



REPUBLICAN NEWS



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OUR VIEW

The latest statement issued by the Stormont regime containing a mixture of threats and bribes should be seen for what it surely is, — the swan-song of "Ulster's" last Prime Minister.

Under pressure from his own right wing, he threatens that the violent men will be relentlessly pursued and will be brought to justice. To achieve this the U.D.R. the R.U.C. and the Police Reserve will be greatly strengthened. It is difficult to see how this can be achieved since all the signs point to a spate of resignations from all three services.

In order to balance this gesture a vague suggestion is made that ten Catholics may be appointed en bloc to the Senate and Proportional Representation introduced. (Oliver Napier's blood pressure is dangerously high). Again it is difficult to see this happening when hundreds of people already serving have given up their appointments. Unless Oliver has nine friends, which we doubt.

Thinking this might swing the balance in favour of the minority a further gesture was made to his own supporters. Decisive action is promised (or threatened) against the civil disobedience campaign and money including arrears will be deducted from defaulters at source. Administrators will be appointed where councils cannot operate because of withdrawal of minority representatives. This sounds rather severe so it is explained that local communities cannot be allowed to suffer. "Poor Ballymurphy" says Brian "your councillors have deserted you but I will look after your interests."

But least we forget. 'Talks! There must be talks. The great benefits Brian has in store for us can only be granted after talks. Talk is the great weapon the "in" thing. Violence and

MUDDLING MAUDLING

IN a hushed atmosphere of high drama, Mr. Maudling, the British Home Secretary, delivered the opening speech of the debate on the Six Counties in Westminster on Wednesday. With Members specially recalled from their summer recess a packed house awaited his master plan for the final solution to the Irish problem — and heard instead a mediocre analysis of the situation with solutions typical of British imperialists in the halcyon days of The Empire and Queen Victoria.

Mr. Maudling declared: "There will be no settlement by agreement with the I.R.A., there can be no compromise with violence." Do British statesmen never learn? The United States of America generally agreed to be the most powerful nation in the world adopted the same attitude towards the Viet Cong in Vietnam. When their casualties mounted, and the death toll of young American soldiers was numbered in thousands, the U.S. were forced to parley with representatives of the People's army.

In Cyprus, a decade ago, Britain took the same stand. There could be no negotiation with E.O.K.A. terrorists, thugs and murderers. General Grivas was an outlaw and Archbishop Makarios, the people's spiritual leader, was deported to the Seychelles, because (unlike our spiritual leaders) he chose to be identified with his people (or threatened) against the Now the same Archbishop is welcome in Downing Street as the leader of the new state. But of course, many young British soldiers had to die first

The leaders of the present sovereign state of Israel which Britain is now so friendly were the Irgun gangsters of a generation ago. Again British statesmen were horrified at the idea of negotiating with cowardly thugs who used booby traps and other underhand methods of warfare. But in the end, they were glad to talk, just as they were in our own country fifty years ago.

We would remind Mr. Maudling that the admitted death toll of the British Army is now 25. Twenty five young lives

have been thrown away, needlessly sacrificed. For what? Mr. Maudling gave us the answer on 'Panorama' last Monday when he stated that the Stormont Government was sustained by the British Army. Should young British lives be wasted in propping up this misbegotten offspring of an unholy marriage of bigotry and corruption?

In appealing to Mr. Maudling, we do so from a position of strength. We ask him to listen to the Liberal leader, Mr. Thorpe who has stated that the ultimate solution of a united Ireland must not be ruled out. We ask him to listen to Mrs. Fowkes of Doncaster, who has an eighteen year old son serving here in the British Army. She has collected 1,200 signatures for a petition asking Mr. Heath to recall the British troops from Northern Ireland. We ask him to listen to the voice of reason which insists that a minority of any country cannot dictate forever to the majority.

But if our appeal falls on deaf ears, then we WARN Mr.

Maudling and the rest of the British Tory politicians. The responsibility for violence and death, for injury and destruction is yours. War is not a game. You are not dealing with the romantic figures of Southern Irish legends. You are opposed by a risen generation of hard headed, determined Northerners, who are not fighting for the mythical land of Tir na nOg. We are fighting for freedom, freedom from want and poverty, freedom from fear, freedom from slums freedom to develop as a race freedom to rear our children at home. We know exactly what we want and we know we will never get it until our country is united and free from British interference. For this we will fight because we have nothing to lose.

