



THE VOICE OF REPUBLICAN
ULSTER.

REPUBLICAN NEWS

England/Scotland/Wales 12p PRICE 10p

Vol. 7 No. 28. Saturday July 30 1977.

FEUD ERUPTS, STICKS REFUSE MEDIATION

We have been asked to publish the following statement from the Belfast Brigade, Irish Republican Army:

“The Republican Clubs statement last night concerning ‘mediation’ is a complete lie.

The sequence of events are as follows:

Prior to yesterday the last incident of hostility logged by the IRA was a murder attempt by Republican Clubs members on one of our sympathisers — Mr. Thomas McLoughlin — in the Bawnmore Estate last weekend. The man was shot in his home and remains critically ill. Following this cowardly murder bid the IRA immediately contacted Republican Clubs to have the situation defused.

A parallel must be drawn between this incident into which we entered mediation, and yesterday's incident involving the shooting of Mr. Trevor McAnulty. The shooting of Mr. McAnulty at 3 p.m. took us by surprise, and we ordered an immediate investigation. We contacted mediators. Early yesterday evening they told a priest in contact with them, at our request, that they weren't prepared to talk.

Instead they launched a series of vicious attacks on Republicans and Republican sympathisers. During this concerted effort a number of totally innocent and unarmed people were shot dead.

They include Mr. James Foots, whose father was also seriously injured; Mr. Danny Cowan whose only crime against Republican Clubs members was that he lived in a house formerly owned by one of our sympathisers; Mr. Tommy Tolan, as he walked through Ballymurphy. Mr. Tolan was married only two weeks ago. They also opened fire on Mr. Pat McVeigh who was standing outside a bookmaker's shop. During the evening they wounded 11 people, including one woman, an eleven year old child and a fifteen year old girl.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

ELIZA-BRIT OUT

PEACE IN

The Irish People have never yet succumbed to English Royalty and proof, if ever proof were needed, that that proud tradition still remains will be amply supplied in the six-counties on August 10th when Elizabrit sails up Belfast Lough, OUR LOUGH, on her proposed visit to "view the natives".

The Brits have done a messy, bloody job attempting to rub us into the ground, and they've done it in her name. Feeble, inoffensive people claim she's only a "figurehead", and it's "not her fault". This is a ridiculous and servile attitude. This woman hasn't an ounce of integrity; and though the Brits universally proclaim her as the benign queen, "the nice lady", we can't forget, and Derry can't forget, how Elizabrit expressed pleasure when decorating with medals the Paras who murdered 14 people on Bloody Sunday; how Her Majesty's Forces have killed hundreds of Irish People and children with impunity; how

Her Majesty's perjuring Courts are nothing but sentencing tribunals; how Her Majesty's prisons are nothing but glorified concentration camps, and how Her Majesty's signature is at the bottom of every piece of repressive law we've experienced.

Far from the image of a universal philanthropist, in Ireland she represents War and Death.

So on August 10th/11th in a world propaganda exercise she arrives close to, but warily doesn't enter, the capital city of the Irish Revolutionary War of Liberation. From the detailed schedule of her itinerary, which has come into our possession, we see that she will be avoiding the considerable areas where the blood is spilled on her behalf.

As a sop to Orangism the loyal UDR will be providing a guard of honour (a major joke in itself), and won't British soldiers

(who are increasingly getting killed these days) be filled with hope if for a few hours Coleraine and

Hillsborough were safe enough for their Queen? In a recent address Elizabrit said: "I cannot

forget that I was crowned Queen of Great Britain and Northern Ireland... She Won't!



FEUD ERUPTS, STICKS REFUSE MEDIATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Three times yesterday evening mediators acceptable to both sides were in contact with Cyprus Street Headquarters. At all times the Clubs refused to halt hostilities, with the excuse that they could not contact their leadership.

Shortly after nine o'clock two prominent Clubs representatives met with representatives from the Republican Movement. Again they stated that they were not authorised to stop the shooting and that we would have to wait until their leadership was contacted.

Mr. McGurran in the meantime was pouring forth his reptitious tissue of lies. Despite the picture of Innocence presented by him the fact which emerged from yesterday's disastrous shooting was that the Republican Clubs have created a monster, a lie, which they cannot control.

Since March, 1972, they have been involved in five feuds. Yesterday the people of the ghettos saw once again that the so-called "unarmed" Republican Clubs were intent on allowing their mad dogs a pound of flesh.

Each public statement from the IRA has stressed the folly of fuelling between ourselves and Republican Clubs. In discussion since Easter Sunday the Republican Clubs representatives informed us that they fully accepted our sincerity in wanting to avoid further unnecessary bloodshed.

Following the Bawnmore shooting again they accepted our wish to avert tragedies such as yesterday.

Despite this, our efforts to investigate the shooting of Mr. McNulty and to stymie any escalation were directly and flagrantly obstructed by their refusal to talk and by their eagerness to shoot.

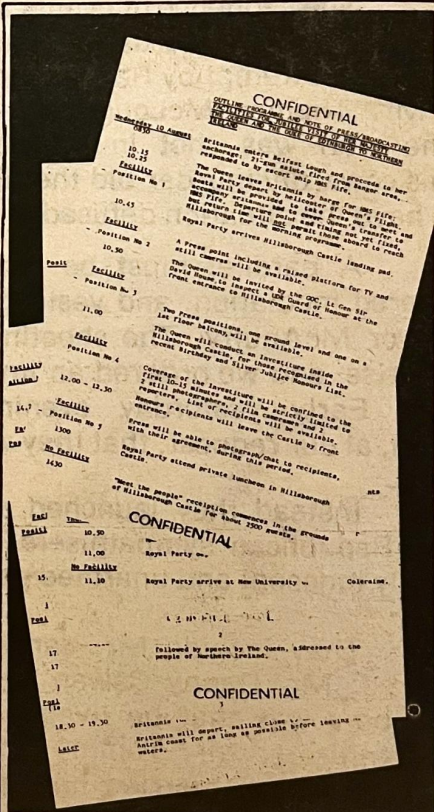
Such tragedies can only be averted in the future if total honesty is shown by both sides.

To our members and supporters we say: "The Republican Movement does not wish conflict with the Republican Clubs. Those engaged in such aggression do not serve the cause of Republicanism or of the people we claim to fight for. There must be no more fuelling."

Yesterday showed, despite provocation and down-right murder, that we were able to stand firm and in complete unity. We must continue to stand firm. We must maintain discipline.

To the Republican Clubs we say, as we said yesterday: "Clear up the contradictions within your organisation. Stand over the actions you have been engaged in. Get rid of your gunmen or be responsible and in control of them. Neither we nor you, or more importantly the people can stand any further feuds."

To the families of those killed or injured we convey our sincere condolences and sympathies. We did our utmost to ensure that yesterday's shooting would not escalate. Unfortunately we were only successful after your relatives were shot. Today we will continue with our efforts to prevent any further aggression.



DOCUMENTS MARKED CONFIDENTIAL, OUTLINING THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND.

REVEALING REVOLUTIONARY RELATIONS

The historical experience of Republicanism, both positive and negative, has shown us that one of the most important things to have is a well-trained Army and that we must strive towards the revolutionisation and establishment of correct relations between ourselves and the working-people who constitute the base of our support.

For these past 50 years the Republican Movement has been in the fore front of the revolutionary struggle. The failure of past campaigns were all due in the main to a lack of support. Despite the bravery of the people, and the Volunteers involved, the majority of people North and South failed to identify with and support campaigns.

The present campaign has however proved to be different. The fact that it has continued for seven years despite setbacks shows that the support-base is more widespread and more involved than ever.

