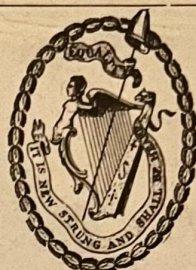


REPUBLICAN NEWS

England/Scotland/Wales 12p PRICE 10p

Vol 7 No 35

Saturday, 17th September 1977



"THE VOICE OF
REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

"WE PROMISE CONTINUED RESISTANCE" — IRA

On Wednesday the 14 September the following statement was issued by the Leadership of the Republican Movement:

"As Kieran Nugent finishes his first year in naked solitary confinement in the H-Block of Long Kesh, and commences his second, the Leadership of the Republican Movement takes this opportunity to salute the resistance shown not only in the H-Block but throughout the Prison world where our comrades are incarcerated.

While the armed struggle against British Imperialism continues, the heroic and courageous form of resistance to British dictates taking place in the H-Block, in the women's section of Armagh Prison, and in the B-Wing Crumlin Road, exemplifies the continued resistance and determination of our people.

Already 197 comrades are "on the blanket" and the prospect is that 300 will be naked and in solitary isolation by Christmas. By their treatment of these comrades the British have conceded their acceptance of them as political prisoners.

It is not without significance that support for the men on the Blanket has continued in the war ghettos, despite black propaganda efforts from the British via Stormont Castle, continued brutality in torture centres and harassment in the war ghettos.

Once again as in the "H-Block": repression has bred resistance and while that resistance continues the British Government must face the fact that eight years

of war have brought them no nearer to the surrender they are seeking.

To Kieran Nugent and his comrades we pledge our continual support. To Mr. Mason and his war machine we

promise continued resistance to his efforts at subverting the National, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural rights of the Irish People.

P.O'NEILL.....
IRISH REPUBLICAN
Publicity Bureau."

BRITS RAID

'MURPH'

—Ballymurphy,
Belfast.

Last week British soldiers raided all the houses (21 in all) at the top of the Whiterock Road, Belfast. The people in their homes were put under house arrest for between 2 and a half—3 hours.

The Brits paid particular attention to the home of Mrs Greta Fusco, whose husband only the week before was arrested and charged with possessing ammunition which was planted in the house by the Brits. Mrs Fusco and her four children had the Brits for two hours. Rooms in her home were destroyed.

The floor—boards in the bathroom and two bedrooms were lifted and not replaced. They also pulled down part of the working kitchen ceiling, and broke a window.

Since this damage wasn't listed on the search—form Mrs Fusco

Continued on Page 2.

INSIDE

16 PAGES

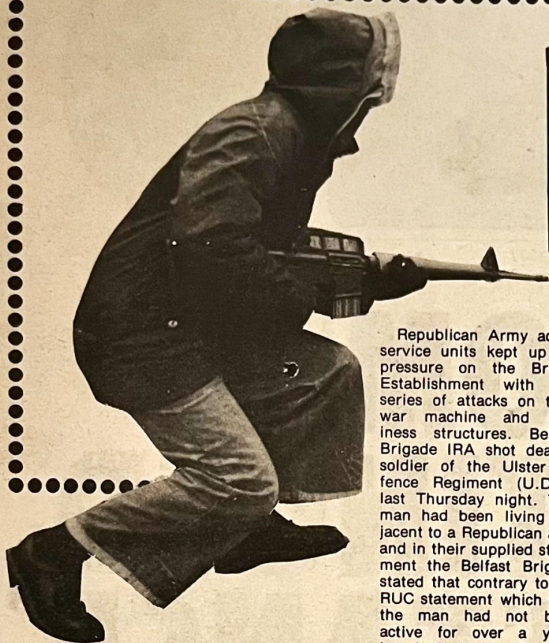
Including a Special Four Page Pull-Out on THE FACTS OF PRISONERS IN 'H' BLOCK.

BISHOP TURNS HIS BACK ON 'BLANKET WOMEN'

Members of Belfast Relatives Action Committees wearing blankets assembled outside St. Johns Roman Catholic Church on Saturday, 10 September, to publicise the plight of the boys and girls in the 'H' Blocks and Armagh Jail, and to ask the Bishop of Down and Connor the Rev. Dr. William Philbin to declare his views on the torture of the prisoners.

The Bishop obviously very much embarrassed by the question posed ("what about the prisoners in the 'H' Block") ignored the women protesters and turning his back on them as he has already done on the girls and boys in Armagh, H Block and Crumlin Rd, hurried on into the Church.





WAR NEWS

News
from the
war zone

Republican Army active service units kept up the pressure on the British Establishment with a series of attacks on their war machine and business structures. Belfast Brigade IRA shot dead a soldier of the Ulster Defence Regiment (U.D.R.) last Thursday night. This man had been living adjacent to a Republican area and in their supplied statement the Belfast Brigade stated that contrary to the RUC statement which said the man had not been active for over a year, he had been on duty during the visit of 'Ellzabrit' in August.

The statement went on to explain that the UDR soldier 'had even fooled his neighbours and work-mates as to the extent of his involvement with the British Military'.

Over the weekend Derry Brigade IRA launched a series of rifle attacks on the British Army in different areas of Derry City. The IRA also penetrated the security of a large warehouse/store at Drumahoe on the outskirts of Derry City and planting a number of fire bombs. The warehouse was extensively damaged.

A similar successful operation was carried out by South Down Command who caused widespread economic damage by fire bombing business premises in the Rathfriland and Kilkeel areas.

On Monday night East Tyrone Command ambushed a patrol of the RUC outside the town of Dungannon; in this attack two RUC men were injured. In their supplied statement

the Command pointed out "that in their press release the RUC had stated that fire was returned at their Ambushers, this is a total lie, there was no fire returned at our Volunteers".

It was only 12 hours later and not 40 miles from the scene of the ambush that the IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY was to attack and shoot dead another member of the U.D.R. This attack took place near the small town of Gortin not too far from the Garrison town of OMAGH. The dead man was an officer in the UDR.

Tuesday saw another bombing attack by the South Down Command when their Volunteers planted a number of bombs in the centre of Newry. Telephone warnings were given. In these attacks three British soldiers were injured.

IRA execute Dublin 'Informer'

"After intensive investigations into the role of Mr. John Lawlor in the recent arms and explosives discovery in Dublin. It was found that he was instrumentally involved in the seizure and had gratuitously given important information to the authorities.

"The Irish Republican Army accepts responsibility for his execution in Dublin yesterday.

"The Irish Republican Army denies any involvement in the spate of armed robberies in the 26-counties, and in the recent armed confrontations in Donegal last week. We were not involved."

Last Thursday afternoon in Dublin Mr. John Lawlor, a haulage contractor, was shot and killed in a public house. Mr. Lawlor had previously been arrested and questioned by special branchmen who had admitted that he had "helped with enquiries". A large cache of explosives and some weapons were seized in a goods yard, with which Mr. Lawlor had connections. After his killing special Branchmen were very tight-lipped and refused to discuss the case.

The IRA issued the following statement through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin:



The Brits made mother's get the children out of bed, and when they refused the Brits got the children up themselves. The people of Ballymurphy have been through a terrible lot at the hands of the Brits over the past years, but this raid was so bad that some of the women were in tears; one mother told us that she has been raided so many times, that she couldn't count them, but she said this was the worst raid she had ever had to endure, it left her in tears, and her "Nerves are wrecked".

After the Brits had left the home of Mrs Mary McGrillen in Whitecliffe Parade, she found that there was a bracelet and a watch missing, these two items are valued at roughly £30. She has a receipt for the bracelet. The Brits then went to Whitecliffe Crescent where they raided another 4 houses. They caused the same damage there as they did in Whitecliffe Parade. To date this now brings the total of houses searched in Ballymurphy in the past week to 67. The Brits are trying to break the spirit of the people in our area; these Brits are trying to tell us week after week that the Provos are beaten, when so-called soldiers start harassing women and children, then that is the act of a defeated army. The people are behind the volunteers of the Irish Republican Army.

BRITS RAID 'MURPH'

Continued from Page 1.

refused to sign. She feels that the Brits are paying particular attention to her because of the statement which she put in the 'Republican News' last week. Sinn Fein have documented 40 house searches in the area in recent days and warn people that the Brits may 'Plant' more ammunition.

We call on the people of Ballymurphy to come out onto the streets each time the Brits raid.

**MORE RAIDS.
—LATE NEWS.**

At 5 a.m. on Tuesday

the 13.9.77. The British Army invaded Whitecliffe Parade, there were 12 saracens and 3 jeeps. Out of a total of 33 houses, they raided 23. They were out for a full scale search as they had all the equipment with them including sniffer dogs, they said that they were looking for "The Rocket". In every house they went to they lifted floorboards, and left holes in the walls, they would not let anyone get a neighbour in to insure that there would be some one with them at all times.



A MONTH TOUR OF DUTY

When the Greenjackets leave the New Lodge, Belfast this week after a four month stay they leave behind a record of brutality, harassment and house-wrecking. Their stay in the area began on May 12th, during the Loyalist Strike when they assisted the outgoing Devon and Dorset Regiment remove barricades put up for the protection of the people of the area. When local people intervened and sat on the barrels a riotous situation, which lasted the entire night, was deliberately provoked by the Brits. Young men were beaten unconscious, many needing hospital treatment and even the badly injured were arrested and charged with riotous behaviour. The Green Jackets then issued their call cards around the area informing people they had just arrived and therefore denying any part in the incident on May 13th. Since then upwards of 200 arrests have been reported to our Centre many for the usual 4-hour screening or the 72 hour Section 10 during which time the victim is held in Castlereagh.

The Greenjackets have also been infamous for their foul, filthy, abusive language directed mostly towards women of the area.

On Sunday, 31st July, a

were fired, one of which went wild, after Goliath malfunctioned while being prepared in Lepper Street. The amazing thing was that not one of the Brits attempted to help the boy but just stood and looked at each other in indecision. Luckily a member of the Watching crowd had the presence of mind to pick up the boy, take him to his vehicle and get him to hospital immediately. It was almost half an hour later that the Brit ambulance arrived. This was due to the dithering of the Brits whose hesitancy could have caused greater injury to the boy. The Brit Army was annoyed that the by-stander had the sense to get the child to hospital right away thus showing them up and showed their annoyance later that night by daubing paint all over the vehicle which took the child to hospital. This vehicle had previously been daubed with paint on two consecutive nights.

In another incident local people disturbed the Brits late at night hiding in entries dressed only in part of their uniform and carrying bottles and crowbars. The officer in charge of the patrol was carrying a knife. In one particular raid a pregnant woman was hit by a heroic Brit.

bruised. One young lad of 10 years had his ankle broken when he was hit with a brick from a passing jeep. Another young boy needed 18 stitches in his mouth when he was hit at point blank range with a plastic bullet.

*By
Our New Lodge Rd.
Correspondent*

Last week after a successful operation against the Green Jackets in which one member died, armed Brit thugs went on the rampage of beating and arresting.

Statements were issued to the media and these were completely ignored, unlike the statement by the Brit "Peace-People" on the killing of a soldier which received complete coverage.

During the Brits follow-up operation a young man (who was under doctors' care) lying in a sick bed was dragged from his home and beaten before being thrown in the back of a landrover and taken to Castlereagh. There were about 60 Brits in attendance and this naturally drew a crowd of men, women and children. The Brits in an obvious attempt to provoke a riot situation abused and



insulted the people who had gathered. But some members of the Local Sinn Fein Cumann were on hand and insured that the Brits did not get their way. One house was raided three times in less than twenty four hours. In another incident 20 houses in Sheridan St. were raided by Brits and RUC.

On Monday afternoon the Brits raided a house in Singleton St. The owner of the house a young man living alone went home when he was told that the Brits has busted his front door. A friend who was with him was refused admission and was physically thrown into the street. During the search the young man was badly beaten, his face and eye were badly swollen. When the Brits left the house 2½ hours later they left the house uninhabitable. Floor boards were ripped up, walls were dug out, the ceilings were pulled down, a clock and radio were smashed and clothes were thrown all over the place. Even the electric sockets were pulled out.

