

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical and mental well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland.

(Iris Dail Eireann)

An Phoblacht

Iml. 8, Uimhir 47. 10p. Nollaig 7, 1977.

FUE - EEC BID TO SHACKLE WORKERS

THE FEDERATED Union of Employers opened a campaign against trade unionism in Ireland last week, using the Ferenka withdrawal from Ireland, and the considerable loss of jobs involved in the Limerick area, as blackmail. Behind the FUE is strong support from Brussels which is bringing pressure on the Leinster House regime to change the labour laws.

The fact is that the faceless men (and women) of Brussels believe that Irish trade unionists have far too much freedom and power in comparison with organised labour on the Continent. The Commissioners want a new set of labour laws which could turn Ireland into a forced labour camp.

The FUE is enthusiastic: The fewer the strikes, the greater the profit. Also, if the strike weapon is made virtually to disappear management can become a lot tougher and will stand a much better chance of getting its way in such matters as automation and redundancy.

Fianna Fail, with its huge majority in Leinster House, could push through the new laws quickly enough if the climate of public opinion were in its favour. The conspiracy on the right hopes to get public opinion "right" (in all senses) by media support plus sheer intimidation of those at work and corruption of those who are not, particularly youth.

Sinn Fein and the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union have opened the counter-attack on the conspiracy of the right.

The Sinn Fein statement on Nov. 30 said that the closure of the Ferenka plant emphasised once again the dangers inherent in relying on large foreign companies as the main arm of industrial development.

"Huge state grants and incentives are made available," the statement points out, "to these enterprises but the decisions concerning the jobs of thousands are taken in boardrooms far removed from Ireland.

No roots here

"The multinational companies are completely profit-oriented: When the international trading position gets difficult the branch factories become expendable. Their labour policies are generally at variance with Irish conditions; they have no roots here, no loyalty to Ireland, and they pull up and clear out when it suits them."

Sinn Fein always had pointed out, the statement continues, that the main instrument of industrial development should be the state itself, specialising in its own natural resources and promoting worker-owned, co-operative enterprises.

"Our agriculture, afforestation,

Ferenka failure blackmail

fisheries and mineral resources cry out for native development - a good healthy Sinn Fein policy in the best tradition and real meaning of that name.

"This was undertaken to some extent when enterprises such as Bord na Mona and Comhlucht Siuicre were set up but has been abandoned in recent years, especially after joining the EEC.

Better investment

"The last five years have seen many native firms close, such as Mahony's of Blarney, shoe and textile factories, and the multinationals being promoted instead.

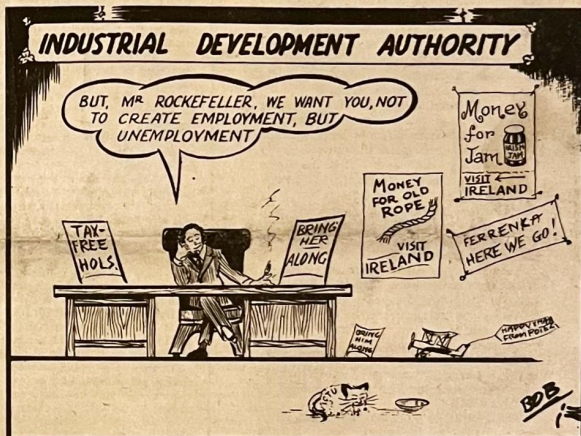
"It would be far better if the £8,000,000 of public money given to Ferenka were put into food processing, fisheries, mineral development, etc., as a proper

industrial base. But this is most unlikely within the EEC.

"What we need is a radical change in direction and policies. We are confident that the Republican leadership and the unemployed will force major changes within the next five years," the statement concludes.

The ITGWU, in its statement, said it was clear that the FUE was seeking opportunistically to exploit the present events in order to shape trade unionism according to its own views and have trade union liberty curtailed by the power of the state.

The Union statement added (Ar leanuint ar chul)



Labour leaders explain Mason's terror tactics

ONE OF the main reasons for Roy Mason's tactics (torture, extracted "confessions," non-jury courts, deals with the Loyalists, etc.) is the need

to head off the troops-out sentiment inside the British Labour Movement.

Despite the intense media coverage inside Britain given

REPORT: PADDY PRENDIVILLE

to Mason's "successes," a conference held in London on November 19 on the Brits-out theme was attended by more than 100 delegates,

and most of them from trade union and Labour Party branches.

Ken Quinn, executive, No.14 Branch, Workers' Union of Ireland, read out a message of support from Phil Flynn, (deputy-sec., LG&PSU) and told delegates that the main issues dividing trade unionists in Ireland are partition and the Crown forces.

The discussion was wide-ranging and dealt in particular with the "bloodbath theory" (or blackmail theory, as one delegate put it). Most of the discussion, however, concentrated on what could be done in Britain to end British domination of Ireland.

PUBLICATION ARRANGEMENTS

"An Phoblacht" will be published next Wednesday, as usual, but two publication dates will be missed after that issue, the paper being scheduled to appear again on January 4 next.

Ómos do cheathrar laoch

FOUR DISTINGUISHED and very popular people who have given their life to the cause of Irish freedom will be honoured at a testimonial dinner in Dublin on Friday, January 6 next in Dublin.

They are: Mrs Charlie Woods, Baile Atha Cliath; Commandant-General, Tom Maguire, Maigh Eo; Tom Kelleher, Corcaigh; and Neill Gillespie, Doire Cholm Cille. That makes it one representative from each of the four historic provinces of Ireland.

This will be the dinner-of-the-year of the Republican Movement and will be

attended, insofar as conditions of the war for freedom permit, by some of the most outstanding personalities of the various branches of the Movement.

Proceeds will go to An Cumann Cabhrach, to help provide comforts for the prisoners of war and their dependants. Tickets (only £5 each) are available from 44 Parnell Square, Baile Atha Cliath (inquiries: 314941 and 592863).

Dinner will be served at 21.00 hours and cell and ballads will continue until 02.00 hours. Further details: page seven.

Aonach na Nollag for your Christmas shopping

CROWN'S DIRTIEST WAR

RUC women join the torturers

A 13-year-old child from Madrid Street, Belfast, and who attends a special care school, was arrested one Thursday last month and tortured, physically and mentally, in the RUC Castlereagh Centre, by men and women, according to her statements as supplied and witnessed by her mother and members of the Association for Legal Justice.

Certain remarks made to her by one of her torturers, a female RUC member, at one stage, are so revolting that they have been deleted from her statement. The full text, however, has been supplied by the ATU to leading Churchmen and political leaders throughout Ireland and elsewhere. The girl's father has made a formal complaint to the RUC.

Here is the abridged statement.

"At 3.45 a.m. on Thursday November 10 the RUC and British army came to my home; they nearly put the door in and when my daddy opened the door they said they were there to raid the house.

"My daddy said 'not again' as they had come on Tuesday previous to this. They asked who was in the house.

"Daddy said my mammy and my brother and me. They said 'Get them all up'.

"My Daddy went up the stairs and one of them ran in front of him. The other one pushed my Daddy out of the way and came into my bedroom and pulled me out of bed."

"I was very frightened and started to cry; they pulled me down the stairs."

(Passage deleted)

Arm twisted

"My Mammy stood in front of me; they pulled her away. A police woman put her hand on my shoulder and said: 'We are arresting you under Section 10'.

"They were pulling me out into the Saracen. They twisted my arm up my back and when they threw me into the Saracen they bumped my head. I was crying.

"My Mammy said: 'Don't be getting hysterical, but I couldn't help crying. They said they were taking me to Castlereagh.

"They tore my coat as they were pulling me. My Daddy said: 'Are you not mistaken; my daughter is only thirteen years old'.

"They said 'It doesn't matter, we're still taking her'. I was squealing and one of the police said, 'Let her Mammy go with her'. So they let my Mammy come.

Cumann na mBan

"We arrived at Castlereagh; they took me to a room with all

lights shining in my eyes. There was policemen and policewomen there.

"They took my Mammy away from me to another room. I was screaming 'Don't leave me Mammy, don't leave me!' but they locked the door.

"A big fat policeman like one I thought would beat everybody, came over and said 'Come with me'; another policeman said 'She's okay now'.

