

AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



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© 1974: Ian Paisley leads a march of masked loyalist paramilitaries in Larne, County Antrim

Menacing moves



UNIONIST plans to stage a shutdown in the six counties on Monday has led to renewed appeals to nationalist people to be on their guard against loyalist assassins who, it is known, have been straining at the leash being held by their political masters in the DUP and OUP for several months now.

The go-ahead for 'unofficial' actions during the loyalist shutdown was implied by DUP leader Ian Paisley outside the Stormont Assembly on Wednesday evening, February 26th, when he said that the politicians would not be responsible for the activities of those who "don't stick to the guidelines."

Those guidelines, which were emphasised by the OUP leader, James Molyneux, include a "co-ordinated and disciplined" approach in which, Paisley emphasised, "violence and intimidation will have no part to play."

ROLE

Conscious of the bad press which followed the 1974 and 1977 loyalist shutdowns, during which hooded UDA members played a major role in deterring people from going to work, Paisley and Molyneux are anxious to minimise the public role of similar groups on this occasion. Both men appear confident that

such heavy-handed tactics will not be necessary this time.

But if the loyalist murder gangs, which have been recruiting heavily since the Hillsborough deal was signed, are being asked to stay in the background during the dispute, that will not stop them from launching a renewed campaign of sectarian attacks against the nationalist community.

Such 'unofficial' attacks would undoubtedly strengthen the hand of unionist politicians who have been warning for months that if they withdrew from the political process, as they now plan to do, then the way would be left open to 'others' who would use violent methods.

THREATS

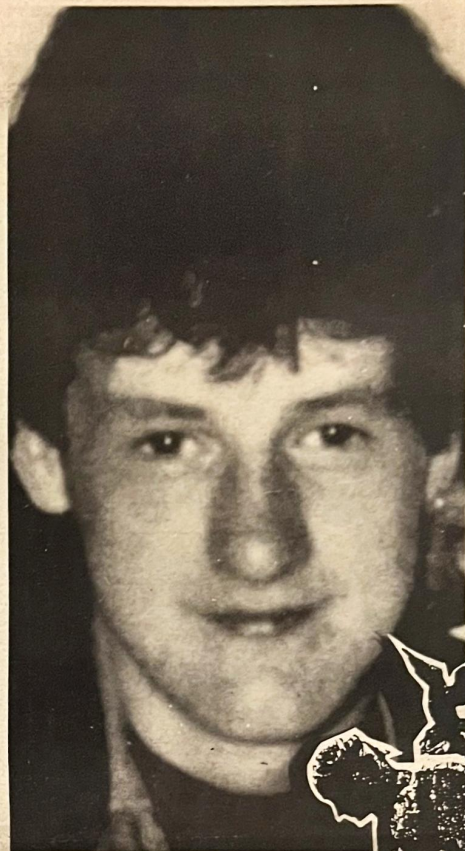
These thinly-veiled threats and the pressure of opposition by unionists to the Hillsborough deal have already led to something of a climbdown by the British premier, Mar-

garet Thatcher, who has postponed the next meeting of the London-Dublin Inter-Governmental Conference.

Despite their claim that Monday's dispute would be "rigidly controlled", unionist politicians have clearly not ruled out demonstrations such as the one witnessed outside Magherafelt District Council this week when Sinn Féin councillors' lives were seriously threatened, nor have they distanced themselves from the loyalist murder gangs and the equally-threatening Ulster Clubs which have spread rapidly since their formation in Portadown last summer.

"All of these developments and recent attacks in North Belfast suggest that a sectarian assassination campaign, sanctioned by political leaders in the DUP and OUP, is in the offing," Sinn Féin general secretary Tom Hartley said. And he warned:

"Nationalist people should be on their guard because in any unionist campaign against their British masters the lives of nationalists are always at risk."



Vol Tony Gough

I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a anam

THE ever-present risk facing IRA Volunteers who confront the forces of British imperialism in Ireland was demonstrated again last weekend when Tony Gough of the IRA's Derry Brigade was shot dead while on active service.

There was no comment from the usually-vocal establishment following this death, no calls on the British army to lay down their weapons, and no calls on the British government to create the basis for peace by withdrawing from Ireland.

Against this deafening silence from the establishment was the dignified and massive demonstration by the ordinary people of Derry whose presence at the funeral of Tony Gough was a tribute to the man himself and to the ideals for which he laid down his life.

See Page 2 for profile of Volunteer Tony Gough and Page 16 for funeral report.



STOP the STRIP-SEARCHES RALLY & MARCH

1.30pm Sunday 9th March
BEECHMOUNT, BELFAST

Dublin buses leave Parnell Square
(Art Gallery) at 11am - Fare £6





● Part of the funeral cortege of Vol Tony Gough (inset)

Operations overshadowed

TRAGIC DEATH OF TONY GOUGH,
SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN

DERRY'S SAD LOSS

IRA ACTIVITY in the North this week was overshadowed by the tragic death of Volunteer Tony Gough in Derry on Saturday night, February 22nd. Returning from an attack on the Fort George British army/RUC base, during which 15 to 20 shots were fired at a sangar on the perimeter of the base, Volunteer Gough was shot dead by members of a British army foot-patrol.

Elsewhere in the six counties, the IRA in Armagh city struck at the RUC in a devastating attack on Sunday, February 23rd. At 2.15am on Sunday, an RUC armoured car was ripped apart by a 200lb IRA landmine which was detonated on an isolated slip road leading from Lower Irish Street to Dalton Park on the edge of the Dalton/Drumarg estate.

Although the heavily-reinforced armoured car certainly saved the lives of the RUC men, members of the notorious DMSU, at least one was reported to be 'seriously injured', receiving shrapnel wounds to the face and neck. The two other members of the patrol reportedly suffered 'severe shock'.

This latter type of injury

is often seen to be inconsequential outside the ranks of the British forces as the public has grown conditioned to the 'body count syndrome' (ie that dead bodies and physical injuries determine victories).

However, evidence shows that psychological injuries suffered from what can be termed 'shell shock' have an extremely demoralising effect on the RUC and British forces; their problem being that this type of injury is much more difficult to treat than physical injuries.

In a statement after the attack, the IRA said that it regretted the damage caused in the surrounding area. It was also pointed out that the timing of the attack had been chosen to avoid civilian casualties.

THE TRAGIC death of 24-year-old IRA Volunteer Tony Gough has robbed the people of Derry of a true, unselfish, socialist republican. Tony, from The Crescent, in the nationalist Shantallow area of the city, joined the Irish Republican Army in 1980 at the age of 18. Knowledge of his involvement surprised even those closest to him, his family, as Tony had never been arrested or had in any way drawn attention to his activities.

His awareness of the need for absolute personal security stretched to the point where he would never voice support for the republican struggle and generally avoided discussing politics. His role and responsibilities within the IRA were known to no one outside his own active service unit.

CONCERN

One of his strongest characteristics was his

genuine concern for the people of Derry.

In line with his generous nature, Tony, who had worked as an apprentice in Molins engineering factory, contributed his redundancy money to the co-operative set up by the workers to save jobs. He was one of the first to volunteer and participate in the factory sit-in and was to the forefront in the successful campaign to



open the factory (now called Maydown Precision Engineering) once again. In this dispute Tony displayed the same qualities of commitment and dedication which marked him out as someone special and earned him the respect of trade unionists.

LOVED

He was loved by the people of Shantallow and admired by the

youth of the area because of his quiet sincerity.

Tony lived by his socialist principles in his day-to-day life and, as an IRA Volunteer, demonstrated by his actions that he was prepared to sacrifice his life in the struggle of his people to establish a thirty-two-county socialist republic.

FUNERAL REPORT
— PAGE 16

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

UNIONIST LEADERS James Molyneux and Ian Paisley met Margaret Thatcher in London on Tuesday, February 25th. The unionists' aim was to remind her of the large anti-agreement vote they had got a month previously and to ask her to scrap the London-Dublin agreement and convene a conference of Northern politicians — except Sinn Féin, of course — to negotiate devolved government for the six counties.

The agreement was not to be scrapped the British government had made that clear on several occasions before the talks. Meanwhile, in the week leading up to the meeting, unionists had issued many threats, including that of a 1974-style strike. Was the Tuesday meeting to mark, as Molyneux warned on Monday, "the end of the constitutional road" for the unionists' anti-agreement campaign?

As Molyneux and Paisley emerged from the talks on Tuesday afternoon, it did not seem so. "We are not at the end of the road," Molyneux declared. Deadlock, the unionists said, had been avoided. And Paisley claimed they had got Thatcher to discuss 'areas' previously out of bounds. This mysterious phrase presumably referred to the postponement of this month's session of the Inter-Governmental Conference, announced by British direct-ruler Tom King immediately after the Tuesday meeting.

ORCHESTRATED RESPONSE

Had the unionists got what they, in the short term at least, had sought to obtain? Their proposal of a round-table conference on devolution had seemingly been accepted; so had their demand for a temporary freeze of the London-Dublin agreement — even though Tom King didn't exactly put it like that. The industrial stoppage planned for March 3rd appeared to have been averted. SDLP leader John Hume, who last week stated his readiness to talk to unionists "without preconditions", welcomed the news. So did the British and Dublin governments, in what seemed like an orchestrated response to the unionists' apparent conciliatory mood.

But that evening, after a lengthy meeting held in Belfast in which the two unionist leaders reported back to a 'loyalist steering committee' about their talks with Thatcher, a statement was issued which brought all the talk of 'dialogue and reconciliation' to an abrupt end:

"Having carefully considered our discussions with Mrs Thatcher, and as long

Unionist leaders under pressure



as the prime minister is committed to the implementation of the Anglo-Irish agreement, no purpose can be served by any further discussions with her."

There followed a short announcement that unionist politicians would now "withdraw the consent of the people of Northern Ireland from the government".

STRIKE

Present at that Tuesday night meeting were representatives of the Belfast shipyards and Ballylumford power station

— the power station which had most contributed in bringing down the power-sharing Executive in May 1974 and which, by its refusal to strike, had caused the May 1977 stoppage to fail. There was also at least one member of the UDA present. This time it seems that the unionist leadership was pushed into militant action by their rank and file and rather than split the three-month-old anti-agreement campaign went along with their demand for 'action'.

The days ahead will reveal the part

played in this U-turn by DUP hardliners and the effect that reactions from the SDLP and Dublin had on the paranoid unionists.

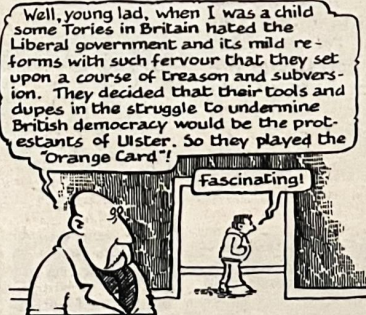
In the week up to last Tuesday, unionists had sounded conciliatory enough. In what positively looked like a climb-down, Molyneux had even declared on the eve of the meeting that "unionists would look at any offer of talks if Belfast is elevated to a position of equality" with London and Dublin and has "an equal voice with Mr Barry". Meanwhile, documents leaked to the press at the end of last week revealed that plans for a one-day stoppage on March 3rd were going ahead and an indefinite strike at the end of March was certainly being considered. The document mentioned roadblocks and power cuts.

CLEVER DOUBLE ACT?

Whether this hot-and-cold shower was a clever double act on the unionists' part or rather the reflection of internal tensions in the unionist camp — OUP versus DUP, or rank and file versus leadership — will probably emerge in the next few days. Nevertheless, Thatcher's two 'gifts' to the unionists — Hume's 'no preconditions' talks offer and the announcement last week that Dublin would sign the European anti-terrorist convention — were both contemptuously rejected by the unionists.

