

IRELAND

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EDITORIAL

BROOKE INITIATIVE FALTERS

In the sixth week of what was announced as a ten-week process, the participants have not yet sat around a table to discuss what was meant to be the first and main business of Brooke's initiative: an internal administration for the Six Counties.

What has happened instead is a series of arguments over the venue, standing orders and chairperson for the so-called 'Strand Two' of the talks, that is talks between the northern parties and the Dublin government. Keen that this part of the talks should not be indefinitely postponed, the SDLP have insisted that all the procedural details should be agreed in advance by all parties.

The arguments where to talk or who should chair the talks may seem like fiddling while Rome burns, but they all stem from the fundamental and irreconcilable antagonism between Nationalists and Unionists in the context of the Six Counties: one side's gain is the other's loss, and political consensus is impossible. The Six-County framework is what is wrong.

And, of course, the parties have each got their own agenda to fulfill. The Unionists' main if not only reason for entering into the talks was to dismantle the London-Dublin Agree-

ment. The SDLP aim to retain or build on the Agreement and its institutionalised Dublin presence, while securing positions and a share of power in a Six-County administration. Unionists are trying to eliminate any formal role for Dublin from the scene, and are intent in sharing as little power as they possibly can.

The prospect for agreement is dim: Unionists have nothing to offer while the British continue to underwrite their intransigence with their guarantee of no change in the status of the North unless the majority there wishes it.

For Irish Nationalists, the prospect of the Brooke initiative dragging on for several more months is appalling. The parties which purport to represent them, the SDLP and the Dublin government, are not out to defend the long-term interests of the Irish people as a whole, but are prepared to assist London in cobbling together some arrangement which, like previous ones, may postpone lasting peace and justice for a few more years.

As for the British government, it is achieving at least one of its aims: to create the illusion that it is 'doing something about Ireland', and distract international opinion from British responsibility for the ongoing conflict in the Six Counties.



Sinn Féin

CONTENTS

POLITICAL	
American protests at British Queen's visit	2
REPRESSION	
Plastic bullet victims remembered	2
Plastic bullets substitute rejected	2
More Border roads re-opened	2
'Right to March' group gains momentum	2
RUC escalates brutality	3
Conference highlights human rights abuses	3
SHOOT-TO-KILL	
Shoot-to-kill inquiry to be held	4
JUSTICE	
Dutch government approves extradition	4
British pursue Dessie Ellis case	4
RUC notes go missing in appeal case	4
Maguire Seven appeal	5
Celebrations for Birmingham Six	5
CENSORSHIP	
Section 31 to be challenged again	5
PRISONERS	
Families' plight highlighted	6
1981 Hunger-Strike commemorated	6
LOYALISTS:	
Sinn Féin Councillor murdered	6
EMPLOYMENT	
'West Belfast still isn't working' - report	6
Protest against discrimination launched	7
CULTURE	
Irish language TV station?	7
IRA Military operations	7

POLITICAL

Irish American protests follow British Queen's US visit

During their ten-day tour of the US in May, the British queen and her husband faced continuous protests by the Irish/American community. These highlighted Britain's aggressive occupation of Ireland as well as the continued imprisonment of Joe Doherty in Manhattan Correctional Centre for the last eight years. Doherty has been fighting for political asylum and against the British demand for his extradition.

The address by the British queen to a joint session of the US congress was boycotted by Congressman Joe Kennedy and seven other Congressmen who said they were protesting the British occupation of the North of Ireland.

Pointing out that the tradition of the British monarchy of Irish people meant a constant reminder of the occupation, Kennedy declared this to be "the primary obstacle to peace" and represented "the human rights and economic tragedy that has partitioned a people and a nation". Later speaking from the floor of Congress, he said:

"If we can speak up against South Africa, China and El Salvador, then we can speak out against the unjust system that prevails across the sea. Let us seize the moment to send a signal that we want a change. And that change is justice in Northern Ireland."

REPRESSION

Plastic Bullet victims remembered

Relatives of plastic bullet victims marched through the Twinbrook area of Belfast on May 18th to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the deaths of two West Belfast schoolgirls. Carol Ann Kelly (12) and Julie Livingstone

(14) were killed in separate incidents in May 1981 in what the British crown forces described as "riotous situations" — a line contradicted by a number of eyewitnesses. The official inquests described the girls as innocent victims. Of the 17 people killed by this weapon, eight have been children under the age of 15.