We hope in this article to examine briefly the relations, as they should be, between those involved in the armed struggle and those who constitute the support-base be it passive or active. In the front line we find the Volunteer. It is he who bears the brunt of the war and carries out military operations. The Volunteer is in everyday contact with the ordinary people whom he is fighting to liberate and his every action be it military, political or social, is under scrutiny at all times. He is in fact an ambassador of Republicanism and must propagate Republican philosophy. Because his fight is on behalf of the ordinary people he must guard against becoming an elitist for without the peoples' support he would find it impossible to operate. There is a need therefore for him to identify with them and through this identification the people identify themselves with the Republican Movement.

Our struggle is not merely an armed one and there are others who are deeply committed to the revolution but who for reasons of their own are not engaged in actual armed conflict. The active support given by such people is invaluable. In the first instance they provide houses, dumps and billets. It is the direct action of these people either as individuals or in organisations which builds resistance to the Brits in the short term and which in the long term prepares the ground for the establishment of a Republic.

It is they, in collusion with the Republican Movement who must set about the building of alternative structures such as Peoples' Councils. Without their support it would be impossible to wage a guerilla campaign.

The above support adds to the momentum of the revolution and ensures a continuous growth in the number of people who are brought into contact with the struggle and who in turn propagate Republican philosophy.

Passive support comes in the form of people who are willing to attend functions, buy papers and support protest marches. While the support that they give is more indirect it is a necessary and valuable part of the machine to get the Brits out of Ireland and set about the building of a new society.

Apart from the practical reasons involved for the necessity for support it must at all times be remembered that these people are our fellow countrymen and women and their cultivation and education is, like ours, a prerequisite for the success of the revolution. The cultivation of a receptive supportive base brings us closer to our national objective and at the same time creates healthy relations between the volunteers who are doing



the fighting and the people they are fighting for.

The purpose of the war is not merely to destroy but to build alternative structures and everyone must be as active in the establishment of these alternatives as they are in the destruction of alien ones.

Such involvement opens the way forward to greater understanding and dialogue between all levels of support we have referred to. As an example we have mentioned the Peoples' Councils. They in themselves however are not the be all and end all. They should act as a springboard for the development of more revolutionary ideas and should provide people with the confidence and expertise to implement them.

By radicalising and changing society we are automatically cementing gained ground and at the same time widening our base. Our involvement in the implementation of alternatives creates a deepening of our own awareness as well as that of the people's. It would be wrong for us to underestimate the importance of Peoples' Councils and the like and place their development on the long finger until after the war.

Ever increasing awareness and deepening involvement is caused by two-way communication and safeguards against any attempt by reformists, opportunist politicians or revisionists to usurp the work being done. Without such communication there can never be true revolution in Ireland. At best we shall achieve a situation where a defeated Brit occupation is replaced by native gornbeen exploiters. It is precisely this sort of set-up which has existed in the twenty-six cos, for these last 50 years. Regardless of who has been in power they have all fulfilled the role of counter-revolutionary dictatorships.

Through constant involvement of all sections of the Republican Movement and of all facets of its supportive base a natural trust builds up which, on deepening allows for genuine and sincere criticism. No true revolutionary fears criticism, indeed he himself should welcome and encourage it. Criticism ensures that any gap which may emerge between those involved in the armed struggle and those involved with them in the building of new structures is never too great. Consequently any move forward is a mass movement thereby achieving maximum results.

Let a hundred flowers blossom, a hundred schools of thought contend.....

Slán agus
Beir bua

SOLON. LONG KESH PRISON CAMP.

BY SOLON

Long Kesh

MORE DETAILS ON TORTURE

Peter McGrath, a farmer, was arrested in the early hours of Monday, June 13. It was the second visit by the British Army to the house; the previous Friday, they had arrested his 22-year-old son, Thomas. Both were arrested following the ambush and killing of three policemen at Carnan corner the previous week. The first news Peter McGrath's family had of their father's whereabouts was a statement by the police on the Tuesday, 24 hours after his arrest that he was being detained in the intensive care unit at Musgrave Park military hospital in Belfast.

Family inquiries as to what was wrong with the man who had never had a day's bad health in his life, apart from a hernia operation in 1964, drew the response from the RUC that "he was suffering from a rash or something nervous like that". That evening when his son John went to visit him he found his father under heavy sedation and almost unrecognisable. He kept repeating three words "hospital, bath, fight", and was having a conversation with a neighbour

who was not present in the room.

Whatever had happened to Peter McGrath in the 24 hours he was in police custody, the man was now seriously mentally deranged. Two days later he was removed again by the RUC to the Mental Hospital in Omagh, where he remains in the same condition at the moment of writing. In two weeks his apparent mental collapse has shown no signs of repairing.

Clues to what happened to McGrath were given

when the family next visited the son Thomas in Crumlin Road Jail where he was taken after being charged on the Wednesday his father was first admitted to hospital with the murder of the three policemen. He told relatives that when he heard his father being beaten up in the cell next to him on the Monday night, he signed a confession to save him. His own condition also shocked the family; parts of his hair were missing and his face and lips were bruised.

When the older McGrath was removed to the mental hospital a charge of "withholding information" about the police murders was withdrawn.

A further indication of how the McGraths were treated can be taken from statements given by another local Coalisland man after spending seven days in the RUC station in Cookstown. 29-year-old Owen Roe O'Neill was arrested on Friday, May 28th. He was released without any charge against him the following Thursday. On the day of his release he was in an appalling condition. Large tufts of hair the size of beer-mats were missing from his head and the skin where the hair had been was caked with



sores. His body showed extensive bruising and his testicles were at least five times normal size. He claims he was beaten day and night for the first three days of his arrest by relays of RUC plain-clothes Special Branch. He was made do the "standard" leg bendings, wall positioning and physical exercises so familiar to readers of the Strasbourg documentation.

But O'Neill's interrogations were not without innovation. Each time he vomited, which was frequently on the first day, the vomit was lifted off the floor with tissues and forced back into his mouth again. A broken TV aerial which was lying in the room was used to beat his testicles and then to probe his anus. Later a jug of black liquid which he was told was acid, was poured into both ears and his head was roundly slapped with flat hands. The "acid" turned out to be pepsi-cola.

On his release, O'Neill who had to accept this treatment for three days non-stop and three further days of questioning without any beatings, had still refused to sign any statement. When his local doctor, Dr. McKenna of Coalisland saw his condition he took him straight back to Cookstown RUC station where he demanded that the police doctor, Dr. Knox Henry of Dungannon, who had examined O'Neill during his interrogation and found nothing wrong with him, examined him again. A report was filed and O'Neill's solicitor at once issued a writ against the Northern Ireland Office for damages.

Four days later, O'Neill was rearrested and asked to drop his charges against the police. He refused and was promptly charged with the carrying of guns in 1974 during an IRA ambush in Coalisland. He is at present held on remand in Crumlin Road Jail in Belfast.



Mr. Owen Roe O'Neill pictured with his wife shortly before his arrest.



WAR NEWS



Irish Republican Army claims responsibility for the following operations:

On the 29th June the killing of two British soldiers and wounding of two others attached to the Light Infantry Regiment in North Howard Street: (Belfast Brigade).

Two gun attacks on British forces in Fort Monagh, Tuff Lodge, on 2nd and 3rd July: (Belfast Brigade).

Gun attacks on members of the RUC at Aughnacloy, Co Tyrone, on 6th July, in which one member was killed and two others injured. East Tyrone Command IRA stated: "The war against the enemy forces and the hated RUC which is acting as a torture instrument for the oppression of the nationalist community, will be intensified until final victory and liberation is achieved."

Armed Volunteers attack British soldiers on Glen Road (12 July) and Twinbrook (14th July): Belfast Brigade IRA.

15th July: At 7.30 a.m. an active-service-unit attached

to the Belfast Brigade breached the heavily fortified Andersonstown barracks and planted a 20lbs bomb inside the base. The A.S.U. escaped with ease. However, the bomb failed to detonate and wasn't even discovered by the Brits for about an hour and a half after the A.S.U. left.