Hume's gesture had come a day after FitzGerald had assured Thatcher and the British press that the SDLP would "talk at any time, without preconditions, with anyone who is willing to discuss devolution on a participatory basis." This inglorious climb-down from the dizzy heights of the Dublin Forum report and its aspiration to Irish unity shows that time has now come for the SDLP to pay up — and the price to be paid for the privileged position given to the SDLP by the London-Dublin agreement will be recognition of the RUC and a return to Stormont (probably with a bit less than power sharing).

NOTES
© GORMAC



Major challenge

BY DONAL LYONS

IN A MAJOR CHALLENGE to the Dublin government's pay policy in the public sector, four more unions have joined with the ATGWU in rejecting the 7% recommended pay rise over 15 months offered by management.

Results of a ballot conducted amongst the membership of AUEW/TASS, ITGWU, MPGWU and the FWUI show an overwhelming majority against acceptance of the offer. Another 12 unions in the company have yet to announce their ballot results, but union leaders are convinced that the offer has been effectively thrown out.

The same 7% offer has been made to thousands of other public-sector workers in CIE and Bord Telecom, and the outcome of the ESB situation is being viewed by workers throughout the sector as a test case.

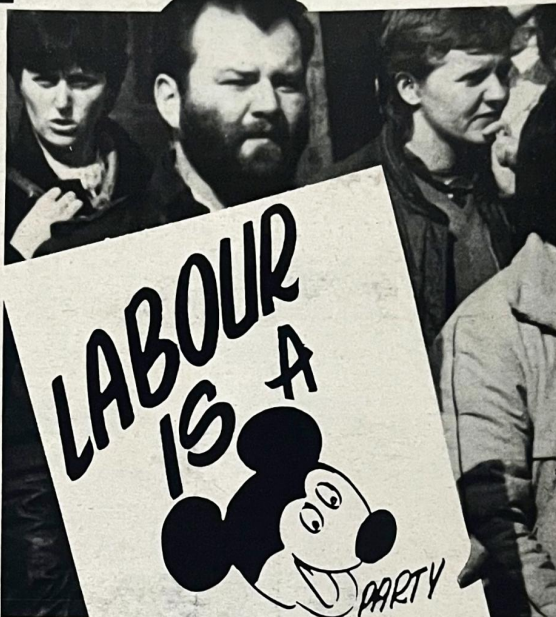
Teachers United, the umbrella group representing the three teachers' unions in the twenty-six counties — INTO, ASTI and TUI — this week announced that over 700 national schools will be closed for nine days between now and Easter. All post-primary schools will also be strike-bound for three days over the same period "unless the 10% pay award is honoured in a full and equitable manner."

The series of three-day stoppages is due to begin on Tuesday, April 1st, and if they are not successful "much tougher action, including all out strike and a boycott of exams" is being threatened for after Easter. Schools catering for handicapped children and children with special needs will not be affected.

In a move to support the teachers, Congress has announced that it intends to arrange the Dublin government before the International Labour Organisation in Geneva. This will happen unless an arbitrator is appointed to the teachers' arbitration "without further delay." They accuse the Coalition of acting in a "dictatorial fashion" and in a manner totally unacceptable to the trade union movement.

The dispute at the Unipork bacon factory in Cookstown, County Tyrone, took a dramatic turn on Monday, February 24th, when the RUC were called in to evict 77 strikers who had occupied the plant.

During the course of the eviction, which lasted more than half an hour, the RUC baton-charged these in occupation, leaving four workers with head injuries requiring hospital treatment. The work-



ers vacated the premises, but are continuing to picket the factory gates. The dispute concerns lay-off procedures.

The use of a private contractor on the giant Aughinish Alumina Ltd plant on the Shannon estuary has provoked an unofficial dispute by the company's general operatives, members of the ITGWU.

The work involves the de-scaling of one of the plant's three digesters, work the staff claim is traditionally carried out by them.

Over 250 workers, including craftsmen, refused to pass the pickets but the remainder of the staff and work-force, numbering 300, worked normally.

Pickets have been placed on Leixlip Reservoir, one of Dublin's largest, by AUEW maintenance fitters. The row erupted when Dublin County Council suspended two fitters for refusing to operate new machinery at the reservoir.

The AUEW had previously lodged a

pay claim for 7% to compensate the workers for the extra duties and responsibilities which the new machinery entails. Labour Court discussions are to occur this week.

Leixlip Reservoir supplies 20 million gallons of water daily to Dublin county and city.

In a major blow to Coleraine, Montefibre, an Italian-owned acrylic fibre plant, has announced its closure, with the loss of 250 jobs. The closure has been described as "catastrophic news for the area" by Sinn Féin.

The plant is scheduled to close in five weeks' time and talks are to begin immediately with the unions concerned.

The 16 trade unions affiliated to the twenty-six-county Labour Party are increasing the pressure on Labour to break with Fine Gael and precipitate an early election. Demanding a ten-year moratorium on Labour's participation in Coalition, the secretary of the Trade Union Group, John O'Brien, said that this would improve the strained relations between

the unions and the party. The president of the ITGWU, John Carroll, has added his voice to this call, significantly upping the ante for Dick Spring.

The 3,000-strong Psychiatric Nurses' Association, as part of its campaign against hospital closures, is to boycott the transfer of patients from hospitals earmarked for closure.

The first action will take place in the near future when nurses will refuse to escort 600 patients from St Dymphna's in Carlow and St Patrick's in Castlereagh, Roscommon, to other institutions in the South-Eastern and Western Health Board areas.

In a report released this week by the Economic and Social Research Institute it is predicted that registered unemployment in the twenty-six counties will be over 250,000 in five years' time despite a net emigration level of 15,000 per annum until 1991. The report also says that "any modest gains in jobs in industry, services and construction will be more than off-set by continuing job losses in the agricultural sector".

The £25 million cut-back in the Public Capital Programme announced in this year's Coalition budget will mean the loss of a further 1,000 jobs in the construction industry, according to the Society of Chartered Surveyors. The cut-back represents a 23% reduction in public sector construction spending and this, allied with the "virtual collapse" of private construction, means the whole industry is grinding to a halt.

The 90 members of RTE's concert and symphony orchestras are to strike on Friday, February 28th. This stoppage is described by a spokesperson as the first in a campaign of "sporadic, strategic action designed to highlight our case." Friday's stoppage will be the first industrial action ever taken by the orchestras, and is over the failure of RTE to implement a 20% pay award in January as recommended by the Labour Court.

One ITGWU source commented, "RTE had already committed itself to paying the award, but the Dublin Department of Communications intervened and told RTE to re-negotiate. We have already reached agreement with the station and we have no intention of going back to the negotiation stage again."

The planned concert at the National Concert Hall by the European Broadcasting Union on Friday night has been cancelled due to the stoppage.

Culture motion

A SUCCESSFUL proposal by Sinn Féin elected representative Jim McAllister that a sub-committee of Newry & Mourne Council be set up to promote the Irish language brings to three the number of councils in the North which have set up special committees to boost Irish culture.

McAllister made the proposal at the monthly meeting of the council's tourist and recreation committee. He told AP/RN:

"Before the local government elections in May 1985, Sinn Féin issued a detailed cultural manifesto which pledged, for the first time ever, to bring the issue of Irish culture into the realms of local government."

"The Newry & Mourne sub-committee will examine ways in which Irish can be constructively promoted. Three of our five councillors are Irish speakers and are

aware of the excellent work being carried out by Conradh na Gaeilge in Newry and Camlough. This sub-committee will complement their work and offer them representation."

Sinn Féin has already ensured the establishment of cultural sub-committees in Fermanagh and Derry councils. The inaugural meeting of the Fermanagh sub-committee, chaired by Sinn Féin Councillor Tommy Maguire, who learned Irish while imprisoned in Long Kesh, took place on February 6th.



● JIM McALLISTER



70ú Comóradh Eirí Amach na Cásca

SINN FEIN wishes to announce that as part of its celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the 1916 Rising, a commemorative march and rally will take place in Dublin on Saturday, April 5th. To make this occasion a fitting tribute to all those who have laid down their lives in the cause of freedom over the past 70 years, Sinn Féin invites political, social and cultural groups to attend. Bands are especially welcome and these should contact The Secretary, Coiste Cúmhneachain na Poblachta, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, as soon as possible.

Extradition treaty signed

BY MARTIN Mac DIARMADA

WHATEVER little sovereignty the twenty-six-county state lay claim to was further eroded this week when the newly-appointed justice minister, Alan Dukes, signed the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism in Strasbourg.

The Convention allows for the extradition of alleged offenders between European states regardless of whether their offences are political or not. The treaty lists acts ranging from the use of small-arms to the hijacking of aircraft which, for the purposes of the Act, are not defined as political regardless of the motives of those involved or the political circumstances of the particular country in which the act was committed. Therefore it also applies to the extradition of those — such as members of the Republican Movement in Ireland — engaged in legitimate national liberation struggles. As such it contravenes the widely-accepted international practice of the non-

extradition of political offenders.

TRADE-OFF

The signing of the Convention in Strasbourg on Monday, February 24th, came as a direct result of the Hillsborough deal. According to the treaty was part of the trade-off between Garret FitzGerald and Margaret Thatcher and the major element in the increased cross-border collaboration sought by the British government from the Free State.

Alan Dukes used the event to make a speech on the London-Dublin deal and admitted that the Free State's membership of the Convention was a concession to the British.

A week earlier, the Coalition



● ALAN DUKES

had signed an amendment to the Treaty of Rome which will mean that majority decisions on foreign affairs and 'security' matters will

be binding on the twenty-six-county government. Foreign affairs minister Peter Barry reportedly lied to intervene to explain

Free State 'neutrality' at a meeting of EEC foreign ministers on Tuesday, February 25th. The meeting discussed in detail military matters including nuclear missiles.

NATO STRATEGY

In effect, the meeting was used as a forum for discussion of NATO strategy — the Free State being the only non-member in the EEC. Barry's polite objections carried little weight given that the Free State had just signed both the Treaty of Rome amendment and the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams described the signing of the Terrorism Convention as "yet another indication of the Coalition government's increasing willingness to institutionalise its collaboration with the British government and it flies in the face of protests by Dublin about the British judicial system."

Punitive regime for Irish prisoners

SINN FEIN president Gerry Adams has criticised the conditions under which Brendan McFarlane and Gerry Kelly, two H-Block escapees, are being held in prison in Holland. His comments came following visits he had with both men in Maastricht and Overamstel prisons on Friday, February 21st.

Legal advice has been sought about the unusually harsh conditions both men are being held under. The severe regime is at variance with the Dutch penal system which is fairly liberal. It is generally believed in Holland that British pressure is behind the implementation of these bleak conditions.

The extradition hearing, at which the British will attempt to have both men returned to the North, is set for March 11th. Adams said:

"Sinn Féin will be endeavouring to raise public consciousness in Holland about the implications of this extradition request."



● GERRY ADAMS

the prison roof. He is being refused English-language papers and his visits are closed.

Before each visit his own clothes are taken from him and he is given other clothing. Following the visit, this clothing is taken back and he is given his own clothes again. He is strip-searched before and after each visit. Books which have been left into the prison for him have been held by the prison administration.

In addition, Gerry is denied access to Mass.