The organisers of the commemoration, the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets, state that there have been over 500 injuries with £1 million paid in compensation. Only one member of the crown forces has ever been charged following a plastic bullet death.

Spokesperson for the campaign Clare O'Reilly, reminded people that these bullets are still being used and are "a very, very lethal weapon". Sinn Féin councillor for the area, Michael Ferguson said:

"While politicians taking part in the Brooke process, eager for an internal settlement of power, are arguing over a venue, the real issues such as the use of plastic bullets and shoot-to-kill policies and other oppressive measures developed to terrorise and silence the Nationalist voice of West Belfast are ignored. The British have shown that they are not moved by the deaths of young children by plastic bullets, but the world must know."

Plastic Bullets substitute rejected

A recommendation by the 'NI Independent Commission for Police Complaints' to replace plastic bullets with another 'riot control' weapon in the Six Counties has been rejected as a red herring by groups campaigning for the complete banning of plastic bullets.

Jim McCabe, whose wife Nora was killed by a plastic bullet in 1981, said that suggestions by James Grew, chairperson of the NI Independent Commission for Police Complaints, to introduce a less lethal kind of weapon would only ensure that deaths would continue. He was supported at a Press Conference on May 27th by ex-British soldier Bob Harker

who had used plastic bullets against the civilian population in the North, and who maintained that there were a number of official attempts to "cover up" the circumstances surrounding plastic bullet deaths, particularly in cases involving children. Harker told journalists "I joined the army for a job. I didn't join to murder and shoot little children." This was one of the main reasons why he left the British army in 1979.

More Border Roads re-opened

A border road separating the counties of Leitrim and Fermanagh and which had been closed 17 years ago by the British army, was re-opened on May 11th by local people. The re-opening occurred on the 75th Anniversary of the execution of local man Seán MacDiarmada for his part in the Easter Rising. One of the first people to come across the border via the new road was his niece Katie B Keany.

People from both sides of the border successfully reconstructed the road but their work was undone later that night when British soldiers again returned and made the road impassable.

This road-opening was one of a series in a campaign by local people living along the border to ensure that the roads remain open. Part of the campaign saw a picket organised outside Leinster House in Dublin by members of the group. A representative met with junior Foreign Affairs Minister, Sean Calleary, and handed over a petition containing over 800 signatures condemning the road closures and calling for action from the 26-County government. The Dublin government was told that they "hold the key in the situation for they have the power to stop the British government from blocking our roads".

'Right to March' campaign gains momentum

Following a public meeting in Belfast on May 15th, a Right to

March Group was formed to assert the right of Nationalists to march into Belfast City Centre. Since 1969, marches from all Nationalist areas have been banned by the RUC from entering the city centre.

Since March this year, five marches attempting to do so, the most recent on May 26th, have been banned by the RUC on purely sectarian grounds.

CITY HALL DEMONSTRATION

This sectarianism was further exposed on Monday, June 3rd, when a group of Right to March activists was brutally assaulted by the RUC during a peaceful protest demonstration inside Belfast's City Hall. The group unfurled banners in the public gallery as the council meeting was adjourning and showered the chamber with leaflets announcing details of a mass rally outside the City Hall on June 15th.

Abandoning City Hall protocol whereby security personnel are supposed to request protesters to leave, the RUC instead stormed the public gallery and physically assaulted four protesters, three women and a man. Meanwhile, Unionist councillors, incensed by the protest, shouted sectarian abuse and threats and trampled on a Civil Rights banner. A spokesperson for the group later criticised the hypocrisy of Unionist councillors who on the one hand supported RUC brutality and called themselves democrats yet who denied the democratic right of Nationalists to march and make peaceful demonstrations.

The Right to March group, which plans to expand its support base throughout Ireland, have succeeded in exposing that more than 20 years after Civil Rights protesters took to the streets of the Six Counties demanding moderate reforms, that nothing has changed for Nationalists.

RUC escalate brutality

Initial anger at the recent wave of arrests by the British military forces of young people in Belfast's Beechmount District has turned to outrage as details

have emerged of brutalisation in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre, Belfast.

The arrests, which began in the wake of an IRA rocket attack on an RUC patrol, have been concentrated on teenagers, none of whom have any connections with any branch of the Republican Movement, although some of the youths parents are well-known local Republican activists.