20th July: A sniper attached to Belfast Brigade IRA shot and seriously wounded another soldier of the Light Infantry regiment in Ballymurphy Drive. Another A.S.U. placed a 25lbs bomb inside Hastings Street RUC/Army post, which caused widespread damage.

22nd July: Volunteers of West Antrim Comm. and IRA kill a Prison Officer of Magilligan Prison Camp, drinking in a public house near Ballymoney in a so-called "safe" area.

23rd July: IRA claim responsibility for planting fire-bombs.

July 26: Shots exchanged between IRA and British occupation forces in Belfast and South Armagh.

July 27: Belfast Brigade executes UDR man.

A FEW MORE BAD APPLES

— by THE BRIGADIER



Evenin' all. Hope you all enjoyed the 'twelfth'. Some of the boys whom I'm afraid didn't are Billy Dougan, (41), Billy McGregor, (40) and Francis Courtney, (35). These three intrepid Scottish Orangemen have just got ten years each for having 104 sticks of gellignite, which, it was alleged, they were going to send to the UVF. Shame on the jury who didn't believe their story about being in a car near Killoch Collier (Ayrshire) and stopping to answer a call of nature, noticing a cardboard box beside the road, which, without opening they put in the boot. Alas, the Ayrshire constabulary, who had been for some strange reason tailing them for the past two days stopped them and searched the car one mile down the road to discover that the box contained 104 sticks of gelly. Perhaps it was the fact that Courtney worked in the quarry made them doubt this obvious true story. Still, have a nice twelfth, lads!

I am getting rather tired of people writing to me and making pathetic jokes about the biting soldier of Lurgan. Those of you who have been away must know that F. Faul has claimed that a local man had to have an antitetanus injection after being bitten on the right hand, left wrist, left arm and left ear by "a small burly soldier" in Edward Street. I find nothing amusing in this. Those who have suggested that the private was on the dog watch or that he was the

regimental boxer should be ashamed of themselves. As for the writer who wanted to know if the incident happened on Friday and whether the victim was a Fenian and a fisherman, well, I've nothing but contempt for such suggestions. The whole sorry tale only goes to confirm what I've said for years, our boys in khaki don't get enough food and will have to get more pay. I'd have you know that the practice of cannibalism in Her Majesty's forces is pretty rare and the Home Office have almost got it under control.

And now to more promising cases, such as Guardsman Peter Langley. The Guards have always been subject to sordid and nasty rumours and innuendoes regarding their private lives and off duty activities. Well, Guardsman Peter Langley (19) put the lie to that kind of chat. Nothing queer about Peter. He stole a rifle from the barracks and kidnapped a 42 year old housewife, taking her for a twelve hour drive and raping her twice on the way. He was a bit naughty and told a fib saying that he was in the IRA, but this was obviously just to reassure her. Can't understand Justice Milmo who, at the Old Bailey gave Langley 7 years after that other nice Guardsman Tom Holdworth got off. Pity about the army sacking Holdworth after all, still, he can always join us in the UDR, a conviction for rape is no bar at all.

What about Kenneth McNeill (25) and David In-

wood (19) both of the Royal Irish Rangers then? With McNeill's brother Billy and Andy Cunningham (17) this intrepid quartet from Castlerock set out to rob the local filling station. They hi-jacked a car and beat up the woman driver—trouble was, she happened to be Inwood's sister-in-law. They then used the car for the stick up and got away with £190. Not for long alas, for not only did the sister-in-law recognise them but so did two other people in the car with whom they had been drinking an hour previously. The McNeills got 7 years each, Inwood 5 years and Cunningham 3 years. I know you don't have to be too smart to get into the UDR but I think these boys are too stupid even for 5th Batt UDR.

Nor do we want Anthony Lennane (37) who's just been fined £100 and thrown out of the Thames Valley police force. Lennane, of Ember Road, Langley, was convicted of importuning plain clothes D/C Alan Boyce whom he asked to get "in the car for a bit of companionship". His defence that he was only "trying to make an odd copper" was not accepted either.

Finally, may I say how pleased I am that Gerry Fitt and Paddy Devlin have now accepted the RUC and UDR fully. This makes our task of "interrigating" much easier. We might even agree to guard little Austin Curry-favour's house again.

Bye for now,
your old pal,
THE BRIGADIER.

RED CROSS FAVOUR P.O.W. STATUS

At an international conference in Geneva at the end of April 1977 a new article was added to the International Red Cross Convention. The Article states that guerrillas are to be accorded all the rights of prisoners of war. The new Article was adopted by 66 votes to two, with 18 countries abstaining.

Amongst the countries voting in favour were the U.S.A. the Soviet Union, France, West Germany, East Germany, Vietnam, Libya, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Among those abstaining were, Britain, Canada free-state, Japan, Mali and the Vatican. Only Israel and Brazil voted against. The Article does not refer to "Guerrillas" as such, but only to "Combatants" in an attempt to up-date the Convention to cover recent developments in warfare involving the use of forces other than regular military units.

The Conference still has to vote on new clauses covering mercenaries and "actions or reprisal". The text states that all combatants must comply with the rules of international law applicable in armed combat. But "violations of these rules shall not deprive" a combatant, if captured of a prisoner of war status.

The key clauses are as follows:- "In order to promote the protection of the civilian population from the effects of hostilities, combatants are to distinguish themselves from the civilian population, while they are engaged in an attack or in a

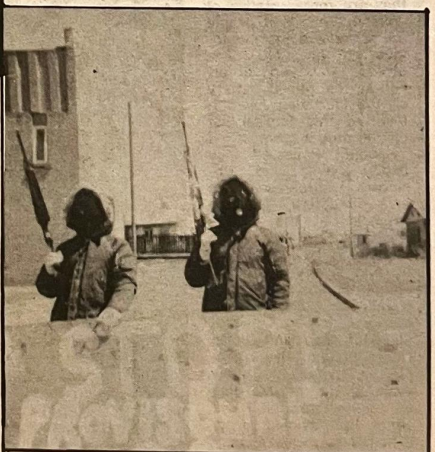
military operation preparatory to an attack."

"Recognising, however, that there are situations in armed conflicts where, owing to the nature of the hostilities, an armed combatant cannot so distinguish himself, he shall retain his status as a combatant provided that, in such situations, he carried his arms openly;...During each military engagement, and (b)...During such time as he is visible to the adversary, while he is engaged in a military deployment preceding the launching of an attack in which he is to participate".

A captured combatant, 'failing to meet the requirements shall forfeit his right to be a prisoner of war, but he shall nevertheless, be given protections equivalent in all reports to those accorded to prisoners of war, by the Third (Geneva) Convention.

The clause on the carrying of arms openly can be taken as meaning that "the weapons must be produced immediately before an action", said one of the delegates. The British delegate, Brigadier Sir David Hughes-Morgan, was worried that the distinction between combatants and civilians "could" become blurred and would put the latter at risk!! (Bloody Sunday-Derry?). He went on to say that "it is the view of the British Government that this risk may become unacceptable if an unsatisfactory interpretation is given to certain parts of this Article!!!"

(Article amended from "Free Palestine" Journal).



IRA CHECKPOINT IN SPRINGHILL, BELFAST, JULY 1977

I.R.A. OPERATE CHECK-POINTS IN SOUTH ARMAGH

PROVISIONAL IRA units from Crossmaglen in South Armagh ran the gauntlet on the Brits on the weekend of 8th July when they operated several checkpoints on roads throughout the region in what IRA sources have described as "a major security operation".

Between ten and twelve Oglagh volunteers were manning the various checkpoints on different routes, including the main Derry/Dublin road near the village of Cullaville, which is only a short distance from

the Brits' base in Crossmaglen.

According to local people the volunteers were "very heavily armed" and carried sub-machine guns as well as Armalite rifles.

They were in full military dress and wore masks as an extra security precaution.