BRENDAN MCFARLANE ACCORDING to Adams, Overamstel Prison, where Bren-



● (Above) A letter of protest is handed into the Dutch Embassy in Dublin by Joe Cahill and Lucilita Breathnach of Sinn Féin while (below) a picket is maintained on the embassy to protest at the solitary confinement of Gerry Kelly and Brendan McFarlane

GERRY KELLY ADAMS' VISIT with Gerry Kelly took place at 9am on the Friday morning and lasted one hour:

I found Gerry Kelly in excellent spirits despite the severe and punitive regime he is enduring in Maastricht Prison. He is being held in solitary confinement and, apart from visits from his family and solicitor, he has talked to no one else since his arrest.

He is confined to his cell for 23 hours each day and is permitted only one hour's exercise on

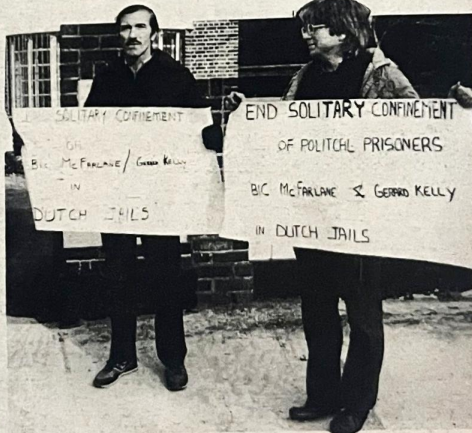
dan McFarlane is held, is even more authoritarian than Maastricht:

I visited Brendan McFarlane on Friday afternoon and was with him for two hours. He is held on 23½ hours lock-up daily and is permitted only half an hour exercise on the prison roof.

He is denied his own clothing and is dressed in a boiler suit. He had to wear a blanket over this during his exercise period because of the extremely cold weather and he is also strictly segregated from other prisoners.

His cell is searched daily and is checked every half hour, day and night. He is refused books from outside and although he has permission to get books from the prison library, he is refused admission to the library.

Like Gerry Kelly, Brendan McFarlane is denied access to Mass.



ANTI-EXTRADITION FUND

ON MARCH 11th, Brendan McFarlane and Gerry Kelly face extradition hearings in Holland. To help cover the heavy legal expenses, Sinn Féin has established an anti-extradition fund. All donations should be sent to 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. (Please send only cheques or money/postal orders — no cash).

Anyone wishing to correspond with Gerry Kelly or Brendan McFarlane can write to them at the following addresses:

Brendan McFarlane
Demersluis
Penitentiaire Inrichtingen
Overamstel
Bijlmer
Holland

Gerry Kelly
Huis Van Bewaring
Te Maastricht
Willem Alexanderweg 21
An 6200 Maastricht
Holland



Strip-searching protest in Commons

BY MAIRTIN MAC DIARMADA

THE STRIP-SEARCHING of Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer in Brixton Jail was dramatically highlighted during the British House of Commons debate on the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act on Wednesday evening, February 19th.

Four women anti-strip-search campaigners gained access to the gallery of the Commons and unfurled a banner reading "Stop the Strip-Searches in Brixton" over the heads of the MPs. They also threw hundreds of leaflets with the words "800 searches — nothing found" among the MPs.

The four women were then attacked by porters. One woman was knocked to the ground and had her coat torn. They were then detained by police for three hours until the PTA debate had ended.

REFUSED BAIL

On Tuesday, February 25th, the London Central Criminal Court refused bail to Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer. At the hearing the two women's lawyers submitted a psychiatrist's report which said that the women were suffering serious mental strain as a result of their treatment in Brixton.

The court, which was held in

private, refused to allow either of the women to address it. Their lawyers are planning to take the British Home Secretary, the former direct-ruler in the six counties, Douglas Hurd, to the High Court for unlawful assault and inhuman and degrading treatment.

Also on Tuesday, Derry City Council passed a Sinn Féin resolution deploring the treatment of Martina Anderson (who is from Derry) and Ella O'Dwyer. The council also agreed to send a delegation of four to visit all Derry prisoners who are affected by strip-searching.

ICTU WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

In Dublin on Friday, February 21st, much of the first day of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions' Women's Conference was taken up with the debate on strip-searching in Armagh. The conference voted to campaign against the practice and to set up a

committee to further investigate it. There was a heated debate on an amendment which sought to link the ICTU position with "an ongoing campaign for peace in Northern Ireland" and a call on "all organisations in Northern Ireland to end their campaigns of terror and violence."

The amendment was passed by only the narrowest of margins — 54 votes to 52.

An anti-strip-search picket in the Diamond, Bellaghy, attracted widespread interest on Saturday, February 22nd, and several new members were recruited to the local committee.

Germaine Doherty, chairperson of the South Derry action group, said that anti-strip-search campaigners are enthusiastically engaged in examining other avenues to highlight the torture of women prisoners in Brixton and Armagh.

BRIXTON PICKET

Also on Saturday, over 30 people picketed Brixton prison to demand an end to the brutal treatment of republican remand prisoners Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer.

The pickets will be continuing every Saturday for the next four weeks.

Water rates campaign resurgence

DUBLIN Sinn Féin has launched a new campaign against water rates following the threatened prosecution of several people for non-payment of arrears — even though Dublin Corporation and County Council have officially abolished the rates.

Extensive distribution of an initial run of 40,000 leaflets began in Dublin on Monday, February 24th. Sinn Féin is calling on people to resist the latest demands for arrears and to ignore the calls for them to fill in waiver forms. The leaflet says:

"Water rates are unjust in principle and are a double taxation — they should be opposed right across the board for those reasons."

Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke has tabled a motion for the March meeting of Dublin City Council calling for a total amnesty for all those who have refused to pay water rates.



OFFALY

In Edenderry, County Offaly, gardai clashed with anti-water rates demonstrators on February 18th when Offaly County Council officials tried to cut off the water supply to a water rates resister in the Greenwood Park estate.

In a statement, Sinn Féin's local representative in Tullamore, Emmet Walsh, has pledged the party's support for the Greenwood Park tenants and the National Association of Tenants' Organisations (NATO) in their stand against the water charges.

He continued: "Sinn Féin calls on all water rates resisters to mobilise their communities to resist bully-boy tactics by the authorities. We

also appeal to council and corporation workers not to allow themselves to be used by the Labour/Fine Gael government in its campaign to try and squeeze the unjust water rates tax out of people."

NATO & ACRA

NATO and the Association of Combined Residents' Associations have also recently launched a new campaign against service charges, including the demand for amnesty for those in arrears.

Sinn Féin councillors throughout the twenty-six counties will be supporting these demands in the council chambers in the months ahead.

CONNOLLY BIOGRAPHER'S 1916 ANNIVERSARY LECTURE DENOUNCES HILLSBOROUGH AGREEMENT

THE NATION STATE

BY BRENDAN KERR

DESMOND GREAVES, biographer of James Connolly and historian of the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union, opened the Irish Sovereignty Movement's 1916 70th Anniversary Lectures series last Thursday, February 20th, with a lively contribution entitled *The Nation State*.

With a vigour and enthusiasm that belied his own 70 years of age, Greaves held his Dublin audience's attention for the full 90 minutes as he outlined imperialist and capitalist attempts throughout history and right up the Hillsborough agreement of today to subvert the right of nations to national sovereignty and self-determination.

CONCEPT

Attempting to define the concept of 'the nation state', Greaves said "the bound-

aries of a state should coincide with the extent of the community within the nation... Ireland is not a nation state because part of the nation is outside the state."

As Greaves described the Western powers' economic exploitation of their colonies by what he called the "investment imperialism" of pumping money into a region and then controlling the native political framework, which in turn controlled the local labour ("enslaving natives in their own countries"), a cold chill must have run up the spine of every multinational and Industrial Development Authority executive in the Free State neocolony.

HILLSBOROUGH

The threat posed to Ireland and twenty-six-county neutrality by treaties such as the Hillsborough agreement was clearly analysed by Greaves as being part of "the tidying up of the defences of Western Europe."

If Britain failed to stabilise its rule in

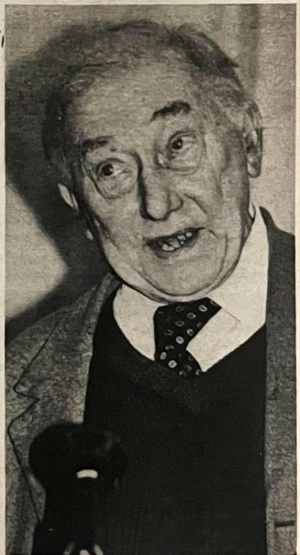
the six counties and lost its mantle as "the custodian of the north-western defences of Europe," he argued, then its political, military and economic influence throughout the world would also be significantly diminished.

"The British government has no economic motive for remaining in the six counties — that disappeared 25 years ago when the 'imperial contribution' ended.

"The only thing that can conceivably persuade the British government to spend £2,000 million a year and get nothing in return must be military and strategic."

NEXT LECTURE

The next ISM lecture, on *National Sovereignty at the End of the 20th Century*, will be given by Gearóid Ó Tuathigh of University College Galway at 8pm on Thursday, March 13th. The venue is the new ATGWU Hall, 55 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin. Admission is free.



• DESMOND GREAVES

Toomebridge murder inquiry

Brit propaganda refuted

FOLLOWING the murder of 20-year-old Francis Bradley near Toomebridge on Tuesday, February 18th, the Community for Justice and Peace, an organisation headed by Fr Joe McVeigh and Fr Des Wilson, announced its intention to hold a public inquiry into the latest shoot-to-kill murder. Fr Des Wilson said:

"We want to show people that you don't have to be the British government to hold a public inquiry."

According to Fr Joe McVeigh, "There are a lot of very angry people in this area who are demanding answers about the killing of this young man. It is our intention to take sworn statements from any person who can shed light on the circumstances before, during and immediately following the killing of Francis Bradley."

"We will publish the findings of the inquiry as soon as possible."

The Brit-inspired media line that soldiers "clearly working on intelligence information — had apparently been observing the movements of three men, two of whom were spotted carrying rifles around outbuildings at a small holding on the Castledawson-Toome road and who ran off when challenged" (BBC Inside Ulster report, Wednesday, February 19th) was shown to be blatantly untrue when one of the two men arrested following the murder, Colm Walls, was released two days later without charge. He is presently taking legal advice.

NOT TOGETHER

In an interview with AP/RN, he said "At no stage were there three men together around the house." He didn't see Francis Bradley at all but had heard he was coming to see about a part for his car.

"The first thing I heard was Barney McLarnon (the second man arrested) knocking at the front door. I couldn't let him in the front because there was no key in the door so I went out the back to walk around the house to see him. As I turned the corner of the gable at the back, I heard the most awful rattle of shots which as far as I could work out came from the backyard."

Two days later, he saw how close he was to death himself when he noted the



● The funeral of Francis Bradley on Friday, February 21st

bullet holes around the back door from which he had emerged. One bullet went through the window of his elderly mother's bedroom and ricocheted off the far wall. Luckily she was in the living room at the time. He continued:

"As I got to the front of the house I was jumped on by several soldiers who came running from McVeigh's carpark and put me face down on the concrete path below the window. Barney was lying a little bit away from me on the path, both of us handcuffed with bags over our heads. We lay like that for over two hours with soldiers standing over us. I never got speaking to Barney."

FEELING

Feeling in the area is running very high because most of the locals know that Francis had suffered much harassment. He had been offered £6,000 bribes to set up local republicans and had received numerous death threats — the last only two days before his murder.

On Saturday evening, February 22nd, a hastily-arranged roadside vigil outside Colm Walls' house attracted over 100 people carrying placards demanding Barney McLarnon's release. The crowd swelled to over 200 on Sunday night and they said they would continue to protest until he was released.

On Tuesday, February 25th, Barney McLarnon was released by the RUC without charge.