Members of Sinn Fein went to photograph the damage and while they were there the Brits returned using the excuse they were arresting the young man. One female member of Sinn Fein intervened stating that an ambulance had been sent for to take the man to hospital. Then she herself was assaulted and arrested for taking photographs. She was later charged with assaulting a Brit. The same day a young pregnant woman was arrested and held for three hours for supposedly non-co-operation.

After an article appeared in the 'Republican News' giving details of this incident and home of the Sinn Fein member came under attack at 2.00 a.m. The windows upstairs and downstairs were broken by large pieces of concrete.

Neighbours heard the patrol running away. The young woman was alone with her two children at the time and one of the children narrowly escaped injury when one of the pieces of concrete hit the bed where he lay. Another house in a nearby street also came under attack a few minutes later. The front window was smashed by the same type of concrete used in the first attack. In this house an elderly woman, her invalid husband and handicapped daughter were all asleep at the time. In this incident neighbours also heard Brits running away.

Every night young men and women are being accosted by these thugs especially now in the last few days of their tour. Preying on young boys late at night is a speciality with these thugs so we warn people to be on their guard.

The home of one young man who is at present in Castlereagh under Section 12, which is a seven day lift, was raided three times in the one week. Another young man who is also at present being held under Section 12 has been arrested every other week. We the people of New Lodge expect no quarter from her Majesty's Henchmen (and get none) but we must deplore the media's refusal to investigate and publish the allegations laid at the doorstep of the British Government's armed wing.



THE WAY BRITISH SOLDIERS LEAVE A HOUSE AFTER A RAID

seven year old boy was wounded in a shooting incident by these Brits. Four days previously people in the Dawson Street area reported an abandoned car to the Brits who examined it and assured the people that it was quite safe. Then on Sunday night the Brits arrived complete with 'Goliath' (the robot bomb expert). When neighbours told them that they had said that it was completely safe they were told that the RUC had informed the Brits that the car contained a bomb. Goliath was set to work and in the process three shots

During the Queen's visit things were particularly worse in the area. Stone-throwing became a daily occurrence and the young boys were deliberately provoked by these thugs. The Brits came into the area with their jeeps laden with stones and bottles which they threw at anyone who happened to be about. An 80 year old woman was hit with eggs as she stood a few yards from her own home. Her coat was badly stained and when she challenged the patrol concerned she was violently kicked by one burly Brit, leaving her leg badly

BOY ENDS UP IN CHILDRENS HOSPITAL

On Tuesday the 6th Sept young Malachy McErlan (Aged 13) was watching a football match on the Oldpark playing fields when he was arrested by a patrol of the British army (Green Jackets). Malachy was then brought to North Queen street RUC/British Army Barrack where he was screened and then released

after two hours. At the time of his arrest he was wearing only a light T-shirt, and while in North Queen Street had complained of the cold. On arriving home his parents had noticed that he was developing a bad cold. Next day he was admitted to the childrens hospital

with a serious throat infection and pneumonia.

Sinn Fein accuse the British Army of the deliberate harassment of young children in the North Belfast area and it is they who are responsible for the serious ill health of Malachy McErlan.

R.A.C. PROTESTS IN ARDOYNE AND SHORT STRAND

The Central Relatives Action Committee organised a rally in the Ardoyne area on Sunday September 11th. This rally is part of the present programme of activity, whose aim is to mobilise people in defence of Political Status.

The speaker on behalf of the Ardoyne R.A.C. said she and all the other members of the R.A.C. had been engaged for the past 18 months in the struggle on behalf of the POWs. They were fighting for all the prisoners behind bars, because they resisted British Army occupation of the 6 Cos. She pointed out that the prisoners in H 5 were in their cells 24 hours a day, only let out for five minutes to empty their slops, and even then to enforce their isolation they are not allowed to speak to each other.

The speaker from the Andersonstown R.A.C.

said she saluted the men of courage the men in 'H' Block, whose spirit would not be broken, despite the naked isolated state in which they are forced to live. She said we should not forget the gallant band of women, the women prisoners in C-Wing Armagh Jail, who have shown by their determination that they will not bow to the "Criminalisation Policy" of the British Government. We will not cease our struggle until we have won an amnesty for the political prisoners. The speaker for the Central Relatives Action Committee said she found the attitude of the mass media in Britain hypocritical to the question of political prisoners, while they went into hysterics about prisoners in Russia and Rhodesia, their silence was deafening on the question of the torture being used against Irish Prisoners in British Hell-holes.

The Short Strand Relatives Action Committee held a March And Rally in the area on Saturday September 10th. This march was held in the face of harassment from the R.U.C. Many members of the Short Strand Relatives Action Committee were visited in their homes by the R.U.C., who threatened prosecutions for previous marches in the area in defence of Political Status. We are determined to continue the struggle to defend the special status of the POW's.

A letter from 'H'-Block from the prisoners from Short Strand was read. It pledged their determination to continue the fight for political status, and appealed for continuing support in the streets.

Speakers stressed that the battle for Political Status was to establish that a struggle for National Liberation was being waged in Ireland. We reject the bogus claim of the British Government that our POW's are criminals. The criminalisation policy of the British Government is an attempt to fool Irish and International opinion that the British Army is not oppressing the Irish People. But the people in the Republican Ghettos know full well the reality of the mayhem perpetrated against the Nationalist minority.



SHORT STRAND DEMO.

One speaker warned that there was an attempt by the mass media to smother all information about the conditions of the prisoners in 'H' Block Long Kesh, and C Wing Armagh Jail. A policy of systematic cruelty against the political prisoners has long been an important part of the present strategy of the British Government. We can best support the POW's by continuing our activity in the streets.

Another speaker warned of the link between the Castlereagh Torture Centre and the Criminalisation policy of the British Government. It was here that the false confessions were extracted using physical and mental torture. These confessions were used by the Diplocks Courts to send people

to 'H' Block, and C Wing Armagh Jail. Therefore in struggling against the torture at Castlereagh we are attacking an element in the Criminalisation policy of the British Government. Likewise the Diplock Courts were glorified Sentencing tribunals whose only function was to give a legal stamp of approval to the torture methods of the RUC Special Branch. The trials people got in these courts were a farce, even by British Imperialist standards.

The Short Strand Relatives Action Committee will continue in the future to fight for the POW's.

P.R.O.
CENTRAL RELATIVES
ACTION COMMITTEE.

R.A.C. DUBLIN PROTEST



A group of women from Belfast's R.A.C. went to Dublin last week to protest in blanket's outside the American Embassy, and to hand in a statement to the American Ambassador, condemning Carter for his

silence on Human Rights in Ireland.

They also had a very successful picket outside the G.P.O. in O'Connell St. handing out leaflets and books on murder and torture by the British Army and RUC.

PRISONER FORCEABLY SHAVED

On the 8th September, a prisoner, on the eve of being moved to Crumlin Road Gaol for his trial, refused to shave himself because his razor was locked away. (Ask in infection broke out when he used any razor but the one issued to him by the

Doctor). The prisoner explained this to the wardens, but as expected a deaf ear was turned to the explanation. The P.O. of the block ordered the prisoners to be shaved. Immediately he was isolated in a cell and 3 warders came into him.

Two of them held him down whilst the third forcefully shaved him. The result of this obscene behaviour was a badly cut face and neck for the prisoners and the breaking out of the rash, which is extremely irritable and uncomfortable for him.

VISITING RESTRICTED

On Monday August 29th in order to cope with the ever increasing numbers of remand prisoners we were informed that all visits must be taken in a newly erected visiting centre, instead of the usual "boxes". These at least provided some privacy, but the new system is completely open and is,

to say the least of it, most embarrassing for both prisoners and relatives. Every word spoken can be heard every act or gesture can be observed.

In protest against this the prisoners refused to accept their visits and both they and their visitors protested against the new system, but to no avail.

Prisoners we may be, but we are still human beings. We are deprived of our liberty, must we and our visitors be deprived of our dignity as well.

Is Mise, Republican Remand POWs C. Wing H1, H-Block Long Kesh.

Solidarity Message for the 'Blanket Men'

We, the Republican Prisoners 'A' & 'C' Wings Crumlin Rd Jail pledge our support for our comrades on the blanket in the 'H' Block; B Wing and Armagh.

We especially pledge our support to our comrade Kieran Nugent, who should have been released last Wednesday but be-

cause of the vindictiveness of the Brit regime will be forced to serve the same period of time he has just finished. In solidarity with our comrades staged a one day token hunger-strike on the 14th.

United we stand. Republican POW's. 'A' & 'C' Wing.

DRIFTING ALONG THE ORANGE WAY

Peter Dowling examines Brit plans and options. He looks at how their decreasing commitment to "power-sharing" is opening up increased repression and steps to integrations with Britain.

"Power-sharing" within the six counties remains the publicly stated aim of the Westminster government.

Chief-Brit Mason insists that nothing less than "power-sharing" will be allowed in any future "Ulster" parliament. And certainly Brit policy has been concerned with ensuring that any "devolved" government should have some degree of "legitimacy" amongst not only loyalists, but also nationalists.

The SDLP has been a key weapon in attempting to achieve such "legitimacy" in nationalist areas. But now we have the openly sectarian Unionist timing of the visit of Eliza-brit. And the new ill-fitting clothes of nationalism being hurriedly put back on by the SDLP.

Such events dictate that this is a good time to take a step backwards and have a good look at what the Brits are up to. Both with respect to their overall plans and their possible options.

STABILITY AND NORMALITY

Their overall strategic aim remains getting "stability and normality" throughout Ireland. But their well-layered long-term plans for "pacification" through a puppet 32-county Free State have been firmly shelved.

The 1974 UWC stoppage made them realise that their Orange Frankenstein was not prepared to follow it's imperialist master's lead.

Open removal of the Protestant Ascendancy was not to be tolerated by the Orangies as earlier civil rights marchers had found to their cost.

And now over three years after the UWC stoppage smashed the Sunningdale Agreement, the timing of the visit of Eliza-brit shows how determined the Brits are to show themselves loyal Unionists. A visit precisely timed to best cement the Union and protest partition.

Several years ago the "Council of Ireland" part of the Sunningdale package suggested gradual moves to a United Ireland (under Brit control). But now such moves are very much a thing of the past.

The "all-Ireland dimension" to the Brit "solution" to the "troubles of Ulster" has disappeared into the distant darkness of future decades.

POWER-SHARING

But the "power-sharing" part of the Sunningdale package still remains the Brits' preferred option for any new six county administration. For they desire some form of "accommodation" between the Orange fur-coat brigade and the Catholic middle class as represented by the SDLP. Such an arrangement being the most suitable to bring about their kind of "stability" in the six counties.



by PETER DOWLING

The Brits recognise that to undercut the militant base of popular republicanism they require some "Catholic" representation in any new administration.

They thus continue to make attempts at the impossible. To reform away the sectarian "aspects" of the Orange statelet in order to produce "normality". Puppets such as Eliza-brit, thus make empty appeals to "forget the past." Such advice is directed as much to loyalists as to republicans.

ULSTERISATION

So the Brits' policy of "Ulsterisation" has sought to involve both unionist and nationalist sections of the community in achieving "peace".

In the political arena of government, it is to achieve a formula "acceptable" to both communities.

On the military front, through the "primacy of the police", and the "criminalisation" of political prisoners, to attempt to isolate the militant republicans (and militant loyalists).

Thus to win significant support for the "security" forces from nationalists as well as loyalists. As an added bonus, last year's "Peace Movement" came to hand as a useful weapon for "pacifying" the nationalist areas.

But the Brits have failed. On the one hand, there has been the stubborn intransigence of the Loyalists in clinging on to the Protestant Ascendancy and all it's symbols.

On the other hand there has been republican resistance.

