

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING  
POLITICAL WEEKLY



# PHOBLACHT

## Republican News

Sraith Nua Im! 8 Uimhir 17 Deardaoín 24 Aibreán Thursday 24th April 1986 (Britain 30p) Price 25p

# Taking stock

AS THE London and Dublin governments take stock of their tactics five months after Hillsborough, and as loyalism limps from crisis to crisis, one factor remains unchanged and unchangeable — the tenacity of the IRA.

It remains to be seen who will win the power struggle in the unionist camp or how long the loyalist confrontation with the RUC will be withstood

by the British government, but one thing is certain: the British and their Free State allies are faced with a daunting task in patching up the crumbling facade of the six-county state.

An IRA attack this week, resulting in the death of an RUC inspector, was a reminder to those who have forgotten why British rule in Ireland has entered a new phase. It is the relentlessness of the Republican Movement which has been narrowing down the options of the British.

Such attacks will continue and escalate until the final option is taken and Britain leaves Ireland for good.



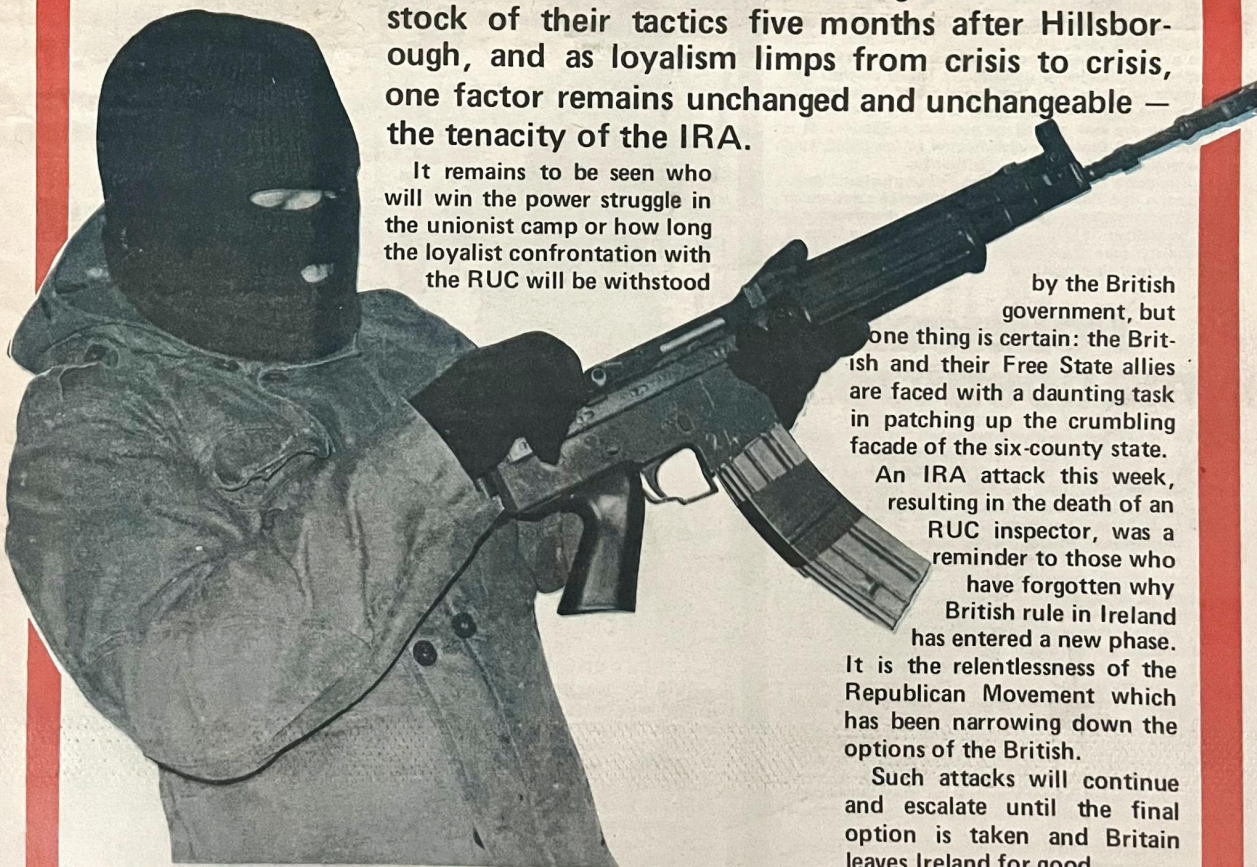
## NATIONAL HUNGER-STRIKE COMMEMORATION

THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of the death on hunger-strike of ten republicans in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in 1981 will be marked by a national commemoration in Belfast on Sunday, May 4th, at which all those who have given their lives in the cause of Irish freedom will also be honoured.

The commemoration is being organised by Sinn Féin. All political, social and cultural groups throughout Ireland and abroad are invited to attend.

Enquiries should be made to: The Secretary, James Connolly House, Andersonstown Road, Belfast 11 (telephone 619719).

2pm Sunday 4th May  
Dunville Park, Falls Road  
BELFAST





## OPINION

### Emergency

A STATE OF EMERGENCY exists in the agricultural sector with the death of hundreds of cattle and sheep from malnutrition and starvation. Indications are that the situation is getting worse and that the number of deaths is rising daily.

Reports from the worst-hit areas, which include counties north and south of the border, indicate that profiteers are cashing in on the fodder famine and that prices for poor quality silage and hay have doubled in recent weeks. Now even these over-priced stocks are running low and, unless something is done quickly, thousands more animals will die and many more small farmers will face financial ruin.

The source of the current emergency does not lie with the farmers who are suffering such losses. Indeed, the farming community must be complimented for the ingenuity it showed in surviving the past winter despite having only scant supplies available following a disastrous summer. They quite reasonably expected that fresh grass would be available by the first week in April, but the weather put paid to this.