We will not be diverted from our struggle by insidious British propaganda. We watch the harrowing films of your military funerals, attended by the grief-stricken wives and children. You are responsible — not us. We watch and listen as your commentators brand us as terrorists and murderers. We have never murdered anyone so we remain unimpressed. Our increasing support proves conclusively that your lies deceive no one.

A unique opportunity has arisen for British statesmen to prove they belong to the 20th century. Two days of debate in Parliament is to be followed next week by tri partite talks. These discussions have been strangled at birth by Mr. Faulkner because of his pre-conditions. But Mr. Heath has the ultimate authority. Let him now refute the statements of his subordinates. Talks are vital. But they must be meaningful. And the people to do the talking are the people who have brought about the present situation. Sooner or later the Republican Movement will be invited to the conference table. The choice lies with Mr. Heath. The responsibility for the consequences is also his.

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COMMITTED CLERICS- AN APPRECIATION

YOUR WEEKLY PAPER

THIS is the fourth issue of "Republican News" since it became a weekly paper. We hope the decision to make it a six page weekly, instead of a twelve page monthly meets with your approval. We are convinced of the necessity of a weekly paper which gives the Republican viewpoint, to counteract the vicious propaganda campaign being waged against us.

Our aim is to provide a source of information on current topics that will stimulate discussion among our readers. We, as Republicans, are often accused of living in the past. Perhaps we deserved the criticism. Our answer must be to *show* it is no longer true. We want our paper to project an image of thinking people, putting forward policies that are relevant to the seventies.

We must discard our inferiority complex regarding politics. Fianna Fail and Fine Gael have both failed to achieve a just society in the twenty six counties. After 50 years of their policies, slums, unemployment and emigration are the realities of life for a large section of the population while Ballsbridge and The Curragh cater for playboy millionaires. The Unionist policies whether dictated by a Tory or Labour administration at Westminster have also failed. The Republican policy has yet to be tried.

We genuinely believe that our policy document "Eire Nua" provides a blueprint for a happy, prosperous country, capable of providing for an increasing population. It is essential that members of Sinn Fein should be fully conversant with this document and capable of expanding its theories. Otherwise we face the prospect of a military victory followed by a political defeat.

COMMITTED CLERICS — AN APPRECIATION

A public expression of appreciation is due to certain Catholic priests for their sterling work on behalf of the men and their relatives being persecuted under the Special Powers Act. We have in mind particularly Fr. Denis Faul of St. Patrick's, Dungannon, Fr. Brady of St. Joseph's College of Education, Belfast, and Fr. McEvoy of The New University, Coleraine.

They have been tireless in their efforts to highlight the injustices rampant in our society and to expose the immorality of internment. Frs. Brady and Faul were instrumental earlier this year, in organising a boycott of the census by a number of clergy in order to focus attention on the injustices of the legal system. They fearlessly invited prosecution for their stand, and by their example, they encouraged other groups both clerical and lay to do the same.

Since then, with Fr. McEvoy they have actively assisted the Association for Legal Justices in exposing the brutality meted out to detainees by the British Army and have organised petitions to Mr. Lynch asking for his active intervention in international courts. The Republican Movement owes them and many of their fellow priests, a deep debt of gratitude, which we duly acknowledge.

BE PREPARED

A BRIEF glance at a street map of Belfast will show that dotted among the suburbs are many small pockets of Nationally minded people. Those who live in the main ghetto areas, feel comparatively safe from attacks from bigoted, Unionist forces, this feeling of comparative safety has in turn led to a feeling or state of mind which is expressed very eloquently in the phrase; "I'm all right Jack."

But are you? Can you afford to say that you're all right just because you live in the Falls or Ardoyne, or some such similar area. Can you afford to disregard the safety of the lives of those who live in the small "pockets." If you do, then it is our opinion that you do so at your *OWN PERIL*.

Other countries and Nationalities have had to face up to problems similar to that in which we now find ourselves, none more so than the Jews. From their relatively recent experiences we can learn a lot. The public libraries are full of manuscripts, each dealing in detail with Jewish experiences similar to those facing us.