"They started asking me questions about my sister; they started to shout at me: 'Did your sister plant the firebombs and are they in Cumann na mBan?' I said 'No, I'm telling the truth'.

"They kept kicking my foot and it was very sore as I attend the hospital with verruca. I had to have my foot bandaged when I got home.

"One policeman grabbed one arm and another policeman grabbed the other one and started to shake me.

"The door was opened a bit and I started to shout 'Mammy, Mammy' and they said 'Your Mammy can't help you now'.

"They were shouting and shouting in my ears about my sisters planting firebombs and then they started shouting in my face. I cried and cried.

Girl screaming

"It seemed ages when they said 'You can go now'. I asked could I see my big sister, Lillian, who was still in Castlereagh. They said: 'You're seeing no f-ing sister'. I heard a girl screaming and I asked was that our Lillian.

"The policeman said 'Mind your own f-ing business'. Then they said they were taking us home.

"One policeman said: 'Drop them off in the Woodstock'. I knew this was to frighten me as this is a mainly Loyalist area.

"I said 'You won't drop us off at Woodstock'. So we got home at about 5.45 a.m."

On Nov. 19 last a Labour movement conference on "Britain out of Ireland - Now and When" was held in Conway Hall, London, and our picture shows the platform (from left): Tom Leonard (executive, NUR), Ernie Roberts (AUEW), Ken Livingstone (GLE councillor, Labour Party), Ken Quinn (WUI), reading statement from Phil Flynn, deputy general secretary LG & PSU) and Gerry Lawless (NUJ).

Delegates attended from 26 trade councils, 39 trade union branches and 16 constituency Labour Party branches and others. Conference also raised £40 for Firemen's Strike and recognised the role of the British army in Firemen's dispute as a strike-breaking force.

Messages of support were received from, among others, Ray Buckton, general secretary, association of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen; Joan Maynard, M.P., and Sid Bidwell, Liverpool Trades Council.

Main theme of all speeches was the necessity of convincing the British worker that the Irish fight for self-determination is, in the long run, his fight, also. That he; too, is a victim of British imperialism, whether he realises it or not.

Flosc mór chun oibre ag Cumainn S.F.

FLOSC chun oibre ag na cumainn - this is the general picture of the state of health of Sinn Féin throughout the country, with well-attended meetings as new officer boards were elected.

We publish more results of cumann and other Sinn Féin elections and appointments and hope to publish others as soon as possible after receiving the details.

The AGM of Comhairle Chúige Laighean was held on Nov. 20, in 5 Sraid Bhaile Chaimín, B.A.C.

Among those attending were Joe Cahill, leas-uachtarán, Sinn Féin, and Uachtarán O Loinisigh, rúnai.

This is the new officer board: Cathaoirleach, George Lynch; rúnai, P. Duffy; cisteoir, Larry Ryan; oideachas, Aine Ní Ghabhann; eagraíocht, Breandán Golden; rialtas reigiúnach, James King; O.C.P. (PRO), Micheal Mac Comnara; ionadaithe ar an Ardchomhairle, George Lynch and Larry Ryan.

Christine Elias was congratulated on co-optation to the Ardchomhairle and on her appointment as Director of Education. All areas were reminded to send the new list of officers to: An Ardóifig, Sinn Féin, 2a Sraid Chaimín, B.A.C.

Next Comhairle meeting: Dec. 11 at 15.00 hours, same venue.

Readers are reminded that renovations in 5 Blessington Street continue and that donations of furniture, wallpaper and office equipment are needed urgently, as are heaters.

Contact: Micheal Mac Comnara (308783).

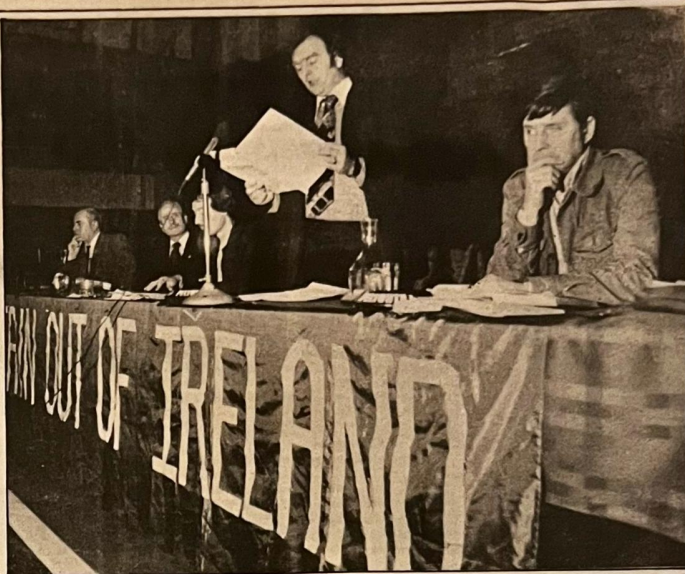
North Dublin

At the AGM of North Dublin Comhairlecheantar on November 8 the following were elected:-

Cathaoirleach, Micheal Mac Comnara; leas-do, Jack Murphy; rúnai, Angela Poole; cisteoir, Tom O'Donovan; oifigeach airgeadais, Tony Nuttley; oifigeach eagraíochta, Seán Gallagher; oideachas, Mary Finnerty; caidreamh poiblí, George Marshall.

At Galway Comhairlecheantar AGM on Nov. 23 the following were elected: Cathaoirleach, John Joe Ruane; leas-do, Michael Duignan; rúnai Eirín Bean Mhic an Rí; leas-do, Michael Healy; cisteoir, Pádraig Mac Cathmhaoil; oifigeach chaidrimh, poiblí Caimhín Mac Cathmhaoil; oideachas, Pól Ó Croidheáin; eagraitheoir, M. Duignan

LEFT: The newly elected officer board of Comhairle Chúige Laighean meets in Baile Átha Cliath.



At the AGM of Tralee Comhairlecheantar on Nov. 21 the attendance included: Dáithí O Conaill, Leas-uachtarán, Sinn Féin.

The following were elected: Leas-uachtarán, Hon. Mairéad Daly; John Joe Sheehy and Bart Dowling; Cathaoirleach, Patrick Quirke; leas-do, Martin Ferris; rúnai, Tom Deavany; cisteoir, Michael Horgan; oifigeach chaidrimh poiblí, Aine Lynch; eagraitheoir, Liam Cotter.

At the AGM of the Langan Cumann, Sligo, on Nov. 14, with Seán Ó Clandin presiding, the following were elected: cathaoirleach, Éamon Healy; leas-do, Séamus McLaughlin; rúnai, Gerry Bellew; leas-do, Tom Love; cisteoir, Mervin Chambers.

Money has been collected in Dublin fire stations and sent to striking firemen in the north-east. A Union spokesman in Dublin urged the firemen to hold out in the same way as the Dublin and Donaghairde firemen did nine years ago.

Firemen in the 26 Counties earn £30 per week more than their colleagues in the Six Counties and they also have a shorter working week, Michael Mac Comnara, C.C.L. points out.

Cumainn officers

Ennisclorthy's Cumann Sabhat, U.F. Annluain agus Uí Ghaoghain sold 12,408 copies of "An Phoblacht" during the year, the AGM was told.

Officers elected were: Cathaoirleach, Michael Nolan; leas-do, K. Sheehan; rúnai, Kevin Kavanagh; comhisteoir, E. O'Connor and councillor Seán Doyle; ionadaithe don Chomhairlecheantar: E. O'Connor and S. Doyle.

At the AGM of Cumann Phádraig Daltín, Glean Corbail, Co. Lunnainn, these officers were elected: Cathaoirleach, Seán Ó Nualláin; leas-do, Séamus Ó Riada; rúnai, M. Mac Giollaíod; cisteoir, Seán Ó Aodha; leas-do, Pádraig Mac Ionáin; ionadaithe don Chomhairlecheantar: Donnchadh Ó Nualláin agus Muir Mac Giollaíod.

At the AGM of Seán Mac Diarmada Cumann, Killybegh, Co. Leitrim, these officers were elected: Cathaoirleach, Michael Ó Shanly; leas-do, Kitty B. Keane; rúnai, James Dolan; leas-do, Kevin McGuinness; cisteoir, Owen McSharry.