The operation was a severe blow to the flagging morale of the S.A.S. which has of late confined themselves to sporadic "jump raids" on isolated farmhouses. Hundreds of motorists

stopped at the different

Oglagh road-blocks were given leaflets containing a statement from the IRA's 2nd Battalion at Crossmaglen. This statement warned informers and those engaged in "loose talk" to get out of the area within seven days. Otherwise, the statement said, action would be taken against them.

Instructions were also given to people on how to behave at checkpoints and during interrogation by the Brits and RUC.

BELFAST'S RING ROAD

AN ATTACK ON BELFAST'S WORKING-CLASS

PART 2

by CONALL CEARNAC



This is what remains of the derelict mill in Albert Street and Cullingtree Road months after a young child fell from the same wreckage and fractured her skull.

of the impression that not only had the lucky Catholics won a victory at the Polls they had also, by some strange twist of his imagination, gained another victory through Celtic at Lisbon. A sort of Fenian 1690. To the people of the now extinct Roden St and the threatened Hamill St Fitt's house neither had nor has any more value than theirs.

DIVIS FLATS.

One area badly affected by redevelopment is the Divis Flats. It is almost totally surrounded by derelict houses and sites are heaped with rubbish. Besides this the people of this area have dozens of other problems inside their homes and in the public parts of the complex which the housing executive have never maintained. 600 flats have no heating system except for an obsolete and expensive to run gas burning unit. Over 100 flats suffer from dampness and condensation to varying degrees. Playing facilities for the children of this area are pathetic with half a dozen swings for over 1000 children. As for adults in the Divis if you don't fancy a drink or if you don't drink at all you stay at home. There is nothing but one pub in this complex.

On BBC 9th May a programme made by the residents of the flats was shown. It was part of the "Open Door" series and

Besides this pathetic effort been maintained by the Ho in the Divis Flats have six



This block of flats was co has never been landscaped directly through this area

RUC AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

Within the last few weeks the RUC have stated that they will be taking strong action against illegal drinking clubs seems straight forward enough at first. But later in the statement they claim to be taking this action because of protests from community groups. The RUC it would seem are intent on moving into the Catholic ghettos on the backs of community groups. Most people would find it difficult to believe that the groups would be responsible for such action.

The RUC unlike Paddy Devlin must think that community groups are not "Rabble Rousers" and that they are representative of opinion. That is if people are to believe the mouthings of the RUC. The position was very different at the public inquiry on transportation for Belfast. At this farcical set up the groups were called "Rabble Rousers" by Paddy Devlin and "insincere, unrepresentative and disrupters" by the Inspector of the Inquiry Michael Lavery. The people referred to by Paddy Devlin and Lavery were residents of areas such as Hamill St, Divis Flats, Markers, Lower Ormeau, Shankill Road and North Queen St. etc. These people, in the highly likely event of the M1-M2 link up going through, will either be evicted from their homes to make room for this development or will be left marooned with their squalor and deprivation surrounded by £90 millions worth of motorways which will

be of no use whatsoever to the working class population of these blighted areas.

GERRY FITT'S 'HISTORICAL' HOUSE.

We have only to look round us anywhere in Belfast to see the deprivation caused by the haphazard redevelopment and the proposed motorway. Bomb sites of the present struggle for freedom pale into insignificance when compared with the vast rubbish strewn sites illustrated here. Some of these deserts have been in this condition for ten years and shall remain so until such

times as the question of transportation for Belfast is resolved. It was all very different last month when Paddy Devlin's SDLP colleague Gerry Fitt made the headlines when he alone decided that he would hold up all redevelopment in the New Lodge area. The reason? Gerry thought his house was to be demolished. He has since discovered that this is not the case as his house has "historical value".

No doubt it has but not as much historical value as his statement from the back of a lorry in Raglan St when Celtic won the European Cup. Gerry was



Gerry Fitt marching in the 1966 Easter Commemoration Celebrations in Belfast.

these amateur producers called their programme "Internment in the Divis". Few people who watched the programme could not feel sympathy for the people trapped in this terrible environment. It is a fact that most of the elected Reps i.e. Councillors etc couldn't give a

point out that the first step was to get one's priorities right, he said that in Nottingham the most important factors they kept in mind, in order of priority, when designing their transportation scheme were

1. The Environment
2. Pedestrians
3. Public Transport Pass-

Just off centre in this rubbish strewn desert are the new houses at Elizabeth Street. How many of the residents realise that a massive motorway is to be built within yards of their homes?



of an adventure playground, which has never using Executive, the 1,000 children under ten

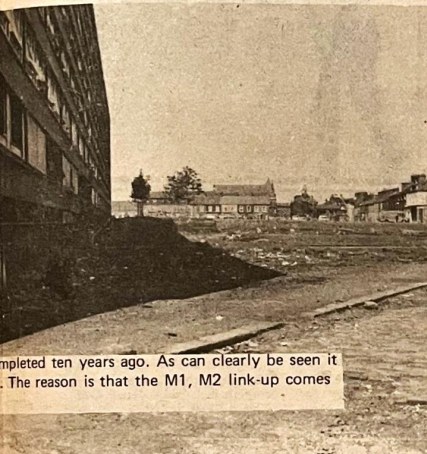
most suitable form of transport for the working class of Belfast is to be removed either by foul means or fair. Most likely the

former. The taxis must remain to make sure that "Citybus" do not have a monopoly as it is the most expensive "Bus Service" in

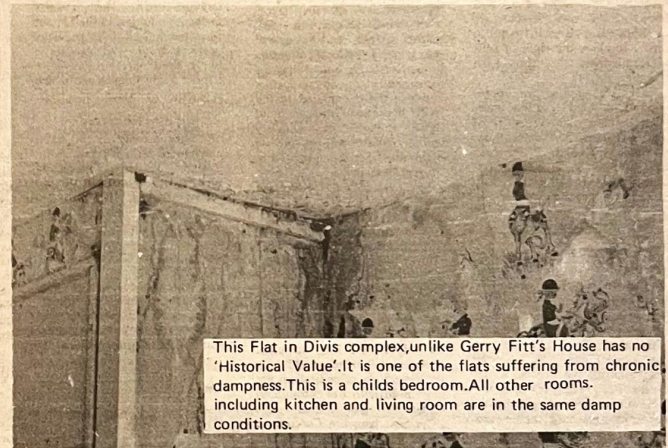
the British Isles. Compare the cost of travelling by bus or taxi from falls Park to the City Centre. For a person going by bus five days a week cost £2.60. By taxi £1.50. A considerable saving by any standards. The taxis (if the powers that be have their way) will simply be

another casualty or, more apt-victim of the planners and citybus chiefs who have stated on dozens of occasions that they could not provide a service as cheap or as regular as the Black Taxis.

(to be continued).



completed ten years ago. As can clearly be seen it. The reason is that the M1, M2 link-up comes



This Flat in Divis complex, unlike Gerry Fitt's House has no 'Historical Value'. It is one of the flats suffering from chronic dampness. This is a child's bedroom. All other rooms, including kitchen and living room are in the same damp conditions.

damn about issues that do not further their own party's aims or get them TV time to further inflate their already bloated egos.

On top of all this the people of Divis will be expected to accept a motorway only 70 feet from the complex and running past the full length of Whitehall, Pound and Cullingtree before weaving its way through Elizabeth St. and Roden St. New Houses. In no way will this motorway improve the quality of life for any of the working class people of Belfast. In fact any effect from it will be detrimental to their already deplorable living conditions and low financial status. The planners in Belfast over the next few years intend to minimise expenditure on public transport and cater in the main for the private motorist. At a teach in attended by quite a few Belfast city councillors in the Royal Ave Hotel four years ago and addressed by councillor Higgins from Nottingham a town with a very successful transportation system, heard him

engens

4. The disabled driver
5. Commercial vehicles
6. Short stay businessmen in cars
7. Car shoppers
8. Car commuters.

The plan for Belfast would effectively reverse these priorities.

PEOPLE'S TAXIS.