If blame needs to be apportioned, as we believe it must, then the Coalition government, the British authorities in the six counties and — principally — the EEC, whose diktats control the agricultural sector, are the ones to blame. They encouraged larger herds and, now that farmers have responded, the responsibility for keeping those herds alive in a famine situation should surely rest with those in power.

Yet the response of these bureaucrats and big farmers' friends has been too little too late with the result that farmers have had to use their financial reserves and plunge further into debt to buy hay, straw and grain. Today they are left without money or supplies while their livestock dies.

So far, this fodder famine has not been tackled on a co-ordinated basis, partly because farmers have hidden the extent of their problem in case the death of their cattle from famine is perceived as failure on their part to farm properly. This 'traditional pride' is understandable, but it means that those trying to quantify the problem are not getting an accurate assessment. It is time for all those farmers affected to 'go public' and demand action from those in authority.

Elsewhere on this issue, Sinn Féin agricultural spokesperson Joe Ennis, outlines a number of steps which need to be taken urgently if the current emergency is to be tackled. It is in everybody's interests that those in authority take these steps before irreversible damage is done to Irish agriculture.

## Political manoeuvres

NOW THAT the Coalition government has finally decided to go ahead with a referendum on divorce, we can see to what extent the misery of the thousands of people whose marriages have broken down irretrievably is being used as a political football by establishment parties in the twenty-six counties.

This referendum is taking place for no better reason than that the Fine Gael-Labour Coalition is worried that the recently formed right-wing Progressive Democrats will upstage their 'liberalism' on the question of divorce. The Progressive Democrats, for their part, have been willing to latch onto any issue which will ingratiate them with upwardly-mobile middle-class people and divorce is one such issue.

Fianna Fáil is hoping to repeat the success that they had in supporting the 'pro-life' referendum. Their opportunist stance on the issue of divorce totally ignores the needs of those people who are most directly involved.

Republicans believe that divorce is a basic civil right for people whose marriages have broken down. Couples experiencing marital difficulties should have access to professional counselling services if they so wish, but in the final analysis it is they themselves who must be allowed to make the decision as to whether they should divorce.