Intimidated and beaten during interrogations in Castlereagh, four of the teenagers were forced to make verbal or written statements incriminating themselves and are currently being held on remand in Crumlin Road Jail.

Over a dozen young people, most of whom fall within a 15 to 19-year-old age group, have been arrested and interrogated in Castlereagh. These included a 15-year-old girl arrested in her school uniform on her way home from school, and a 15-year-old boy also take to Castlereagh in his school uniform.

The brutal tactics used in Castlereagh can be clearly illustrated by the following, taken from an account of a young man who spent four days there: intensive interrogation by various teams working in pairs, starting at 9 o'clock each morning and continuing until almost midnight; was threatened with death and an assassination attack on his home; was spat at, slapped, choked and punched in the stomach; had his fingers bent backwards and had his trousers pulled down. Initially, he was not allowed to wash and denied access to a toilet.

Outraged at the harassment of their children, relatives picketed the RUC Police Authority offices in Belfast City Centre.

The families of the four young people charged are organising public meetings to discuss what action can be taken to prevent the continued harassment and intimidation of local youths and to mount a campaign aimed at securing the release of those already in custody on the strength of false statements obtained under duress and ill-treatment in Castlereagh.

Conference highlights Human Rights abuses

Human rights abuses in the North of Ireland must be highlighted at an international level if state power is to be controlled, a conference on civil liberties has concluded.

The Committee on the Administration of Justice, (CAJ) held the conference at Stranmillis College in Belfast on May 4th, to examine the use and abuse of state power. It brought together representatives of the legal profession, lobby groups and members of the public.

Workshop groups discussed the new Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Bill, the use of lethal force by the RUC/British army and secrecy and access to information.

The group expressed concern at new powers of arrest and seizure introduced under the new Bill and called for changes in the law on killings by 'state forces'. They also hit out at state secrecy and the use of public immunity certificates at inquests and in the Glór na nGael political vetting case.

Speakers included Scottish journalist Duncan Campbell, journalist Mary Holland, Maurice Hayes, the former ombudsman for the North, and Ray Byrne, the outgoing chairperson of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.

CAJ spokesperson Martin O'Brien said:

"CAJ is concerned at the serious lack of state accountability and hopes that this conference will contribute to a greater awareness of the issues involved and possible local and international mechanisms whereby people can seek redress if their rights are infringed".

BOOK

The CAJ handbook - *Civil Liberties in Northern Ireland*, Price £4.95 can be obtained from:

Committee on the Administration of Justice,
21/23 North Street Arcade,
Belfast (Temporary Address - till August 1991)
Tel: 232394

SHOOT-TO-KILL

Shoot-to-kill inquiry to be held

It has been announced that a public inquiry into the killing of South Armagh man Fergal Caraher will be held in his home village of Cullyhanna on June 22nd and 23rd.

The inquiry has been organised by the Irish National Congress at the request of the Caraher family and the local community supported by the recently formed Cullyhanna Justice Group.

The inquiry will investigate the circumstances of the incident in which Fergal Caraher (20) a married man with a one-year old son, was shot dead by British soldiers at a check-point in Cullyhanna on December 30th last year. His brother Micheál was seriously wounded in the same incident. Numerous eyewitnesses have described how the British opened fire without warning just after having told the men to drive on.

The inquiry assisted by many barristers and solicitors from Ireland and abroad, will be presided over by a panel of eminent jurists led by Michael Mansfield QC. Many human rights organisations, community groups and concerned individuals have given notice of their intention to attend the inquiry.

An invitation has also been extended to various representatives and departments of the British and 26-County governments as well as the British crown forces and the RUC.

The inquiry begins at 11am on Saturday, June 22nd. Contributions to help offset the costs of the inquiry should be sent to: The Caraher Inquiry, Bank of Ireland, Sort code 90/22/82, Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, Ireland. Account number 20158382.

JUSTICE

Dutch government approves extradition

The Dutch Justice Ministry has approved the extradition to

Germany of Irish political prisoner, Sean Hick. Hick was acquitted by a Dutch court along with two of his co-defendants for the killing of two Australian tourists in Roermond last year. One other co-defendant, Gerard Harte, was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

The German authorities are seeking Hick's extradition on charges over IRA actions against the British army in the Rhine. The Dutch Justice Ministry is also still to decide whether to extradite one of Hick's co-defendants, Donna Maguire from Newry, to face similar charges.