We advise you to avail of their bitterly learned lessons. They teach us that while each ghetto must be self-sufficient, it must also be dependent on the safety of other ghettos. This we must accept, or we will fail. Therefore each pocket of Nationalist people, no matter where it is must be regarded as being of the utmost importance.

WHY

It is vital in the event of a doomsday solution that those who oppose us must not be allowed to concentrate their forces against any one area. The reasons for this are self-explanatory. Pockets therefore assume an importance out of all proportion to their size. The more that are held securely, the more divisive becomes the effect on their opponents. But how are pockets to be held securely, you may well ask.

Organisation is the answer and this is where inter-dependence becomes so important. Each area must organise its own defence system, one

easily held strong point in each locality must be selected to which all can retire to in the event of attack.

These are basic elementary facts. When your defensive system is organised the next step is to ensure that a means of communication exist between your pocket and the next one on down the line to the nearest large ghetto.

Communications and liaison is vital, it is in your interest that each knows what the others have planned in the event of an attack.

WHO CAN HELP

In this article we have confined ourselves to the bare essentials. The problems are immense ones, not easily to be overcome. But there is no reason for despair. There are in existence various organisations who are prepared to help you if required. These range from the Republican Army to Defence groups, Auxiliary Units and Ex-Servicemen's Associations.

The important thing is to act now. This is the time to organise, to go into the fine details so necessary. To wait any longer would be an act of folly, to dilly dally about the lives of your family is criminal. We recommend one book for your enlightenment, though but a novel it is based on actual happenings.

The book? *EXODUS*.

THE DEPENDANTS

Now that hundreds are officially interned, with probably many more to come, plus the hundreds "legally" imprisoned the Prisoners Dependents Fund is having to go all out in its efforts to help to allev-

iate the hardships of the many hundreds of children and wives of Faulkner's 'pawns.'

You are asked to redouble your efforts in this most worthy cause. It is not simply a matter of charity, it is a case of National Dignity to ensure that the dependants of those imprisoned are cared for.

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a hospital outside the State Health Scheme. The great social scandals of inadequate housing, mass unemployment low wages, emigration, mercenary enlistment in foreign armies etc., etc., were ignored. In such a society the twin social evils of drinking and gambling flourished, leading to broken homes and maladjusted children. But the political leaders continued to play their game of keeping the people divided on imaginary fears thus avoiding the necessity of tackling the real problems.

Lately, certain political factions have tried to encourage Protestants to join their radical movements, by pointing out that they are the dupes of Capitalism only marginally better off than their Catholic counterparts. In my view this is a very false theory. It is true that the slum conditions of the Falls, Sandy Row, the Shankill and Ardoyne are basically similar. It is equally true that the Shipyard, the Aircraft factory, the Sirocco Works, Mackies and Gallaher's which are probably the five largest and long established employers are almost exclusively reserved for Protestants. The overtime available in these firms makes their employees much better off than the general run of workers in the Catholic ghettos. Also there is a tendency to site new factories in places other than in Catholic strongholds such as Derry or Newry. The palatial social clubs and sporting and recreational facilities provided by such firms for their employees and their families also engenders a community spirit from which Catholics are excluded. Thus, while it may be still true that the Protestant working class is exploited, it is basically dishonest to suggest that they are really no better off than their Catholic fellow rights and equal opportunity workers. One has a stake in this society (however small) the other has none. Equal do not exist here.

In the twenty-six counties the problems are very similar. Equal opportunity is guaranteed but the facts deny it. No parents on the Western coast can look forward to their family growing up. They know that they face the heartbreak of emigration. For them it is not an unpleasant possibility,

but an evil certainty. Even the right to unemployment benefit has recently been withdrawn from one side of the community and yet, even this did not occasion an outcry from public spokesmen. The right to bring up and educate one's children in their native tongue has been withdrawn in parts of Donegal while the right of Irish speakers to share in TV and radio programmes is limited to a few minutes daily — "not free merely etc.,

In Dublin where the housing shortage is acute, huge office blocks show the real nature of re-development. And throughout the country, huge ranches are held by the absentee landlords, while small farmers try to scrape out a living from uneconomic holdings — equal opportunity. The mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers and the glens are owned by a few for the benefit of a few — mostly foreigners at that. And all this is supported by the politicians who stand at the GPO at the annual Easter ceremonies and pay tribute to the men who died to end all this. They did not die to exchange a flag for some abstract notion of patriotism. They died that others might live in peace, contentment and comfort.