They should not have these rights exploited by the political manoeuvrings of the establishment parties.

# Top RUC man killed

IN A CAREFULLY-PLANNED attack on Tuesday, April 22nd, an IRA Active Service Unit executed a senior member of the RUC in Newcastle, County Down. Like the recent IRA execution of another RUC inspector at nearby Crossgar, Tuesday night's attack is a set-back for the RUC and British forces which uphold the foreign occupation of the six counties.

For many years, such locally-based British forces have believed that they could torture and terrorise working-class nationalists by day and return to their safe havens in towns such as Newcastle and Crossgar by night. The IRA

has demonstrated that there are no safe havens.

After tracking down the RUC inspector from his base in Downpatrick to his home at Bryansford Road in Newcastle, they established his routine.



IRA Volunteers, armed with automatic weapons, moved into the area on Tuesday night and shot dead the RUC inspector when he emerged from his home shortly after midnight. In spite of the almost immediate saturation of the area by the crown forces, the Volunteers made good their escape.



## Eiri Amach na Casca The Easter Rising 1916

A SHORT HISTORY of Easter Week 1916 has been produced to mark the 70th anniversary of the Rising.

*Eiri Amach na Casca* gives a synopsis of the events of Easter Week and contains a number of essays on the particular organisations involved in the Rising as well as containing many photographs.

*Eiri Amach na Casca* is a worthy tribute to the men and women of 1916 — accurate, readable, inspiring and with an attractive cover in the national colours — and is available from the usual republican outlets and Republican Publications at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, price £1.25 plus postage.



UNIONIST politicians seem prepared to accept a recent offer by Thatcher to have exploratory talks.

In her letter to the OUP and DUP leaders last week, Thatcher suggested they should discuss a "framework within which dialogue could take place". This could be, and indeed was, interpreted by unionists as an admission by the British government that unionist opposition to the Hillsborough agreement had to be taken account of before what they call 'round-table talks' with the SDLP could take place.

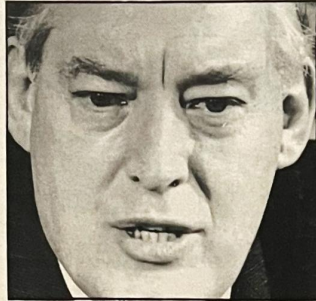
Last Sunday, in an RTE radio interview, DUP leader Ian Paisley reiterated an earlier claim that, according to a "fairly reliable source", the Dublin government was now "not convinced that the Anglo-Irish agreement can work". And on Monday, April 21st, an Official Unionist MP, Rev Martin Smyth 'revealed' that an Inter-Governmental Conference meeting which had been scheduled for Wednesday, April 16th, had been postponed until further notice.

The present unionist mood is therefore confident. Attacks on RUC homes are taking place nearly every night now, and while unionist politicians are careful to condemn them, it suits them to maintain some pressure as they prepare to meet Thatcher. More sinister is the now systematic campaign of attacks against Catholic homes, schools and churches. But those pogroms have neither met with clear condemnation from unionists nor with the same media coverage as loyalist attacks on the RUC.

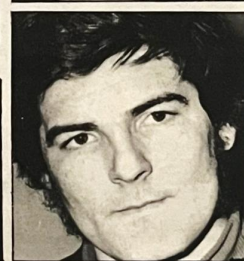
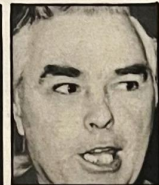
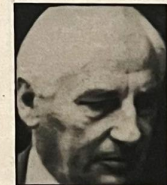
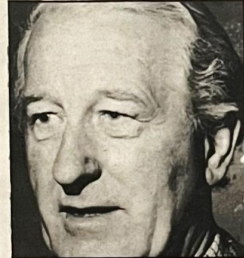
Nor did they warrant even a single word from the usually loquacious Peter Barry, who last year had proclaimed himself 'spokesperson on behalf of Northern nationalists'. Barry's only public utterances about the North in the last six weeks have been a condemnation of the IRA and an expression of understanding, if not support, for the bombing of Libya, alleging

**The Hilda MacThomas column**

# Scaling down underway



● (Clockwise) Paisley, Hadden, Boyle, Smyth and Barry



Qadhafi's support for the IRA.