Despite the acquittals, the Dutch prosecutors are hoping that a British 'expert witness' will give evidence against the three which will overturn the acquittals at the appeal court. Professor Paul Wilkinson has already appeared in two other cases in the United States as a witness and the Dutch prosecutors hope that his evidence will 'prove' that all three were members of the same IRA cell as Gerard Harte. The appeal opens in Den Bosch on June 23rd.

British pursue Dessie Ellis case

The Dublin government has expressed embarrassment over the case of Dessie Ellis, an Irish citizen they extradited to Britain last November to face charges of conspiracy and possession of explosives. Dessie Ellis was extradited on the 37th day of a hunger-strike in protest against his extradition.

However, soon after his transfer, Dessie Ellis saw the original charges dropped and replaced by a different set of conspiracy charges contrary to the widely accepted 'rule of speciality' which states that an individual should only be tried on those charges on which the extradition is granted.

On May 21st, a review of Ellis's case took place at the request of the British Director of Public Prosecutions but the court ruled that Ellis should go to trial next October. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was

denied. Meanwhile, the British authorities have approached Dublin to ask permission to try Dessie Ellis under the new charges.

There is no doubt that Dublin is highly embarrassed by this new blunder, which will make it difficult for a Dublin government to justify extraditing its citizens to Britain next time round. John Murray, the 26-County Attorney General, has replied to his British counterpart that Ellis must be prosecuted under the original charges or be released.

The Ellis case illustrates the political expediency and cowardice of the Dublin government: having rushed to satisfy the request of London last year, they now find themselves landed with a controversy which shows how little they cared at the time for the legal rights of one of their citizens.

RUC notes go missing in appeal case

Fabricated RUC interview notes used to convict a young Nationalist man to 18 years imprisonment have conveniently 'gone missing' during his appeal hearing in Belfast.

At the original trial in November 1989, Barry Murray from County Fermanagh was sentenced for the alleged possession of explosives. He strenuously contested RUC claims that he had made a verbal statement of admission in Enniskillen Barracks.

At the trial Murray's defence lawyer established by means of an ESDA test* (Electro-Static Data Analysis) that the RUC notes had been fabricated. As with the Birmingham Six case, sections of the RUC notes had been tampered with and rewritten. Despite this and no corroborating evidence, Murray was convicted in a no-jury Diplock court.

'MISSING' NOTES

Further evidence of an RUC conspiracy emerged in May when Murray's appeal against conviction began. His wife had received a letter from the RUC stating that the already controversial notes had now been "misplaced" and that an investigation was underway.

On May 13th, the defence submitted that the appeal should be upheld and Murray acquitted on the grounds that the conviction was now unsafe. However, in a move indicative of the unjustness of the Diplock system, the three judges rejected this submission and accepted the prosecution's position that no new evidence had been produced.

The appeal hearing is being monitored by the Dublin government and civil rights groups as it has the potential of seriously embarrassing the British government and exposing the corruptness of the RUC and Diplock court system.

Out of the four cases in the Six Counties where ESDA tests have been applied, two individuals were acquitted and two were convicted to a life sentence and an 18-year sentence in spite of overwhelming proof that RUC notes were fabricated. The Diplock judges dismissed the ESDA evidence and upheld the convictions.

*This process screens the contents of interview notes to bring out the indentations from the writing on a previous page which are superimposed on an underlying page until it becomes legible. It can detect whether notes were taken contemporaneously or not and whether there have been changes made in the text.

Maguire Seven Cast

The ongoing appeal court hearing into the Maguire Seven case has heard how top British government forensic scientists conspired to conceal results of tests which could have led to the Maguires' release at the original trial in 1976. Instead they each served out their sentences, ranging from four to 14 years, with one of them, Giuseppe Conlon, dying in prison in 1980.

Under cross-examination, Douglas Higgs, former head of RARDE, the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, admitted that he and other scientists who carried out tests on the Maguires had been "economical with the truth" when they concealed the fact that

another explosive substance known as PETN, could "mimic" nitroglycerine. The sole evidence against the Maguires was based on forensic evidence that they handled nitroglycerine.