At this very moment moves are being made to ensure that the black taxis are put of the road and kept of it. The one firm which had been willing to insure the taxis (thus gaining a monopoly on them) is pulling out of the country. It seems very strange or maybe even sinister when one considers that this Insurance firm's income from the taxis alone must be in excess of £186,000 per year (food for thought indeed). For quite a few years the taxis have rendered an almost excellent service to the people of Falls, Shankill, White Rock and Twinbrook etc. The taxi drivers and patrons have been abused harassed and fired on by the RUC and British Army. They now find that this

BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR SINN FEIN ANNOUNCES POLITICAL PRISONERS' CAMPAIGN 31.7.77-10.8.77

Sunday, 31st July, 1977.

CHILDRENS' 10 MILE SPONSORED WALK, from Divis Flats to Donagall Celtic Playing fields. We appeal to adults to support the children who are marching for the prisoners by sponsoring them in this walk.

Monday, 1st August, 1977

Rally at **TWINBROOK-Assemble** at Thornhill Shops, at 7.30 p.m. **PROMINENT SINN FEIN SPEAKERS.**

Tuesday, 2nd August, 1977.

Rally at **JUNCTION CLONARD STREET/ FALLS ROAD 7.30 p.m. PROMINENT SINN FEIN SPEAKERS.**

Wednesday, 3rd August, 1977.

Rally at **JUNCTION ST. JAMES/WHITEROCK 7.30 p.m. prominent sinn fein speakers.**

Thursday, 4th August, 1977

Rally at **LENADOON SHOPS, Lenadoon Avenue- 7.30 p.m. PROMINENT SINN FEIN SPEAKERS.**

Friday, 5th August, 1977

Rally at **BROMPTON PARK, commencing 7.30 p.m. PROMINENT SINN FEIN SPEAKERS.**

Saturday, 6th August, 1977.

Rally at **SHORT STRAND, Thompson Street-7.30 p.m. PROMINENT SINN FEIN SPEAKERS.**

All the above organised by Belfast C.C. Sinn Fein.

MASS SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATION

SUNDAY, 7th August, 1977 at 2.30 p.m. BUSY BEE.

(organised by Sinn Fein: Relatives Action Committee.

Parade forms up at Busy Bee, pick-up points at Whiterock/St. James Rd. and Beechmount Avenue-

RALLY at DUNVILLE PARK. Speakers from Sinn Fein and the R.A.C.

Monday 8th August, 1977

Local activities in all Republican Areas of Belfast by Sinn Fein cumalinn

Tuesday, 9th August, 1977.

4.00 a.m. **WE CALL ON ALL REPUBLICAN PEOPLE AND SUPPORTERS OF THE PRISONERS- BANG YOUR BIN LID.**

Wednesday: 10th August, 1977 POLITICAL ACTIVITY TO HIGHLIGHT THE PRESENCE OF A FOREIGN QUEEN WILL BE ADVERTISED LATER



REBUILDING THE TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT

by Brendan Steele

A lot of attention has recently been focussed on Willesden in North London. For it is here that the uniformed "animals" of the Special Patrol Group have spearheaded recent attacks by the London police. They have launched their brutal attacks against the mass trade union picket at the Grunwick factory. Meanwhile another event of interest has taken place just a few hundred yards from the factory. A successful step has been taken in rebuilding the Troops Out Movement (TOM).

UNITED TOM

The Open Troops Out Conference held over the first weekend of July attracted well over two hundred activists from all over Britain. The Conference adopted the name the United Troops Out Movement and demanded the immediate withdrawal of British troops in order to allow the right of self-determination to the Irish people.

Every TOM branch was represented at what was the most successful conference of activists that has been held. Despite political differences it was evident that this Conference formed the launching pad of a genuine and determined effort to build an open democratic movement.

INCREASE IN NUMBERS

The recent London split within the movement has led not to demoralisation but to an increase in the numbers involved in rebuilding the movement throughout Britain. Splits can be a necessary step as the formation of the Provos, seven years ago, goes to prove. However there should be no illusions regarding the organisational strength of the United TOM. Although things are looking up, at this stage it groups together little more than handfuls of activists plus a small but significant slice of the British far left.

This does not contradict the fact that there is much wider, although confused, sentiment in favour of troop withdrawal amongst the British people.

BALANCE OF FORCES

In Ireland the Republican Movement has recently made a public re-assessment of the balance of forces between republicanism and imperialism. The long hard struggle ahead was spelt out by Jimmy Drumm at Bodensown.

In the same way the Troops Out Movement is making a re-assessment of those forces in Britain favouring the withdrawal of troops. An optimistic assessment of the situation within the British Labour Movement may well have been close to the root of past problems within the TOM.

IRISH FRONT

The Conference opened with an address given by an official representative of the Derry Irish Front. He gave an informative speech on torture and the general political situation in the North. He hoped that the increased communication between those engaged in the Irish liberation struggle and those engaged in solidarity work in Britain, will not only be maintained but strengthened in the days ahead.

He stressed that just like the changing attitude of the American people to the war in Vietnam was a major reason for the defeat of American imperialism, so too, the changing attitudes of the British people can be a decisive factor in the struggle for an Irish Socialist Republic.

He appealed to the Conference for help for the Irish struggle. A socialist Ireland would help the overthrow of capitalism not only in Britain, but throughout Europe.

The best way the Conference could help was by building the Troops Out Movement. He finished by wishing the Conference every success in its aim.

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL

The Conference agreed upon a programme of action. As has previously been reported in this

paper an appeal has been launched to build an International Tribunal on Britain's War Crimes against the Irish People. The United TOM sees building this Tribunal as a major national focus for its work over the coming year.

As a contribution to building both the Tribunal, and the broader campaign to expose Britain's repressive role in Ireland, the Conference issued an appeal to all those who oppose British repression in Ireland to build a public rally in London on Sunday 29th January 1978. This rally will be preceded by a demonstration on which the United TOM will organise a contingent of all those who favour the immediate withdrawal of the Brits.

Other United TOM activity will include using last year's Delegation Report in the Labour Movement. And as in previous years, a Troops Out meeting is to be held during this year's Labour Party Conference which is at Brighton in October.

ANTI-RECRUITMENT

Another activity to be taken much more seriously than in the past is consistent nationally coordinated work against Brit recruitment.

Leafletting of dole queues, and protests at recruiting offices, at military displays in local shows, and at national military jamborees, are to be stepped up. Military recruiting visits to schools, colleges and universities will be picketed and support sought for the blacking and banning of these visits.

SINN FEIN

Another area much neglected in the past is campaigning for Troops Out support amongst Irish people in Britain. Conference thought that such support should obviously be sought. This meant that the Conference welcomed the full and active participation of Irish organisations in the United Troops Out Movement.

Women's

conference

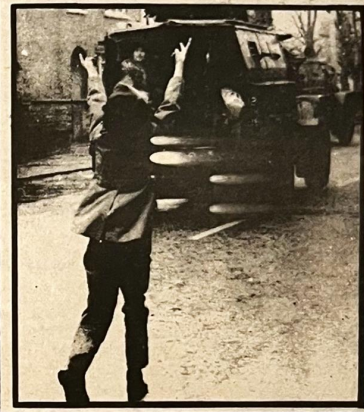
on Ireland

A very successful one-day women's conference on "Fenianism and Ireland" was held in London on June 26th. The conference was the 3rd in a series on Socialist Fenianist practice - the first in the series was on unemployment and women, the second on sexuality, and the 4th (held on July 10th) was about the conclusions drawn from the other three - i.e., a discussion about how socialist women in the women's movement feel they should be organising around women's issues in England, and how they should be approaching the question of their own education and the political development of the socialist-fenianist current in general.

For copies of the papers from this conference write to: "Women And Ireland", 50 Upper Tollymore Park, London N.4.

TROOPS OUT OPEN CONFERENCE

TO BUILD THE MOVEMENT FOR TROOPS OUT NOW! SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE!