And as a new convert to Republicanism, I hope that is why the I.R.A. volunteers are risking their lives at the moment. I have seen through the hypocrisy of the politicians. I have listened to the words of Bishops and Cardinals and to the 'moderate' Catholic spokesmen. I have the feeling of having lived through it all before. But then I remember it all did happen before. The clergy of 1916 were quick to point out that Pearse had no mandate, that Connolly was an international Socialist or a Communist or something — anything that would belittle him. The parliamentarians were urging their own solution Home Rule, as promised by the British Government. The parallel with our own day is too obvious to miss. The Provos have no mandate. International agitations are the cause of our troubles, while politicians talk glibly of reforms and political solutions, putting their faith in Westminster.

I am now a Republican, a supporter of the Provos, as I

said, out of necessity. I have no choice because I can see clearly that no other organisation is sincerely interested in achieving a just solution. I know now, when I hear the Hierarchy speak of 'bombing a million Protestants into a Republic' that they are not even interested in speaking the truth, much less to champion the cause of justice.

In supporting the Provos, I reserve the right to criticise. I hope that criticism will be accepted in the spirit in which it is made. I accept fully that it is due mainly to the actions of the I.R.A. that Britain is being forced to re-examine the Six County state, but I submit that without the support of the people the I.R.A. would quickly disintegrate. Therefore, I appeal to the Republican leadership to take the people more into your confidence. Speculation is rife that we are on the brink of civil war. Is this the object of the present campaign or is the suggestion just more British propaganda. Is the IRA sufficiently well organised and equipped to defend the people in the event of a Unionist full-scale attack. These are just some of the questions worrying people like myself.

These questions may not receive answers because of the security risks. This is understandable on military tactics. But on the political level Republican policy is practically unobtainable. I have read your Social and Economic Programme. But I have never heard or read a word of how you propose to put your policy into effect. On what conditions would you call a cease-fire? Would you take part in a peace conference? Who would be your delegates? Or are you going to allow the present politicians to speak for the people after our volunteers have brought about the necessary conditions? Will we be sold out again?

In conclusion, I salute the soldiers who have given their lives in this present struggle for freedom. I hope and pray that their sacrifices will not be rendered useless by incompetence, or lack of foresight. In this hour of destiny Ireland needs her bravest and best. It is my fervent hope that such people will come forward and that they will be welcomed into leadership where suitable.

TORTURE CENTRE

A common factor in the cases of all those detained and held for questioning lately is that each person has eventually arrived at Palace Barracks Holywood. Even those arrested as far away as Coalisland have finally reached there. Palace Barracks is no more secure than any other military establishment in the north, a fact ably demonstrated a short time ago by the Republican Army.

Why then are other centres by-passed, such as Thiepval Barracks in Lisburn. Information from various sources lead us to believe that the sole purpose of using Holywood is because of the troops stationed there, namely the Parachute Regiment. This elite force, which has endeared itself to Irish people by its activities is apparently adopting for itself, the role of Hitler's SS. Recent mutilated arrivals at Crumlin Road Prison bear witness to this.

So much for the Compton enquiry into Army brutality. While he investigates, they continue to mutilate.

The Labour Petition

Many people have made enquiries about the Republican Movement's attitude to the Irish Labour Party's "Release the Internees petition."

Our answer is relatively simple, indeed the internees themselves have supplied it in a statement carried in the daily newspapers of September 20, 1971. Their stance is, they will not beg anyone for release. Many of them are politically inclined towards Republicanism and as such believe that Ireland has begged for too long, a view with which we agree.

Yet all our people are not Republicans, and many would see the petition as a means of involvement.

To all we suggest the following: Substitute the word **DEMAND** in place of appeal, and petition and thus let the world know of your feelings.