At the Nov. 27 meeting of Comhairle Chúige Muman the following were elected: Cathaoirleach, Gearóid Mac Carthaigh, Corcaigh; rúnai, Paddy Campbell, Kerry; cisteoir, Peadar Beecher, Corcaigh. O.C.P. (PRO), Jim Morris; Tipperary: oideachas, Padraig Malone; Lunnainn: oifigeach reigiúnach, Tom Garvey, Kerry; ionadaithe don Ard chomhairle, Y. Mac Carthaigh agus P. Campbell.

At the AGM of Louth Comhairlecheantar these officers were elected: Cathaoirleach, Clem Geaney; leas-do, Joe Dunne; Ann Shields, 29 Fatima Park, Don Dealgan; cisteoir, Tom Doyle; eagraitheoir, Pat Duffy; O.C.P. (PRO), Fra Browne; airgeadas, Margaret Woods; oideachas, Pearse McGough.

New cumainn

The McKernan - Mullolland Cumann has been established in North Co. Louth. Those wishing to join should contact one of the following committee members: Cathaoirleach, John Murphy; rúnai, Mayella Murphy; cisteoir, Brian McDonnell; O.C.P. (PRO), Anthony Flynn.

The Fergal O hAnluain Cumann has been formed in Bray, Co. Wicklow, and reports sales of 10 dozen "An Phoblacht" and two dozen "Republican News."

These are the cumann officers: Cathaoirleach, Pat Byrne; rúnai, Kevin McGrogan, cisteoir, John Davis, O.C.P. (PRO), Colm Kinsella eagraitheoir, Tony Turner; ionadaithe don chomhairlecheantar, Pat Byrne and Kevin McGrogan.

Prepare NOW

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMITTEE (15 Cable Street) Doire Chóim Cille) urges cumann to prepare now for the greatest march to date and not to forget to write the Committee in advance.

Leabhair do na cimi

Leabhair Ghaeilge ag teastáil o na cimi polaitiúla. Irish books are needed urgently for the political prisoners. Please send them to: "Leabhair Ghaeilge" / f.ch. "An Phoblacht", 44 Ceannóg Pharnell, Baile Átha Cliath, 1.



AMERICAN BETRAYAL



Máire Comerford continues her series

OUR GREAT campaigns in America for the recognition of the Irish Republic failed and I have been able to find no trace of them in the history books or contemporary records. They asked for action by liberty-professing countries in aid of our struggle for total independence. They asked in vain.

Partition and the Treaty brought a situation of startling contrast when one looks back at it over the half century of humiliation from 1922 on.

Ireland partitioned. Three-quarters of Ireland under English oath and control after submission to threats. The other quarter held by force on the ground, making the whole island like a man handcuffed and therefore in physical power of the enemy.

These were the circumstances under which the "Free" State was admitted to the League of Nations and President de Valera greeted with a standing ovation at a joint session of both Houses of the American Congress in May of 1964.

Safety valve

In his speech he told them that he "looked forward to the day when a representative of Ireland would be permitted to address the U.S. Congress and announce with full heart that our severed country had been reunited and the last source of enmity between the British and Irish peoples has disappeared and at last we can be truly friends."

President Sean T. O'Kelly had said the same kind of thing at a similar opportunity in the same place a span of years before.

Nothing ever happened. They merely illustrated the facts that they were using a safety valve given to the Irish Counter-revolution to cover up the defeat and enable it to deceive the Irish people.

It is necessary for us to ask ourselves why the old campaign failed because that knowledge might be of assistance in days to come.

I have gone into this matter as carefully as I can. The thing that emerges is that luck was on our side and what happened then is unlikely to happen again.

In 1919, when the first Dail Eireann was only starting the

If YOU want to make sure that the freedom struggle will result in Irish victory join some branch of the Republican Movement TODAY with thousands of other patriotic Irish women and men.

For space reasons we had to cut Máire's article last week at the point where she pointed out that, though the U. S. government gave passports to those members of the American Commission on Conditions in Ireland, 1920-21, the British Embassy which, at first, had promised to issue passports to witnesses, eventually refused visas to the American Commission. Máire continues:

Neither was travel too easy for the witnesses from Ireland. Cardinal Logue cabled that certain bishops had been refused passports. The Lord Mayor of Cork was refused, too, but he got there without one. Peter MacSwiney brother of Terence, went out to the U.S. Messrs Morgan (Thurles) and Derhan (Bulbrigan) labourmen arrived on a small trading vessel.

Professor T.P. O'Neill, U.C.G. has commented on the publicity value of these proceedings: "Few events were more significant than the report of an American commission in March, 1921." He quotes British press reports: "This indictment", wrote the "Westminster Gazette", "must be taken seriously. Our relations with the U.S. are altogether too important for it to be treated with levity."

The Manchester Guardian: "To dispute a few details, to point out a few excesses in this detestable American report would only advertise its crushing remainder of truth." The Evening Standard "It would be foolish to ignore that the Commission includes people who cannot be dismissed as nobodies." This was the situation before the tide turned in Ireland, in the way I have described in a previous article.

Above all this report, and the others I have quoted, prove beyond doubt & two things:

The American Government did not act in ignorance when it sided with England at that time; and

The wonderful generosity and respect for justice among the American people.

It illustrates a third matter, too, that the Commission studied a number of reports from English organisations which also had investigated the doings of their own government. Mrs. Annot Erskine Robinson and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, both of Manchester, attended in person with the report of Ireland of the British branch of the Women's International League. Our gratitude is due to such people.

We are alone in struggle for freedom

American enthusiasm for a holy war was dying. The tide had gone out and a very horrible reaction grew up against the idealism, the morality and human justice in the cause of which Americans had been called to fight the Germans.

Congress scrapped the Treaty of Versailles when President Wilson brought it home from Paris. Clause by clause the Committee went through it, and the charter of the League of Nations, also.

I do not know to what, if any, degree principle entered the arguments while Wilson was physically incapacitated in an illness which was to last into 1923.

He was mentally alert but, like Arthur Griffith, in a comparable state of health at the other side of the world, his mind was poisoned by bitterness and suspicion.

There were no more messages of congratulation for revolutionary Russia. Instead, a great red scare spread across the land to terrify every one who had anything against those who had nothing.

The great fear embraced organised labour. Workers' strikes against such things as the 12-hour day, in mines and steel works, were crushed by public opinion.

White terror

All liberals were suspect; there are even mentions of Catholics and Jews. The Klu Klux Klan was rampant. Negroes are not even mentioned.

There were bombs in the post and riots in the streets. Suspected Communists were rounded up under conditions apparently as bad as we might know all about in Ireland today - or yesterday.

The gates of the White House were kept locked and President Wilson would see only a decreasing number of people and in the end, nobody.

The amount of public business which required his attention and failed to get it comforts me as I realise that ours was part of the majority. By this I mean there is no evidence that it was selected for rejection.

If you read a previous article of mine you may recall that Dr.

Patrick MacCartan carried the appeal of the released prisoners across the Atlantic and that it was received from him at the White House by Joe Tumulty the President's Secretary.

Poor Tumulty

Joe was the last of the President's staffs to leave or be sacked. Wilson was ex-president when the end of the relationship came.

Joe Tumulty called on him before a Democratic Party dinner and, at the dinner, delivered the message he believed he had been given.

It was: "Mr. Wilson would support any man for the presidency who would stand for the salvation of America . . . and justice to all classes."

Wilson denied he had said such a thing. He never admitted Tumulty to his presence again quoted from "Only Yesterday" by Frederick Lewis Allen, a book worth reading.

If you can remember what we had in this series from Harry Boland's speech on the Treaty in Dail Eireann in which Boland described what seemed to him at the time to be a swing of American opinion against Ireland you will see my reason for dwelling on the general domestic politics of the United States at that time. Ireland might conclude that "There was nothing personal to us in what happened."

Wilson had tried to be a good president; what happened was that his high principles were too high for this world.

The next man, Warren G. Harding, had far less than the capacity needed for his job. He ended by being poisoned because, some supposed, his associates and appointees to office believed that "he knew too much" or because their resentment his affair with a woman.