A paper produced by Luton Sinn Fein confirmed that Provisional Sinn Fein in Britain welcomed the initiative taken in calling this conference. The paper was meant to help clear away misunderstandings that had arisen on the British left over the policies of the Republican Movement. A free United Socialist Republic in the tradition of James Connolly is the Provo aim.

NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

On the final afternoon the Conference agreed to call for another Troops Out Open Conference in November in order to build upon the present

unity and to draw in new forces. The Conference will be organised by a planning committee open to all who support the demand for Troops Out Now!

In conclusion, this July Conference has laid a firm basis for unity in action. For rebuilding a strong network of local branches and for raising the national Troops Out profile.

Enquiries about the November conference and details of United TOM activities can be got from: Troops Out Open Conference c/o Rising Free 182 Upper Street London N1.

NORWEGIAN TOWN

DEMAND

BRIT MARINES OUT

Two thirds of the population of the small town of Bjerka in Northern Norway have signed a petition demanding that a 200 man detachment of British Marine Commandos be withdrawn from the town.

The locals have complained to the Social Democrat-controlled local government authority. They claim that the Marines have been brutalising people in Ireland and that they bully local Norwegian civilians, sell drugs and alcohol, attempt burglaries and indulge in sexual obscenities.

But when the locals report incidents to the police, the cases are handed over to British military police under a NATO agreement. In effect they say the tiny semi-Arctic town is virtually under British martial law while the Marines are there.

A spokesman for the locals emphasised that they were concerned about the fact that the Marine Commandos are "professionals", in other words "mercenaries and murderers, specially trained to subdue civilians." They claim that when one of the Marines was asked if he would obey orders to shoot local people in Bjerka, he muttered: "An order is an order."

And they say that despite a virtual news blackout on their protest, their campaign is spreading. Recently when British Commandos disembarked at the nearby industrial town of Moi Rana for their annual camp, they were greeted by a spontaneous demonstration, with locals shouting "British Go Home."

By Rosemary Sullivan.

Internment commemoration

rally, London, 7th August

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the rally to commemorate the introduction of Internment in occupied Ireland in 1971 (advertised to take place on July 31st in previous issues of 'Republican News') will now take place on Sunday August 7th. The rally will assemble at Speakers Corner Hyde Park at 2.30 and set off at 3.p.m. sharp marching down Oxford St. to Lincoln's Inn Fields. The rally will be addressed

by leading members of Sinn Fein from London, Home Counties and North of England.

Speakers from other revolutionary organisations based in England and Scotland will also address the rally. All Cumann and Comhairle Ceannaire banners should be displayed.

(Further details can be had by writing to Box 8, 182 Upper Street, Islington, London, N.1.)

NEWS FROM ENGLISH JAILS



The Prisoners Welfare Group (London) has asked the relevant authorities responsible for the administration of St. Stephen's Hospital, London SW10, the Kenington/Chelsea/Westminster Area Health Authority and the N.W. Thames Regional Health Authority to investigate a statement made by PATRICK HACKETT (printed in POW Bulletin, June 1977) about an incident which occurred during his 'hospitalization' there in March/April 1976, when he was frequently interrogated by the police.

Despite having lost an arm, leg and suffering severe abdominal injuries, Patrick Hackett was subjected not only to extreme psychological pressures but actual physical attacks which included the 'squeezing' of his 'amputated arm' stump. The police officers involved were Detectives Cousins and Parnell of the Anti Terrorist Squad.



PATRICK HACKETT

The Prisoners Welfare Group (London) also points out that although it is now over 15 months since the amputation of his leg that Patrick Hackett has not yet been fitted with a proper artificial replacement.

Brixton, London

The 'trial' of Patrick Hackett (Tipperary) John Hayes (Dublin) Vincent Donnelly and Mrs Sarah Donnelly, both Tyrone, ended last Thursday June 30. Vincent was sentenced to 'life', Patrick and John to 20 years each. Mrs Donnelly was acquitted. The 3 men maintained their disregard for this political show-trial right to the end.

Wormwood Scrubs, London

Shane O Doherty (Derry) is now in the TENTH month of his protest here, seeking political status. Since last September he has been wearing only a towel as he refuses to wear the prison garb of a criminal. He is now down to 9 stone, in weight. The prison is regularly picketed in support of his just demand.

Conditions for POW's here have really deteriorated in recent months and the harassment and victimisation by warders is on an ever-increasing scale.

ENQUIRY INTO

HULL RIOT



Further evidence that Irish prisoners are singled out for rough treatment in British prisons was confirmed in the PROP report on the Hull Prison riot. No doubts at all remain that the prison officers not only laid the foundations of the riot but also precipitated it. The enquiry also criticised the Home Office and the Prison Governor who had promised that there would be no violence, nor reprisals, no discrimination and a full investigation of complaints as a condition of surrender. But after the surrender, it found prisoners were the victims of grave assaults and maltreatment marked by degrading and inhuman conduct.

They were beaten by groups of prison warders and were repeatedly assaulted when alone in their cells. The Irish prisoners were made a special case. They were forced on their hands and knees and told to sing 'God save the queen', and were beaten for refusing. Their cells were flooded with urine, and when tea and soup was provided it stank of urine. Joe Duffy, after the riot was kept in a cell which had a long white light strip and was then moved to cells with flashing red and blue lights, also he was not allowed to sleep or to eat. Martin Brady on arrival at Leicester discovered that much of the property brought with him

did not belong to him. He then pointed this out to a warder and found himself charged with Looting!

The enquiry also called for an official public inquiry into the riot; the ending of the secrecy which now masks the conduct of prisons; prohibition of the use of prisoners for medical experiments and the use of tranquillisers such as Largactil as a part of the control mechanism in prisons, and prohibition of the administering of drugs to prisoners who are in good health and have no need of medical treatment.

(Courtesy POW
Printed by Prisoners
Welfare Group,

SOLDIERS TRANSFERRED

At Belfast City Commissions a few weeks ago two former British soldiers who admitted to having beaten up an elderly man in Belfast last year after hijacking his car, were sentenced to 15 and 12 years imprisonment respectively.

The court heard that as the result of the savage attack the injured man had suffered severe paralysis down one side of his face and partial paralysis in one arm.

Where are these two former soldiers now? They aren't in Long Kesh, Crumlin Road or Magilligan; in fact they are now serving their sentences in a British prison somewhere in England. This is not the

first occasion that British troops convicted of criminal acts upon such as robbery and rape have been moved to an English prison following their trial. In all there have been somewhere in the region of 50 such cases the most notable being that of the late 'Col. Callan' who was shot dead by the Angolans for murder.

This is just one more example of the double standards employed by the British government. In England there are over one hundred Republican prisoners many of whom come from the 6 counties and whose families still live here, yet the British refuse to move them to prisons nearer their homes.



British soldiers found guilty of criminal offences are being moved to English prisons while Irish POWs in England are refused the right of repatriation.

VANDALISM

A serious problem which has arisen over the past few months has been brought to the attention of the REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT.

Teenage Vandals have been running amok in the Finaghy Rd. Nth. area, smashing windows, destroying flower beds, wrecking and stealing cars and last week end beating up an old man.

This devastation is being caused by young boys and girls coming home from the Roadhouse drunk, and the REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT now WARN THESE LOOTS.

THE TERRORISING OF RESIDENTS OF FINAGHY RD. NTH. MUST STOP OR THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THESE YOUNG THUGS, MALE AND FEMALE."

(First Battalion, Belfast Brigade).

ANDERSONSTOWN

R.A.C.

Belfast

At a recent meeting of the Andersonstown R.A.C. a New Officer Board was elected. The New Officer Board pledged themselves and their members to a continuation of the struggle for the Retention of Political Status and condemned the actions of the British Army against members of Andersonstown R.A.C. and of the arrest of member Jim McCorry.