The Sinn Féin vice-chairperson of Magherafelt Council, Lughaidh Mac Giolla Bhrighde, said:

"Following the shooting in which Francis Bradley was killed, the RUC issued statements to the media identifying the murdered man as "a gunman" and the two others arrested at the scene, as "gunmen who ran off and were captured." With the release of Colm Walls and now Barney McLarnon, the RUC's attempts to cover up the murder of Francis Bradley has been exposed."

"The media's willingness to accept without question the RUC version of

Murder victim buried

THE FUNERAL of Francis Bradley, who was murdered by a British army undercover squad near Toomebridge on the night of Tuesday, February 18th, took place last Friday, February 21st, at a chapel a mile from his Newbridge home.

A wide section of the community in South Derry, numbering some 2,000 people, attended the ceremony despite suffering the sort of RUC harassment usually reserved for Republican Movement funerals.

Over 40 RUC landrovers surrounded the area and stopped and questioned mourners while a British army helicopter hovered overhead.

Pupils and teachers from Francis Bradley's old school in Magherafelt lined the road in silent tribute as his coffin was borne to the cemetery.

Sinn Féin was represented at the funeral by Councillor Mitchell McLaughlin and Martin McGuinness. Once again tendering Sinn Féin's sympathy to the Bradley family on their tragic loss, McGuinness condemned the blatantly heavy RUC presence as "provocative and insensitive and obviously intended to perpetuate the lie that Francis Bradley was one of three men challenged while in possession of weapons at the time of his death."

events also raises the whole issue of the independence and impartiality of the press."

Homes ransacked in raids

BY NUALA DOHERTY

THE HOME of a West Belfast family was ransacked by a joint British army/RUC raiding party in the early hours of Thursday, February 20th. And in a return visit to the same house on Tuesday, February 25th, the RUC arrested 46-year-old Frankie Dougan under Section 11 of the Emergency Provisions Act and brought him to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre, even though Dougan suffers from angina and epilepsy.

In a four-hour raid on the Dougan home, the raiding party tore up kitchen and bathroom tiles and used sledgehammers to smash the concrete floors beneath. Deep gouges were made in the bathroom walls and in an upstairs bedroom a six-inch square hole was cut in a plasterboard wall.

Meanwhile, a Coalisland family is still recovering from its traumatic experience at the hands of a large force of RUC personnel who raided their home on Wednesday, February 13th.

Following the arrest of 19-year-old Seamus O'Donnell, the RUC launched a vicious raid on the

home of his parents, Maisy and Hugh O'Donnell. Besides assaulting those in the house at the time of the raid, the RUC subjected the family to a barrage of sectarian abuse.

When Hugh O'Donnell asked to see the search warrant an RUC man waved a piece of paper but would not allow him to examine it. When O'Donnell persisted in demanding his rights he was grabbed by the neck and thrown against the wall.

PUNCHED AND KICKED

The O'Donnells' pregnant daughter, Dolours, went to the aid

of her father but she too was thrown against the wall. After being punched and kicked, she was arrested and taken to Dungannon Barracks where she was charged with assault.

During a thorough search of their house the women in the O'Donnell home had to endure continuous sexual harassment. Micky Quinn, the boyfriend of 17-year-old Nuala O'Donnell, was dragged from the house and brutally assaulted before he was charged in Dungannon Barracks with assault.

Nearly four hours after they had entered the O'Donnell home, the RUC left at 1am. However, throughout the night two jeeps loaded of UDR soldiers sat outside the house and kept up a barrage of verbal abuse and noise directed against the O'Donnells. The next morning, at 8.30am, the RUC returned to the O'Donnell home and resumed their search operation for another five hours.



● Michael Dougan examining some of the damage done by the British army/RUC raiding party

Dublin Council of Trade Unions Centenary Year

HEROIC

NEXT MONDAY, March 3rd 1986, marks the centenary of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions (DCTU). To commemorate this occasion, AP/RN's Donal Lyons — with the invaluable co-operation of the DCTU's Centenary Arrangements Committee and the Irish Labour History Society — traces the history of the DCTU from its inception, through to the traumatic 1913 Lock-Out, its leaders' involvement in the 1916 Rising and right up to the present day's campaign for tax reform.

THE Dublin Council of Trade Unions was formed in the rather inappropriately-named and long-since-demolished Odd Fellows' Hall on Dublin's Southside on March 3rd 1886.

The inaugural delegate meeting of 27 unions had its origins in an exhibition in 1884 where the work of Dublin artisans was shown. Thirty-four unions were involved in the show and the regular meetings required to set the display up impressed upon the unions the need for a central body in Dublin to represent the needs of labour.

In its formative years, the DCTU was totally dominated by the craft unions and was inclined to be somewhat arrogant in its attitude to the general worker, taking the view that labour and capital should not be antagonistic to each other but should instead work together for the promotion of native industry. With this outlook the DCTU presented no threat to the political, social or industrial status quo and, not surprisingly, attracted the patronage of establishment figures such as the Catholic Archbishop William Walsh, unionist alderman Robert Sexton and Lord Iveagh.

THE trades' council saw its role as being "a useful medium in settling of disputes" between employer and worker; its officers acted as arbitrators in disputes and were often successful. With this type of reputation, the DCTU rapidly expanded and by 1890 had trebled its affiliated membership to 81 unions and acquired large new premises in Capel Street.

At the outset, the DCTU stressed that it was non-political yet, by its very nature, the council found itself dealing with politicians in their role as employers and public representatives. The inevitable conflict which arose led to an increased radicalisation of the DCTU itself and a realisation that workers must be represented on public boards "by workers instead of capitalists and seedy adventurers."

This awareness led to a decision in 1898 to establish a Labour Representation Committee (LRC) with the objective of standing in election on a working-class ticket (LRCs were also established in Belfast and Cork).

In the local elections of 1898, the LRC fielded 11 candidates in Dublin, eight of whom were elected, three of them being returned as aldermen after heading the poll in their local wards. Unfortunately, personality clashes and a lack of confidence among those elected quickly wrecked the LRC and no further elections were fought until 1912. But politics of a radical republican nature were beginning to emerge within the trades' council itself and it is worth noting that the decline in allegiance to the parliamentary Nationalist Party and support for Sinn Féin occurred in the DCTU many years before it manifested itself on the national level.

RADICAL republicans like Michael O'Lehane, P.T. Daly and Peadar Macken emerged as leading lights in the trades' council in the early 1900s and, in alliance with the more socialist delegates, managed to remove the conservative elements from positions of influence in the Council. This was made possible by the changed nature of the Dublin labour movement after the 1908 carters' strike.

Led by Jim Larkin, the carters' strike marked the emergence of the general workers as an organised force within the trade union movement through their union, the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union. Larkin's success as an organiser and motivator, allied with the militancy of the unskilled worker, set the stage for the 'Great Lock-Out' of 1913. The forum for the radicalisation of the labour movement during these years was the Dublin Council of Trade Unions, and the progressive



● The DCTU centenary arrangements committee: (left to right) Mick McCarthy was also a committee member but has been unable to participate in its work due to illness.



● The 1914 national executive of the Irish Trade Union Congress: standing, left to right, W.E. Hill, Richard O'Carroll; (seated, left to right) Thomas MacPartlin, D.R. Carr.

grouping around Larkin (which included James Connolly) meant that the nature of the DCTU was utterly changed.

Its emergence as the campaigning voice of workers frightened the employers and William Martin Murphy responded by setting up an employers' organisation, the Dublin Employers' Federation.

In August 1913, the employers tried to suppress Larkin's militant union by refusing to employ any ITGWU members. This led to a lock-out which lasted six months and saw a period of untold hardship and misery for Dublin workers which was marked by street violence, sympathetic

strikes and the espousal of revolution by James Connolly.

While the struggle was led by the ITGWU, the trades' council played an important co-ordinating role. A strike committee was established to which all unions reported and through which funds and supplies were channelled. At the height of the Lock-Out, the DCTU's president, W.P. Farridge, accompanied Larkin to England on his 'Fiery Cross' campaign to rally English workers in support of the Irish union's fight. The Lock-Out ended in February 1914 with neither side winning a clear victory and the DCTU helping to organise an orderly



Trade Unions 1886-1986

DUBLIN

of CRAOE Unions



Mick McCarthy, Paddy Behan, Jerry Shanahan, Des Bonass, Paddy Teahy (Mick Clifford's work due to illness)



(standing, left to right) James Connolly, William O'Brien, M.J. Egan, Thomas Cassidy, D.R. Campbell, P.T. Daly, James Larkin, M.J. O'Lehane

return to work. However, the spirit of Dublin's workers was unbroken and this was ably demonstrated in a 10,000-strong May Day rally that same year.

ONE month earlier, in April 1914, the Dublin Council of Trade Unions approved the formation of the Irish Citizen Army (ICA), described by Lenin as "the first Red Army in Europe".

Under the leadership of James Connolly, a trades council delegate, ICA units marched alongside the labour move-

ment to mark May Day 1915. 1915 also saw the DCTU playing an important part in opposing the First World War and British government attempts to introduce conscription in Ireland.

Against a massive opposition campaign by the employers and newspaper barons, the DCTU's president, Farren, contested the May 1915 by-election on an anti-war, pro-trade union, pro-suffragette ticket and came within 600 votes of winning. His manifesto had been written by James Connolly.

By this time, Connolly had aligned the ICA with the Irish Republican Brother-

hood and the Irish Volunteers and in Easter Week 1916 they rose in rebellion against British rule. The aftermath of 1916 left the DCTU in disarray: Connolly and Michael Mallin were executed; Richard O'Carroll and Peadar Macken died in the fighting; W.P. Partridge died as a result of prison conditions; Farren, P.T. Daly, William O'Brien, Cathal O'Shannon and Thomas Foran were all interned in England. All of the DCTU's and ITGWU's records were seized.

THE rise of Sinn Féin in subsequent years caused division within the trades' council's ranks. In 1917, the DCTU refused to participate in the Sinn Féin convention, arguing that they would only attend a labour movement convention.

O'Brien and Farren were sent to explain the DCTU's attitude but instead stayed and made a significant contribution to the Sinn Féin conference. Other trades' councils attacked them for this and a train of events was set in motion which eventually led to a split in March 1919, with O'Brien establishing the rival Dublin Workers' Council. The split was a tragedy for the working class and the great possibilities that were wasted are evident by the fact that in early 1919 the trades' council won support from Dail Éireann for the advanced Democratic Programme.

The split continued until the late 1920s and the two sides were not reconciled until 1928. By this stage the differences had become irrelevant in the face of a successful employers' onslaught and a decline in the number of union members. The re-united council affiliated itself to the Irish Trade Union Congress (ITUC) and the Labour Party, but by 1930 the political and industrial wings of the labour movement voluntarily parted.

THE 1930s and 1940s were dominated by the political rise and retention of power by Fianna Fáil. Fianna Fáil attracted widespread working-class support and generally had the support of the DCTU for its social and economic policies, particularly their policy of protection of native industries.

This period is also marked by the role the trades' council played in all major disputes in the Dublin area: builders' labourers in 1931; transport in 1935; the building industry for six months in 1937; municipal workers in 1940; and primary-school teachers in 1946. During this time the DCTU had many of the powers of the present-day Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The DCTU had the machinery for centralised wage

bargaining and for handling inter-union disputes. It also took on a more militant political role and when Fianna Fáil attempted to bring in a wages freeze and a trade union bill the council launched an opposition campaign. Massive demonstrations were organised and a special paper, *Workers' Action*, was produced. The trades' council was also in the vanguard of the Dublin movement against fascism and demonstrations were organised against O'Duffy's Blueshirts.