WHY I SUPPORT THE PROVISIONALS

SIR, I am writing this letter to you because I expect none of the other Belfast newspapers would publish it. I am not well educated so I would apologise for any mistakes in spelling or in the grammar and ask you to correct them before it is published.

I am a Republican, not from choice, but from necessity, and would like to tell why. I was born in 1928, in the 'Loney' area of Belfast, the second of ten children. My father was employed as a sort of general labourer, messenger, clerk and he earned approximately thirty-eight shillings per week, which had increased to forty-five shillings by the outbreak of war in 1939. He died in 1960. My mother now 73, still lives in the old homestead, surrounded by boarded up houses ready for demolition.

We were a happy family, despite the grinding poverty we lived in. As children we knew nothing of our parents constant struggle to make ends meet. We never noticed our lack of necessities because the other kids in our neighbourhood were all in the same boat. In fact, we were regarded by some as well-off. We didn't get the free dinners, and our feet were usually covered, even if our boots and shoes were 'letting in.' We were a religious family, daily Mass (almost), the family rosary, confraternity etc., though it is only in recent years I have come to realise how fully my parents did live their Catholic faith.

In 1939 my father was 'called-up' for service in the British Army as he was still a reservist from the 1914-18 war. The allowance my mother got for herself and eight children improved our standards a little, and then my older sister left school and went to Greeves Mill. Eventually my turn came, and I started work with the 'Yanks' at Crumlin in 1942. Came the end of the war and the end of an era. My father returned — but somehow different. Or maybe it was just because I was older and heard all the discussions at night when he and my mother and friends sat talking.

The family fortunes went up and down in those immediate post-war years, with the workers going from one dead-end job to another with intervals on the 'dole' or on the 'sick' — thought the new family allowance helped.

And the nightly discussions seemed always to be on the same subject — politics and the Church. I remember my father often complaining that the Sunday sermons were largely irrelevant — they

seemed mostly to concern giving "a fair days work for a fair days pay." And the evils of modern dancing. It seemed rather silly to me, because I knew that in St. Peter's very few had the opportunity to do a days work and that most of those who were employed were being cruelly exploited. I also knew that most of the dancing in the parochial halls of the city was of the kind frowned upon by the Bishops. It all seemed very strange.

Then my older sister married in 1951 and went off to Philadelphia, USA. I have seen her twice since then. In 1954 I married a girl from Whiterock and moved into two rooms on the Lower Falls. Five years and three children later I was given a prefab at Beechmount and eventually a house at Ballymurphy. One of my younger sisters is now a nun in Canada. Two of my brothers are living in England — one in Manchester, the other in London, while another has settled with his wife in Australia. What has happened to the wonderful family I once knew as a child and teenager when the bonds of affection were so strong? Am I wrong to be bitter about losing all that meant most to me in life?

I now work in a good job, shift work in a modern factory. Over the past few years, for want of anything better to do, I spend my leisure in reading, and because of the present situation most of my reading concerns Ireland, her patriots and her problems. I was over forty years of age before I read the stirring words of the Easter Proclamation and I remember one particular clause as the cure for all our ills — "The Republic guarantees civil and religious liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens."

I have since studied to the best of my ability the lives of the men who first penned these words. I have read how they were laughed at, scorned and derided; how they were insulted by the illiterate mob, ridiculed by the moderates and calumniated from the pulpit. I marvelled at their quiet acceptance of public rejection and their certain knowledge that they would one day be vindicated. And I applaud their nobility and courage, both moral and physical, which they showed when called upon to

make the supreme sacrifice for their people.

I realise I am not alone in these feelings. I know that these same men are now revered by Church and State as the saviours of the nation. I know that the much maligned Connolly is now regarded as the champion of the Irish worker and that Pearse represents all that is finest and noblest in Irish manhood. I know that all Southern politicians and most Northern opposition spokesmen pay tribute to these patriots and martyrs while the names of others like J. Redmond are virtually forgotten.

But I ask myself, is the tribute paid to these men, sincere is there any depth to it. And if so, why is so much said about their ideals and so little done about them. Where is the Republic they fought and died to establish? Are their hopes and aspirations fulfilled in the twenty-six county state, if not in the six counties. And so I have tried to examine conditions in both states in my own limited and amateurish way.