Defence counsel based its allegations on the contents of a restricted circulation document produced from a November 1977 seminar of scientists from government laboratories. Counsel said that when Higgs was talking at the conference about the Maguire case and said "We were all very careful about what not to say in that respect" that he was referring to the fact that PETN could not be distinguished from nitroglycerine. If this information had been presented to the jury, it is highly unlikely that the Maguires would have been convicted.

As the appeal continues, it becomes more difficult for the DPP's office to limit the damage to the British justice system and more obvious that Irish people facing politically-related charges have little chances of receiving a fair trial.

Celebrations for Birmingham Six

In an emotionally-charged atmosphere, thousands of Irish people gathered in Dublin on May 18th to officially welcome home the Birmingham Six, released by the British Court of Appeal in March after almost 17 years wrongful imprisonment.

The Six had refused to meet with premier Charles Haughey over the government's inactivity on their behalf but they did agree to meet Irish President Mary Robinson and attend a civic reception hosted by Dublin's Lord Mayor.

For the Six, however, the highlight of their visit was undoubtedly the reception they received from ordinary people outside Dublin's General Post Office, scene of the 1916 Easter Rising. Several of the men lambasted the British legal system, censorship of certain political parties and extradition proceedings between Britain and Ireland. To tumultuous applause, Paddy Hill said that in order to avoid any further

Birmingham Sixes or Guildford Fours the Irish government: "Should stop extradition now! The English system isn't fit to judge an Irish dog show, never mind Irish people." Another of the Six, Richard McLkenny asked people to "force this government to start acting for Irish people and others who are locked up for something they haven't done".

Meanwhile, the British Director of Public Prosecutions is currently considering whether to initiate criminal charges against members of the disbanded West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad, who carried out the original inquiry into the Birmingham Six Case.

At the Birmingham Six appeal hearing in March, judges said new evidence on police notes suggested that, in the absence of any other explanation, four of the detectives, all now retired, were "at least guilty of deceiving the court" at the trial in 1975. During the appeal, eight officers were alleged to have lied and the evidence of a further six was alleged to be unreliable.

CENSORSHIP

Section 31 in another legal challenge

Section 31 of the Broadcasting Ban in the South of Ireland is due to be contested in the courts on the grounds that the state television authority, RTE, is incorrectly interpreting the ban. A judicial review of Section 31 is now being planned in the High Court by workers at the Gateaux Bakery in Finglas, Dublin. Last year they were in dispute with their employer and elected a co-worker, Sinn Féin member Larry O'Toole, as their spokesperson.

RTE refused to interview O'Toole, claiming that any person who is a member of Sinn Féin will not be permitted to broadcast on any RTE programme under any circumstance. This is an incorrect interpretation of RTE's legal obligations under Section 31 as O'Toole was solely representing the views of the striking workers.

PRISONERS

Hardship for prisoners' families highlighted

A press conference was held in Belfast to launch a pamphlet to highlight the plights of families of Irish prisoners incarcerated in English jails.

The pamphlet *Double Sentence* outlines the suffering the families have to endure in travelling to visit their relatives and the campaign to have these prisoners transferred to prisons in the Six Counties to serve their sentences.

At the conference comparisons were made to the way in which Irish political prisoners are treated and with British soldier Ian Thain who was immediately transferred to England to serve a life sentence for the murder of an unarmed Nationalist and who was released back into the British army two years later.

Double Sentence is available from: The Committee for the transfer of Irish Prisoners, PO BOX 303, Tomb Street, Belfast 1.

1981 Hunger-Strike Commemorated

Commemorative marches, rallies, pageants and functions were organised in several parts of the world to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands MP on hunger-strike in Long Kesh prison in 1981.

In Belfast, over 10,000 people marched from Twinbrook, where Sands had lived, to Dunville Park on the Falls Road. The march followed the route of his funeral procession. At Dunville Park a pageant was held with poetry and song read by former prisoners and hunger-strikers. The rally was addressed by Gerry Adams who outlined the political importance of the hunger-strikes:

"In 1981, Margaret Thatcher declared that the IRA was playing its last card. Where is Margaret Thatcher today? Every political development and the relationship between

Britain and Ireland can be traced back to the hunger-strike ten years ago, including Peter Brooke's talks process. Today, the objectives of the British government are the same as during the hunger-strike, to undermine the Republican Movement, but we are still demanding our freedom."