The Andersonstown Branch plan a series of demonstrations, beginning Saturday 30 July with pickets at local R.U.C. and Military Barracks. A full programme of events are planned right up to and including August 10. The public will be kept informed when and where demonstrations will take place.

TORTURE IN PLACE OF INTERNMENT

by PETER DOWLING

The increased use of torture by the RUC over the past eighteen months is no accident. A step-up in police torture is a logical consequence of current Brit policy.

It arises from their need to deal with the upturn of the military and popular struggle since the erosion of the Truce.

Recent public revelations have only lifted the corner of the curtain which covers scores of cases of torture. Police torture which is designed to extract signed "confessions".

And torture has an important role to play in this. For signed "confessions" extracted by violence have become a direct replacement for internment.

Under internment no evidence was necessary in order to imprison anybody. Just a few "traces" were required which could easily be made up by the average Brit or RUC man.

When internment was ended some kind of "evidence" became necessary in order to get rid of any "unwanted members of the public", that is "suspected" Republicans.

spread "means of disposal" were needed by the Brits. Techniques which involved using the full "majesty of the law."

JURIES OUT

Juries had already been dispensed with as an unnecessary luxury. An interesting parallel development in Britain was to move to majority verdicts from juries rather than unanimous verdicts. In both countries the British state made a deliberate choice regarding the optimum "means for disposal of unwanted members of the public", whether politically motivated members or not.

Anyway, in the six counties some means of gathering "evidence" was needed so that the judicial formalities could be acted out in front of whichever "impartial" Unionist judge happened to be presiding.

THICK BRITS

Initial attempts were a bit crude. Planting evidence was tried. But the average Brit skulking about our streets is a bit "thick". The "art" of planting evidence is beyond him.

Also the "primacy of the police" meant that the RUC were so keen to be seen as "neutral" and non-sectarian that they sometimes rattled on their comrades, the Brits. As five Black Watch found to their cost earlier this year.

Thus the stupidity of the Brit-on-the-street and the spirit of competition between Brits and RUC made the practice of planting evidence too risky.

RUBBER-STAMPED CONFESSIONS.

Instead, forcibly extracted signed "confessions", rubber-stamped by a one-Orangeman court became the order of the day.

"Confessions" to suitable "crimes" had to be extracted by various means. Both physical and psychological violence were and are required.

Systematic beatings are handed out including the "soft-shoe" treatment so as not to leave any marks. Also burning people with cigarettes which certainly does leave marks.

Humiliation, confinement in isolation and numerous other varieties of Sensory Deprivation are applied to "suspects".

People are made to suffer "screaming interrogation" by rotating teams of "detectives". This particular technique is derived from the "Conveyor" method developed by Stalin's secret police the NKVD who used relays of "interrogators" to question "suspects" for literally days on end.

The complete list of RUC and Brit methods of "interrogation" is known only too well to too many readers of this paper.

COMPUTER-MATCHING

A sophisticated modern refinement, in current use, is that captured hostages are matched against suitable "crimes" by processing on a computer.

No nonsense allowed of local "security" forces pinning their "pet crime" on their most hated "wanted"

man or woman. Maximum efficiency has to be achieved.

If the matter were not so tragically serious we could draw amusing comparisons with American-style computer-dating. A suitable hostage matched with a suitable "crime".

But mis-matching does take place as Brenda Murray discovered. Eyewitness descriptions of the fire-bomber ("tall and well-built with shoulder-length hair") hardly fitted Brenda Murray ("small, slim and has short hair").

OVER-CONFIDENT RUC

And some RUC men and women did get over-enthusiastic and over-confident. A notable case a month ago was that of 64-year old Peter McGrath from Coalisland who had to be confined to psychiatric hospital following "interrogation".

Even SDLP-man Paddy Duffy had to admit, "I have seen evidence of police brutality in both Cookstown and Castlereagh police stations that would send a shudder down the spine of any civilised person."

So evidence is steadily accumulating of widespread systematic torture being practised at RUC interrogation centres. This torture having the definite intended function of extracting signed "confessions" as a direct replacement for internment.

COUNTER-INSURGENCY

It is the upturn of the struggle over the past year

Continued on page 11

TIP OF ICEBERG

Brenda Murray from Short Strand stands on the exposed tip of this "iceberg", together with a handful of other victims. The bulk of cases still remains hidden from public view.

Both physical and psychological torture are used.

In Brenda Murray's case an RUC man in North Queen Street Barracks had presented her with a ready-made confession to bombing a Belfast boutique. A police woman then simply beat her until she signed, thus admitting her "guilt".

Brenda Murray is an exception. She is an exception in that she was released from prison following an appeal against her conviction and 15-year sentence. She is not an exception in being tortured.

LOGICAL OUTCOME

Such torture does not happen as a result of random excesses of enthusiasm by particularly depraved "defenders of 'British Law and Orange Order'". It follows as a logical outcome of the "criminalisation" part of the Brit's "Ulsterisation" policy.

On the military front "Ulsterisation" means the Brits being phased into the background while instead we get the "primacy of the police". In an attempt to make the RUC "acceptable" and to justify their entry into nationalist areas, republicans and socialists are portrayed as "criminals".

A BRIT PROBLEM

A necessary pre-condition for this "criminalisation" policy was the ending of internment. Thus making it easier to label those imprisoned as "sentenced criminals" rather than political hostages.

But having ended internment the Brits had a problem. To use the words of General Kitson, "unwanted members of the public" still had to be "disposed of" by some means.

ASSASSINATION

The level of popular awareness and resistance means that some elements of "democracy" are forced to exist in the six counties. Straight-forward elimination of more than a handful of Republican "suspects" through assassination by the "peace-keeping" forces would create too big a back-lash.

Even dressed-up in the "respectable" clothes of "the law" such killings would reap a tremendous backlash from the risen people and nationalist forces. This is why Mason stubbornly refuses demands to introduce capital punishment for "terrorists".

And it is why on-the-spot execution of captured "suspects", such as was the fate of Peter Cleary, remains a fringe activity rather than a central guideline.

REMANDED IN CUSTODY

Other means of removing Republicans, their relatives, friends and supporters had to be devised.

Remanding "suspects" in custody was found to have a useful role to play. Using this technique people can be held in prison for many months.

So "remanded in custody" has become a familiar, but partial, replacement for internment. Partial, because by the very nature of it, holding people on remand is a stop-gap method not capable of bringing lasting results on a sufficiently widespread basis.

INTIMIDATION

Another "means of disposal" much favoured by the Brit-on-the-street is to intimidate people out of their homes and out of the six counties. This simply involves regular threats to imprison or kill someone and is combined with the systematic harassment of frequent "lifting" and house-searching. However given people's high level of spirit and resistance this method gains little success, and brings only temporary "rewards", if any at all. More effective and wide-

M.P.'S RUN AMOKE IN SHORT STRAND

BELFAST

Shortly before 10 o'clock on Thursday night a British Army mobile patrol was ambushed in Thompson Street east Belfast. Eye-witness accounts state that at least two soldiers were hit but a statement from the Brits has said that only one soldier was slightly wounded in the legs.

This attack on the Brits has come at a time of increased harassment of the local population and in the wake of almost daily early morning arrests. In the six week period previous to the ambush the level of harassment and arrests was met by a series of protests and demonstrations by the Local Relatives Action Committee and

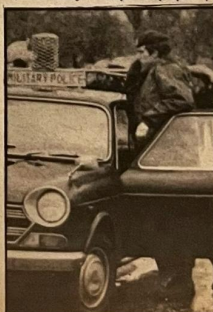
Sinn Fein who were attempting to highlight the torture and interrogation methods being used in Castlereagh on youths from this area.

According to a number of witnesses at the scene of the ambush, "The Brits just ran amoke they were kicking in doors and pulling people from their houses". One report in the Press has said that they arrested ten members of a local club. One person in particular whom they were looking for was arrested in a local club while out for a drink with his wife.