So it has not proved possible for the Brits to find their required "acceptable formula for devolution of real power and responsibility."

SHOOT-TO-KILL

After the May '75 Constitutional Convention, "shoot-to-kill" Craig was the first of the Loyalists to see that the Brits would not openly give them what they wanted, a strengthened Stormont.

So he came up with a "voluntary coalition" formula intended to maintain the Ascendancy, while involving token Catholics in government. But despite his staunchly bigoted reputation, he could not sell the deal widely enough, and his proposals did not take off. In fact Craig was "discredited" and Paisley became more central.

SMALL 'G'

More recently, Molyneux as UUUC leader at Westminster, proposed that what mattered was not legislative power, but administrative devolution. He thought; "all political parties should automatically participate in proportion to their elected representation."

Word came back over here that, Molyneux was selling out. An Orange storm blew up. West threatened to resign from the Unionist Party; so Molyneux apologised and said it was all

a mistake. He was only talking about local government with a small "g".

So the Brits have continued to be faced with a stalemate on the political front. But the longer such a stalemate goes on the more likely are the Brits to accept a reactionary pro-Loyalist "solution".

IMPATIENT PAISLEY

But Paisley and other loyalist "militants" got impatient. They organised the UUAC stoppage earlier this year. Their twin demands were "Step up the fight against the IRA" and "An immediate return to Stormont".

The first demand provided Mason with a convenient opportunity to announce a new "security package". This was a further step in "Ulsterising" the military front through strengthening the local "security" forces.

The second demand was clearly unacceptable to the Brits. They were not to be rushed into setting up a regime which could not command significant support from both communities. Such a regime would not have been "stable" enough.

So the stoppage had to be broken, which it was. But a significant drift down the Orange way took place. The Paisley threat was recognised and defeated by concessions, as the Mason meeting with the Ballylumford power workers goes to show.

ORANGE FRANKENSTEIN

For the Brits are certainly not prepared to confront loyalist reaction head-on. This is not only for reasons of the strong historical links between the Brit ruling elite and the Orange fur-coat brigade, but also for practical strategic reasons.

The Orange Frankenstein remains an important weapon in reserve for dealing with the revolutionary threat of republicanism, posed by the nationalist people through their vanguard the Provos. Therefore for the Brits, the Orange card must be trimmed and firmly held in check, but not destroyed.

To openly take on a simultaneous war with both Orange and Green would be too much for them. The result might be red. Both a bloody Britain and an independent socialist Ireland.

This is the political background and Brit-approach which makes possible the current alliance between the Brit Labour Party and the Westminster Official Unionists.

ELECTORAL PACT

The possibility of sudden electoral death for the Labour government, has hastened Brit backing for the Unionists. But the electoral pact is not the basic reason for the Brit drift.

It is the Orange way. The pact is just to other Orange current adding to the existing strong under-currents.

If the electoral pact were to break then the Orange drift would hardly halt. If the Tories get back in at Westminster then the drift would hardly more likely turn into a flood. Even though the cold shock of "office" would dampen down the more wild Tory rantings.

So we can conclude that while Mason verbally backs "power-sharing", in practice the Brits are increasingly "forced" along the Orange path. They are increasingly backing openly Orange positions while keeping at bay Orange space-men such as Paisley.

NATIONALIST CAMP

Recognition of this drift has led to serious disturbances

in the constitutional nationalist camp. Causing moves to forming a new nationalist party and causing a green shift in SDLP policy.

The SDLP shift to an openly nationalist position serves two functions. Firstly it is an attempt to force Brit policy back towards "power-sharing" through threats of passive support for "republican rebellion". And secondly they genuinely realise that to survive as a political organisation feeding off the nationalist community, they need to distance themselves from the increasingly open Orange path being trod by the Brits.

In contrast to this growing concern in the constitutional nationalist camp, there is a spreading feeling of smug satisfaction in official Unionist circles.

ORANGE GAINS

The Unionists see the following gains coming their way.

More seats at Westminster (and a chance of more places in the House of Lords as well); increased "security" (that is, increased repression and brutality directed against the Catholic community); increased Brit resolved to maintain the Union as emphasised by the timing of Eliza-brit's visit; increased Brit finance to bolster the crumbling economy.

So while Brit policy remains to foster a local regime with as much meaningful "Catholic" support as possible, this option has narrowed down. Increasingly the Brits realise that any new set-up will have to be openly Unionist with little hope of significant "Catholic" participation, both because of Loyalist intransigence and republican resistance.

TWO CONSEQUENCES

This makes for two consequences.

First it opens up the road ahead to being one of even greater Brit repression against republican militants, and against popular resistance areas like Turf Lodge. This is because the dangers of "antagonising" nationalists and their "official" representatives becomes less relevant to current Brit "solutions".

Second it points to the Brit need for various increased measures of integration of the six counties with Britain. The more the likelihood of any new Stormont being openly Loyalist, the more the Brits feel the need for "checks and balances".

The deeper the shade of local Orange power, the more are steps of integration necessary, in order to keep a "ball and chain" on the Orange Frankenstein.

In such a way Britain seeks to remain the effective overlord of the six counties; and continues to maintain the role of guardian of "stability".

TWO QUESTIONS

In conclusion, the Brits verbal insistence on "power-sharing" can be seen as a cover while the Orange drift continues. The longer we go on, the more the Brits realise their failure. An "agreement" on a "reformed" Stormont is not possible.

So "ulsterisation" is stepped up, repression is stepped up, and the need for overall "guarantees" through integrative measures is stepped up.

The question for the Brits becomes to what extent can they rely on the Loyalists to maintain "stability" for them.

The question for us remains to what extent we can organise popular resistance, and step up the national liberation war, in order to force the Brits out, despite their plans to stay.



COMMUNITY POLICING

COMMUNITY POLICING A NECESSITY

Liam O'Donnell in his reply to Connall Cearnach's article on Community Policing (3.9.77) claimed that it did not "attempt to give the reader a proper analysis of what role a modern police force has". This would appear to be an unfair criticism of an article which was obviously written in a very general context and no doubt designed to generate open debate on a subject of immediate importance to the Republican Movement since it is one of the corner stones of the People's Assembly programme.

Connall correctly points out that condemnation of the RUC, in the absence of an alternative, is a negative approach to the whole subject of policing, (just as condemnation of British imperialist rule, in the absence of a revolutionary political alternative, would be negative). An example of such an alternative was the system of People's Courts operated between 1918 and 1922 by the IRA in the South and South West of Ireland. This system was backed up by a Republican police force which enforced the decisions of the courts; decisions which were effective up until the Free State Settlement when the Courts system was dissolved in favour of existing British

structures. Such a precedent, and its corresponding success, would tend to contradict James Daly's generalised assertion (RN 10.9.77) "that the idea of community policing is a weapon in the arsenal of counter insurgency."

Both James Daly and Liam O'Donnell have validly drawn attention to the British war machine's attempts in 1973 to divert the IRA into a Community Policing role, in Belfast's Andersonstown area, and emphasise the dangers which such a strategy posed. Implicit in both articles however is the patronizing suggestion that the IRA has not learned any lessons from that encounter and would allow itself to be diverted along a similar path in the future even to the extent that they



would allow those involved in Community Policing to know "in depth what went on in all the areas" (Liam O'Donnell). Neither makes the point that although that particular strategy failed the British war machine realised that the rapidly growing level of 'criminal' activity in the Nationalist ghetto areas was gradually undermining the credibility of the IRA who 'controlled' the areas, and therefore, in the last analysis, would



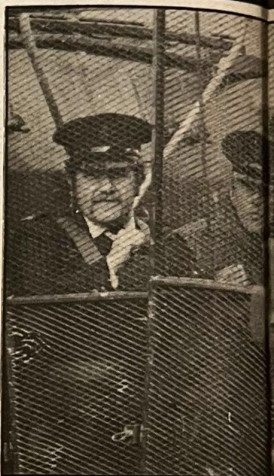
by

Vindicator

have the same effect, the diversion of IRA resources to combat this problem. The level of 'criminal' activity, as Connall Cearnach points out, "is wearing down the will and morale of the people," as contact "on the ground" would confirm; contact which would reject James

Daly's statement that "there are some instances of petty crime and vandalism." To acknowledge the reality of the present serious situation in the Nationalist ghetto of Belfast caused by escalating 'criminal' activity is hardly "whipping up hysteria" (James Daly). It is extremely unlikely that in developing an organisation to combat this problem the Republican Movement would "provide enforcement for Westminster or Stormont laws" (James Daly).

Connall makes the point that "a community police force cannot emerge overnight", and is unfairly quoted about his definition of its composition. He argues that those involved "should be respected individuals beyond reproach" (RN 27.8.77), a healthy criteria. He does not use the word 'respectable' as quoted by Liam O'Donnell. There is a fundamentally important



distinction here since an IRA volunteer would be "respected" (by the local community) whereas an SDLP politician would be "respectable" (in this context pro-establishment).

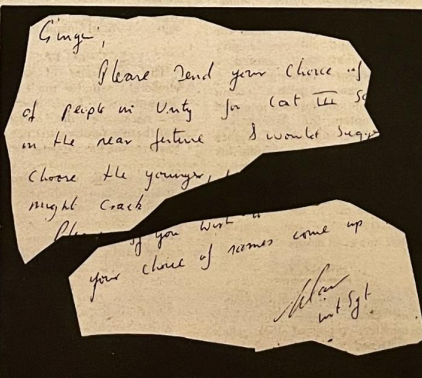


CONCENTRATE ON YOUNG, R.U.C. MEMO INDICATES

AS has been often pointed out in this paper the British Army and RUC concentrate on the young; it is worth noting how many young people are in jail today through being unable to withstand the mental and physical torture inflicted on them in places like Springfield Road RUC barracks and Castle-reagh RUC barracks. Republican NEWS received this letter with a supplied statement from the Belfast Brigade. The statement gave us the following information:

"This letter was received by our intelligence from within the RUC barracks at North Queen Street Belfast."

The Letter Reads:
"Ginger,"
Please send your choice of 4 names of people in Unity for cat. III screening in the near future. I would



suggest you choose the younger, weaker characters, who might crack, rather than the old hands. Please could you send in the diagrams and details of the brown horse and Tavern bar as I asked

a few days ago. If you wish to talk over with me about your choice of names come up P.M. Monday."

The signature is unreadable but looks like "Alan Int. Sgt.". "Int." possibly standing for 'Intelligence'.

As a Republican and a Socialist, I would like to comment and air my humble views on your very interesting article, "Community Police Debate".

Firstly, may I say that I have little or no education and that my writing and vocabulary of any language is practically 'nil'. I do have working knowledge of people and their ways especially "Poor People" and that when your newspaper talks of a Community Police Force to contain, guard or eradicate the criminal element within our midst, I feel that I must speak out of behalf of those people like myself on this subject.

We don't need a Police Force of any description; we do need Education and Help. The Republican Movement doesn't do either of these for us in practice, only in theory. If someone steals of another person and is caught after a number of times, his knees are shot off, after warnings. Does this help anybody? Does the "thief" just steal because he likes to steal? Or does he do it out of want and need? What about shopkeepers, publicans and Bookies etc., who blatantly use our tragic War situation for their own personal gains, by putting 1p or 2p extra on every item they sell or make to the poor oppressed people of that particular area.

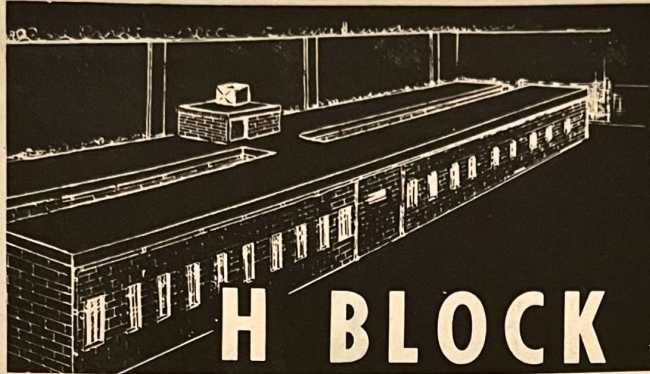
Is this not stealing. Why have none of these Robber Barons been prosecuted for their extortion???