At that period of American history it seems to me that recognition for the Irish Republic was not on the cards for us in the United States.

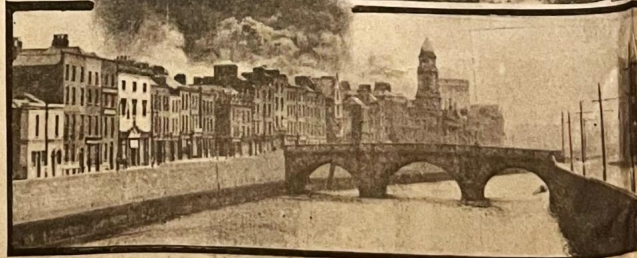
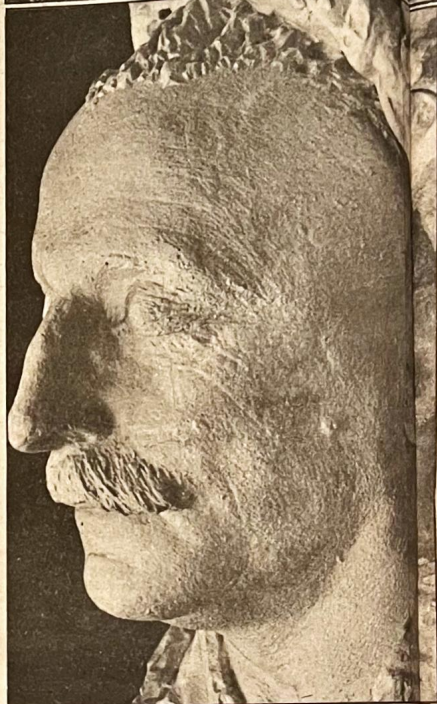
Could it ever be? It seems to me that there would have to be

some supporting circumstance in world affairs.

But how can one imagine that eventually without the necessary move on our behalf being unaccompanied by some unwelcome derogation from our sovereignty.

This, of course, was rejected by de Valera.

I heard Erskine Childers say that Ireland would drop like the pips of a rotten fruit on to fertile ground when England went down. That seems to be happening, now. Tuilleadh, an tsacchain seo chugainn.





National question and Labour

"FOR a country such as Ireland, a key point must be the attitude of labour towards the national independence movement, because of the importance to labour, on both the industrial and political fronts, to work out the most favourable framework for the realisation of its aims. A concern for national culture and identity must not be the prerogative of classes 'above' labour and to see how this concern also relates to the freedom struggle has been one of the chief preoccupations of socialists.

"Charles McCarthy does not really seem to appreciate these links. While identifying some of the conservative and inward-looking aspects of a Catholic-orientated variety of nationalism, he sees the contrast to this in an 'Anglo-Saxon' socialist view of the world.

Peculiar approach

"James Connolly's advocacy of republican socialism as a truly internationalist position and embodying a respect for national sovereignty is lost sight of in this perspective. This fault has a particularly contemporary ring about it and Connolly tends to be depicted throughout the book as almost exclusively a syndicalist. In a historical study, one expected, if not sympathy, at least a greater detachment in dealing with this issue.

— Excerpt from review by Michael Mullen in 'Hibernia' (Nov. 25) of the Charles McCarthy book on the Irish trade union movement.

Pat McGovern

The death took place on November 15, of PAT P. BARNEY MCGOVERN, Derryrealt, Swaninbar.

Down the years, he spared no effort to help the freedom fighters. His door was open at all times to them, and they were always sure of food and warmth.

His house was raided regularly by Gardaí and secret police. About a month before his death some of these thugs burst in the door of his house and ransacked it while he was visiting his doctor.

Guard of Honour

The large attendance at the funeral was of proof of the respect in which he was held.

His coffin was draped in the Tricolour and a guard of honour of Óglaigh na hÉireann and Cumann na mBan, dressed in black and wearing dark glasses, flanked the hearse.

John Joe McGirl, Ballinamore, presided and paid stirring tribute to him and Seán Ó Cláin delivered the oration.

A large force of Gardaí and secret police surrounded the cemetery during the funeral.

Crown's dirtiest war

IN BRUTAL circumstances, six young Derry women were torn from their families by the Crown forces (military) in pre-dawn raids on Thursday, November 24.

Within a few hours, two were transported from Strand Road RUC Barracks to the internationally notorious Castlereagh torture centre in Belfast.

In at least one case, the girl's family was not informed of the move. Only after members became suspicious and inquired persistently of the RUC, pinning them down with a point-blank question, did they learn the facts, according to a statement from Derry Comhairle Cheanters, Sinn Féin.

One fact causing the gravest concern is that one of the young women is expecting a child. Given the RUC's disgusting history of mistreatment of pregnant women, fears for his woman, MRS. KATHLEEN FISHER, and her unborn child, are realistic. Humanitarian and compassionate grounds demand her immediate release.

In the case of another of the women, ISOBEL ANDERSON, her arrest is part of a cruel, deliberate and long-term persecution of her family by the RUC.

Sent to hospital

Her brother PETER, was one of the five Derrymen arrested and taken to Castlereagh in February.

These five men were so brutally tortured that, when the RUC had finished with them, presenting them to the governor of Crumlin Road Gaol as prisoners, he refused to accept one man into the gaol. He was so badly battered that

the governor feared he would die very shortly afterwards. Instead, this Derrymen spent several days in the Royal Victoria Hospital before being sufficiently recovered to be taken into Crumlin's hospital wing.

Amnesty International began investigating the cases of these five young men. One result is Amnesty's current investigation RUC in-depth torture on political prisoners.

Given the well-documented torture of her brother, sending Isobel Anderson to Castlereagh is a move designed not only to terrorise her but her family as well and all who know of her brother's torture.

It is more than realistic to fear

that she and the other girls are undergoing an ordeal which, at the very least, is a gross physical and mental abuse.

Amnesty definition

Torture is a dirty word but so, too, is the sordid reality it described.

The RUC will find that Amnesty International recognises the kind of state which breeds

torture: "The state, whose function, the protection of the helpless, instead protects the torturer, providing him with the tools and security with which he can carry out his trade of physically and mentally violating his victim until body and mind have been refashioned to the shape that satisfies the torturer and his master" (Eric Baker, international executive committee, Amnesty International).

Not even the simple-minded are fooled by Mason's or Newman's glib claims that torture amounts to only "isolated instances" by "a few bad apples".

Torture is a method and means of government in Ireland. It is the means by which unpopular regimes always have controlled or eliminated political opposition.

Those who allow torture to be practised, who promote it or apply it, MUST be held accountable. They are guilty of crimes against humanity.

Torture has long been documented in both Castlereagh and Strand Road RUC Barracks, Derry. Torture is immoral, unjust and illegal by all international standards of law.

We demand, on grounds of natural justice, humanity and compassion, that these six young women be released immediately, as well as all who are held in prisons here for political reasons.

In demanding this release of political prisoners, we are not begging a favour but only demanding the human rights of these prisoners and their families," the statement by Sinn Féin Comhairle-cheantair Derry concludes.

Liam Ó Maolíosa

The annual commemorative of Liam Ó Maolíosa (Liam Mellows) will be held on Sunday, December 11.

Parade will form up in Gorey at 14.00 hours and will march through the main street.

Parade will re-form in Castle-town at 15.00 hours and will proceed to the patriot's graveside where an oration will be delivered by Jack Dunne of Wexford.

Fianna Éireann and members of the Republican Movement in surrounding counties are invited to participate.

of the wealth of Ireland by the Irish people and for the Irish people.

The imperialism of Crown patrols roaming the streets of our cities is of prime concern to the Republican Movement.

The less obvious and more insidious imperialism which manifests itself in the blatant theft of our country's riches and the fruits of our labour is of equal importance to us.

This island cannot be free until all traces of foreign domination and exploitation have been swept aside.

Imperialism out, north and south.

Yesterday, the Indians; today, the Irish miners

IN THE days of classic imperialism, Britain bought the cotton grown in India, made cotton clothes from the raw material in Britain (thus providing employment and wealth at home) and then sold back the manufactured product to the country from which the raw material had come.