Eye-witnesses said he was badly beaten before being taken away. It wasn't long before the

bin-lids were out and in true Republican fashion the local people made their feelings known to the RUC and Brits. The wave of protests continued into the night and a demonstration was staged outside Blairs Yard where most of those arrested were taken. The events of the past week have shown that the people can only take so much harassment and that terrorists in uniform must expect the wrath of a risen people.

(Courtesy 'People's paper')





PICKETING DOWNING ST.
MRS MCCOOEY, MRS NORNEY AND MRS STEWART.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

which has brought this specific use of torture to the forefront as a weapon of counter-insurgency.

It will be through further extension of the popular and military struggle which will bring torture to an end.

For in order to maintain their grip the Brits need to "Ulsterise" the war. In order to "Ulsterise" the war they need to "criminalise" their opponents. In order to "criminalise" their opponents, they need convictions through the "courts". In order to get

convictions through the "courts" they need signed "confessions" obtained by torture.

Such an analysis dictates that the only guarantee against torture will be obtained through the destruction of the Orange statelet and an end to British rule. This means "SMASH THE RUC" and "BRITS OUT" is the way forward.

(To Be Continued Next Week).

7th July 1977.
DAY OF LOYALIST'S PROTEST IN SUPPORT OF "POLITICAL STATUS FOR LOYALIST PRISONERS AND POLITICAL SEGREGATION IN CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL.

Obviously frightened of departing too far from fascism and of incurring the wrath of parliamentarian colleagues, they took the precaution of engaging in a sectarian attack to offset criticism. A bomb exploded in this lorry, outside of Daly's Pub, Falls Road, Belfast.

Fortunately the no-warning blast caused no deaths, although several people were injured.

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

by SCOPOLI

London will be the venue in early 1978 for an International Tribunal on Britain's war crimes against the Irish people, where the activities of the British State will be subjected to detailed investigation. Work is now well under way to build this important initiative, and various bodies engaged in such include; the People Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PAPTA), the Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland (LMDI), the Student Campaign on Ireland, and the United Troops Out Movement.

The aim of its organisers is to draw to the attention of world opinion, and especially to that of the British labour movement, the crimes committed by the British State against the Irish people. The Tribunal will offer a platform to victims of repression in England and Ireland, the relatives of internees, to representatives of groups with special knowledge of the daily harassment experienced by Irish men and women; to lawyers, churchmen and politicians prepared to stand up for human rights against the British State.

Internationally-known figures such as the French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir and American linguist Noam Chomsky have been invited to act as "judges," to hear evidence and make statements on the basis of what they hear. With the experience of people such as these, and by means of an international publicity campaign, the organisers aim to expose Britain for its innumerable human rights denials including, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Emergency Powers Act, the use of torture and political intimidation, the use of no-jury courts, the denial of political status for political prisoners, as well as the horrific activities of agencies such as the S.A.S. Already some evidence has been collected, and these include written statements, photographs of brutalised prisoners, documented evidence such as that recorded by prominent writers, but a great deal has yet to be obtained, and in this regard the readers of Republican News and other publications, together with aid from political organisations would be greatly appreciated by the Tribunal organisers.

The Tribunal is intended to form the core of a campaign to convince British workers that their government and army have to be prevented from committing further crimes against the Irish people. Trade Union and other Labour movement organisations have been invited to send delegates to the Tribunal, so that they can take back into their movement the message from witnesses to be the true facts of Britain's war. These delegates will be asked to endorse a statement noting all the evidence presented to them, and condemning the British State for its denial of human rights. They will act as a "jury", passing a verdict on the government, and the organisers intend that the Tribunal should be followed by a vigorous campaign to prosecute the British Government before the European Commission on Human Rights.

The Home Secretary Merlyn Rees, and the Northern Ireland Secretary Roy Mason will be invited to defend themselves and their government, and an invitation will go to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Labour Party, calling on them to declare where they stand as between the Irish people who are fighting for the right to run their own affairs free from British interference, and the Westminster government which denies them that right.

The organisers, who can be contacted by writing to; The Committee for the International Tribunal, 182 Upper Street, London N.1. are particularly interested in opening up links with various organisations and individuals in the north east who can help either financially or in the collection of evidence, or in proposing witnesses who could present personal accounts of the judges and jury making up the Tribunal. They are also interested in hearing from people who would permit their names to be added to a list of sponsors for the Tribunal. 'Sponsorship merely involves the collection of evidence in your own locality, and forwarding such to the Tribunal's address.

This Tribunal presents us all with an opportunity we cannot afford to let pass by. Its up to all of us to make it an outstanding success.





SHOT DEAD IN STREET

In 1943 Jackie Griffith, a dedicated Republican, was shot dead by the secret police in Dublin.

Last Sunday there was a good turnout for the annual commemoration of this cowardly, unprovoked attack on a patriotic Irishman.

Our picture (left) shows the local Sinn Fein Cumann, called after Jackie, on parade from Ringsend to Mount Street where the murder took place, following Mass in St. Patrick's. Liam Davitt is pictured above placing the wreath.

The oration was delivered by Aindrias O Ceallaigh who pointed out that, despite the financial crisis, three car-loads of secret police had been directed to spy on those present.

Sinn Fein, Dundalk GOSS & GAUGHAN '7TH AUG.' PARADE

The parade will form up at the Market Square at 3.00 p.m. and march to St. Patrick's Cemetery where an oration will be delivered by a prominent Republican.

All National organisations and the General Public are invited to attend.

Is Mise
Prionnsias De Brun.



Derek Highstead

DEREK HIGHSTEAD

The age old adage says Time is a healer. But it hasn't worked over here at all! We miss you now even more than ever, without you, Derek, we feel lost and forlorn.

We know you would wish that we should not mourn you, But follow the example you set for us all, To fight the old fight and make our loved Ireland A Nation United and free from all thrall.

We lift up our hearts at each new days dawning In prayer to God, that you soon will see, From your place of rest in God's own heaven The land that you fought for - and worked for - FREE.

Always remembered with pride, love and loyalty by your beloved comrades of London Sinn Fein.

HIGHSTEAD (1st Anniversary)

In Loving Memory Of
DEREK HIGHSTEAD
who died on 16th July 1976.
July has come with sad regret,
The day, the month we shall never forget.

(Inserted by Derek Highstead
Sinn Fein Cumann, Cricklewood
London.)

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.

FAILTE ABHAILE!

A very successful Failte Abhaile Social Evening was run by Dundalk An Cumann Cabrach at The Imperial Hotel on the 24th June to Welcome home from Portlaoise:-

Paddy Casey from Armagh, and Dundalk men Owen Hanrahan, Larry O'Rourke, Michael McDonagh and Eamon Murphy.

During the Function a Prize Drawing for a Pool of £200 Raffle was held. Winning numbers were:-

349 - £100.
106 - £50.
272 - £25.
139 - £25.

Music was performed by Travelling John and Supporting Cast.

A group of young Irish Step Dancers gave their services free. The Mona Roddy Group which included an Exhibition by The Junior World Champion Master Francis Agnew. Fra Kiernan and "Clan Rye" Folk Group - all of whom were greatly appreciated.

Cumann Cabrach Committee extend their warmest thanks to all friends who supported this function, and have pleasure in announcing a similar function will again be held this coming September.

ANOTHER YOUTH HIT BY PLASTIC BULLET

Turf Lodge, Belfast

On Wednesday afternoon (7th July) during an incursion into Turf Lodge a confrontation occurred between local people and British soldiers, whom the people do not want in their area. After minutes of verbal abuse from the soldiers and aggravation a riot situation developed. Soldiers were stoned and some distance away from the confrontation a saracen was driving through the estate. From the saracen

soldiers shouted abuse and fired a plastic bullet which hit eleven year old John Rocks from Norgeln Road. John Rocks was riding on a bicycle outside his own front door. He received serious injuries to the face and is now in the RVH Belfast. His parents have made a formal complaint to the RUC and they want the soldiers responsible charged with attempted murder.