In the United States, Bobby Sands' sister Marcella addressed over 2,000 people aboard the *World Yacht* in a tribute to the work carried out by the Hunger-strike foundation which was formed to further the aims and ideals of the ten hunger-strikers who died. During her oration, she said:

"The British government was responsible for the situation that developed in the H-Blocks ten years ago and they remain responsible for the situation in Ireland today. Until Britain declares its intention to withdraw from Ireland and leave the Irish people to decide their own destiny, then there is the possibility that what happened in 1981 could happen again."

LOYALISTS

Sinn Féin councillor murdered

Donegal Sinn Féin Councillor Eddie Fullerton was killed by a Loyalist murder gang on Saturday, 25th May.

The killing took place in very close proximity to the border between Counties Donegal and Derry. The killers are thought to have reversed their car quietly up the cul-de-sac where Eddie Fullerton lived, staged the attack and escaped within minutes.

They used a sledgehammer to break in the front door of his Buncrana home at about 2.30am. Hearing the commotion, he got out of bed and put on his trousers but when he stepped from his bedroom the men were already on the landing. At least three shots were thought to have been fired at him.

The murder bore all the marks of a coldly-perpetrated attack. His son Albert (30) said he had been told that as the killers drove off "there was no panic, no spinning or burning rubber".

The only other person in the house at the time was Eddie Fullerton's wife, Diana. She ran to a neighbour's house, bare-footed and in her nightdress, to raise the alarm.

Two hours before they struck, an isolated house was taken over by the killers. A 16-year-old girl was in the house when four armed and masked men entered. Her parents arrived home 15 minutes later and the family was tied up and held there by the killers until they left at 2.20am. They had pulled out telephones and slashed tyres on a vehicle belonging to the family, and left in a second family car. This car was later found on the northern side of the border in County Derry.

Commenting on the murder, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP said:

"Eddie Fullerton was murdered because he was a Republican and a Sinn Féin Councillor. There has been a vicious propaganda campaign by other political parties and by sections of the media and British government to demonise, vilify and censor Sinn Féin. Eddie Fullerton's murder, the latest in a long list of murders of Sinn Féin members by British or pro-British forces, can be directly related to this vicious propaganda campaign".

By Saturday afternoon the Tricolour flew at half mast outside the office of Buncrana Urban Council, while many local and national political and religious figures publicly expressed their condolences to his family and friends.

EMPLOYMENT

West Belfast still isn't working

The first report from the West Belfast Economic Forum is a record of a conference held last year to examine the success claimed by the British government's £65 million four-year plan for West Belfast's economic regeneration.

Eileen Howell, spokesperson for the Forum and Director of the Falls Community Council, declared that the British government's often revised and misleading figure of 10,000 unemployed in the area would be more accurate if multiplied by

one-and-a-half. This would take into account women, young people and those on temporary training or employment schemes.

The report is available from:
Falls Community Council
An Teach Ban
Kennedy Way
Andersonstown, Belfast 11
Price £3.00

Protest against discrimination launched

The Equality Working Group, representing anti-discrimination campaigners, held a conference on May 26th in Rupert Stanley College, West Belfast, to launch their newly published *Directory of Discrimination*. In support of the findings of the directory, they announced a new campaign of "non-violent, economic and moral protest" against companies and organisations engaged in religious discrimination in the North of Ireland "with an aim of achieving full economic equality for all citizens".

A motion, unanimously adopted by those attending the conference, condemned generations of structured institutionalised discrimination against Catholics and Nationalists as a breach of Human Rights, reaffirmed support for the MacBride Principles and congratulated those groups abroad who have campaigned for them and sought their enforcement.

The Group's spokesperson, Oliver Kearney, called for the resignation of Bob Cooper, the head of the British government-sponsored Fair Employment Commission. Cooper, an active opponent of the MacBride Principles, later claimed that a boycott would only cause suffering to the Catholic and Nationalist people, a claim reminiscent of the British governments declaration on sanctions against the South African regime.

Kearney said:

"In 15 years Bob Cooper has failed to eradicate discrimination in the workplace. If he now has nothing better to offer the latest campaign, he should at least get out of our way...We have the means at our disposal to achieve justice through our own economic muscle...and we have powerful allies in the international community".

The *Directory of Discrimination* is available from: The Equality Working Group, 108b Andersonstown Road, Belfast 11, Ireland. Price £1.50.