The Irish Trade Union Congress split of 1944 (basically over the national question) had its mirror image in the DCTU and a rival grouping, the Dublin Trades' Union Council, was formed. Throughout the 1950s, both bodies were active on social issues, particularly unemployment, price increases and the provision of free public transport for pensioners. Various attempts to mount joint actions were fruitless until 1955, when a combined Connolly commemoration was organised. Congress re-united in 1959, but, due to various difficulties, it wasn't until 1960 that the two Dublin councils merged. The new constitution of the ICTU severely restricted the role of trades' councils in the sphere of industrial relations and inter-union disputes. Correspondingly, the DCTU expanded its activities into an increasingly agitational role and during the '60s it played a prominent part in the campaigns of the Dublin Housing Action Committee. It also organised demonstrations against EEC entry and for the retention of proportional representation.

WHEN the North erupted in 1969 the DCTU adopted a position supportive of the Civil Rights movement and when internment was introduced they opened a fund for internees' dependants.

At this time, links between the DCTU and the Belfast council were strengthened. Since 1969, the DCTU has consistently adopted motions in support of the nationalist people; it supported the 1981 H-Block hunger-strike and is currently active in the anti-strip-searches campaign.

In recent years the DCTU has spearheaded the campaign against the PAYE taxation system. The peak of the campaign came in 1979 when the DCTU organised a 100,000-strong demonstration to Leinster House, undoubtedly one of the largest demonstrations ever seen in Dublin.

And the DCTU hasn't ignored its obligations towards the city's unemployed workers either.

Jerry Shanahan, vice-president of the DCTU, says that four years of hard work will shortly bear fruit when unemployed centres will be set up in Tallaght, Bonnybrook and the North Inner City to act as a focus for local jobs campaigns and to provide 'drop-in' facilities, advice and assistance for the unemployed.

The history of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions clearly shows that, while taking a leading role in defence of working-class economic interests, they have never lost sight of the importance of national liberation as part of the equation for social liberation.



Parents convicted

THREE members of the Concerned Parents Against Drugs movement in Dublin have been found guilty of 'watching and besetting' the house of the notorious 'Ma Baker' in Cathedral View in the Liberties.

The Nolan family, widely believed to be involved in drug-pushing, were forced out of the area by the local community and the CPAD last October.

On Monday, February 24th, Carmel Hickey, Terry Molloy and Thomas Butler were convicted in a Dublin court of the 'crime' of being present outside Ma Baker's home and shouting "Pushers out!" The three were given the Probation Act.

A spokesperson for the New Street Concerned Parents afterwards commented:

"We still cannot believe that parents who took many risks against notorious drug-pushers to get them out of their area, and our children out of danger, should stand convicted in a so-called court of law."

Young Socialist support

AT THE SCOTTISH conference of the Labour Party Young Socialists in Glasgow last weekend, delegates overwhelmingly supported a motion calling on the Labour Party's Scottish executive to campaign against British repression in Ireland.

The motion urges a campaign against strip-searching, plastic bullets, the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Diplock courts.

Sinn Fein was represented at the conference by Joe McQuillan of Belfast.

TORTHAÍ CRANNCHUR

An Cumann Cabhrach, Dublin Committee:
January: £100; No 131; £50; 258
£25; 165; £15; 213, 353, £10; 281, 350.

Dublin 400 Draw:
February 23rd: £400; No 313, Sean

Reinhardt, c/o Cole/Coleley cumann; £100; 125, Ann Higgins, c/o McClellan cumann; 14, Ms Forbes c/o Brian Dorrill, Cabra; 151, Eric Walsh c/o Mick Reilly, Cabra; £75; 263, Eamon Flanagan, Galway; 283, c/o Eiric O'Malley cumann, Drumcondra.

Applications for speakers

AS Easter Sunday falls this year on 30th March, applications for speakers should be made no later than Friday, February 28th. Applications should be sent to:

An Ruai
Coiste Cuimhneachain
na Poblachta
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1.

Easter lilies are available from

Mrs Peig King,
29 All Saints Park,
Raheny,
Dublin 5.

Price Ir£15 per 1,000.

AS this is the 70th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising we expect the demand for lilies to be greater than ever so place your orders as soon as possible.



TERROR ACT RENEWED

BY ANN MCKENZIE

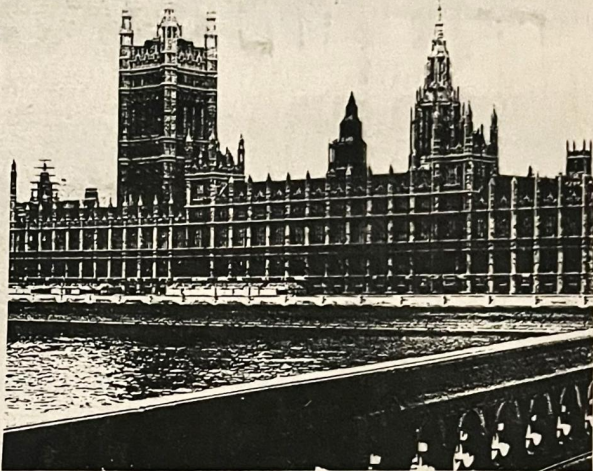
THE DRACONIAN Prevention of Terrorism Act, first enacted by a British Labour government in 1974 and in force with various modifications since, was debated and once again renewed by Westminster on Wednesday, February 19th.

Notably this year's vote in favour of retaining the Act, which has wide powers of arrest and detention of 'suspect terrorists', has substantially narrowed.

There were 169 votes in favour with 109 against.

Since 1974, 92% of those detained in Britain have not been subject to any charge and of the 3% who have, a third have been charged with failure to co-operate with questions at ports. Very few have been charged and imprisoned for more than a year.

Therefore the PTA is a gross violation and infringement of civil liberties and since 1984, when its arrest and detention powers were extended to cover 'international terrorism', it is being increasingly used to intimidate ethnic minorities (other than Irish) and political activists in Britain.



Sinn Fein in Nottingham

REPRESENTATIVES from SWAPO, the Philippines, CND, Cyprus, South Africa and Sinn Fein addressed a meeting on the theme 'War and Peace?' at Nottingham University on February 20th.

Sinn Fein was represented by Padraic Wilson of Belfast at the meeting which was organised by the Overseas Students Bureau and attended by over 100 students.

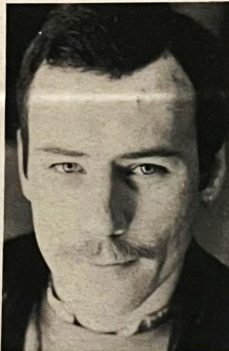
Last year the university registrar had refused to allow the OSB to invite a Sinn Fein speaker onto university premises for a series of events organised under the title 'Terrorists or Freedom Fighters?' As a result, the Students' Union Council sent a letter of protest to the registrar as they believed 'that the university has acted hypocritically in withdrawing permission for the meeting and that they have been politically motivated in making this decision.' They also pointed out that the

decision was a complete contradiction of the "freedom of speech" policy held by the union and the university itself.

HISTORY

In his introductory talk, Padraic Wilson outlined the history of Sinn Fein and traced the development of the Irish struggle since the creation of the six-county state. Commenting on the London-Dublin deal, he said:

"The whole deal is designed to try and isolate the Republican Movement. Concessions, if any, are designed to give credence to the lie that constitutionalism can deliver change and wean away support from Sinn Fein. Any



● PADRAIC WILSON
concessions or change, if it comes, will not come out of the

goodness of the hearts of either the British or Irish establishments, but from the resilience and determination of the nationalist people who have been struggling for over 16 years."

Calling for support for the struggle for Irish freedom, he concluded:

"People must ask themselves if the right to national self-determination and sovereignty for Ireland rests with the Westminster parliament or the Irish people. Having decided — as any true socialist or democrat must decide — that the right to national self-determination and independence rests with the Irish people, we ask only that they work within their own circles, groups or parties, to achieve these rights. By doing so you will help to break down the wall of misinformation surrounding the Irish struggle."

Progress at London tribunal

"THE British Labour Party must adopt a positive policy of Irish re-unification... and once in government set a date for withdrawal," Sinn Fein councillor Alex Maskey of Belfast told a meeting of Labour Party members and Irish organisations in Britain at London's County Hall on Sunday, February 23rd.

The occasion was a tribunal held under the auspices of the Greater London Labour Party despite efforts by the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party to halt it. A panel of three barristers took submissions from delegates as to why the Labour Party should reject the Hillsborough accord and should press forward for a dialogue with all parties, including Sinn Fein and the SDLP, and seek the best means of achieving withdrawal.

Sean Redmond, secretary of Trade Unionists for Irish Unity & Independence, presenting their submission, said, "The long-term

implication of the accord was a new alignment of the forces in the two islands: British withdrawal in return for Ireland becoming part of the Western military alliance."

This unease was echoed by other speakers, including Alex Maskey, who said, "The London-Dublin agreement, instead of being a stepping stone to a united Ireland could well be a milestone round the necks of republicans and nationalists."

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to the tribunal were made by Labour Party or-

ganisations and constituency parties. Irish solidarity organisations in Britain, the Labour Party Black Sections Steering Committee, trade unions and trade union pressure groups.

The SDLP, who had given a verbal undertaking to attend, failed to turn up.

Almost all of the submissions condemned the practice of strip-searching in Brixton and Armagh, the draconian powers of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency Powers Act, the activities of Diplock courts and paid-perjurers, the use of plastic bullets and the shoot-to-kill policy. They also expressed concern for the denial of civil liberties to the nationalist population and urged an end to the Labour Party's bi-partisan policy and of their support of the loyalist veto.



● ALEX MASKEY

SHOW OF DEFIANCE

BY KEVIN McCool

IN AN IMPRESSIVE display of nationalist solidarity and defiance, a crowd of around 2,000 turned out in Strabane on Sunday, February 23rd, to honour the memory of all the fallen Volunteers of the West Tyrone Brigade of Ogaigh na hEir-eann. The date chosen for this commemoration was the first anniversary of the cold-blooded murder by the SAS in Strabane last year of IRA Volunteers Charles Breslin and Michael and David Devine.

The commemorative march took place after a week of increased harassment directed against the youth of Strabane, with crown forces continually taunting local people about the deaths of the three Volunteers.

Early on Sunday morning, the centre of Strabane was saturated by a large force of RUC and access to Market Street (the starting point of the march) was blocked off by a line of armoured landrovers. Anyone going towards Market Street was stopped and questioned at length by the RUC. Also on Sunday morning, sometime after 7am, a Tricolour was stolen by the RUC from Charles Breslin's grave, and after a second Tricolour was erected in its place the theft was repeated.

Far from producing the desired effect, the behaviour of the crown forces succeeded only in stiffening the resolve of all those who assembled at the top of Bridge Street at 2pm.

REFLECTION

The large turn-out, on a very cold day, was a reflection both of the popularity of the three local men in the close-knit community and of the bitter and lasting memories among the people of Strabane of the heartless treatment the Breslin and Devine families suffered at the hands of the RUC last year on the day of their sons' funerals.

The march moved off at 2.30 and made its way down Bridge Street, with the banners of several Sinn Féin curmains and the flags of two republican flute bands flying defiantly in the wind. With two British army helicopters flying overhead, the marchers followed a two-mile route which took them through the Strabane housing estates of Innisfree Gardens, Patricia Villas and Drumrallagh, where black flags hung from the windows of houses in memory of the young Volunteers.

The march finally halted in the Fountain Street carpark, beneath the hillsides where the three Volunteers were cut down and where a memorial now stands. Armed RUC men hid amongst the trees around the murder scene and looked down at the platform.