Ludicrous, isn't it? The poor starving Indians slaved all day in the fields for what, in fact, was a pittance for their precious raw material and then were dutifully grateful and enchanted by the wondrous and luxurious cotton garments that the generous and bountiful English trading companies brought to sell them from far off Britain.

Maybe that sounds a bit too far-fetched? But, is it? Ask the miners in Ireland as they watch millions of pounds worth of raw unprocessed ore flow out of our country.

We rejoice at the discovery of each new deposit until the foreign interests move in to get a lease of the mining rights.

Token royalties

After paying tiny token royalties to the Irish people, they feel no qualms about supplying foreign processing plants with our precious raw materials and then selling back to us the finished products created from our Irish resources.

Surely the exploitation of these deposits provides employment for Irish workers? Yes, a few local miners are engaged to dig the ore out of the ground and a certain number of jobs are generated in transporting the minerals to the nearest port. But the

Éire Nua le Christene Elias

real benefits from the whole process go elsewhere.

Those unfortunate Indians who loaded the millions of bales of raw cotton onto waiting British ships were thankful for their few jobs as well.

Fish plunder

Ask the fishermen of Ireland about economic imperialism as they watch their industry and their livelihood disintegrate before their eyes, as restriction after restriction from Brussels impedes their efforts to make a living from the seas around Ireland while the EEC vessels take £40,000,000 worth of herring and £100,000,000 worth of white fish and mackerel out of our waters in the past three months alone.

Ask an Athair Tomás O Murchu (former chairman of Combarhmann Chleire) why he concludes that if Ireland does not get a 5-mile limit, the priests soon will have to follow their people on the mission to Camden Town.

Those "generous" handouts from Westminster and Brussels have not blinded him to the truth that the EEC could keep their Regional Fund and their Social Fund, if they left us our fish.

Ask our unemployed workers whether this enlightening modern world of the

20th century has finally seen through the mask of imperialism and brought about its defeat.

The shelves in our shops and supermarkets proudly display the finished-products made from Irish raw materials but manufactured elsewhere or the goods of other countries sold at a cheaper price because we are prevented from protecting our own manufacturing industry by the edicts of the Euro-imperialist interests.

More and more of our small farmers are being forced to accept the inevitable doom and the fact that their sons must still emigrate to find a decent job.

Nevertheless, the export of fat cattle on the hoof continues.

Jobs are available in the slaughtering of Irish cattle and the processing of Irish meat and other products from these animals. Not in Ireland.

No country can industrialise and enjoy even a modicum of economic independence if it exports its raw materials and lets others do the processing.

An Ireland independent of the imperialist exploitation of the foreign interests of the EEC and the multi-nationals is the goal of the Republican Movement.

We recognise that Ireland is a rich country.

Patrols explained

The wealth of our land and seas represent our potential for prosperity and well being but only if the Irish people themselves are in a position to reap the benefits of this wealth.

The implementation of the Éire Nua programme means the democratic exploitation



PICTURE KEY

- Top: S Connacht flying column, 1920.
- Second: Death mask of Griffiths.
- Third: Sean Treacy dead in Dublin's Talbot Street.
- Fourth: Four Courts explosion, June 30, 1922, under Crown guns manned by Irish-born traitors.

Cúrsaí eachtracha Foreign affairs

T.V. blasted to protect languages

Le ELDRIDA

FRENCH state broadcasting is a major means by which cultural domination is exercised over nations within the state, such as the Corsicans and Bretons, who take pride in their own language and cultural heritage.

Over the last few months two major television relay stations have been blown up, costing the authorities more than £4,000,000.

EEC dole queue doubled

ABOUT two million people under 25 years of age are unemployed in the nine EEC countries. This is double the total of young people out of work four years ago, the European Commission (Common Market Executive) has reported.

Member governments have been told to do something about it by providing training schemes actual jobs...

The EEC bureaucracy is worried because more and more of Europe's young people are likely to decide that there is nothing in the EEC for them and that an alternative might be better.

—Eldrida

Crown breaking law

The Irish Civil Rights Association, has condemned, in a statement, Crown strip searches — often in the presence of male soldiers — of women travelling in Falls Road taxis in Belfast from November 24.

As well as being a gross violation of civil rights, this action is illegal, even under Section 10 of the Emergency Provisions Act, the statement points out.

CORSICA, August 14: The destruction of the relay station supplying two-thirds of Corsica with programmes from Paris was the most spectacular of a series of explosions by the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) who said: "We shall carry the struggle to the mainland, to the enemy's heart in France".

The FLNC wants total independence from France. Strength of feeling on the island can be gauged by the fact that even the moderate Union of Corsican People (aiming for internal autonomy — i.e. home-rule) have begun a campaign of symbolic defiance, including the promise to issue a Corsican identity card and to form a provisional government.

The economy is geared to emigration. "No fewer than 50,000 youngsters have left the island in the last 10 years", said a spokesman, "if it goes on, we shall be a minority in our own homeland".

Four attacks

BRITANNY, October 22nd: The bombing of a major relay station supplying TV to north-west France was claimed by Trawlach, the Breton nationalist resistance movement who said: "This attack proves our determination to pursue the fight for the sovereignty of the Breton people and nation".

This was the fourth attack claimed by Trawlach since its formation on September 29 as a new clandestine military formation with the goal of "total independence for Brittany and emancipation of the Breton people by a socialist system".

Stones and sticks against rifles and bullets... the scene is familiar to Irish readers but this picture was taken on the Israeli-occupied West Bank in Palestine.

Paris paper gives Irish viewpoints

THE publication is announced of the first issue of "Irlande Libre" (Free Ireland), a monthly paper in the French language. The title of the paper echoes that of a similar one launched in 1897 by Maud Gonne and other members of the Irish exile community in Paris.

Aim of "Irlande Libre" is to deepen understanding in France of Irish political, cultural and social life in general, and of the Irish people's struggle for self-determination and socialism. It will remain independent of political organisations, be they Irish or French, according to a statement from the publishers.

The need for such a broad-based informational paper is acute in France, where news from Ireland is either suppressed completely, or else treated from an implicitly pro-British viewpoint, the statement adds. "Irlande Libre" welcomes and needs contributions, comments, letters and criticisms from Irish people in all walks of life and of all political persuasions, the publishers state.

Public meetings

As well as fulfilling a press function, the "Irlande Libre" editorial collective plans a series of initiatives centres on the paper. First of these, a national speaking tour by Irish representatives, is already taking place.

How 'Frisco greeted Charlie

SAN FRANCISCO'S Irish community gave Britain's Prince Charles the hottest welcome he received anywhere in America, according to BBC reporters travelling with him.

For three days of his visit to the city he was followed by hordes carrying signs reading "Stop Killing Irish Children" and by hundreds of pro-Irish demonstrators carrying picket signs and black coffins, and chanting anti-Crown slogans.

Uniformed members of Na Fianna Éireann were very visible as a colour guard. People in blankets, proclaiming prisoner-of-war status, formed a quiet but chilling protest.

The non-violent crowds were firmly held back by the police riot squads using ropes, motorcycles and batons.

However, the boisterous throngs and their signs, flags and banners, calling Charles the "Prince of Torture", were much closer and more threatening than anything the heir to the British throne has met so far.

Groups involved

The ad hoc Irish Action Committee was formed to co-ordinate the work of the various organisations involved.

These were the groups involved: Na Fianna Éireann, Irish National Caucus, Troops Out Movement, Knights of the Red Branch, Irish Republican Clubs, Free Ireland Press, Equal Rights Council, An Cumann Cabhrach, People's Temple and individuals from the Delancey Street Foundation, the Dove Club, the Asian-American Community, the Texas Farmworkers' Support Group, the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional and the Socialist Workers' Party.

Volunteers put in long hours in preparation for the demonstrations. At a press conference at the Dove Club on Sunday, October 23, televised that evening, some of the Irish Action Committee's plans for the royal visit was outlined.

The first demonstration of the week was across the Bay of Oakland at a concert of the Scots Guards and Grenadier Guards bands.

As the 40 or so demonstrators were leaving a few brave volunteers decorated the bands' buses with tricolours.

Three hundred demonstrators chanting "Stop the Torture" greeted Prince Charles at a reception at the British Consul's residence on Thursday, October 27: at a ceremony at City Hall the next evening; and, again, at the Opera House on Saturday.