In the Six County state, I did not really expect to find justice or the equal rights guaranteed by Pearse and Connolly. But I did expect to find an awareness of the flagrant injustice, current in our society on the part of those whose duty it is to try and change such things. Instead I find only apathy.

Prior to 1968 there seems to have been a marked reluctance on the part of Church leaders to identify themselves with the problems of their people. The only notable contribution of the Catholic Church was to establish an education system apart from the State system and to run

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Smear Tactics

UNABLE to defeat the Republican Army in the field, in fact having sustained a massive setback from that force and its ally, the people, the British Army has once more endeavoured to take the offensive in another field of operations i.e. black propaganda. This vile campaign has opened with typical British bombast, the Provos, that gang of "terrorists" are using dum-dum bullets they proclaim. Such claims have not been unexpected. Ever since the arrival at British H.Q., a short time ago, of a leading British Army propagandist, we have been eagerly awaiting a new propaganda offensive. We have not been let down.

How does his efforts compare with that of his predecessors, rather poorly we think. Consider his dum-dum effort. This ammunition was discovered during a raid, the Army says, but refuses to state just where. It was manufactured in Sweden, they claim, the Norma Ammunition Factory, at Aksvika. Sweden stoutly deny their allegations. But more has yet to be disclosed.

Earlier British Army statements claimed that flack jackets could only be pierced by high velocity ammunition. One of the purposes of this claim was to bolster the flagging morale of the troops. It cannot be denied that flack jackets have saved the lives of numerous soldiers, many of whom were the target of .45 calibre weapons. Those who died from such weapons were invariably hit in the head or lower abdomen. Everything would indicate that if it takes a high powered rifle, a 303, 30-30 or some such calibre to penetrate the jackets. So why use flat nose or hollowed .45 against a jacket that deflects them. Their argument just does not stand up to cross examination. Is there a more sinister reason we wonder?

We are inclined to believe

that there is. The military were most anxious to remove Philip Larkin from the Mater Hospital (no talk of Geneva Convention rules then) even when he was in the intensive care unit. Why? We would suggest that impartial medical sources inspect Mr. Larkin's wound, paying particular attention to the entry and exit areas.

They would discover that these are consistent with the injuries sustained by the use of dum dum bullets. And Mr. Larkin, as everybody knows, was not shot by the I.R.A.

As Britain has raised the issue of the Geneva Conventions we would also ask does it not cover the treatment afforded to prisoners. Does it not cover the behaviour of troops towards civilians (if only executed Nazis could talk) does it not ban gas, does it allow armoured vehicles to be used as child squashers or armoured weapon carrying vehicles to be used as ambulances, are there not rules to govern the murdering of civilians by troops, does it allow the establishment of concentration camps. Having raised, by his clumsy allegations, all these relevant questions, we feel Britain's latest PRO is off to a very bad start.

QUO VADIS

Almost every school is now conducting disaster and evacuation lessons, which include the mobilising of all the pupils at a given point, the use of fire doors, fire exits etc., for quick evacuation. Good worth while exercises, as in the past schools and their pupils have been a favourite target of the "backlashers."

Pupils of St. Dominics, on Falls Road, however, have hit a snag, mobilisation is alright

you go down the fire escape but to where. On to the flat topped roof of a school extension, from which there is no means of further evacuation.

It is a problem that should be tended to at once for apart from bomb scares etc., what would be the result should there happen to be a 'normal' emergency, such as a fire.

Under the present circumstances, chaos and probably many young lives lost. Is it worth it?

INNOCENT BUT GUILTY

On Thursday September 16, Francis Joseph McColgan, of Servia Street, was given a six month sentence on a riotous behaviour charge. Two British soldiers gave evidence of seeing him at the front of a crowd. They said that McColgan ran away when he saw them.

One of them followed him into a house in Ward Street, and arrested him. McColgan admitted that he panicked when he saw the snatch squad at the top of Ward Street so he ran back to a friends house.

The magistrate, Mr. Patrick Maxwell, issued a warning along with the sentence. He said that the sooner the public realised that one does not need to be taking an active part in a riot to be guilty of riotous behaviour the better.