About Vandalism and Thuggery etc., are these People educated who commit such anti-People acts? No, Mr 'Editor, they are Poor People, the uneducated People who don't know any better and don't know what else to do. They are shunned by the Republican Movement, tramped upon by Imperialist Forces of Occupation and are generally messed about. I say to you Mr Editor and to the whole Republican Movement to get down of your high horses and really help these People. Go into their homes, become part of them

A LETTER

EDUCATE THE

SPECIAL BULLETIN



H BLOCK

Republican forces only operate under responsible command, and exercise such control over certain resources as enables them to carry out sustained and concerted military operations in accordance with Protocol II added to the Geneva Convention in June 1977. This gives them rights similar to those of P.O.W.'s, including amnesty when the conflict ends, that have the force of international law.

From: "The Legitimacy of the Claim to Political Status of the Irish Prisoners-of-War." (See page 4)

THE FACTS

Kieran Nugent was sentenced to three years imprisonment on 14th September 1976 for an 'offence' allegedly committed after 1st March that year. He was the first Irish Republican prisoner brought to H-Block in Long Kesh to serve his time as a 'criminal'. The struggle commenced immediately when Kieran told the authorities that they would have to "nail prison gear to my back." His own clothes were removed and he refused to don the uniform of servitude and was then thrown naked, except for a rough blanket, into his cell. He was not allowed any occupation or reading material apart from a Bible. No association was allowed with other prisoners who began to arrive. He had no letters, no parcels or papers. In recent months some men have, on advice, accepted a monthly visit and they now receive a single letter per month.

crimes" committed after 1st March for which special category could not be claimed. There were 44 prisoners of a "similar type" who were following the prison rules. The H shaped units were of the most modern design and had oil-fired central heating. Each block cost at the time of construction £1 million, i.e. £10,000 per cell, at least £15,000 at to-day's prices. "Prisoners who refuse to work or wear prison clothing, are by their own choice, denying themselves of most of the facilities available to other prisoners including visits, said the Northern Ireland Office. "Refusing to follow the prison rules is an offence against discipline, and the punishment for this may include loss of remission and cellular confinement. During this period mattresses and bedding would be removed during the day...Prisoners are not allowed to remove bedding from their cells, they should wear all or some of their prison clothing."

Their frenetic determination was to obliterate the memory of their defeat in 1972, when in the wake of the fall of Stormont William Whitelaw yielded to the overwhelming force of the Republican hunger strikers in Crumlin Road Gaol backed by a united risen people and granted the sentenced Republican prisoners Prisoner of war status. So Rees put the whole legal process, the courts, the police and the prisons on a war footing. Arrests and charges were announced week by week in the way captured aircraft or enemy dead were in more conventional wars.

The great success of 1976, orchestrated by the mind-bending peace people, was that 662 Provos were charged of whom almost half were "high-ranking officers". Whitelaw was wheeled into the House of Lords to make an even more public confession of past sin. "I was utterly, wholly, and entirely wrong in the creation of special category status." Even British history had to be revised hastily; "It looked as if the Government's resolve in dealing with terrorism at the time was weakening." Roy Mason repeated that there would be no amnesty. The risen people could be killed or maimed at will. No more compensation was to be paid to 'terrorists.' The teams of Interrogators in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre, Strand Road Police Station, Derry, Omagh, Cookstown, Coalisland, Dungannon, had to be re-inforced by the Regional Crime Squad which blatantly used torture, and they had to lean ever heavier to keep up with the ever rising target of charges and convictions that Rees and later Mason set for their Weekly Press Conferences. On 4th March 1977 Concannon admitted that there were 70 prisoners "on the blanket."

During the day his mattress was taken away and he was forced to sit on the floor. Later when the numbers who were protesting rose to fourteen their blankets were removed and this meant that they were naked all day and unable to leave their cells for any purpose with self-respect and dignity.

A statement from the Association for Legal Justice (Irish News 8th November 1976) said: "Complaints made by relatives and other concerned persons to the Association clearly indicate firstly that the bedding material is only brought in at night and that a specific order has been issued totally forbidding these prisoners all use of any blanket covering whatever on the necessary occasions when they have to leave their cells." In addition the prisoners were frequently severely beaten as brutal warders tried to force the prison clothes on them and coerce them to conform to criminal status.

Fr. Faul, who has great experience in acting as a chaplain to prisoners bitterly criticised the Northern Ireland Office for arbitrarily changing its rules to inflict the maximum suffering especially on the younger prisoners. He said (Irish News 23rd November): "They are

concealing the fact that there was a deliberate change of arrangements by order on Friday week last.

"Up till then prisoners were allowed to wear a blanket outside their cells. They now say they are not permitted to take bedding out of their cells. "This is an evasive way of concealing the fact that a deliberate change was made to impose the maximum humiliation and suffering on young prisoners in H-2 block.

"Older men in H-1 sit in their cells with blankets around them and food is brought to them. But the young prisoners in H-2, those in the 18 years group, are compelled to go to the canteen stark naked to collect their food. Likewise, they have to go to the toilet and wash house without any cover."

"One would expect, in the interests of decency, that they would be allowed to cover themselves with a blanket in the traditional fashion," Father Faul added.

MASSIVE CAMPAIGN

The Northern Ireland Office launched a massive campaign against the 14 defiant ones over the weekend 21st-22nd November 1976. All of them had been convicted of "serious

FURTHER INFRINGEMENTS

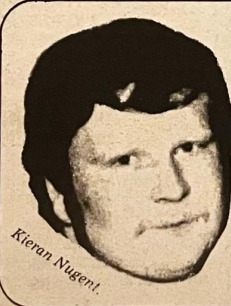
In March 1977 the protesting prisoners' rights were further infringed when they were not allowed the means to shave and were only allowed to wash once a week.

ABUSED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

Sentences followed lengthy remands in custody which followed charges. Jonathan Taylor, a solicitor, who defended six U.D.A. men sentenced to six years imprisonment each for hi-jacking in the wave of protest that swept Loyalist areas at the announcement of the phasing out of "Special Category Status" said that the courts were being abused by the "security forces" for political purposes "tending as it does to dupe a prejudiced public into believing that the security forces are solving more murders than in fact they are."

CONTINUED ON
PAGE FOUR

IRISH REPUBLICAN PRISONERS DENIED STATUS — FULL LIST



Kieran Nugent.

Kieran Nugent became the first Irish Republican prisoner to be incarcerated in the now notorious H-Block of Long Kesh on the 14th September, 1976. Since then 171 of his comrades have been sentenced, the bulk of them on fictitious 'confessions' concocted by the RUC Special Branch in the various torture centres throughout the occupied North. The names of all those prisoners, including the militant girls in the basement block, A-Wing, Armagh Prison, are contained in this special bulletin.

195 PRISONERS OF PRINCE

Names of Irish Prisoners of War now Struggling and Suffering for political status in gaols in the 6 Counties.

ARMAGH GAOL

RITA BATESON
ROISIN BLACK
SILE DARRAGH
SHIRLEY DEVLIN
MAIREAD FARRELL
PEGGY FRIEL
LORRAINE HALPENNY
EILEEN MORGAN
UNA NEILIS
EILISH O'CONNOR
ROISIN ROUSE
ANNE-MARIE QUINN
MAIREAD NUGENT

A WING BOTTOM FLOOR

THE BONE 5 YEARS
THE MARKETS
SHORT STRAND 5 YEARS
NEWINGTON 5 YEARS
ANDERSONSTOWN 14 YEARS
NEW LODGE
DERRY LIFE
DERRYBEG, NEWRY
NEWINGTON 5 YEARS
THE BONE
CRAIGAVON
BALLYMURPHY 12 YEARS



DEVLIN, HARRY
DINES, SAMUEL
DUFFY, JIM

DOHERTY, G.
DOHERTY, FRANKIE
DUDDY, PAUL
ELLIOT, T.
FAY, EDWARD

FLEMING, LEO
FLYNN, B.
FITZSIMMONS, S.
FORBES, M.
FORBES, ANDREW
GERAGHTY, PADDY
GILLEN, B.
GOODALL, F. P.
GILDERNEW, F.

GREEN, JOHN
GORMAN, BILLY
GRACY, DON
HEANEY, K.
HEANEY, MARTIN
HENRY, KEVIN
HODGINS, GERRY
HOGAN, W.
HOLDEN, MICKEY

HOLDEN, PATSY
HUTTON, DENNY
HUTTON, LAWRENCE
JOHNSTON, WILLIE
KELLY, MICHAEL
KELLY, TOM
LIVINGSTONE, M.
LIVINGSTONE, PATRICK

Through their proud insistence on their right to treatment as political prisoners these girls have lost all remission and are subjected to fortnightly harangues by the Governor. They are only permitted one visit and one parcel a month. They are locked up during work hours, that is for a total of 19 hours a day. They have been threatened with loss of all association with their comrades unless they conform to the criminal status arbitrarily allocated to them on 1st March, 1976 by Merlyn Rees, The then British Secretary for Northern Ireland.

CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL

DANNY HARKIN
SEAN SEAMUS O'HARA
GERARD MURRAY
FRANCIS MAC CANN
JOSEPH MAGUIRE
JOM DUFFY
GERRY DOWDALL
C. MCINTYRE

DERRY
DERRY
BEECHMOUNT
LOWER FALLS
SPRINGFIELD AVENUE
TURF LODGE
LOWER FALLS
DERRY

(Remand Prisoner, 3 months on Blanket)

2 YEARS
3 YEARS (7 months on Blanket)
3 YEARS (12 months on Blanket)
3½ YEARS (6 months on Blanket)
3 YEARS
REMAND

(Remand prisoner, three months on Blanket)

Men in H2 and H1 Blocks, Long Kesh Concentration Camp

ARMSTRONG, D. F.
BATESON, FINBARR
BRENNAN, PAUL
BONNAR, J. J.
BRADLEY, EAMON
BRADLEY, JOHN
BRADY, J. CONNOLLY
BROWN, T.
BURNS, EUGENE
BURNS, EUGENE
CARLIN, W. B.
CAMPBELL, BILLY
CAMPBELL, KEVIN
CAMPBELL, SEAN
CAMPBELL, PETER
CASSIDY, J.
COLEMAN, JOHN P.
COLEMAN, K. M.
COLLINS, EMMANUEL
COSGROVE, TOMMY
COMERFORD, ALEX. J.
CONNOLLY, BRENDAN F.
CORRY, JOE

LIGONIEL
BALLYMACGUIGAN
BALLYMURPHY
DERRY
TURF LODGE
DERRY
DERRY
GLENGORMLEY
LENADOON
DERRY
NEW LODGE
DERRY
NEW LODGE
ST. JAMES
DERRY
NEWBRIDGE
SOUTH DERRY
TWINBROOK
BEECHMOUNT
CLONARD
CRAIGAVON
SOUTH DERRY

20 YEARS
16 YEARS
16 YEARS
11 YEARS
5 YEARS
5 YEARS
6 YEARS
18 YEARS
3 YEARS

30 YEARS
8 YEARS
12 YEARS
5 YEARS
12 YEARS
6 YEARS
12 YEARS
18 YEARS
20 YEARS
7 YEARS
15 YEARS
15 YEARS
15 YEARS
20 YEARS

(Recommended)
14 YEARS
12 YEARS

CREELMAN, PAUL
CLARKE, JOE

DALY, P. T.
DALY, R.
DERRY, JOHN
DERRY, GERALD M.
DERRY, KEVIN
DEVINE, MICKEY
DEVINE, JOHN

SOUTH DERRY
BALLYMURPHY
NEW LODGE
NEW LODGE
DERRY
DERRY
NEWINGTON
DERRY
CLONARD

12 YEARS
10 YEARS
6 YEARS
16 YEARS
13 YEARS
12 YEARS
LIFE



These prisoners
The details of
clothes and
over 5 months
us on the
from the
punishment
reports we
Wing Arm
of the win
each cell,
time, we
days with
is taken o
pm, then
our very
are letting
By the w
around. I
remember

PRINCIPLE

* The age of some prisoners is mentioned to show the youth of the prisoners. Most are aged 19 or 20. A complete list is being prepared. Your help is requested by sending corrections and amendments to the editor as soon as possible.