On Friday, April 18th, academics Kevin Boyle and Tom Hadden issued a statement critical of the London-Dublin agreement, arguing that it provided for "too pervasive" a role for Dublin. Articles 2 and 3 of the Free State constitution should be "replaced", they added. In 1985, Boyle and Hadden had published proposals for a six-

county settlement with some form of Dublin involvement, the contents of which were quite close to the London-Dublin agreement. They had welcomed the agreement when it was signed.

This U-turn by two academics with some influence in London and Dublin is possibly another sign that a 'sensitive' handling of the agreement is on the cards — the

codeword for some scaling-down of the agreement in order to bring the unionists to inter-party talks.

## SMALL PRICE

Last week, Adrian Colton of the SDLP was urging the British government not to give in but to "confront unionists" and "continue to do so". The SDLP appears to be aching for a fight — between the Brits and the unionists that is. While it will support the British presence in the North because of a possible 'unionist backlash', the SDLP is quite prepared to argue that unionists are only bluffing. The latest spate of burnings of Catholic homes by loyalists will be dismissed by the SDLP as a small price to pay.

More to the point, the SDLP is worried about the possibility that London and Dublin might accede to unionist demands. The London-Dublin agreement — while it has not yet delivered one single improvement in the life of ordinary Northern nationalists — has brought the SDLP prestige and Seamus Mallon's Westminster seat.

The agreement's credibility among nationalists has so far rested exclusively on unionist opposition to it. But a scaling-down of the agreement and an ensuing decrease of unionist protests would force the SDLP into an internal six-county settlement without a 'Dublin dimension'.

On Wednesday afternoon, unionist leaders Jim Molyneux and Ian Paisley unveiled in the Assembly the much-hyped 'escalation' of unionist protests against the London-Dublin deal.

With the unionist leadership currently hoping for concessions from Thatcher, the 12-point package turned out to be rather a damp squib as some frustrated DUP elements clearly felt. Its main plank, a 'rates strike', apparently means that unionists will in fact be asked to delay payments.

The Assembly will continue as an expensive unionist soapbox, there will be stepped-up 'protests' at any London-Dublin conference meetings and, presumably in the hope of clinching matters, the unionists have called a day of prayer on May 3rd!

# SDLP acquiesce in discrimination

BRITISH minister Richard Needham's refusal to meet a Derry City Council delegation to discuss cuts in the Housing Executive budget, if Sinn Féin councillors are included, was the main issue of discussion at the council meeting on Tuesday night, April 22nd.

A Sinn Féin motion calling on the council to oppose the Northern Ireland Office's policy of refusing to meet council deputations which include Sinn Féin members was altered almost beyond recognition by an SDLP amendment. While reiterating their opposition to this policy, the SDLP refused to agree to the council legally challenging the NIO should the delegation be refused access to the minister.

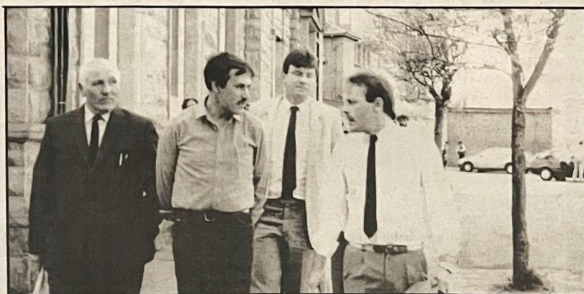
In an angry response, the Derry, Sinn Féin councillors accused the SDLP of hypocrisy and of deceiving the nationalist voters of the city "by making muted and meaningless condemnations of the NIO policy of political discrimination while at the same time stubbornly refusing to participate in

any action which would challenge this policy. The SDLP have, in fact, endorsed the British government's position and have agreed to acquiesce in a system of political apartheid existing in the council chambers".