Mr. Maxwell has already had one warning from the Provos. The sooner he gets another the better. We can well do without his queer interpretations of the 'law.'

TANGIBLE EVIDENCE

More proof has emerged in the past week of that non-existent movement, the UVF Bombs have been found in St. Malachy's School, in St. Agustines School, Ormeau Road. A bomb depot in Bann Street blew up, presumably through some miscalculation of those manufacturing the devices. A bomb was lobbed at the Oliver Plunkett School, Glen Road, a sniper opened fire at Catholics from Lisbon Street, another from Cupar Street, more still from Oldpark Avenue and the surrounding area, in the last instance several civilians were hit, as testified to by the mother of one youth. (See Irish News, Sept. 21).

Houses were daubed with paint in the Horn Drive area of Suffolk, many other families have been the subject of intimidation. All this, and more, and still no "official" recognition that such a group exists.

Perhaps the water mains explosions, Ballyshannon, Castlereagh Electric complex etc., never actually happened. After all there is no U.V.F.

Contenders for the V.C.

Lunchtime Tuesday saw the British Army in a pinchermovement entering St. Teresas Primary School, Glen Road, ostensibly because of a bomb scare. They took up firing positions in the children's playground, and on the top-floor classrooms facing outwards to the Glen Road and Turf Lodge estates. Headless of the frightened and tearful children who of course, were still in the classrooms — our manly heroes in the making prepared to use them and their teachers as human shields, in the event of an attack on them.

One would suppose that the logical procedure in the event of a bomb scare, would be immediate evacuation, not the confining of the occupants to the building! Stranger still is the taking up of firing positions. The army's intention was to set up an observation post in St. Teresa's, using the children as convenient sandbags.

Once the parents realised what was happening—despite the headmaster's reassurance, that the army was searching(?) for a bomb — they removed their children from the school. Hot on the children's heels, our heroes departed in their saracens.

Hooded Propaganda

Reports are circulating in Derry City that a civilian is travelling about the Nationalist areas in a British Army vehicle, pointing out homes suspected of being sympathetic to the Republican Ideal.

This report must be seen in its true light. It is not necessary for a civilian to act in such an ignominious manner, the R.U.C. Special Branch has had ample time and scope to build up such a dossier.

"Informer" is a dirty and dreaded word in Ireland. It conjures up treachery and deceit, more important it can create a feeling of instability and insecurity in an area.

Derry people, be warned, this is a British attempt to create such a feeling in Derry. Carry on your tasks as before and if by chance some Irish quisling is playing England's game, rest assured he or she will receive a just reward from the administrators of the Peoples' Justice.

A Reformed Police Force

AUTHORITATIVE sources claim that there is unease in the RUC over the recent withdrawal of Army personnel from certain police barracks. They further indicate that there now exists a crack in the "common front" facade that has, not successfully, been presented to the public. Mr. Shillington, the Head Constable, of the RUC, has by his utterance on September, 21, widened this crack into a veritable chasm. There now exists between the RUC and the Army, as witnessed by the Police Federation statement, a deep difference of opinion and method of approach to the current situation in the North. Evidence is emerging that indicates that the RUC, Hunt style is slowly coming to the opinion that it has been used merely as a political and security pawn.

For this the RUC must shoulder the major share of the responsibility. By the acceptance, and implementations of Unionist dictates, the "re-born" RUC has effectively destroyed any image of impartiality it was allegedly striving to achieve.

Under the terms laid down by Lord Hunt, the RUC was to evolve into a police service, unarmed and impartial. This policy was satisfied, and accepted by the majority of those serving in the force. What went wrong, at what stage was Hunt shelved and former policies and tactics re-instated. The Police Authority the Police Federation and those serving in the ranks are the only people who can truthfully answer this question.

That Hunt has been shelved is beyond dispute, if not why do points duty men wear arms. Those who commenced the present policy, and those who acquiesced, must bear the responsibility for the deaths of RUC men that have ensued from their insane attempts to re-establish the police as a strong arm to enforce Unionist policies. By their plotting and undermining Hunts terms they have succeeded in putting the RUC into the 'front-line' Police stations became fortified encampments liable to attack because of their military appearance and military inhabitants.