Irish among police

Heavy rain failed to dampen the spirits of the demonstrators at City Hall on Friday evening. "The Boys of the Old Brigade" continued to play from the top of the double-decked bus.

When the band leader asked how many of the riot police were Irish, a large number of officers raised their hands. The enthusiasm was so contagious that a couple of the officers started waltzing to the music of the band.

At City Hall, a Union Jack had been placed in the Prince's honour. Demonstrators immediately ran up two Irish flags to half-mast in honour of the Irish killed by Crown forces.

Smaller demonstrations took place at other points in his sight-seeing tour. At the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, he had to push through a crowd of thousands, including about 100 demonstrators.

The demonstrators who went into San Francisco's Financial District on Friday morning were so vociferous that the Prince had to be spirited from the Bank of America World Headquarters through the back entrance of the Chartered Bank of London — a decided change in plans.

A member of Na Fianna Éireann and her sister, a former member, were arrested the Sunday before the arrival of Prince Charles while posting signs saying "Prince of Wales (Torture) Stay Home".

They were held for an hour-and-a-half before the mass

support of the Irish community became evident to the arresting officers and the charges were dropped.

Letter campaign

A letter writing campaign to city officials began the preceding week when committee members appeared on TV, asking that people protest against the use of city facilities and tax money to entertain and protect this foreign royalty.

The city itself was decorated with thousands of posters demanding that the "Prince of Wales (Torture) Stay Home".

Demonstrators at each of Charles's public appearances carried green balloons printed "Up the IRA" as well as the usual picket signs.

Five hundred black coffins, each with a white cross and the name of an Irish person murdered by the British, were prepared to welcome Charles.

The coffins appeared at each demonstration during the week and were found hanging from signs and telephone poles throughout the city.

Balloon barrage

At the Opera House Charles actually had to wade through balloons to reach the entrance. The rotunda of City Hall was filled with 300 gas-filled, printed balloons specially placed there for his reception by the demonstrators "dirty tricks" committee.

The double-decker bus leased from the Delancey Street Foundation formed a large focal point at each major demonstration. Its height made the "Brits-Out, Peace-In" sign on its side very visible.

Authorities apparently were surprised by the numbers, organisation and vehemence of the protesters. They certainly got the message that the British imperial presence is not welcome in San Francisco.



International Tribunal on Britain's Crimes against the Irish people

182 Upper Street, London N.1. England.

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Lewis Davies (Union of Students).
Ken Livingstone (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Hamstead).
Ernie Roberts (AUEW, and Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Hackney North and Stoke Newington).

Who runs Ireland? The answer, as applied to the 26 Counties, could well be found in this table.

Three-quarters of the most important firms are foreign-owned. That, of course, means that their profits leave the state.

Sinn Féin policy is to restore the wealth of Ireland to the Irish people.

The information given here is from "Unfree Citizen", Belfast.

—Eldrida

WHO OWNS IRELAND?

THE TOP 10 COMPANIES IN 26 COUNTIES

1. Jefferson-Smurfitt Group
2. Cement-Roadstone Co.
3. Esso-Teoranta
4. P.J. Carroll & Co.
5. Fitzwillton
6. Waterford Glass
7. Comhacht Siúicire Éireann etc.
8. R. & H. Hall (Grain)
9. Irish Distillers Group
10. Brooks Watson

REALLY OWNED BY...

Continental Group Incorporated
Tunnel Holdings Ltd.
Esso-Exxon
Rothmans
Glaceries de St. Roche
Irish based, but all sales controlled by Heinz
International Seagrams

OWNING COMPANY BASED IN...

USA
Britain
USA
Britain
Ireland
Belgium
USA
USA
Britain
Ireland

Advice centre

NORTH - DUBLIN
Comhairleachairtear wishes to inform readers that an advice and information centre is being run in No. 5, Blessington Street, Dublin, every Monday (19.30 - 21.30 hours), from two, first floor.

We hope this service will be used by the public and Sinn Féin members alike," according to a statement.

"This is the first step in a new involvement for us and we would appreciate any assistance that can be offered in the form of donations, filling cabinets, furniture, wallpaper, paint and relevant books. Help us to help you."

TUCAPTA

The TUCAPTA newsletter (3p plus postage) is now available from 37 Middle Lane, London, N.8. It is a regular publication on the police operations under the PTA and the activities organised in opposition to the Act.

Crock of gold

Crock of Gold cards are still available at Sinn Féin Headquarters, Baile Átha Cliath. Conditions will apply as on other occasions: Write to: 2A Sraid Chaoimhín Iocht, B.A.C.

Pence boxes

Holders of an Cumann Cabhrach prisoners' Pence savings boxes are asked to bring them to the book stall at Aonach na Nollag, in the Mansion House, Dublin, on Dec. 9, 10 and 11.

Advertise with your friends

WHY advertise with the enemy when you can do it cheaper with us?

RATES: Classified, 5p per word (minimum, 50p); display, £1.50 per column inch. Deadline, Thursday before publication. Send "An Phoblacht" and "Republican News" to your friends: Rates: Europe, one year, £8 (rest, pro rata); elsewhere (US dollars or equivalent), 20 (rest, pro rata).

Complete this form today and send it to: "An Phoblacht", 44 Cearúg Pharnell, B.A.C., Éire (Ireland):

Name (name)

Seoladh (address)

SUM SENT (cross cheques or money orders, payable to "An Phoblacht" or "Republican News"):

Irish classes

Irish classes are run every Wednesday, beginning at 21.00 hours, in 5 Blessington Street, B.A.C.

Beannachtaí na Nollag

Beannachtaí na Nollag (Christmas Greetings) from the POWs in Portlaoise to their comrades in the Six Counties and in England and especially to those "on the blanket" in H-Block, Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

Gaeilge essence of our nationality

POSTMHALA · POSTBAG · POSTMHÁLA

MY SON'S birthday (Stephen's) was at the end of October. I sent him a card with money in it but, being wise to these prisons, I registered mine and he got it.

Altogether, he received three cards, the number of cards sent to him from members of his family, neighbours' and friends (all very kind to think of him on his birthday) would be roughly 13 or 14.

Some of them contained money. They were not registered as the senders would not think that the prison staff would keep them.

But that is what happened. It is wonderful that they can get away with this conduct. The only thing Stephen and the other lads have to look forward to is a birthday card from their family. They are deprived of even this.

I know the prison staff will deny these allegations and say the cards never arrived.

Twelve or 13 cards could not all get lost. Nor did this happen in any other prison in which Stephen has been confined.

Wakefield Prison must be a real hell hole. I am getting a solicitor to write to the Governor, get an explanation. I suppose I will not derive much satisfaction but it will at least let them see that such things do not go unnoted.

I would be grateful if you could bring it into the open, not only for Stephen's sake but for the other boys as well, who may have to go against the same problem.

—Mrs. Mary Blake, Litrcheanainn, Tír Chonaill.

After was sent originally to an Cumann Cabhrach, which asked us to publish it.

NOT MILITARY ELITISTS

A REPRESENTATIVE of the Prisoners' Welfare Group was invited on November 17 to speak at a "Middlesex Polytechnic Students' Union meeting on the subject of the Irish Prisoners of War. He illustrated the scale of the liberation war effort by referring to the fact of 1,300 Republican POWs, a statistic which showed that the Republican Movement is an organisation with mass support and not some small group of military elitists.

The audience had not been aware of how Mason's "security success statistics" were formulated. The seven days in the Castlereagh torture centre, the forced "confessions", the no-jury trials before biased judges, the lengthy sentences, the conditions in H Block (for horror) all were described.

In Britain itself there are hundreds of Republican POWs and a score or so people sentenced for political offences, and who are innocent victims of unscrupulous repression.

The brutal conditions in British jails which produced the deaths of Gaughan, Stagg, Jenkins, and member Sean O'Connell were outlined in detail. The meeting voted to submit a resolution to the next AGM supporting Republican POWs and recommending the "adoption" of a POW collection was taken to help expand production of "POW".

—PRO, Prisoners' Welfare Group, Londain, Sasana.