## STRABANE COUNCIL IN TURMOIL

Following persistent Sinn Féin demands, Strabane District Council agreed on Tuesday night to hold an extraordinary audit to examine financial irregularities in their accounts.

The issue came to a head at the meeting after the council chairperson, Independent Councillor James O'Kane, who is also chairperson of the finance and general purposes committee, twice in eight days arbitrar-



● Sinn Féin Councillors John Davey, Mitchel McLaughlin, Gerry Doherty and Hugh Brady leaving the Guildhall, Derry

ily adjourned committee meetings rather than answer questions put to him by Sinn Féin Councillor Ivan Barr.

According to Barr, an account for £1,130 for the hiring of vehicles exists in the council records and is signed by the chairperson. O'Kane has consistently denied the existence of such

an account.

However, at Tuesday's meeting, a split in the SDLP camp over O'Kane's recent behaviour allowed a motion suspending standing orders to be passed. This was followed by a vote of no confidence in the chair.

O'Kane refused to leave the chair and tried to prevent Barr's motion (calling

for an urgent investigation into the council's accounts) from being discussed or put to the vote. However, Barr revealed that he had been informed by the chief auditor for the North's councils that no audits had been completed by Strabane Council for four years because council officials had not replied to questions he had put to

them. Following this revelation, Barr's motion was passed. "We will endeavour to ensure that the extraordinary audit is carried out speedily and the truth of this situation revealed," he told AP/RN following the meeting.

## LISBURN

Sinn Féin's two Lisburn councillors, Damien Gibney and Pat Rice, were stopped by the RUC returning from the council meeting on Tuesday night.

Despite vigorous protests from the councillors, the RUC took confidential council documents from their car and made notes.

## NEWRY & MOURNE

At a meeting of Newry & Mourne recreation and tourist committee on Monday night, April 21st, ten councillors were elected to the steering committee of the new cultural sub-committee established following a Sinn Féin motion.

Of the ten councillors elected, three are from Sinn Féin — Jim McAllister, Brendan Lewis and Brendan Curran. The first public meeting of the sub-committee was held on Wednesday, April 23rd.



BY DONAL LYONS

THE SAGA of Irish Leathers continues with the occupation of the Plunder & Ollack plant in Carrick-on-Suir by over 100 former employees on Monday, April 7th. Eddie O'Doherty, chairperson of the workers' co-op, spoke to AP/RN about the background to the occupation.

The plant closed on Friday, July 19th 1985, and was subsequently bought by Raymond Lannen of International Hide & Skin, Kilkenny. Lannen gave a verbal undertaking to the workers and the Industrial Development Authority that the plant would re-open "within a matter of weeks". With no sign of this happening, he was approached again in November 1985 and he promised "no machinery would be removed from the plant". This promise too was broken on Friday, January 3rd when key machinery was removed from the factory.

The next move came on April 4th of this year when Lannen's men tried to remove the compressor which was vital to the running of the factory. A hasty meeting of the workers' co-op decided that the only way to stop this "plundering of our livelihoods" was to occupy the plant. On the morning of April 7th, the entire workforce marched through the town to the factory where they were met by a large force of gardai and Special Branch. Undeterred, they occupied the factory and will remain there until their demands are met.

A workers' delegation travelled to Dublin on Tuesday, April 22nd, and went to Leinster House to meet Eddie Collins, the Dublin government's Minister of State for Industry & Commerce. Collins arrogantly dismissed the workers' demands, telling them, "You're wasting your time."

The workers want the state to purchase the factory and allow them to run it as a co-op. To prove the viability of this, the workers are putting up £100 each to finance a feasibility study from the Irish Productivity Centre.

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The Dublin Council of Trade Unions picketed Leinster House on Wednesday, April 23rd, in protest at the removal of the remaining food subsidies on bread, butter and milk. Jerry Shanahan, the DCTU vice-president, points out that far from being an equalising measure affecting all, this move would disproportionately affect the working class as we spend more on these basic foodstuffs.