H-BLOCK, The Facts — Page 3

ST. JAMES'S SHORT STRAND TURF LODGE	10 YEARS LIFE (Age 18) 3 YEARS
NEW LODGE CREGGAN DERRY DERRY TURF LODGE	12 YEARS 10 YEARS 3 YEARS 12 YEARS 18 YEARS
DERRY ANDERSONSTOWN TURF LODGE	10 YEARS 3 YEARS 7 YEARS
STRABANE ST. JAMES'S LENADOON LIGONIEL EGLISH, CO. TYRONE ANDERSONSTOWN NEW LODGE ARDGLASS	15 YEARS 10 YEARS 16 YEARS 12 YEARS 20 YEARS 2 YEARS 5 YEARS
CASTLEDAWSON NEWRY TURF LODGE DERRY TURF LODGE	LIFE 7 YEARS 15 YEARS 20 YEARS 18 YEARS (Age 19)
BALLYMURPHY DERRY NEW LODGE UNITY FLATS ANDERSONSTOWN TURF LODGE LENADOON LENADOON	16 YEARS 14 YEARS 5 YEARS 5 YEARS 7 YEARS 7 YEARS 25 YEARS LIFE (Sic)



S. LAVERY	LENADOON,	14 years
J. McDONNELL	LENADOON,	14 years
S. FINNUCANE	LENADOON,	14 years
M. FERGUSON	TURF LODGE,	10 years
J. WARD	ANDERSONSTOWN	14 years
B. SANDS	ANDERSONSTOWN	14 years
T. LYONS	ANDERSONSTOWN	14 years
J. McDONALD	ANDERSONSTOWN	10 years
J. MARTIN	ANDERSONSTOWN	10 years
G. CORBETT	ANDERSONSTOWN	10 years
J. GIBSON	ANDERSONSTOWN	10 years
S. MARTIN	ANDERSONSTOWN	10 years
J. MAGUIRE	CLONARD	10 years
P. McLARNON	ARDOYNE	10 years
C. MacART	SHORT STRAND	15 years

JOHN HUNTER NEW LODGE



These prisoners are in solitary confinement in Crumlin Road, naked except for a blanket. The details of their condition can only be inferred as they have refused to put on the criminals clothes and so have not been visited by their families since they were sentenced which was over 5 months ago in the case of Gerard Murray. Late News. But in a smuggled statement to us on the 13th September they wrote: "There are six of us here in B-Wing on the Blanket from the day we were sentenced. (Two other remand prisoners are on the blanket because of punishment). We went on the BLANKET, but it seems that no one knows about us, as any reports we have seen it has always been about our comrades in H-Block and the girls in C-Wing Armagh. We are getting it hard here, we are in B1, our cells our cut off from the rest of the wing with wire; this is so that no one can slip us anything to read. We are one man at each cell, we with on our own, we slip out on our own, we get one shower a week one at a time, we are cut off from each other altogether; we get three days 'on the boards' every 11 days with a number 1 diet which is dried bread and tea. We do the boards NUDE everything is taken out except the pot and prison uniform. We walk round our cell from 7.00 am to 8.00 pm, then they give us a mattress and blanket to sleep on the floor. The cells we have to live in our very dirty and cold. There is no heat on, the windows are broken and it is very cold. We are letting you know this and hope that you will put us in any reports with our comrades. By the way we don't get to Mass and we only see the priest on a Sunday when he comes around. We will stick this until the last day of our sentence But we need support so please remember us: wear P.O.W.'s too. GOD BLESS AND GOOD LUCK
P.O. B1 Wing CRUMLIN ROAD

LOUGHRAN, MICHAEL LOUGHLIN, T.M. LYNCH, BENNY LYNCH, MARTY MAGUINNESS, D. MALLON, ROBERT MAY, RICHARD MILLAR, SAMMY MITCHELL, ANDY V. MOHAN, P. MONTGOMERY, PAUL. MURPHY, F.E. MURPHY, PADDY MC AREAVEY, GERARD MC CANN, H.P. MC CANN, J.P. MC CALLION, EUGENE MC COMBE, EUGENE MC CONVILLE, GERRY MC COTTER, P.S. MC CAUGHEY BRENDAN MC AULEY, J. MC CONVERY, EAMONN W. MC COURT, PATRICK MC COURT, R. M. MC CORMICK, GINO MC CREESH, RAYMOND MC DAID, G. MC DONNELL MC GARRY, W.J. (JACK) MC FEELEY, TOM MC GIBBON, MAURICE MC GLINCHEY, PAUL MC GINN, T. MC GUIGAN, F. MC GOWAN, P. MC GRANDLESS' PATRICK MC HUGH, J. MC ILHONE, J. MC KENNA' FINBARR. MC KENNA, MARTIN C. MC KENNA, BRIAN A. MC KENNA, KIERAN. MC KEOWN, L.P. MC KEOWN, K. MC KNIGHT, JAMES C. MC LARNON, BRENDAN MC LOUGHLIN, BRENDAN MC MAHON, P. MC MAHON, BOBBY MC MULLAN, JIMMY MC MULLAN, JACKIE MC NALLY, D. MC ANERNEY, PAUL MC NEILL, J. OLIVER MC QUADE, R. MAC SHANE, STANLEY MC VEIGH, PAUL MC VEIGH, SEAN MC VAY, MICHAEL JOHN NASH, P. NUGENT, KIERAN NEILIS, D. O'DONNELL, EAMONN O'HARA, TONY O'HAGAN, K. O'HAGAN, PATRICK O'NEILL, JIM PEARSE, J. POLLOCK, H. POWERS, T. PRIGENT, PETER PAUL QUINN, P.J. QUINN, NOEL RIGBY, JOE ROBERTS, GARY RODGERS' JOSEPH ROLAND, JIMMY ROONEY, HUGH STEVENSON, LAWRENCE SMITH EUGENE THOMAS, JOHN WALSH, J. SYDNEY WHELAN, WILLIAM WILSON, FRANCIS HUGH WARD, GERRY	NEW LODGE LENADOON LENADOON SOUTH ARMAGH NEW LODGE TURF LODGE NEW LODGE DERRY NEWINGTON ARMAGH FALLS ROAD DERRY LENADOON DERRY SHORT STRAND LENADOON LENADOON BALLYMURPHY BEECHMOUNT DOWNPATRICK DERRY WATERSIDE SOUTH ARMAGH NEW LODGE ANDERSONSTOWN ARDOYNE FOURGLEN, DERRY CRAIGAVON SOUTH DERRY ARDOYNE ARDOYNE DERRY ARDOYNE TURF LODGE SOUTH DERRY CLONARD GREENCASTLE CASTLEDAWSON SOUTH DERRY SOUTH WEST ANTRIM ARDOYNE DERRY LIGONIEL GREYSTOWN SOUTH DERRY SHORT STRAND CLONARD ANDERSONSTOWN BEECHMOUNT ANDERSONSTOWN DERRY DOWNPATRICK CLONARD SHORT STRAND THE LOUP SHORT STRAND FALLS ROAD CREGGAN, DERRY DERRY DERRY CARRICKMORE NEW LODGE NEW LODGE NEWRY MARKET'S SHORT STRAND DERRY NEWRY NEW LODGE ANDERSONSTOWN CREGGAN LURGAN SHORT STRAND LURGAN TURF LODGE NEW LODGE TWINBROOK DERRY THE LOUP SHORT STRAND	15 YEARS 8 YEARS 1 YEAR 14 YEARS 10 YEARS 18 YEARS 10 YEARS 8 YEARS 15 YEARS 15 YEARS Secretary of State's Pleasure 10 YEARS 25 YEARS 5 YEARS 6 YEARS (age 18) 10 YEARS 3 YEARS 12 YEARS 12 YEARS 5 YEARS LIFE 14 YEARS 12 YEARS (age 19) 12 YEARS 10 YEARS 26 YEARS 16 YEARS 15 YEARS 4 YEARS 10 YEARS 12 YEARS 7 YEARS 7 YEARS 15 YEARS 15 YEARS 14 YEARS LIFE 20 YEARS LIFE 5 YEARS 7 YEARS 7 YEARS 12 YEARS 8 YEARS 6 YEARS 15 YEARS LIFE 15 YEARS 15 YEARS 4 YEARS 3 YEARS 12 YEARS 15 YEARS (age 18) 20 YEARS 18 YEARS 3 YEARS 16 YEARS 12 YEARS (age 19) 5 YEARS 4 YEARS 12 YEARS 12 YEARS 3 YEARS 8 YEARS 15 YEARS (age 19) 15 YEARS 15 YEARS Secretary of State's Pleasure (Age 17) 7 YEARS 12 YEARS 12 YEARS (age 19) 7 YEARS 10 YEARS 10 YEARS 10 YEARS 12 YEARS 4 YEARS 9½ YEARS
--	--	---

THE LEGITIMACY OF THE CLAIM TO POLITICAL STATUS OF THE IRISH PRISONERS OF WAR

1. The Irish people in common with others all round the world have a right to self-determination.

2. From historic times the island of Ireland has been the territory of the Irish people and despite a long history of colonial settlement and imperialist rule the right to sovereignty over the island has been continuously asserted by the Irish people.

3. The United Irishmen having formulated a separatist and Republican ideology challenged the British imperialist occupation of Ireland and were only crushed by over-whelming force. The present ideals and organisation of the Irish Republican movement derive directly from the United Irishmen.

contesting against imperial conquest, nor was there any difficulty for Irish emissaries abroad in being accepted by foreign states:

Tone persuading the French Republic to send a fleet under Hoche is one example, the recognition of Irish neutrality in defiance of Britain's will during the last war is another. Irish political prisoners never accepted "criminal" status, not

nor Ciaran Nugent and his 171 comrades who are listed here.

5. Republican forces only operate under responsible command, and exercise such control over certain resources as enables them to carry out sustained and concerted military operations in accordance with Protocol II added to the Geneva Convention in June 1977. This gives them rights similar to those of P.O.W.'s including amnesty when the conflict ends, that have the force of international law.

6. In any event the present conflict derives directly from the political breakdown of the 1920 Partition Settlement. Emergency Laws and Special Powers have been used to detain Republicans in the past and now this is done through the Emergency Provisions (1973) Acts (which set up the juryless Diplock Courts and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (which allows seven days interrogation without charge.).

The Diplock Courts have no safeguards to check brutality during interrogation. Confessions incriminating the prisoners are accepted on a mass scale.

7. Since 1969 the British Army of Occupation has become increasingly oppressive of the Irish people forcing them to take up arms in defence of their homes, their communities and the future prosperity of the country.



most prisoners are victims of unjust and oppressive laws and social system, they are passive victims. Those who are imprisoned with their comrades for conscious resistance to the oppressive system are not victims of a self-interested clash with an accepted system, but fighters in a selfless campaign. Demanding recognition of this fact is a part of the fight they are waging, and the state's refusal to concede willingly shows how effective a weapon it is.

8. The tenfold increase in the number of prisoners, in custody is due to the imperialist occupation of the country, not to an undue increase in the crime rate. This is another sense in which sentenced Republican prisoners and loyalists are "political prisoners".