POIGNANT

The main speaker, Sinn Féin elected representative Martin McGuinness, brought Sunday's commemoration to a close on a poignant note:

"There is a message in what happened on the night of February 23rd 1985 for all of us here today. That message is the same now as it was at the time of the 1916 Rising and when the British government believed that, by the execution of the leaders of the Rising, the Irish people would be cowed into submission and into defeat. They were wrong then and they were wrong one year ago when they murdered three young men here in Strabane. Your very presence in such large numbers at this commemoration today is the physical proof of just how wrong they were."

Despite the many incidents of provocation



by crown forces during the day, the people of Strabane refused to be drawn, dispersing at the end of the march in a peaceful and dignified fashion as a final tribute to the memory of their dead friends.

Late on Sunday night, an isolated

incident took place on the Ballycolman estate in Strabane when a small group of youths set fire to a van. Ivan Barr, a Sinn Féin councillor, denied that this incident had anything to do with the earlier commemoration.

Lignite book launch

LIGNITE on the Loughshore — The Case for Community Survival, the latest publication of the Lignite Action group in East Tyrone, was launched at a press conference in Belfast's Forum Hotel on Monday, February 24th.

This well-researched and illustrated pamphlet was produced to increase pressure on the British government to hold a public inquiry into the environmental and social impact of lignite mining in the Moortown/Ardboe area and around the Lough Neagh basin.

The press conference and launching of the pamphlet were appropriately timed to increase publicity before the issuing of the prospecting licences, as the affected communities would be in a much weaker position to state their case after these licences have been issued.

Nial Fitzduff, chairperson of Lignite Action, called for an environmental impact assessment



Members of Lignite Action at the book launch: (standing, left to right) Philip Quinn, Paddy McIvor, Tom Magher, Sean Mitchell; (seated, left to right) Pat Gri-mes, chairperson Nial Fitzduff, Martin Davlin

to be carried out for funded research into the implications of lignite mining in the region and for an urgent meeting with British government minister Rhodes Boyson.

Lignite on the Loughshore will be circulated amongst politicians, universities and the media to generate wider interest in the crisis facing the people of East Tyrone.

SDLP dodges community groups

ACE WORKERS and representatives of community groups throughout the Derry area attended a community forum, held in the Minor Hall of the Guildhall on Thursday, February 20th, to debate the implications of the recent British government onslaught on ACE-funded projects.

Invitations had been sent to all the political parties by the organisation but the only speakers who chose to turn up to address the public meeting were Fr Des Wilson (representing the Springhill and Conway Mill community projects), Theresa Conway (Top of the Hill Community Association in Gobnascale, which had 12 ACE jobs withdrawn last November without any reason being given at all), and Terry Robson (a spokesperson for the ACE scheme ad hoc committee which has just been set up in Derry).

The SDLP again declined the opportunity given to them to substantiate their allegations which heralded the beginning of the political campaign against ACE employees in Belfast and Derry. The continuing cowardice shown by the SDLP on this issue provoked angry outbursts from some of those in the crowd who have

been condemned without any evidence being produced.

TARGETED

Fr Des Wilson described how the Conway Mill project in Belfast was targeted last year by a decision taken at the highest level of the direct-rule administration and how the ACE-funding to the project was axed.

Several suggestions were made from the floor as to how best to fight back against the cuts. Sinn Féin's Mitchel McLaughlin told the meeting:

"A system of discrimination is being applied now, with ACE jobs going only to 'respectable' groups with safe and acceptable politics. I would ask these particular groups not to take advantage of this situation but to show solidarity with their fellow ACE workers in the many worthwhile community projects now being curtailed."

Imeachtair

SHOW-TRIALS AND PAID-PERJURERS VIDEO
8pm Thursday 27th February
Hunting Lodge
Ballyfermot
DUBLIN

'STOP THE ARMAGH STRIP-SEARCHES' PICKET
5pm to 6pm Every Friday
College Green
Opposite Trinity College
DUBLIN

NIGHT AT THE RACES
Friday 28th February
Felons Club
New Lodge Road
BELFAST

DUNNES STRIKE SUPPORTERS SOCIAL
Music by Workers' Music Co-op
8pm Friday 28th February
Moran's Lounge
(near Halfpenny Bridge)
DUBLIN
Taille: £1

SOCIAL NIGHT
10pm Friday 28th February
The No.5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Taille: £1
Organised by the Eric O'Malley Sinn Fein cumann

SINN FEIN DANCE
Music by Hugo Duncan
10pm to 2am
Friday 28th February
The Parting Glass
RAPHOE
County Donegal
Taille: £2.50

'STOP STRIP-SEARCHES' PICKET
11.30am to 1.30pm
Every Saturday
Brixton Prison
Jebb Avenue
LONDON

MASS PICKET
1pm Saturday 1st March
Guilsey's
North Earl Street
DUBLIN
Organised by the Sinn Fein Trade Union Drm

'STOP THE ARMAGH STRIP-SEARCHES' PICKET
2pm to 4pm every Saturday
GPO
DUBLIN

IRISH NIGHT
Music by Drops of Brandy
Saturday 1st March
Rambler's Rest
DUNDALK
In aid of Fionna E. Mann

IRISH NEUTRALITY LECTURES
Speakers: Sean MacBride, Tony Coughlan, Patrick Comerford
4.30 to 7.30pm
Sunday 2nd March
Ashbourne House Hotel
ASHBOURNE
County Meath

HISTORY OF REPUBLICANISM EDUCATION SEMINAR
Speakers: Gerry Adams & John Joe McGirl
3pm Sunday 2nd March
Jackson's Hotel
BALLYBOFEE
County Down
Organised by Sinn Fein

'STRIP-SEARCH: TORTURE' PUBLIC MEETING
Speakers: Sean MacBride, Ian Anderson, Brinje Brownie, Des Wilson
8pm Thursday 6th March
O'Leahane Hall
9 Cavendish Row
(opposite Gate Theatre)
DUBLIN

EXTRACTION APPEAL FUNCTION
Featuring Circle
3pm Thursday 6th March
Terry McDermott Social Club
Glen Road
BELFAST
Taille: £1.50

SOCIAL NIGHT
10pm Friday 7th March
The No.5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Fein Youth

mála poist

Arcades

A Chara,
After a lengthy and detailed survey carried out by members of Dundalk Sinn Fein on amusement arcades in the town, the following sad and disturbing facts emerged.

We observed several young people (average age 13 years) going in and out of these premises. Our researchers visited one of these arcades, which is situated between two of Dundalk's major schools. Having entered the premises we saw six people playing computer games. After approaching one of the youths whose name was Michael, he told us that he spent on average £8 per week. On Monday, February 10th (mid-term), he spent £7. When he was asked where he was getting the money he told us that he was working around the house and during school time he was using his lunch money.

During our survey we found that peak times for these arcades were during lunch time (12.30pm to 1.45pm) and 'bus time' (4pm to 4.30pm). He told us that an average of 30 of his school companions also made use of the arcades. This figure is, however, for one school alone but, judging by the variety of uniforms in the arcade, the same figure probably applies to various schools throughout the area.

Although youngsters were not permitted to use 'one armed bandits' or poker machines and this may seem commendable, when one counts up the number of youths playing the computer games, with no cash return whatsoever, arc-



cade owners hardly need to take further advantage of the vulnerability of young people.

With a 'fast-food takeaway' attached to the premises this arcade provides a double attraction to the youth of the area.

Already a number of school children are undergoing counselling to overcome their addiction to computer gaming machines. There is a definite link between petty crime and these arcades — as with drug addicts, young people are prepared to go to any lengths to pay for their addiction to these machines. Sinn Fein calls on the local authorities to force these arcades to close during school hours and ensure that no persons under 18 years of age be allowed into these arcades.

Dundalk has six arcades at the moment. During the past week, Sinn Fein has become aware that several businessmen want to apply for licences to open more arcades and we call on all the people of Dundalk to object to the granting of these licences.



POWs' WARNING

A Chara,

In a reply (in the establishment press) to our recent statement which named organisations and individuals as actively seeking to break republican unity by assisting the British policy of hostage bargaining with prisoners, the Northern Ireland Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO) makes a number of points, some of which we believe to be ambiguous.

NIACRO says that it knows of no conditions having to be signed before release (for life/SOSP POWs). Conditions must be agreed to and one of the primary conditions is a disavowal of any republican beliefs.

In December 1984, Nick Scott (the NIO prisons boss) was asked by a POW if membership of a political party such as Sinn Fein would jeopardise an SOSP's chance of release. The answer was 'yes' because Sinn Fein had stated its support for the right of others to engage in armed struggle.

The NIACRO research must have been fairly shallow if it did not know of such conditions.

Next, it admits that the review has a political aspect but "does not necessarily compromise prisoners" since "they can say what they wish". Of course they can say what they wish, but unless they say so what the review wishes, they do have no chance of release.

NIACRO says that it encourages prisoners to take part in reviews but then admits that it publishes information about the review procedure. It is this combination of publicising the reviews and offering help in making representations to them which is lending credibility to the poli-

(the SDLP, Fr Faul, Peter Barry & Co), some separately (NIACRO, Probation Service etc).

The theory is to politically bring the families of hostages away from the cause espoused by the POWs and thus weaken the republican support base.

It is a complex procedure and one which must involve a controlled number of selected releases and therefore giving the families a sense of individual hope. It is a strategy which was tried in 1972 and in 1974-75, using prisoners as hostages and bargaining with the will of families to move away from revolution and to "constitutionalism". NIACRO is part of that process.

Its recent high profile in West Belfast, opening new branches there and in Derry, its canvassing of our families and efforts to replace the existing PDF and Green Cross Transport shows how it is targeting the 'hearts and minds' of our families, if not for the year then for the coming year.

NIACRO calls itself an independent body. We see it as closely linked with the system in its devious plans to destroy our struggle. We want nothing to do with its offers.

We are being held as political hostages and NIACRO is merely a channel for the kidnappers' propaganda message and demands.

**Republican POWs,
H-Blocks,
Long Kesh.**



● Jimmy Delaney outside the 'Stewhouse'

soup kitchen but is now in the hands of the VEC's solicitors after laying derelict for the past two years.

The Dangerous Buildings Section of Dublin Corporation has told us that the condition of the building is the responsibility of the VEC, but despite letters and other attempts to get a response all we've been getting is the runaround.

Kids are still playing on the

roof, half of which has rotted away, and sooner or later someone's going to be seriously injured as a result of the VEC's wilful neglect.

The 'Stewhouse' should either be developed as a resource/recreation centre or otherwise demolished altogether. Whatever happens, action needs to be taken urgently.

**Jimmy Delaney,
Ballyfermot.**

ALL letters should be addressed to: The Editor, *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin. Letters should be written as clearly as possible, preferably on one side of paper only. Names and addresses should always be included, even when not for publication.



Feis Atha Cliath

A Chára,

Beldh Feis Átha Cliath ar siúl i mBlaína 6 Feabhra 20d go dtí Marta 17d. Beldh na comórtais rince ar dtús ar an Feabhra 20d ag críonú leis na Crobh Comórtais ar an Domhnach, Marta 2ú.

Beldh na Comórtais Scoile ar siúl ón Marta 6ú go dtí an Marta 16d.

The cream of Irish dancers from all over Dublin will compete at the Dublin championship to be held in the Mart Talbot Hall, Dublin, on March 2nd. The championship will run for the whole day and includes all age groups.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend any of these events: Aithriseoireacht, March 8th; Ceol agus Coir, March 9th; Dramafocht, March 16th.