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As predicted, Irish Municipal Employees' Trade Union members employed by Dublin Corporation have rejected a Labour Court recommendation of a 7% phased increase. The 4,500 workers were balloted and at a mass meeting on Sunday, April 20th, the result was announced; a massive four to one rejection.

Sean Redmond, general secretary of the IMETU, said on Monday that an attempt would be made to re-open negotiations with the Corporation. Other general workers in the Corporation, members of the FWU, decided on Saturday to conduct a strike ballot.

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The likelihood of strike action by junior hospital doctors in the twenty-six counties has increased following the Labour Court rejection of their claim for increased overtime payments. The court demonstrated its "political independence" by taking into account "the state of finances in the health services".

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And the "state of finances in the health services" means that 65 people are to be made redundant at Holles Street Maternity Hospital.

The twenty-six-county Department of Health has instructed hospital management to cut its wage bill by £627,000 this year. A spokesperson for the hospital said at the weekend that redundancies at that level would severely curtail both out and in-patient services.

The two other maternity hospitals in

# Workers occupy plant



● Irish Leathers Group workers from Carrick-on-Suir picket Leinster House

the Dublin area, the Rotunda and the Coombe, are also facing cut-backs in their budgets.

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The strike involving 240 workers at Veba Ltd, radiator manufacturers in Wicklow, was the subject of a second Labour Court recommendation this week. The court recommends that Donal Dunne, the shop-steward whose suspension triggered the dispute, be awarded £25,000 redundancy, and that compulsory redundancy notices on two other workers be lifted. Responding to the ruling, Dunne said "It's not for me to take the money and run. That is not the reason for the strike."

The company has accepted the ruling but says it will close the factory if the workers don't accept the direction.

On Wednesday, April 23rd, the recommendation was put to a secret ballot of the workers and rejected.

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Lack of funding from the Dublin government to Udaras na Gaeltachta has placed in jeopardy over 600 jobs which have already been approved for grants by Udaras. The Udaras board says that its "whole credibility is at stake" and if more money is not forthcoming this week its industrial development staff will stop discussions on any new industrial projects.

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The agricultural officers' branch of the Union of Professional & Technical Civil Servants has asked its executive to sanction strike action in support of the claim for payment of an outstanding arbitrat-



● Industrial action at Irish Meat Producers in Leixlip — a temporary court injunction has limited the picket to four people

ion award. If industrial action is taken it will severely disrupt the dairy industry in the twenty-six counties.

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The Plasterers' Union has told AP/RN that the basis of their dispute with John Paul & Company on the Dublin Department of Justice site is the firm's continued refusal to directly employ plasterers on the job. They point out that other workers on the site are directly employed and that only their members are employed by a sub-contractor.

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The Federated Union of Employers have reacted strongly to a proposal from the Dublin government that employers be made liable for the first ten weeks of social welfare disability benefit. In return they would receive a 1% reduction in their PRSI payments. Improbably, the FUE claims that this move would have an adverse effect on employer-worker relations.

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Edmund Brown, vice-president of the ITGWU, has warned employers in both the private and public sectors that there is no question of a "zero option" in wage negotiations this year even if inflation reached zero.

Speaking in Galway on Sunday, April 20th, Brown pointed out that the earnings of working-class people had fallen below inflation by 5% on average since 1980. He also indicated that the ITGWU would be attempting to implement its policies in relation to job-sharing and the introduction of the shorter working week.

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The 16-month-old dispute at Irish Meat Producers (IMP) in Leixlip, County Kildare, has taken some curious turns in recent weeks. On Tuesday, April 15th, a temporary injunction was served on the workers which limited the picket to four people. There are 300 employees on strike.

That same day, an application was made by Hibernian Meats in the High Court to have the ITGWU instructed to lift the picket totally. Hibernian Meats want to remove the £4 million worth of stock in the factory and a High Court ruling on this will be given on Friday, April 25th. The plant itself was recently taken over by a consortium of buyers — Norish Foods, the Industrial Credit Corporation, Anglo-Irish Beef Packers, and Smurfit Investments.