9. Some organisations argue plausibly that all prisoners are political prisoners and that it is wrong to seek political status. While it is true that

4. In the long struggle of the Irish people against British domination there was never any doubt that a people with a legitimate claim to nationhood was

Tone, nor John Mitchell, nor O'Donovan Rossa, nor Thomas Ashe, nor Sean MacCaughy, nor Billy MacKee, nor Michael Gaughan, nor Frank Stagg,



PROPAGANDA PLOY BY 'NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE'

The double-think and double-speak of the British Government who chose to throw the full weight of their arbitrary power against fourteen young people was brilliantly exposed by the P.R.O. of the Republican Prisoners of War in Long Kesh in a letter to the Irish News (1st December 1976) which is well worth recalling.

A Chara, - Last week you included in your column two photographs and a statement from the N.I.O. on prison accommodation for men held in the H-Block Long Kesh. We have no intention of disputing that the accommodation shown is that which one will find in the H-Block. Nor would we deny the N.I.O. statement earlier which claimed that of the 58 men sentenced for 'offences' since March 1, 44 are accepting the prison regime.

Propaganda however is a marvellous weapon of war in the hands of an

experienced enemy and the British have had plenty of experience of the years in its use. In this case they have taken certain basic facts and distorted them.

For example, of the 58 men mentioned, only 17 could be classed as political prisoners and of these 3 are Loyalists. The other 14 who are all Republicans are engaged in protest action which has resulted in their being confined to their cells 24 hours a day naked and with no contact with the outside world i.e. no letters, visits, papers etc.

Fr. Denis Faul who could by no stretch of the imagination be classed as pro-Provisional has confirmed that the above is happening. He has also stated, as we have, that in a further attempt to break the determined refusal of these men to allow themselves to be treated as criminals, the N.I.O. has effectively prevented them from attending Mass by refusing to allow them to leave their cells wearing their blankets.

To add to this repression prison officers whether at the behest of the N.I.O. and prison administration or for personal pleasure have taken part in actively harassing these men, both physically and verbally. Again this can be substantiated by independent witnesses - Fr. Faul and the Association for Legal Justice.

There are possibly some who would say that what we are claiming here is simply our type of propaganda. We would disagree and would point to the independent corroboration of the above individual, group and others.

We trust that people will not fall for this propaganda ploy of the N.I.O. and that they will rally to the support of Kieran Nugent and the other Republicans incarcerated in the H-Block.

Is mise.
R.G. MACAULEY

P.R.O.
Republican P.O.W.
Long Kesh.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

THE FACTS

Northern Ireland Office stopped its propaganda war about the irresistible attractions of H Block at this stage and gradually a complete blackout of news on this issue descended on the media.

But public opinion was beginning to react unfavourably to the torture and violent interrogations being used by the R.U.C. to get the required confessions. More and more suspects were being driven out of their minds or physically collapsing. The death of Danny MacCooney as a result of injuries he received when under arrest revealed the true nature of the Diplock legal system. Fr. Faul said in March: "Barefaced denials from politicians and members of the R.U.C. about brutality despite incontrovertible evidence from doctors and others was destroying respect for the truth". Even the collaborationist S.D.L.P. were forced to say: "ill-treatment under interrogation was approved at a high level." The Deputy Chief Constable Harry Baillie assured every

one that the Courts would not tolerate ill-treatment; "No court would accept evidence obtained by unacceptable methods." Since the Northern Ireland Courts accept every "confession" obtained by whatever means by the R.U.C. their "vigorous" system of interrogation was obviously acceptable.

In June the Irish people took a hand in their future when they threw out the anti-national Cosgrave government with its team of oppressors. It is possible that the inhumanity of the government of the 6 counties could again be raised internationally and that the heroism and glory of the few, of the young men on the blanket, of the girls on the ground floor of A Wing in Armagh, of the men on the boards in Crumlin, could speak directly to the peoples of the world who would force Britain to end her centuries old oppression of Ireland. Then the Irish people who stood by their soldiers could really claim a victory.

POLICE DEBATE

POLICING NOT A LUXURY



By subtle misquotation Liam lends unfair credibility to his point of view. Conall's suggestion that a Community police force could emerge from the "immediate community"

merely compliments the objective of the IRA to consolidate their base areas by replacing all the structures of British imperialist rule by revolutionary alternatives at grass-

roots level. The point that such an organisation, [both in composition and direction], should be carefully monitored has already been made and accepted.

A Community police force (or "People's Militia") could be recruited from Republican sympathisers, supporters and ordinary

people whose objective, in the short term, would be to combat the immediate problem of the rising 'crime' rate in the working-class Nationalist ghetto areas of Belfast (and elsewhere), mainly by the initial deterrent of patrolling areas as the vigilantes did in 1969/70. Two recent, specific examples occurred during the abortive Fascist 'strike' by the UWC last

May. In the Divis Flats complex in Belfast, where residents are under extreme pressure from 'criminal' elements, local women patrolled the balconies of the Flats during the two-week 'strike'. During that time no serious acts of vandalism or petty crime occurred. The patrols ended on Friday night of the second week, and on Saturday night two local shops were broken into, robbed, ram sacked and one set on fire. In the Ballymurphy area of Belfast over 200 men patrolled the area for the two-week period with similar results. (The main reason why these patrols were not sustained is the subject for another article).

In the long term, backed up by a system of People's Courts, the Community police force (or People's Militia) would supercede the present "law and order" system of British imperialism and sectarian Unionism. (The actual machinery for implementing this dual strategy is again a subject for another article because of the amount of detail involved). It is little consolation to the working-class people of Ardoyne, Divis Flats, or Ballymurphy to read the politically academic analysis of the reasons for the emergence of the "thug element" as described by Liam O'Donnell, or to be told by James Daly that the objective of a 32 county democratic socialist Republic, (which we all

seek) "will not be produced by diversions into the police business". The people want Action against anti-social elements which are making their lives a misery by degrading their equality of life through 'criminal' exploitation. Some form of organised resistance is required from within the ghetto areas and will emerge whether the Republican Movement chooses to become involved or not. Already individuals have commented, albeit emotionally, that if the IRA won't do anything then their only alternative is the police (RUC). It is also a fact that the British war machine has exploited the present situation by allowing 'criminals' immunity from arrest in return for information about the IRA.



James Daly is of course perfectly correct when he states that "the important thing now at this point in time for the Nationalist people is to win the struggle for national liberation," but if in the process those things which effect the everyday lives of the ordinary people are ignored then their "will to win" will gradually be eroded. The IRA has harassed its resources against all those forces which harass and intimidate the Nationalist people. No one however, can expect the working-class people of the ghettos to sustain their resistance against the harassment and intimidation of the British army when it is coupled with the harassment and intimidation of local, well organised 'criminals'. There can be little doubt that the IRA will make the correct decision when it decides on a Community police force, (or People's Militia), as part of those harassed resources.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER

and then educate them. Make them feel part of the struggle. You will find that they will not be wanting in their response to you. That is where Victory lies, in the final analysis. Writing political thoughts in a newspaper, is an everyday occurrence, but practically implementing them is something quite different. These People I would presume to say wouldn't understand the quarter of what you write in your columns concerning Politics, but if they seen these same politics working in reality in every day life and it was pointed out to them then they would fully realise their total ignorance and want to be educated. I listen to

ex-Volunteers and some Sinn Féin people as well, debating "Cornac" the cartoon on the back of your paper, and saying, "How true it is", but for the politics in it, they don't read it because they don't understand the big words contained in them and that, "Politics are only for Politicians anyway".

I think personally that this is a very sad reflection on the Republican Movement in general. I realise that a war of great magnitude and importance is being fought, only too well but our brave Volunteers are being sadly let down by their political counterparts in practical work, in their respective areas.

Community Councils are the key to the problem and to the final victory.

Please, Mr. Editor, keep up your good work, but urge the "powers that be" to get the "wheels" moving in every area. A Police Force would be irrelevant if everybody was United, Educated, Coordinated and Committed to the aims of a Socialist Republic.

A Police Force, if there is to be one, would only be on a temporary basis and its prime aim would be to Educate the People, not punish them. Nor would they be a selected force as such, but everybody would be affiliated to it by mutual understanding and Trust, in each respective area. Punishment would take the form of rehabilitation and education, (unless it was murder and rape, etc). In these cases the IRA would take over and it would be in their hands to carry out the punishment on conviction, but they should have nothing to do with the Courts Ruling as this is the Peoples' field.

Is mise,
R. O hUaine, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

EDITORS REPLY
TO MR. O'HUAINES
LETTER

'Criminals are exacerbating to atmosphere of repression'

In reply to B. O hUaine, we know that the Irish Republican Army has never carried out a punishment shooting on anyone who stole due to their poverty. The problem remains that the criminals (often armed) this correspondent refers to as "Poor People" are rapidly becoming rich (in the case of Sinclair's Post Office in Andersonstown they held hostage members of the family and

received ransoms on three separate occasions).

Of course we would agree that education is the ultimate answer to combat this mentality but in our war situation circumstances often dictate the pace and criminals are definitely exacerbating the atmosphere of repression.

Editor.

MILITARY FORCES COLLABORATE

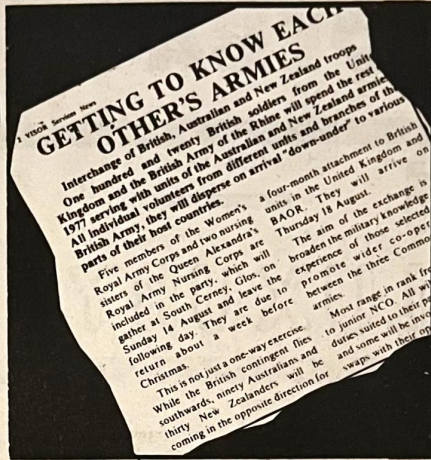
Some months ago 'Republican News' carried an article on the Australian Military Police who had gone to England to relieve their counter-parts in the British Army for service in Ireland. Through the article the Republican Movement had made an appeal to the Australian people to have this 'lending of their Military Police' stopped. The article then went on to point out to our Australian readers that it was the British Military Police who had first of all instructed the RUC in methods of torture, had taken part in the torture of political prisoners and finally had been found guilty at the European court of Human Rights of torturing Irish Political suspects.

Just this week comes another story that would indicate that the Australian and New Zealand armies are looking for some front line experience in dealing with peoples' wars. In the latest issue of 'VISOR' number 179 dated 26th

August 1977 (this is the British Army's newspaper in occupied Ireland and is produced at their headquarters in Lisburn) they carry a story headed 'getting to know each other' and sub-titled 'Interchange of British, Australian and New Zealand troops.' The article explains that over 90 Australian and 30 New Zealand soldiers began a four month tour of duty in the 'UK' beginning on the 18th August.

The article finishes by stating 'the aim of the exchange is to broaden the military knowledge and experience of those selected and promote wider co-operation between the three commonwealth countries.'

As all these soldiers will be spread out through different British regiments it is sure that the bulk of them will see some sort of action in Ireland, and even if they themselves do not come to Ireland it is doubtful if they will reject the attitudes that are held by the British Army with regard to Ireland.



Above article in the Visor paper indicates the collaboration between the Brits, Australian and New Zealand Forces.

Australians should remember that it was only a very short time ago when they had a constitutional crisis in their own country, a crisis triggered off by an English man who undermined the democratic right of the Australian People. And it was this situation that demonstrated to the Australian People that British Rule was still capable of doing its own thing down under. It is

fair to assume that it was this crisis that also triggered off within the Australian Army the need to update their experience in fighting sections of the working-class.

The Republican movement appeals to its supporters in Australia and New Zealand to bring to the attention of its Government the role of the British Army in Ireland.

'BILL OF RIGHTS' CALL

THE TUC debated Ireland on Thursday 8th Sept, but managed to make not a single mention of the escalating military repression against workers in the north.

All delegates got was the usual call for a 'Bill of rights', the Stalinist-inspired formula based on the deception that workers under Imperialist control can be given rights by the occupying military regime.