C. Ó Dálaigh,
Baile Átha Cliath.

Fowler cuts

Dear Editor,

As a group of social work students we would like to take this opportunity to express our concern about the Social Security 'reforms' proposed by Norman Fowler and the Conservative government.

Our concern is based on the fact that the reforms proposed are in fact cuts which will have the effect of reinforcing the North's position as the most disadvantaged region in the 'United Kingdom'. The reality of the so-called reforms will be that the most vulnerable sections of the community will suffer and that thousands more families will be pushed into the poverty trap. The relationship between poverty and social problems is a clear one and it is on this premise that we base our concern.

Consequently we wish to lend our support to those groups who are involved in the combat against poverty and those who are actively campaigning for benefits.

A group of concerned social work students,
Queen's University Belfast.



● NORMAN FOWLER

The Stewhouse

A Chara,
Ballyfermot Sinn Fein would like to highlight the danger posed to local children in the Kilmore area by an abandoned building which has been gutted by fire and is owned by the Dublin Vocational Education Committee.

The 'Stewhouse' was formerly run by the Catholic Social Service Conference as a

tv

Deceptions, deceptions...

BY AINE MARTIN

YOU MIGHT THINK there's a problem with radioactive pollution churning out of Sellafield. You might think that policemen beat people up. You might even be concerned about these problems. But there's really no cause for concern. I know this because I watched *Counterpoint* on Thursday night and *Panorama* last Monday.

Counterpoint featured Geoffrey Priest, a PR man from British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) which runs the Sellafield plant. During a studio discussion with various ill-informed folks — including some university professors — who were worried about the fact that the Irish Sea is the most radioactive stretch of water in the world, Geoffrey admitted that there had been "between five and ten" serious accidents in the plant. He told us that BNFL reports every incident, no matter how trivial. The fact that he wasn't sure whether there were five or ten serious accidents and the little matter of BNFL understating the amount of pollution by 4,000% shouldn't worry us unduly. After all, Geoffrey said that the problems were "more perceived than real" and had been highlighted because of a "lot of hassle in the media" instigated by nasty anti-nuclear groups.

Despite being caught out lying on several occasions, and despite their twisting of the figures, BNFL is puzzled. "I don't know why people don't believe us — it's up to people like you," said Geoffrey, turning to Brian Black, the presenter. He evidently doesn't think the media are fulfilling their proper function in this area.

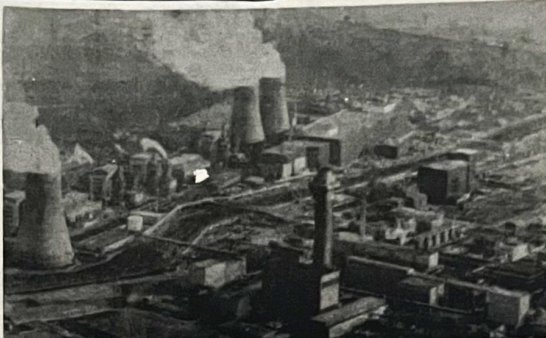
At the end of the programme, a Greenpeace representative told us that no fuel had been reprocessed in the US since 1972 because of the

danger involved. He also said that you can't put a price on environment and human life. Geoffrey thought this was "naïve — everything has a price," and it's "just not worth it to reduce the pollution to levels that are absolutely safe".

So now you know...

Over on BBC1 on Monday night, *Panorama* was busy trying to correct our perception that young black people were the victims of abuse and brutality at the hands of British police. This perception is so widespread that even young blacks have it — they dislike and mistrust the police who, they apparently imagine, beat them up. It's all very distressing for the police, as you can imagine. A deputy-assistant commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police explained that young black people "perceive that they're stopped more often" than white folk. It was difficult to explain this mass misapprehension: "Maybe they read poison propaganda put out by monitoring groups".

The London police have been very successful in giving the impression that they're biased and brutal towards young people, especially young black males. So much so that 70% of young black men said in a recent survey in Islington, an inner-city borough of London, that they would never co-operate with the police. Fifty per cent of them had been stopped and searched by the police — they actually thought they were



● The Sellafield (formerly Windscale) nuclear plant in Cumbria

being harassed.

The *Panorama* programme was anxious to create a few perceptions of its own. One was that Labour councillors have no interest in stopping crime and that they actually hinder the prevention of crime by raising annoying questions about civil rights etc. Another insidious little plug was that most criminals are black people — almost all suspects under arrest that we were shown during the programme were black youths.

Television is a medium where the image is the message and where every picture tells a story.

The name of the game is deception, not perception.

...

On Monday night, Channel 4 broadcast an episode of the *Survive* series entitled *Torture and Interrogation*. Leading with the line that "more than one-third of the governments represented at the United Nations inflict torture on their citizens", the programme was very selective in content.

The three case-histories examined were predictable in their 'acceptability': 'Maria', tortured 'somewhere in South America'; Vladimir Bukovsky, a Soviet dissident; and Nick Rowe, a US soldier taken prisoner in South Vietnam.

All were probably considered by the programme presenters as 'a safe bet' — far en-

ough from home to be comfortable.

To interview a recent visitor to Castlereagh would be cutting too close to the bone and, what's more, would give validity to criticisms which have been deliberately ignored for so long.

And yet, for those who know the reality, things are not so different in this country. 'Maria's' description of the humiliating experience of sexual harassment at the hands of her torturers conjures up images of strip-searching in Armagh.

Bukovsky's experiences in 'The Box' equate with solitary confinement in the H-Blocks, Magilligan and Portlaoise.

"A bare unheated room, a board to lie on, one blanket, no books, no exercise period and no escape from monotony."

And Nick Rowe realised, as do most victims of British and Irish 'justice', that "co-operation, even in the slightest demands, can lead to relentless pressure".

But Armagh, Portlaoise, Long Kesh, Magilligan and Castlereagh are all too close for comfort and certainly too close for criticism — they are not 'safe bets'.

The presenter felt that Britain offers little assistance to victims of torture "because we have never known such fear and because our freedoms have been given and not

fought for". It is clearly nearer the truth that Britain is guilty of similar crimes herself — to offer succour to victims of barbarism in which you engage yourself would be the ultimate irony.

...

"People are complaining about corruption and dishonesty in government. Inadequate progress has been made in renovating old houses. What is built is badly built. A housing crisis remains."

"There is corruption and abuse of regulations; party members do not understand the problems of the people, for they see them only from the back seats of their limousines. There are accusations of jobs for friends of politicians and even manipulation of the judiciary."

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? But Nick Gowing of *Channel 4 News* was speaking, not of Britain or Ireland, but the USSR. In a sombre tone he listed what he saw as the failures of government in that country — the eternal scapegoat of Western propaganda.

The misery and deprivation caused by capitalism in Britain and elsewhere is there for all to see, but this doesn't prevent the British establishment from pointing an accusing finger at foreign (usually socialist) governments.

Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

book

The lost city

BY MAIRIN MAC DIARMADA

FEW CITIES in the world have been transformed as Dublin has in the last 25 years or so. The changes which have taken place in the environment of Ireland's capital have coincided with major social and economic developments which have affected the lives of every Irish person.

In Frank McDonald's book *The Destruction of Dublin*, we see how those changes were brought to bear in the city centre. It is the story of how insatiable property speculators, aided and abetted by so-called planners in Dublin Corporation and the Free State government, conspired to destroy the fabric of the city. The result is all too plain to see today.

Most young people can only appreciate the character the city once had from photographs or the writings of Brendan Behan or James Joyce. They have inherited streets full of glass and concrete monstrosities, parking lots, derelict sites, gambling arcades and US-style fast-food joints. It is living testimony to the change in economic control from the native Free State gnomes class of shopkeepers to the age of the "entrepreneurs", the bankers

and multinationals.

This is not a book about Georgian Dublin. Frank McDonald argues — and it is an argument which republicans should understand and develop that the environment of Dublin belongs to its citizens and they must have the right to determine its future. What has happened is that the supremacy of private property has been reinforced.

Dublin has been shaped not by the needs of its people but by the profit-seeking double-dealing of the property speculators. McDonald chronicles how street after street, terrace after terrace was bought up, allowed to fall into decay and sold at vast profits to be replaced with high-rise office blocks.

Meanwhile, the communities of Dublin's inner city were (are) being shifted out to far-flung suburbs from the area



● The Central Bank, Dublin

where they had lived for generations. In the 25 years up to 1981, the population of Westland Row parish fell from 30,000 to just over 6,000.

The way this depopulation was achieved was described by a local priest in 1974:

"Intimidation is happening. A woman in Mount Street comes to me trembling with fear every week saying, 'I am being pushed out, bullied out of the area'. We have a social service centre and free legal ad-

vice, but most of the older people feel isolated, intimidated and afraid... Power, influence and money are the deciding factors, not people."

ANOTHER STORY

But there is another story to be told which McDonald does not cover in the book the fate of those moved to the new suburbs throughout the 1970s. New estates without proper services or resources have sprung up, from the foot-

hills of the Dublin Mountains to the Liffey Valley in the west to the fields of Fingal in the north.

In these working-class areas it is the people themselves who have had to provide the 'community services' which the authorities neglected. The unemployment and deprivation which the authorities had contributed to was out of sight and out of mind of the politicians in the seclusion of Dublin 4 or the villas of the south city.

ESSENTIAL

In the last few years, people have started to move back into the city centre as the Corporation — 30 years later — realises that housing there is essential to the life of Dublin. The new houses and flats that have been built show what kind of environment could have been made if the Corporation had planned for people and not profit before the rise of monstrosities like the Central Bank, the Bank of Ireland in Baginot Street and — most notorious of all — the Civic Offices on Wood Quay.

Frank McDonald's book contains many lessons about environment and it's a book that should be carefully read by everyone.

● *The Destruction of Dublin*, by Frank McDonald, Published by Gill & MacMillan, price £17.95.

meachtai

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS

BRISTON PICKET

(Women only)
8pm Friday 7th March to
8pm Saturday 8th March
Brixton Prison
Jebb Avenue
LONDON

EXHIBITION

(Stalls, info, music & creche)
12 to 5pm Saturday 8th March
O'Leane Hall
9 Cavendish Row
DUBLIN

WORKSHOPS ON REPRESSION

10am to 1pm Saturday 8th March
Whitlock Community Centre
BELFAST

ARMAGH PICKET

Prominent speakers
4pm Saturday 8th March
Armagh Jail
Armagh buses
Belfast: Dunville Park 2.30pm
(phone 223214 for bookings)
Dunloy 1pm, Killea 1.15pm
Clady Corner 1.30pm
Bellaghy 1.45pm, Gulladuff 2pm
Maghera 2.10pm, Toome 2.30pm
Newbridge 2.45pm
Magherafelt 3pm

SOCIAL

Women only
Various artists
8pm to 1am Saturday 8th March
Teachers' Club
36 Parnell Square
DUBLIN
Taitle £2 (£1 unwaged)

ANTI-STRIP SEARCHES RALLY & MARCH

Prominent speakers include
ex-POW and POW's relatives,
Sara Rueffels (London Labour
Party women's spokesperson)
1.30pm Sunday 9th March
Beechmount to Busby Bus
BELFAST
Dublin buses leave Municipal
Art Gallery, Parnell Square,
at 11am — taitle £7

WELCOME HOME SOCIAL

for Paddy O'Brien, Colm Murphy
& Dan McGuinness
Music by Perfect Alibi
9pm Friday 7th March
Old Border Inn

KILEEN

County Louth
Taitle £2 (bar extension)
Organised by
Beliekes Sinn Fein

DAY SCHOOL ON IRELAND

Featuring workshops, videos
bookstalls and a social evening
with live music from 7.30pm
Speakers: Christine Crawley MEP
and representatives of Sinn Fein,
Labour Committee on Ireland,
IBIG, Armagh Women's Group
10am to 5pm Saturday
22nd March
Highfields Workshop
Maudstone Road

LEICESTER

Organised by the Labour Party

BALLAD NIGHT

Music by Shebeen
Saturday 30th March
Riverside Bar
KILCURRY
County Louth
Taitle £1.50
Organised by Sinn Fein

DINNER DANCE

Music by the Knights
10pm to 2am Sunday 30th March
Lake of Shadows Hotel
BUNCRAHA
County Donegal
Taitle £12/£5/£10
(Includes 5-course meal and
free £100 Draw)
Free bus from Derry
Organised by Sinn Fein
For details phone Buncraha 61587
between 6pm and 8pm

Inniskeen veteran dies

JIMMY KIRK, a life-long republican from Inniskeen, County Monaghan, died on February 9th at 85 years of age. His death broke another link in the living chain which binds the young republicans of today to the IRA veterans of the Black and Tan War.