THE IRISH FRONT

IN THE COURSE of a lengthy letter "Activist, Derry" (full name and address with Editor) writes:

The Irish Front was formed by a group of people who were interested in the rights of P.O.s and the general situation in the Six Counties. After several discussions it was decided to form an umbrella group, a non-political alliance but with political demands. It was to have been known as the Broad Irish Front. The demands were: End repressive legislation; restore political status; grant an amnesty to all POWs; have Crown forces withdrawn.

The Front consisted of a central committee with area committees and was founded on the following member organisations: Nationalist Party, Republican Movement, Irish Republican Socialist Party, Magilligan POWs Welfare Committee; Prisoners' Dependents' Fund.

It is true that many of the Nationalist Party members have joined the New Irish Independence Party. This does not interfere with the work of the Irish Front, as it is open to any organisation which agrees to abide by the rules and the four demands as above.

As a member of one of the member groups, I know that we are very active, as indeed, has been highlighted in "An Phoblacht" and many other papers throughout the world. Therefore, we have little time for anything else let alone being involved in the new Independence Party! Would imagine that at least one of the other member groups is in a like category.

I hope that all goes well for the Irish Front and that it will continue its good work. This letter has been written to stop confusion about the Irish Front.

Doire Cholm Cille.

—Activist.

'IRISH POST'

I BELIEVE I must write you concerning the paper, "The Irish Post", which is supposed to represent the forum of the Irish in Britain. I find this hard to believe as many people have written to the paper, telling tales of torture and intimidation, letters, it would seem, they do not wish to publish.

I admit that, in the past, they have printed some of my letters concerning northern Ireland but my other letters about friends in Turf Lodge and other places in the area are never printed. Also the ones about RUC brutality. Then I thought the paper in question on Thursday was and was horrified to find letters praising Corrigan and Williams, the two women who keep the R.C. population on its knees instead of its feet.

—Alison Logue, Kíel Walk, Corby, Northants, Sasana.

U.S. PROBE PROMISED

THE Friends of Ireland, a California-based Irish coalition group, met U.S. Senator Alan Cranston in

'Wakefield staff rob the PoWs'

Los Angeles on October 22 to discuss the current human rights situation in Ireland and express opposition to American military aid to Britain.

Senator Cranston, majority whip, U.S. Senate, was presented with considerable independent documentation concerning several important issues in northern Ireland. These included Britain's extensive use of torture, their economic reasons for remaining in Ireland, CIA involvement there, U.S. military aid to Britain and how it is used, and the harassment and surveillance of politically active Irish and American individuals by agents of the British Government.

The Senator was interested particularly in the torture and harassment issues, saying: "My main concern is with human rights" and "I intend to investigate this further." He added that the U.S. government's attitude toward countries identified as human rights violators, "should be the same, whether they are our adversaries or close allies".

The Friends of Ireland coalition agrees completely with this statement and anticipates a further response from Senator Cranston when he has investigated the issues involved. The Friends also hope for action by the Senator, who is reportedly a good friend of President Carter, to end U.S. involvement in northern Ireland on the side of Britain.

Secretary, Friends of Ireland, Northridge, California, Meirice.

PROINÍAS STAGG REBURIAL

THE SENATOR McNella, Michael Gaughan, Frank Stagg Memorial Committee, New York, U.S.A., rejoices with Mrs. Mary Stagg, valiant mother of Frank Stagg, in the fulfilment of one of his dying requests to be buried and take his eternal rest by the side of his comrade, Michael Gaughan.

We extend our compliments to the decent and stalwart men who made this possible.

The achievement of peace with justice in the land that bore him still awaits fulfilment. Let us hope that this will soon come.

—Michael Hanratty and George Harrison, Memorial Committee, 376 West 48 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036, Meirice.

BRENDAN DOWD

THE FOLLOWING is a copy of a letter I sent on November 21 to Rev. John Parry, prison chaplain, Parkhurst and Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, England.

—Úna Toal (Mrs.), Bothar Íair Chinn Trí, Dún Dealgan.

Some time ago I wrote to you concerning the ill-treatment of Irish political prisoners in Her Majesty's prisons mentioned above, where you minister.

In your reply you assured me that prisoners there were never ill-treated — and that you yourself would be the first to make protest about it if it did happen. I wondered where you were while the late Frank Stagg and Michael Gaughan were dying on hunger strike?

As you will see by the enclosed press cutting, an Irish youth, Brendan Dowd, is being held in solitary confinement in Parkhurst. This boy has been kept in solitary since he was arrested in July 1975 (apart from two months only in all that period).

Are you aware that this youth is a Roman Catholic who is deprived of assisting at the holy sacrifice to the Mass? When his parents visited him they were shocked at his condition.

You may have no influence with the prison governor, as regards the punishment which he inflicts on the prisoners, but you, as a former British military man, and now a Roman Catholic chaplain, are in charge of the spiritual welfare of the prisoners where you minister. I thought, therefore, it would be your priestly duty to inquire if all the Irish political Catholic prisoners were allowed to perform their religious duties.

It would be some comfort to this boy's parents, who are now very distressed, if they could be assured that you would use your influence to have this youth released more humanely, and to insist that he be allowed to assist at the Holy Sacrifice.

This defenceless prisoner would surely get comfort from being permitted to perform his religious duties. He would accept the prospect of his LIFE SENTENCE if he had the assurance that the R.C. chaplain would help to comfort him.

We Irish have come to expect little from so-called "British Justice" and we are astonished when we hear Britain condemn uncivilised nations for doing what they themselves do daily in their own prisons. Christ said — "I was in prison and you visited me not, and as long as you did it to these my least brethren you did it to me."

This is the report in "The Irish Press" (November 16): "A young Kerryman, Brendan Dowd, now serving a sentence for life in Parkhurst prison, Isle of Wight, has been in solitary isolation for all but two months since his arrest in July, 1975, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Dowd, Rathany, Kilduff, Tralee, said."

"The Doves have just returned from visiting him and Mrs. Dowd said that in Manchester, where he was first held, he had lost 2½ stone in weight, his eyesight began to fail and he was in poor health."

"They wanted to ensure that their sons were visited by a priest and was enabled to hear Mass, as he had told them that he had not seen a priest in Parkhurst. Dowd, aged 29, was sentenced to three terms of life imprisonment in May of 1976 on charges of attempted murder and conspiracy to cause explosions."

Testimonial dinner

Clare Manor Hotel
Malahide, Dublin

21.00 — 02.00 hours.

Táille: £5 (inquiries: 314841, 592863).

A bus will leave 44 Parnell Square at 20.15 hours. Four-course dinner will be served at 21.00 hours and a céilí will follow. Tickets still available.

Féilire, 1978

And-Oifig, Sinn Féin, is not publishing Christmas cards this year. Three different calendars are available at 15p each, 25p by post, or a dozen at £1.50 by post. Envelopes to fit, 1p each extra. For a choice or mix of design, early ordering is advised.

Sinn Féin, 2A, Sraid Iocht, Chaoimhín, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire.

Christmas appeal

THERE ARE more than 100 Irish Republican Prisoners-of-War in British gaols. An Cumann Cabhrach (England) hopes to make Christmas as pleasant for them as possible.

We appeal to readers of "An Phoblacht" in England to help us to help the prisoners and their families by sending donations and contributions to: M. Holden, Box 8, 182, Upper Street, London, N.1.

All contributions will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Hands off Ireland

"Hand Off Ireland": Number-three issue is now out. Articles include: Jackie Kaye — Irish Political Prisoners in British Jails; Michael Holden — Murder Most Foul; James Martin — The RUC and Torture.

Price: 20p plus 10p postage from RCG Publications (AP), 49 Raiton Road, London, SE24 0LN, England.

SHOP AT THE CRAFT CENTRE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

SAVE money and help swell the prisoners' dependants' fund by buying Christmas cards and gifts in the Craft Centre, 44 Parnell Square, Baile Átha Cliath. Splendid collection of prisoners' craft work, jewellery, records and cassette tapes, and books are available. Why not buy a year's subscription to "An Phoblacht" and "Republican News" for a friend? A Christmas present that lasts the entire year? Inquiries: Phone 747611.

Aonach na Nollag

December 9, 10 and 11, Dublin Mansion House.