Sheet metal workers' leader Andy Barr said that the defeat of the Loyalist 'strike' meant a rejection by the working class of the Rev Ian Paisley, the paramilitary groups and the possible rise of fascism.

But Barr deliberately avoided putting forward any revolutionary socialist programme, including the unity of Ireland and the withdrawal of troops, as a basis on which the working class can be united against the British-backed Orange menace.

He went on to condemn the IRA, making no distinction between its struggle against social and national oppression and the reactionary, Loyalist violence of the right-wing.

Amended from News-line.

BRITISH RAIDING PARTY (1977)

They come in waves
Wrapped in dark, dirty,
yellow.
Morning, noon and night,
Chained to their own twisted
fates,
Trampled by their own
sordid imagery
Treading brutality,
Rattled by the patience
of the people.

They go smelling of butchery—aimlessly
Hostile to birth, hostile to death
Hostile to their own slavery
And glad of another life;
To be dominated like
targets
Under the sights
Under their own rights.

Madra Rua.



CARTER

Not many of us are taken in by President Carter's "peace initiative" for the North of Ireland but not everyone realizes just how hypocritical his "human rights" talk is. The case of Puerto Rico and the plight of the Puerto Ricans living in the U.S.A. shows us that US imperialism is still far from dead and that "human rights" mean really the right to oppress and exploit.

Puerto Rico became a colony of the United States in 1898 as part of the settlement exacted from Spain in the Treaty of Paris ending the Spanish American war. And, at a time when classical colonialism is on the decline as a means of control and exploitation, Puerto Rico remains a colonized nation, the Puerto Ricans a colonized people. The United States has attempted to disguise its role as colonizer by granting Puerto Rican token self-government and other cosmetic changes such as referring to Puerto Rico as a "free associated state"

or officially, as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The facts, however, remain. Puerto Rico is not a sovereign nation; The United States retains ultimate control and veto power over all decisions that would be within the domain of a truly independent state.

Now, last June during the Puerto Rico Day celebrations being held in Chicago, the police launched a vicious attack on a commemorative march which resulted in two dead and scores injured. This latest act of brutal repression is just one in a long line of incidents during the struggle of the Puerto Rican people against American imperialism and for national independence. In the 1930's the Ponce massacre took place in which 20 people were murdered and several hundred injured. Since then the US government and its colonial allies in Puerto Rico have maintained a steady repression of the independence movement. Today, Carter's government maintains this very

same policy even though he talks about "human rights" when abroad. In fact, the five longest held prisoners in all Latin America are in US jails. They are the Puerto Rican anti-imperialist fighters Lolita Lebron, Andres Cordero, Rafael Miranda, Irving Flores and Oscar Collazo who have been held in federal jails for over 20 years. They are held away from their native land as

Irish prisoners in Britain are, and they are denied the most basic of human rights; they have not been allowed visits for years, talks with their lawyers are supervised, they are not allowed any communication between themselves etc. Finally, as the Republican and Socialist prisoners in the Six Counties, they are denied political status.



by JUAN SOSA

An Phoblacht

Imb.8, Uimhir 33. 10p. Lúna 24, 1977.

Help build the circulation of An Phoblacht by sending copies to friends and relatives at home and abroad. Rates: (one year) Europe £8; half year, £4; 3 months £2; elsewhere (U.S. dollars or equivalent) one year, 20; half year, 10; three months, 5.

Sent to: Circulation Manager, An Phoblacht, 44 Parnell Sq. Dublin.

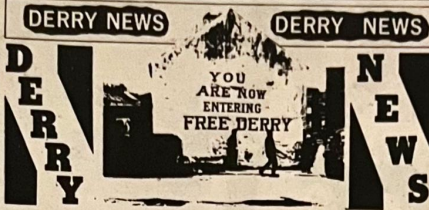
THIEVES PUNISHED

Recently under the direction of the Brigade Staff, Ogligh na H-Eireann, Derry City, a young girl was among three people who were tarred and feathered as punishment for admitted crimes (Thieving, House-breaking etc), in the Creggan and Bogside areas of the City.

This female thief was tarred and feathered and subsequently admitted to Altnagelvin Hospital. As is the usual procedure on admittance she was asked her name and address by the Hospital Authorities and the R.U.C. The name she supplied was that of an innocent young girl, Margaret Shiels, of Mulroy Gardens, Creggan Estate.

We state that this young girl was totally innocent of any of the forenamed crimes and would ask those people who are spreading these untruths about her, to cease immediately.

We would ask the people in future to be sure of their facts, and to take notice of all communiques issued by the Irish Republican Army.



BRITISH JUSTICE..... IN THE 14TH CENTURY

Differing from most other conquered people, the Irish have been made to suffer through the centuries, not only from the conqueror's sword, but perhaps even more from the conqueror's dreadful "justice".

The laws imposed upon Ireland from the Norman's first coming, down to this present day, have far surpassed in ferocity any of the repressive systems imposed upon any other of the sorest suffering conquered nations of the world.

For many cruel centuries British law in Ireland has only taken notice of the native as a subject on which to exercise its repressive or exterminative power.

There are records of a trial in

Waterford as early as 1300 when British law was still new to the nation—in which Robert le Waleys, a Brit, was charged with murder of an Irishman named John MacGillemorey.

The effective defence put forward was that, while admitting that Le Waleys had killed John, yet it was no murder, since "the slain one was only an Irishman".

In the same era we find Donal O'Neill, in his protest addressed to Pope John XX, stating that the murder of an Irishman was not a felony, and "it is no more sin, say even some of their [Brit] religious to kill an Irishman than to kill a dog."

"They were out of the protection of the law", wrote Sir

John Davies, "so that every Englishman might oppress, spoil and kill them without controulment." And Sir Richard Cox, himself one of the elect, wrote: "If an Englishman be damaged by an Irishman not amenable to law, he may reprove himself on the whole tribe or nation."

The solemn and well considered statutes of the realm were likewise well designed to make smooth the lot of English exiles among the "wildest lishrie".

"It shall be lawful", said one of these statutes, "to all manner of men that find any thieves robbing by day or night, or going or coming to rob or steal, having no faithful man of good name in their company, in English apparel, upon any of their liege people of the King, to take and kill them, and to cut off their heads, without any impeachment of our sovereign lord and king, his heirs, officers or ministers or of any others."

In plain language this empowered any of the British in Ireland to kill on sight any Irishman whom he wished to kill.

These laws are still with us today: the continuation of brutality and torture and what stands for "justice" in the courts, are all done with the full approval of "Elizabrit", her government, officers, ministers etc.

P.R.O.
SEAN SOUTH CUMANN,
DERRY.

STATEMENT

FROM

CLONARD - COLIN

R.A.C.

The Clonard-Colin Relatives Action Committee says in a statement that Kieran Nugent has now "been on the blanket" for one year as a result of his refusal to wear prison clothes.

The statement continues "It is the intention of the RAC to maintain and escalate the campaign for the retention of political status. In this we are confident of victory. However, we can be victorious sooner if we have broad-based support from activists in all spheres of the struggle. To this end we call on the people of Ireland to support us in every way possible. Contact your local committee for advice on how best to do this. In particular, we call on the people of Clonard-Colin to support the RAC's programme of action and to express their solidarity with Kieran Nugent, the men from the district and indeed all those involved in this present campaign."

GARDA RAID

On the 11th September, at approx 7.30 a.m., six Garda squad cars swooped on Oakland Park, Cox's demesne and raided two houses. Both these houses were surrounded by armed Special Branch men whilst the houses were forcibly entered by the police. The occupants awoke to find the police searching their homes—no pretence at knocking the door having been made.

The home of Mr. J. Quigley was entered by

the back door by four uniformed Garda and two Special Branch men, one of whom was armed. The occupants of the house were ordered down the stairs. On this weekend, Mr. Quigley had some visitors intending to spend Sunday on a fishing trip. These gentlemen were arrested together with their fishing tackle and motor van and brought to the Garda barracks. Later that morning the wife of one of the men went to the barracks to see her husband and was refused admittance.

band and was refused admittance.

In the case of Mr. Liam Stewart, Secretary of the above Cumann, who asked to read the search warrant, he was told that it was sufficient for him to see it in the hand of the Special Branch man. The search continued despite the protests of Mr. Stewart, who insisted on reading the search warrant.

The children in the house were upset and scared to see these armed men roaming and searching through their home.

Books and documents belonging to our Cumann were taken away and on enquiry the police refused to hand them back.

A. Finnegan P.R.O. Worthington Watters Bros. Sinn Fein Cumann, DUNDALK.

DUNDALK HOME RANSACKED

On Sunday morning last at 7.30 a.m. 20 armed members of the Special Branch and Garda sealed off the Muirheavenmore Housing Estate. They went to the home of Dominic Quinn, where they proceeded to ransack the house and its contents. The photographs show some of the damage done to the house. The 3 young children of the house were

confronted with machine-guns. Some of the Branchmen threatened to use the guns. Mr. Quinn was dragged from his home and taken to the Dundalk Garda Station. The Branchman in charge of the raid Det. Seg. Denis Daly refused to sign a list of items damaged in the house.

GOSS AND GAUGHAN
SINN FEIN CUMANN.

ANOTHER CHILD ARRESTED - Belfast Sinn Fein

Sinn Fein in North Belfast complained about the arrest of a 13-year-old boy from the Oldpark area of Belfast last week. Another report of another 13-year-old boy who was arrested on Friday night in the Turf Lodge area of Belfast and brought to the British Army's base at Fort Monagh Turf Lodge and was interrogated for two hours.

The boy concerned was Scamus Johnston and while being interrogated he was asked to give the names of any Republicans he knew.

Belfast Sinn Fein accuse the British Army of trying to pressure the young people of the Republican areas into the role of informer.

SINN FEIN SLOGANS

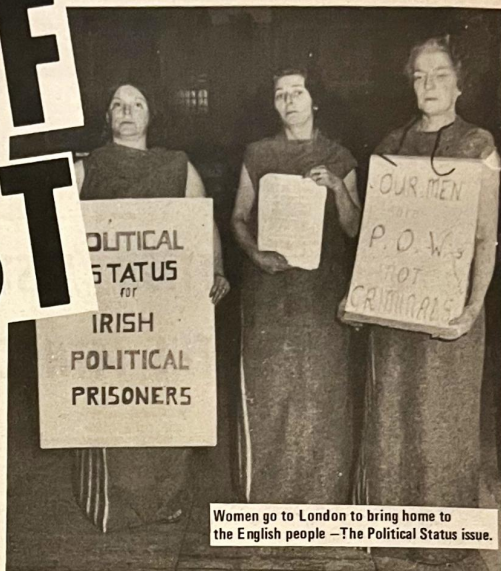
Since the beginning of the year Sinn Fein have been engaged in a slogan campaign around the theme Brits Out of Ireland. Roads and walls throughout the 26 counties have been covered in such slogans as "Brits—No, Tourist—yes, 'Brits out—Peace in, etc. The Photo left shows one such slogan on the side of Ben Bulbin Mountain in County Sligo.



YEAR OF PROTEST



Sinn Féin protesters take over the Bord Fáilte Office in Castle St., Belfast



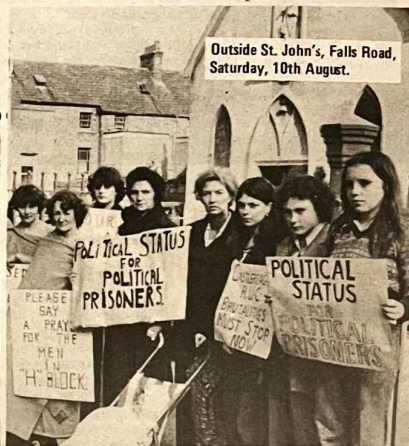
Women go to London to bring home to the English people — The Political Status issue.