A highly-respected man, Jimmy in his youth had been a leading member of the famous 4th Northern Division IRA which carried out many successful operations in the North Louth, South Armagh and South Monaghan areas during the Tan War and the Civil War

when it was one of the few Northern Divisions which stayed with the republican side.

Jimmy took part in many engagements and in later life he delighted in recounting the episodes of this period to anybody who was interested in

hearing. He remained a republican supporter all his life and was always ready to offer advice and assistance to the young people who continue the struggle to this day. He was an uncle of Martin Kirk, a well-known republican activist who died at a young age last year.

Members of the Meegan/Harvey Sinn Féin cumann, Inniskeen, joined republican veterans in providing a guard of honour for the Tricolour-draped coffin of Jimmy Kirk, whose funeral was preceded by a lone piper to Drumcatten Churchyard. A very large crowd attended the funeral.

The Republican Movement extends sympathy to Jimmy's widow Mary and to his family, Eddie, Paddy, Gerry, John, Mary and Bridget.



Dunloy Volunteers honoured

THE second anniversary commemoration of the deaths of IRA Volunteers Henry Hogan and Declan Martin was attended by seven bands and upwards of 2,000 people in Dunloy, County Antrim, last Sunday, February 23rd.

In brilliant sunshine, the flute band named in memory of the two fallen Volunteers made its way to the graveyard accompanied by a colour party. Two dozen wreaths were laid while the parade was closely watched by a large force of RUC and a circling helicopter. Bands on the way to the commemoration had to negotiate up to seven checkpoints and the usual tirade of abuse from the RUC. The procession then made its way to the spot where the two

Volunteers had fallen and the commemoration's chairperson, Sinn Féin Councillor John Davey, called on Gerry O'Hara from Derry to give the oration.

He opened by saying that the mention of the names of the two Volunteers brought many personal memories not only to those who knew them personally but to republicans everywhere:

"They are remembered as freedom fighters of Oglagh na hEireann who once again asserted

in arms that the British presence does not go unopposed in North Antrim."

Going on to speak about the Hillsborough agreement, he said that it was no solution and "our hope lies in the fact that the British are running out of solutions. With discipline and determination we can force them to their final option — withdrawal."

"These two Volunteers knew that by their sacrifices that they would carry our struggle to eventual victory. We should rededicate ourselves to the removal of every aspect of the British occupation of Ireland."

Clonmult commemoration

THE STORY of Clonmult ranks high in the republican history of East Cork as one of great heroism on one hand and of savage barbarity on the other.

A total of 14 young men of the Irish Republican Army died as a direct result of this engagement which took place on February 20th 1921 at the height of the Tan War.

Acting on the word of a paid informer, the cottage at Clonmult which was serving as a training camp for the East Cork Flying Column was surrounded by crown forces. The first casualties of the fight were Michael Desmond and John Joe Joyce, who had spotted the approaching troops while filling the Column's water bottles at a nearby spring. They died in a hail of bullets, but not before they had managed to warn their comrades of what was happening.

Three more — Michael Hallahan, Richard Hearty and James Aherne — were killed while attempting to break through the cordon of troops which now surrounded the cottage.

For a time the surviving members of the Column held out in hope that the one man who had managed to get through could bring help, but the opposite happened. The British were reinforced by a contingent of Black and Tans.

FAILURE

After the failure of a second escape attempt from the now blazing cottage, it was decided that surrender was the only remaining option. Having neutralised their weapons, the men

marched out of the cottage, only to be met by raking gunfire from the Black and Tans. The first seven men to emerge — Liam Aherne, Jeremiah Aherne, David Desmond, Christopher Sullivan, Donal Dennehy, Joseph Morrissey and James Glavin — were killed instantly, while nine others only survived due to the intervention of a British officer. Two of the nine, Paddy O'Sullivan and Maurice Moore, were later executed by the British.

Last Sunday, February 23rd, these

14 men were remembered at the Holy Rosary Church graveyard, where 11 of them are buried.

Pipers of the Volunteer Pipe Band led contingents from Cumann na mBan, Cumann na gCaillíní and the general public in a short march to the plot.

After the wreath-laying ceremony, the *Last Post* was sounded by Christy Murphy and a short oration detailing the events of Clonmult was delivered by Pat Walsh of Cork Sinn Féin.

Chairing the ceremony, Gearóid Mac Carthaigh then called on the Cork Volunteer Pipe Band to close the proceedings with the national anthem.



WORLD VIEW Reagan Aid

US PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN is pulling out all the stops to get more aid to the hard-pressed Nicaraguan Contras. At the moment, Congress has limited "humanitarian assistance" to the tune of \$27 million per annum, but Reagan wants that figure increased to \$100 million. He has described this as "a reasonable approach to an unreasonable situation."

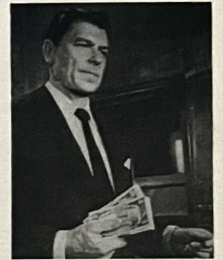
The head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Richard Lugar, said that the aid would be mixed: "Thirty million dollars of 'humanitarian aid' and \$70 million covert aid." "Covert" in this case means military.

The request for more aid for the Contras is just a drop in the ocean compared to some of Reagan's other recipients and the overall package of foreign aid that Reagan has presented to Congress for 1986 — a staggering \$16.3 billion. If Congress passes this package (and Reagan appears confident that it will), then repressive regimes throughout the world will receive a boost beyond their wildest dreams.

TOP OF THE LIST

Top of the begging-bowl list is Israel, which expects its aid package to increase from \$3 billion to \$4 billion. Pakistan hopes to receive \$1 billion, where Turkey is looking forward to \$1.2 billion, an increase of \$320 million. The Afghan rebels' bill runs at \$470 million and this is expected to rise to \$600 million as the anti-government forces become more particular about their weaponry.

In Central and South America, beneficiaries will include El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Chile and Panama. The Duarte regime in El Salvador, which is "surviving" on \$1 million aid per day, has requested that this figure be upped to a minimum of \$2 million a day. Subsidies to the other countries will



either double or at least remain stable.

A new recipient of Reagan's generosity will be the badly-shaken Angolan Contras of UNITA. The White House has decided to help UNITA's attempts to destabilise the democratic government of Angola.

To date, UNITA's backing has come from the racist regime in South Africa — with a little help from the US — but the South Africans have had to pull in their horns as the domestic situation becomes increasingly serious.



● A Turkish mass-trial

Turkey

LAST YEAR, the European Parliament adopted the Balfe Report on human rights abuses in Turkey. As a result it passed a resolution on October 23rd condemning the Turkish regime and calling on the Turkish government to "move rapidly towards a restoration of human rights in the country."

That was the 12th resolution passed by the Strasbourg parliament since September 1980, the date of the Turkish army's *coup d'état* — resolutions which have been completely ignored by the Turks. Also in July 1982, five European countries — Sweden, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and France — reported Turkey to the European Commission for Human Rights for numerous violations of the European Convention on Human Rights. After nearly four years of pussy-footing around with the case, the European Commission persuaded the five countries to drop the issue last December. This was in return for the Turkish regime's commitment to "easing human rights restrictions."

Meanwhile, the regime has shown its willingness to comply with the European Commission's requests by sentencing 11 members of DEV-GEN to death, ten to life imprisonment (life imprisonment means life), and a further 373 to sentences of up to 24 years.

In another trial, 66 members of the Turkish Peace Association have been arraigned for supporting the Helsinki Agreement on disarmament. So far, six of the leaders have been sentenced to eight years each. Another 450 members are expected to appear in court as soon as they are

formally charged by the military prosecutor.

MINERS

At least 1,000 miners are due to be prosecuted for taking strike action last year. This is not the first time that the miners have felt the iron fist of repression.

On May 17th 1985, one was sentenced to death, 12 to life imprisonment and 608 received sentences up to 20 years — for occupying a coal mine!

Young people are also feeling the military regime's repression.

The regime has tried to create a state of mind in young people that is unquestionably loyal to the regime: "We want to create a new kind of human amongst our youth."

Their success in this field can be gauged by the fact that, in 1984, 1,700 young people committed suicide, the vast majority of whom were at college or university.

One example of the regime's terror tactics was a police raid on a hostel for female students. In the middle of the night the 1,150 female students were woken by the announcement, "Do not leave your rooms. We are searching for political elements."

At the end of the search, students were taken away for "virginity tests".

VOLUNTEER KILLED IN ACTION

IRISH Republican Army Volunteer Tony Gough, from Derry's Shantallow district, was shot and killed by British soldiers on Saturday night, February 22nd, following a daring gun attack on Fort George Brit/RUC base.

Between 12 and 20 high-velocity shots were fired at one of several British army sangars situated around the perimeter of the barracks, which serves as a major interrogation centre in the North.

The shots were fired from rising ground beside a petrol station on the Culmore Road, some 200 yards from the barracks.

It was while the ASU was withdrawing to base that members of an eight-man British army foot-patrol opened fire at their

STUNNED

News of Volunteer Gough's untimely death clearly stunned the people of Shantallow who had grown to respect this quiet-spoken and determined young man and his high socialist principles. And on Tuesday, they showed the level of their feeling for him and his ideals in the only way they could, by coming out in their thousands to say a final, silent goodbye.

The Our Lady of Lourdes Cha-

pel in Snelstown was thronged for the Requiem Mass, with mourners spilling outside to wait the remains. No reference to the circumstances of Volunteer Gough's death were made by family friend Fr. Joseph Carlin, who presided over the service.

The decision by Volunteer Gough's family not to allow a republican funeral was honoured by the Republican Movement. However, no such consideration for their bereavement was shown by the crown forces who provocatively displayed white ribbons on several British army jeeps in what local people interpreted as a symbol of mourning for a victory in the killing of Volunteer Gough.

Along the route to the City Cemetery a helicopter overhead maintained close surveillance while armoured personnel vehicles

were positioned in side streets and main roads.

EMOTIONAL

Following Mass, many Shantallow people were unable to get to the graveside in time to rejoin the funeral cortege which drove directly to the cemetery, but in a spontaneous and emotional action, hundreds of mourners standing along the footpaths took the opportunity of a gap in the motor cortege to fall in and walk behind the hearse. Within minutes, over a thousand people were filing through the narrow cemetery gates and inching their way along the pathways leading to the grave.

A Tricolour was lowered to half-mast at the Republican Plot as a dignified ceremony was conducted. Finally, in a gesture which touched the hearts of all those present, Mrs. Peggy Gough, Tony's mother, placed a

single red rose on his son's coffin. Floral tributes were placed on the graveside from his comrades in the Derry Brigade of O'neill's, from other

branches of the Republican Movement, and from family and friends.

laugh na hEireann, from other

