. Long Kesh. **TWO YEARS ON THE BLANKET.** Congratulations to you and all the North Armagh prisoners of war.

From the Brian Smyth Sinn Féin Cumann, Craigavon/New City.

IN MEMORIAM

FOX, Bernard, (6th Anniversary). In proud memory of Fian Bernard Fox, shot by British army on active service, 4th December 1972, on his soul sweet Jesus have mercy. Sadly missed by his comrades in Republican Movement and Belfast Brigade Staff.

BRADY, Terry (3rd Anniversary). All branches of the Republican Movement (North Armagh) remember with pride and honour their comrade, Volunteer Terry Brady 'A' Company 1st Battalion, Ogligh na h-Eireann, North Armagh, who died on 5th December 1975. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him.

BRADY, Terry (3rd Anniversary). In proud memory of my good friend Volunteer Terry Brady 'A' Coy Ogligh na h-Eireann, North Armagh, who died on 5th December, 1975. Remembered always by Liam.

KENNEDY, David (3rd Anniversary). In proud and fond memory of David Kennedy, 2nd Battalion, Ogligh na h-Eireann, North Armagh, who died on 10th December 1975. Remembered always by the Republican Movement, North Armagh.

FOX, Paul; and CRAWFORD, Laura; (3rd Anniversary). The Officer Board and members of the Gerard O'Callaghan/Albert Kavanagh Sinn Féin Cumann, remember with pride our two brave comrades, Volunteers Paul (Basil) Fox and Laura Crawford, killed on active service on 1st December 1975. We hail with pride all those who died, our freedom to maintain, and raise the flag of Ireland high, on Ulster's hills again.

FOX, Paul, and CRAWFORD, Laura (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my two comrades I.R.A. Volunteers Laura Crawford and Paul Fox who sacrificed their

young lives for their country.
From their friend and comrade Danny. Also deeply missed by Sandra and Kevin.

CRAWFORD, Laura (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our brave comrade Laura Crawford, killed on active service 1st December 1975. We will always remember you with pride Laura. For Ireland's glorious cause you bravely fought and died.
Proudly remembered by the officers and volunteers, First Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Cumann na mBan.

CAMPBELL, Sean (3rd Anniversary). In proud memory of Volunteer Sean Campbell, 1st Battalion, Ogligh na h-Eireann, South Armagh Brigade. Killed in action, 6th December 1975. Always remembered by his comrades.

LOCHRIE, Jim (3rd Anniversary). In proud memory of Volunteer Jim Lochrie, 1st Battalion, Ogligh na h-Eireann, South Armagh Brigade. Killed in action 6th December 1975. Always remembered by his comrades.

SHERIDAN, Jim; LEE, Martin; BATSON, Johnny; (7th Anniversary). The Republican Movement (South Derry) comprising of the Irish Republican Army, Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna h-Eireann, Republican Prisoners and Sinn Féin, remembers with pride volunteers Jim Sheridan, Martin Lee and Johnny Batson, South Derry Brigade I.R.A. killed on active service, 18th December 1971.

SHERIDAN, Jim; LEE, Martin; BATESON, Johnny; (7th Anniversary). The Sheridan, Lee, Batson, Sinn Féin Cumann, Ballinagavin remembers with pride Volunteers Jim Sheridan, Lee Martin and Johnny Batson. Mary Queen of Ireland, Pray for them.

BALLYMAGUINAN COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

A commemoration will be held in Ballymaguinan on Sunday 17th starting at 2 p.m. from the Ballymaguinan Hall to Newbridge Cemetery. There will be a band in attendance and prominent speakers.

SYMPATHY

GROGAN, Elizabeth. Louth Comhairle Cheannair Sionn Féin extends its deepest sympathy to Mr. Laurence Grogan, Drogheda, on the death of his wife Elizabeth.

McQUILLAN, Jim. The Republican Movement in Dundalk extends its sympathy to the relatives of the late Jim McQuillan, Hyde Park, who died recently. Mary, Queen of the Gael, Pray for him.

MURDERED REPUBLICAN PATRICK DUFFY



I.R.A. Volunteer Patrick Duffy, shot in the back two weeks ago by Brits hiding in a house has been buried with full military honours. Fifty-year-old Patrick Duffy was the father of six children.

His funeral took place on Monday 27th November. En route to the Derry City Cemetery, Patrick Duffy's comrades paid their final salute to him by firing two volleys over his coffin. He was interred at Derry's Republican plot. The graveside oration was delivered by Derry veteran Republican Sean Keenan.

NOTES

by CORMAC