No police force in England would have tolerated such happenings, neither would the British public, hence the major blame being put squarely on the RUC's shoulders.

The Authority, and Federation closed their eyes too, and tolerated the carrying of weapons by certain groups of con-

stables, prior to the present situation; also tolerated was the conduct of certain individuals towards the minority, again a blind eye was turned to the method in which they allowed themselves to be used in crowd control, invariably they allowed themselves to be used to placate Unionist mobs, often without success, while the military were deployed against the minority. Did it never occur to the rank and file that the Nationalist people, the object of police jackboot methods of interrogation to go un-tolerate a return to the RUC's good old days.

Did they expect their methods of interrogation to go unanswered. Did they never contemplate where their actions were leading them. Does the average police man, often married, with a family, enjoy being pushed into the front line. Recent developments suggest that the majority do not, that they wish to evolve into what any civilised country needs, ie a normal police service, something that this "statelet" has never yet witnessed. Should they decide to return to that desired status we believe that the country in general would accept them as such. To our knowledge no attack has yet been made on unarmed police men. Indeed some of them testify that to this fact they owe their lives eg Fermanagh and Tyrone.

Republican Army statements issued long before the situation reached its present level, indicated that a normal, unarmed impartial police force would be free to operate as such.

This will still apply if and when the RUC is seen to act in that capacity.

Wellington's Sub-humans

LONG Kesh measures up to standard British Army requirements. So any political prisoner who finds himself incarcerated there is expected in British eyes to be quite happy and content with his lot. There have been many mutinies in the British Army's chequered history, each resulting from a variety, in the soldiers opinion, just causes. The wonder is then, that if the conditions that prevail in Herr Faulkner's Concentration Camp, are standard army requirements, that there has not been a mutiny in recent times.

How gullible do the government PRO's believe the people and the world news media are. Are we really expected to believe that soldiers are permanently living in such atrocious conditions. Is all the public money that is being poured in to the Professionals recruiting drive in effect actually being poured down the drain. Long Kesh would suggest that this is so. Can you, or anyone, imagine Her Majesty's soldiers being confined in off duty periods to an area of 60x28 yds.

Do they sleep 40 to a hut, with all night lamps (searchlights) to comfort them. Do they have to, in this modern age of hygiene, have to use dry toilets? Are they, apart from the sex disco's allowed

no recreation. Is the absence of a library simply because the majority of them are illiterate ex-borstal boys. Is it really necessary to have electrified fences around the military camp perimeters, and if so, could we be told why.

We all know that Wellington described the poor soldiers as the scum of the earth, are they still basically the same, has there been no improvement at all in their mode of living over the last century?

It would seem that if, as the Army information officers state, this is a typical modern day army encampment, the British Army is composed of sub-humans. Long Kesh is a living testimonial to this.

THE LATEST NO-GO AREA

Parcels of books, from light fiction to serious works have been refused entry into the Concentration Camp outside Lisburn. Those who delivered them were told they would have to take them away again as 1. no facilities existed for censoring such items and 2. how were they, the guards to know that the parcels did not contain booby traps. "Get in touch with military HQ," they were told, this was done, the HQ put them on to the Police H.Q. thence on to the Ministry of Home Affairs. And at the time of going to Press, the victims of Herr Faulkner and Herr Maudling are still without any kind of readable literature Rule Britannia.

HOLY GROUND

The news that the residents of a number of streets in the Beersbridge Road district of Belfast are taking up collections for the erection of barricades has brought many a sardonic grin to the faces of the occupants of other areas of Belfast. Bets are being laid as to whether or not the Security Forces will allow these latest barricades to remain in position, or will this loyal area become the latest battle testing ground for H.M. forces.

Others say it isn't worth a bet, they feel the barricades will be allowed to remain, "after all," they remark, "the barricades kick with the right foot!"

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civil disobedience will achieve nothing, but talks lead to the promised land.

It seems to us that violence and civil disobedience is ach-

ieving a lot. Wilson has plans for us, Callaghan wants to help, Jeremy Thorpe is all for us, Faulkner is making offers. WHY? In fifty years of talking never was so much offered to so few by so many.

Clo-bhuailte daobhtha agus curtha amach ag Clolann Ghaelach, Dun Dealgan.