CULTURE

Irish-language Television Station?

Fianna Fáil, the major party to the coalition government in the South of Ireland, has committed itself to the introduction of an all-Irish television network and the announcement of its inception and the nomination of its authority is expected in June.

This development is largely due to the sterling work of Irish speakers individually and through their organisations or affiliated groups, who for many years have been agitating for a comprehensive Irish-language television service along the lines of *Sianal Pedwyr*, an all-Welsh station. The campaign has witnessed many people being jailed for non-payment of TV licence fees as a gesture of agitation for an improved service through the two existing networks, RTE 1 and 2.

It is widely believed that the predominance of English-language TV has resulted in English for the first time being the language of school playgrounds in Connemara, one of the five *Gaeltacht* (Irish-speaking) areas.

Now, it is hoped that the proposed station, RTE 3, will be sited in an Irish speaking area and have as a minimal, country-wide reception with special attention being paid to children.

While people in the Six-Counties will probably be able to receive *Teilifís na Gaeilge*, there is almost no progress in demands for a reasonable service from the two British television authorities, UTV and BBC.

IRA Military operations

Throughout May the IRA in the Six Counties have carried out over 30 military attacks against the British occupation forces inflicting serious blows to the morale of its personnel on the ground and to Britain's continuing presence.

In total, seven members of the British army and RUC, the sectarian police force, were killed while nine others were injured, four of them seriously.

The IRA itself suffered three fatal casualties when an active service unit in Coagh, County Tyrone, came under sustained gunfire from the British forces engaged in a shoot-to-kill operation on June 3rd. The Volunteers, Lawrence McNally, Michael

Pete Ryan and Tony Doris were killed when over 200 bullets were fired into their car which exploded and charred their bodies beyond recognition. In typical shoot-to-kill style, the British forces ignored their own rules of engagement by using lethal force without any attempt to challenge or arrest the Volunteers.

On May 2nd, an RUC member died in hospital as a result of injuries sustained in an RPG rocket attack the previous day in West Belfast. The IRA launched a series of attacks on British bases across the North. Middletown barracks in County Armagh was rocked by four mortar bombs on May 3rd; grenade and gun attacks were carried out on civilian workers engaged in repairing Coalisland and Carrickmore barracks; in Toomebridge an RPG rocket and gun attack scored a direct hit on a British army sangar and in Belfast 40 shots were fired at Woodbourne barracks while a British army foot patrol came under gun attack leaving Fort Whiterock. On May 25th, one British soldier was killed and two others seriously injured during a grenade attack on North Howard Street base, West Belfast. Later the same evening an RUC member was shot and killed in the Queen's University area. However, the most devastating of these operations came on Friday, May 31st, when a 2,000 lb bomb exploded at Glennane UDR base, South Armagh, killing three soldiers and seriously injuring two others. The IRA had rolled a lorry containing the explosives down a hill into the base which was almost entirely flattened.

IRA operations in Belfast, Fermanagh, Down, Armagh and elsewhere kept the British forces under increasing pressure. A newly improvised rocket launcher was used against a mobile RUC patrol in Belfast on May 20th while days earlier the security zone was again breached and a bomb placed at the headquarters of the Crown Prosecution Service injuring two RUC personnel and causing devastating damage. Civilian collaborators involved in repairing the City's Law Courts were fired at on May 13th. A director of a wholesale firm supplying the British forces was killed in Belfast on May 21st. Throughout the month, eight contractors withdrew from contracts with the British forces.

Sinn Féin's demands

● Sinn Féin's ultimate objective is to create the political conditions necessary to secure a true and lasting peace in Ireland. This can only be achieved by:

- The ending of partition arising from British rule in six of Ireland's 32 counties;
- British disengagement from Ireland and the restoration to the Irish people of the right to exercise self-sovereignty, independence and national self-determination;
- The setting of a definite date within the lifetime of a British government for the completion of this withdrawal;
- The disarming and disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment as part of the military withdrawal;
- The calling of a Constitutional Conference to which all political parties would be invited. This conference to be responsible for determining the nature and composition of an emergent national police service and the judiciary. If Britain was sincere about disengaging and was committed to an orderly transference of power, this could be achieved with a minimum of disorder; and
- The unconditional release of all political prisoners.

SINN FEIN INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE

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