Donations and helpers needed. Committee meets every Tuesday night in 44 Parnell Square. Bf linn ar son na bpríosúnach.

JOIN SINN FÉIN

Another new cumann has been formed in London. If interested in joining write to Box Eight, 182 Upper Street, London, N.1.

For a Federal Socialist Democratic
Republic based on Community
Government

Ainm
(Name):

Seoladh:
(Address):

Send this form to: Sinn Féin, Sraid Chaoimhín, Baile Átha Cliath, Éire.

Church ploy to facilitate SDLP?

WAS THE statement last week by the four Church leaders, appealing to believers to co-operate with the forces of "law-and-order," designed to shoehorn the SDLP into coming out unambiguously in favour of the RUC, thus facilitating a return to Stormont?

Possibly. But whatever about that the statement

scandalised many people who had hoped that the logic of the sequence of events in the freedom struggle would persuade them to withdraw from politics.

In their agreed public statement the Church leaders said they "have been disturbed that serious allegations are being made of ill-treatment of suspects and prisoners."

Did they believe that they were "sugaring the pill" and responding realistically ("pragmatically") to the terrible things happening all over Ireland as a direct result of foreign control of this country, aided by native collaborators?

Their only claim to legality is the armed terror of the Crown, backed by its legalisms and the Papal Bull of Adrian IV, which authorised the attack on the Irish people in the first instance, in the 12th century. Their only excuse can be a parody of ecumenism.

Strasbourg forgotten?

Serious allegations: Four Crown reports have condemned the RUC, an integral part of the Crown forces. In Strasbourg this year the Crown forces have been found guilty of torture (so much for the euphemism - the soft word to cover the brutal truth - of "ill treatment").

The Church leaders' statement ignores those Crown reports, the Strasbourg verdict and that the torturers not only have not been brought to justice but that they have been promoted and decorated in the interim.

All four clergymen must be very well aware by now that not merely "serious allegations" are involved but a mass of evidence from victims, supported by doctors and lawyers, of deliberate, planned, institutional torture, designed to ride rough-shod over the laws of these islands, extending a wide net of illegal repression, catching thousands of young

people and casting them into jail after a charade of a non-jury trial the general aim is to put down a morally just revolt against foreign repression by hook or by crook.

The only "morality" involved in this entire process - and the Churchmen hardly can be so ill-informed to believe otherwise - is that the end justifies the means; that it is legitimate that the Crown rule all Ireland, directly or indirectly, and that any means adopted to achieve that purpose is morally acceptable.

But this runs counter to the teaching of Jesus Christ, the founder claimed by the four Churches involved.

The Church leaders have refused, it would appear, even to consider the right of the Irish people to choose to seek the form of government under which they wish to live and their relationship with their neighbours abroad.

Their right to freedom and independence, to live their lives according to majority decision, is being set aside arrogantly, once again, the Church leaders telling them that their duty is to live otherwise, as the Crown dictates, all in the name of law and order.

The Church leaders speak of the grave responsibility of all law-abiding citizens to seek to strengthen the duly constituted forces of law and order.

By whom? By the Papacy in the 12th century and by the Crown, using as its authority the Papal Bull?

We have documented in this paper the bloody history of the Papal Bull; and the Republican Movement, time and again, has pointed out that in 1918 the duly constituted forces of law and order - the people of Ireland - voted democratically and overwhelmingly for the independent, all-Ireland Irish Republic, as declared in 1916.

(Ar leantúint ar seachtain seo chugainn)

FUE ON THE RAMPAGE

(Ar leantúint ó lch. a haon)

that the ITGWU was calling on the Irish Congress of Trade Unions urgently to consider the FUE attack on trade union freedom with a view to formulating an appropriate response.

The FUE, in calling on the Lynch regime to abandon its (on the surface) reluctance to become involved to a greater extent in boss-worker relationships was prescribing for unprecedented industrial strife.

The ITGWU statement also pointed out that the FUE analysis of the Ferenka failure was faulty, refuting FUE attempts to blame

ITGWU for industrial disputes in the plant by re-stating the facts.

The recent bout of trouble in Ferenka began when the management suspended two shop stewards. It reached crisis point when management refused to reinstate them until too late.

The company also suffered from bad management and deplorable industrial relations at other levels. The turnover of 25% of staff tells its own story.

In trading, Ferenka was the inefficient branch of a multinational company with heavy losses for some of its more inefficient plants and poor enough showing for the more profitable enterprises.



As lár an chogaidh

FROM THE WAR ZONE

SATURDAY, NOV. 26

Derry: An incendiary device found in the Clupton pub in Shipquay Street was defused by enemy forces.

Belfast: Three men were kidnapped on the Springfield Road.

MONDAY, NOV. 28

Newtownhamilton: Security at the Crown forces' helicopter landing pad was breached when a booby trap bomb was planted. The bomb, however, was discovered and defused.

Belfast: Dubs Stores, Upper Malone Road, was badly damaged by fire after an incendiary device exploded. A warning was given.

TUESDAY, NOV. 29

Belfast: Andrew's chemist shop, Crumlin Road, was destroyed after a fire-bomb exploded. The Gillespie and Wilson furniture store nearby was also badly damaged when another fire-bomb exploded minutes later. A warning had been given.

Armagh: An incendiary device found in Stewart's chemist shop, Scotch Street, was defused by enemy forces.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30

Belfast: The premises of Cleland printers, Cullinstree Street, were damaged after fire-bombs exploded. A mechanical digger was

used to force an entry, to plant the device.

Two bombs exploded outside the SKF ballbearing factory, Newtownards Road. The bombs were left after a Crown forces (RUC) patrol arrived suddenly at the scene.

A shot was fired at the Moyard Crown forces (military) base, west of the city.

Four incendiary devices discovered in Ellison's dress wholesaler were defused by enemy forces.

THURSDAY, DEC. 1

Belfast: G & S Wholesalers, Gordon Street, was destroyed by fire after an incendiary device exploded.

Barr's cash and carry store, Agnes Street, was damaged extensively after three fire-bombs exploded.

FRIDAY, DEC. 2

Omagh: An incendiary device, discovered in Watterson's drapery shop, High Street, was defused by enemy forces.

Glengormley: An incendiary device exploded and extensively damaged a petrol station.

Newry: A fire-bomb was planted in the Henry Thomas bonded spirits warehouse, Canal Quay, and exploded. The premises were badly damaged. South Down Command claimed responsibility.

Belfast: Six shots were fired at a Crown forces (military) patrol at the junction of Dunville Street and Sorella Street, Falls area.

Derry: An incendiary device, found in the Anchor Bar, Ferryquay Street, was defused by enemy forces.

Republican Derry's murals are among the most striking and colourful in the country. But the political message is never ignored by the artist. The message here about the SDLP was never more apt than it is today.

Buanchuimhne.

Lochrie - Second Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of a dear son and brother, John Lochrie, O.C., First Batt., South Armagh Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, killed on action, December 6, 1975. St. Martin, pray for him.

No saint or king has tomb so proud
As he whose flag becomes his shroud.

- From his mother, brother and sisters.

IRISH CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

British army brutality protest: Assemble in Parnell Square, 15.00 hours next Saturday Dec. 10, to hear Northern speakers.

An indoor meeting (venue to be arranged) will be held at 17.00 hours. Meet the tortured men and women from Belfast.

Beannachtáí na Nollag

Christmas greetings to prisoners should be sent to this office by December 9, accompanied by 50p per greeting. Address advertisements to: Beannachtáí, "An Phoblacht", 44 Cearnóg Pharnell, BÁC.

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION

The sixth anniversary of Bloody Sunday is approaching. Prepare now for participation in it to make the demonstration the greatest of the six.

Write now to: Bloody Sunday Committee, 15 Cable Street, Bogside, Doire Chluin Chille. Bus details later in this paper. Cumainn Sinn Féin: Aire!

Suppression of An Chéad Dáil

JANUARY 1920...

IT SAYS HERE THAT SINN FEIN WELCOMES P.R. VERY, VERY STRANGE!



THE PEOPLE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT P.R. SINN FEIN IS FINISHED



R.I.C. BARRACKS ARE ATTACKED...



BURNT TO THE GROUND AND ARMS CAPTURED