Above: Protest in England for Political Status



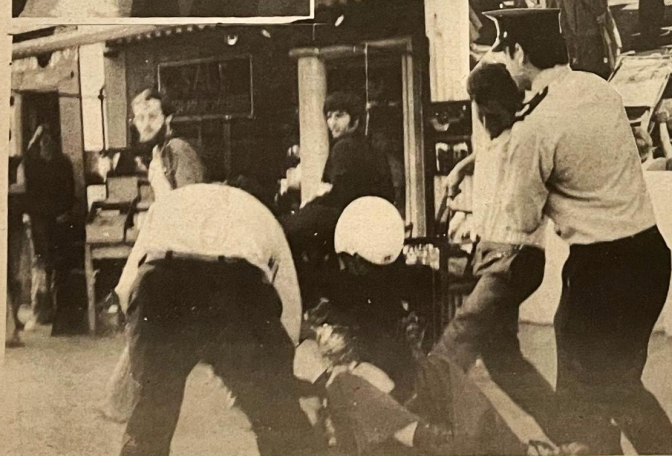
Left and Below: Dublin demonstrators being arrested.



Outside St. John's, Falls Road, Saturday, 10th August.



GENERAL VIEW OF SINN FEIN PROTEST. 7/8/77

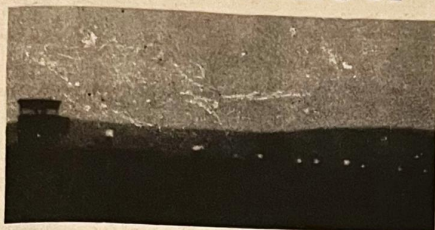


Above: A general view of a Sinn Féin Protest, 7th August, 1977



Right: A march along the Falls Road for Political Status

LONG KESH



NOTE BOOK

weekly commentary
from
behind the wire

THE S.D.L.P.

The Republican Movement has always held and expressed the belief that peace, prosperity and justice were impossible within the artificial boundaries of the 6 counties. We have consistently argued that reforming this fascist artificially contrived "statelet" would ultimately achieve nothing except possibly increasing its life span and consequently the time under which the minority community would have to endure the oppression by the Unionist ruling-class.

On the other hand, however, there have been those such as the Republican Clubs and S.D.L.P. who have held the opinion that political reform leading eventually at some vague future date to reunification was the only way forward.

The Sticks with their Bill of Right hobbyhorse have long argued with their Stalinist twisted, logic, that such a Bill of Rights with "built-in guarantees", such as Freedom of Speech, Freedom from Torture and Arbitrary Arrest at the hands of the establishment forces etc would help prevent many of the abuses of power and the institutionalised violence which the minority has had to suffer for so long. Of course they are so convinced that the ruling class would abide by this legislation that to try and point out to them that in countries as far removed from each

as the U.S. France, U.S.S.R. where such Bills of Rights exist that they have failed to protect the working-class against exploitation and oppression by the ruling class, is to leave oneself open to ridicule and condemnation. Fortunately for the Irish working class they have, except for a very tiny number, refused to accept the absurd reasoning of the Sticks.

The greatest defenders of the political reform platform, however, have been the S.D.L.P. This was particularly true after the Sunningdale agreement of 1973 which introduced the terms "Partnership" and "Power Sharing" into the 6 county political vocabulary. Partnership or Power Sharing was an attempt to reform the political structures by having both major opposing "establishment" groups i.e. the Unionists and the SDLP share power at the executive decision making level of Government.

From the very outset the Republican Movement pointed out that such a system within the artificial boundaries of the 6-counties was doomed to failure. However, as usual the SDLP brushed aside our comments as "mischievous making". Unfortunately for the power hungry leaders of the SDLP the mischief making came from the Loyalists and not from Republicans and con-

sequently for the last 4 years power sharing has remained a dead policy. Once again the political judgement of the Republican Movement was proven to be much better than that of the reformist parties.

Now within the last few weeks we have seen once again a change in the direction of SDLP policy. While still clinging desperately to the idea of "partnership government" they intend placing greater emphasis on the Irish dimension!! What this means exactly the SDLP have remained predictably vague about. When one remembers the narrow defeat of a motion at last year's SDLP party conference calling for a Declaration of Intent to Withdraw from the British and the growing strength of the so called "Republican" faction within the SDLP ranks, it is fairly safe to assume that they are talking in terms of a Declaration of Intent.

In other words greater emphasis is to be placed on an all Ireland solution rather than reform of the 6 county "statelet". The SDLP or at least a sizeable section of it, would therefore now be appearing to take the view that reform is not practicable. They are finally after waffling, arriving at a stage which the Republican Movement attained years ago.

stead of Ivan Cooper who has to date failed on two occasions to rally enough support to carry the day.

Duffy however is no better than the man he replaces. Indeed if his recent article in the Irish Times (31.8.77) is anything to go by he is much worse. In that article Duffy talking about "JC brutality made the astounding statement: "Innocent people may soon go to jail in Northern Ireland on the basis of confessions extracted by RUC III treatment!! It must be admitted that Duffy ably knocked the ground from beneath Roy Mason and the Chief Constable over the question of the existence of brutality. "The proof is beyond question. Solicitors consulted by persons held have received identical descriptions of the various forms of ill treatment from persons who have not spoken together and who had no opportunity of co-ordinating their description or stories. There are now about 10 doctors in Northern Ireland who have been dealing consistently with injuries inflicted during interrogation. All of them verify the fact firstly that acts of brutality are committed on a wide scale and secondly that a large number of persons now held are ill treated." However, the Republican Movement, Fr. Faul, the ALJ and many others have been

since '69 has already led to innocent people finding themselves in prison. After all the "wall of silence" he talks of in relation to the inability of the DPP to prosecute those RUC officers involved in torture, first came to prominence 8 years ago when Police officers specially drafted in from England tried to discover those responsible for the murder of Samuel Devenny.

Mr. Duffy's attitude to brutality by the RUC, his concentration on their workings this year, is typical of the "reformist" attitude of the SDLP. The Irish working-class have over the centuries been betrayed time and time again by middle-class politicians. The SDLP are no exception to this rule. Simply because they have now come to realise that reforming the 6 county state is not on, does not make them any the less "reformists!! Like Mr. Duffy they have accepted a distorted view of the problem as reality thus making their solutions equally distorted and therefore unworkable.

LONG KESH CAMP.

SDLP Pre's Conference from the days when they were going to solve everyone's problems!



The SDLP is a middle class political party, with middle class values and attitudes, hence its reluctance in spite of 50 years of hard evidence to accept the fact that reformism will not work in the 6 counties. Its change in direction, its now apparent acceptance that reformism is not the way has not changed it, it is still a middle-class party with middle-class attitudes and values, representing middle-class interests.

Apart from this change in political direction the last few weeks has also witnessed political manoeuvrings taking place in Mid Ulster as the SDLP attempt to capitalise on their new "nationalist" attitude. Paddy Duffy has now been chosen by the party faithful to stand for the Mid Ulster seat in the next Westminster elections in-

saying exactly the same things for a long time now, so in reality Duffy's statement is "nothing to write home about."

Apart though from the fact that this statement concerning RUC brutality is nothing out of the usual, Duffy does talk of people who "may soon go to jail" and of the brutality as if it is only a recent factor in the 6 counties. As everyone is aware the RUC and the British army have been proven on many occasions, and not just at Strabough, to have been using torture since 1969 and before.

Therefore, if Mr. Duffy can argue that "confessions" today extracted under pressure are about to lead to innocent people going to prison, surely, would it not also be safe to assume that the brutality that has been common



Kieran Nugent.

SOLIDARITY GREETINGS

We the Republican Prisoners Cage 9,10,11,12 and 13 Long Kesh pledge our support for and solidarity with Kieran Nugent, his comrades on the blanket in 'H' Block, B Wing Crumlin Road Jail and the Girls in Armagh.



Sinn Féin Member Tony Kearns addresses crowd in North London.

WOLFE TONE CUMANN SYMPATHY TO STEP UP POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN LONDON

The members of the Wolfe Tone Cumann (North London) are stepping up the campaign in their area on the question of ill-treatment of Irish Political prisoners in British Gaols, and are demanding an independent inquiry into prison conditions.

To rally support amongst the Irish Community in the area for their campaign, the Cumann members held an open-

air meeting on Sunday evening outside the churches in Highburn where Cumann members addressed the crowds through a loud-hailer and called on them to protest against the ill-treatment of Republican prisoners in Gaols in England. The Cumann plans to hold regular after-Mass meetings outside local churches during the coming months.

LAVERTY U.S.A.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the Laverty Family of 2437 Standard Avenue San Pablo California on the tragic loss of their son and brother Robert Eugene.

Charlie, we remember and grieve with you and your family.

Your comrades of the "Forties" in Belfast. Jimmie Drumm, Albert Price, Chris McLoughlin, Billy Wiggins and many others.

The Officers of the Comhairle Ceanntair and all members of the 'Wolfe Tone Cumann' in London wish to express their deepest sympathy to Mrs Gray and her family on the recent death of her husband. Dick, who was an outstanding Republican, and will be sadly missed by all members of Sinn Féin. Masses and prayers offered.

H—BLOCK SOLIDARITY.

Meeting in London on Friday 23.9.77.

—Roebuck (Tottenham Court Road). 7.30 p.m. Speakers from the prisoners welfare group, the P.A.P.T.A. and the international tribunal against British war crimes in Ireland.

Martin Tracy Cumann Solidarity Message

The officers and members of the Martin—Tracey Sinn Féin Cumann, Short Strand send their solidarity greetings to Kieran Nugent and his comrades 'on the blanket' in H Block and in B Wing Crumlin Road Jail—Beidh an bua agaibh—

No change in Portlaoise conditions

AS THE 31st World Medical Association met in Dublin last week information was made available to the press, radio and TV that conditions in Port Laoise Prison had not improved in recent weeks, as might have been expected from statements by Gerry Collins on TV, but that, in fact they had deteriorated.

According to the statement issued in the names of Joan Carmichael and Barbara Doyle, on behalf of the political prisoners in Port Laoise Jail, and their relatives: "One prisoner, Mr. Eamon O'Sullivan, was beaten last Thursday (September 1) and again on Sunday (September 4) by prison staff and, as a result, has lost four teeth.

"Eamon O'Sullivan has been separated from the other men for the past six months and his visits have been stopped until November 3 next.

"When, during their visits, the men told their visitors about these events their visits were stopped.

Mothers crying

"Today (September 5)," the statement continues, "when visitors arrived at the jail two mothers were sitting crying in the waiting room.

"They had just been to visit their sons, Michael Kinsella and Gerry Donohue, and were shocked to see their condition. They could hardly recognise their sons. The boys could hardly talk.

"There has been no improvement in conditions under Mr Collins's regime as minister for justice. The men are not prepared to continue to undergo visits under the present conditions.

"We now call on the minister to stop the present regime of torture and ill-treatment in Port Laoise Jail," the statement concludes.

Show your support
for the
Political Prisoners

R.A.C. AND SINN FEIN TAKE OVER AMERICAN CONSULATE

Relatives A ction Committee and Sinn Féin on Wednesday 14th September took over the American Consulate in Queen Street, Belfast, to highlight the plight of the 197 Republican prisoners of war who are in naked solitary confinement in H-Block of Long Kesh, Armagh Women's Gaol and Crumlin Road Gaol.

Kieran Nugent who leads the prisoners in the fight for political prisoners of war status entered his 365th day in solitary confinement.

About 50 people occupied the Consulate, and in nearby Queen Street 200 people gathered at a public meeting.

SOLIDARITY

The Seamus Burns-Charlie Hughes Sinn Féin Cumann wish to express their solidarity with Kieran Nugent 'H' Block, one year on the blanket & his gallant comrades in 'H' Block Long Kesh & Armagh Jail, in their fight for their political rights.

REPUBLICAN NEWS

Printed and published weekly by the Republican Press Centre at 170a Falls Road, Belfast. Telephone 46841. Telex: 747523 All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, at the above address.