This consortium calls itself Bayzana and is fronted by a solicitor based in Merrion Square. Philip Galligan, the chief shop-steward at the plant, describes the attitude of Bayzana to the workforce as "contemptuous". On Thursday, April 10th, four security personnel were given ten minutes to quit. These workers were directly employed by the company and were continuing to work with the union's sanction. Within minutes, they were replaced by scabs from Top Security who are now living on the premises and adopting a very aggressive attitude towards the pickets.

Galligan says the demands of the strikers remain the same — negotiations with the new owners over re-opening the plant. Failing this, they want IMP to honour their redundancy agreement with the workers, which guarantees the workers the statutory payment plus 4.1% and was entered into in 1983 when the Cannery Row plant in Dublin closed.

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The National Union of Mineworkers, in a gesture of appreciation to Irish workers for their support during last year's coal strike, sent over the South Wales Miners' Choir from Onllwyn in Dulais Valley. The 55-strong choir, who last visited Ireland in 1926 to raise funds during the British 1926 General Strike, will perform in Liberty Hall, Dublin, on Saturday, April 26th.

They are in Connolly Hall, Cork, on Sunday 27th and move on to St Patrick's Community College in Waterford on Monday.

All events begin at 8pm and admission is £3 to help pay the tour's expenses.



# Sectarian attacks continue

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE SERIES of co-ordinated attacks by loyalist mobs against Catholics in the six counties continued unabated during the past week. Since the funeral of the loyalist plastic bullet victim, Keith White, on April 17th, four Catholic families in Lisburn, Belfast and Portadown have been petrol-bombed or intimidated from their homes by rampaging loyalist mobs.

Within hours of the White funeral, two Catholic families in the Manor Estate area of Lisburn were singled out for attack. Flames swept through the home of Mrs Celine Martin and her son, Gary, while 30 loyalists tried to smash their way through the front door. The Martins were forced to stay locked in their bathroom until the mob eventually turned their attention to the home of another Catholic, pensioner Thomas Catney. Like the Martins, his home was severely damaged by petrol-bombs.

## PLANNED

These attacks, along with another on a Catholic-owned shop in the same street, were carefully planned, with groups of loyalists blocking off the entrances to the estate to delay the fire brigade. Street lighting in the estate was also turned off during the attacks.

Elsewhere in Lisburn, eight cars and two lorries in predominantly Catholic areas were burned by rampaging loyalist mobs. There was further trouble in the Chapel Hill area of Lisburn on Saturday night,

April 19th, when an attempt was made to set fire to St Patrick's Church and on Monday, April 21st, the Ancient Order of Hibernians' clubroom in Trinity Terrace was completely gutted by fire.

Outside Lisburn, damage in the region of £40,000 was caused to the Catholic-owned Stagecoach Inn in Derriagh when it was attacked on Thursday, April 17th.

## NARROW ESCAPE

The most serious attack on Catholics in Belfast occurred on Sunday night, April 20th, when a family of five had a narrow escape from their home on the Stewartstown Road when it was set alight by petrol-bombs. Theresa and George English, who have three young children, lost most of their belongings in the attack and have since moved in with relatives.

On Tuesday night, April 22nd, in the Rathcoole area of North Belfast, the home of a Catholic family in the Rathmore Drive area was attacked after a parade organised by the Ulster Clubs. Two petrol-bombs were hurled through a window of the house, causing extensive damage. Fortunately, the family escaped injury.

In Portadown, five petrol-bombs were thrown at flats in Obins Drive on Saturday, April 19th. The



● Aftermath of the loyalist attacks; (Above) Thomas Catney (68) in his gutted Lisburn home; (Below left) Barman Tom McCaughley in the remains of the Stagecoach Inn, Derriagh; (Right) Gary Martin outside the family home, also in Lisburn



flats, which are occupied by Catholic families, are on the edge of the nationalist Tunnel area and the attackers came from the nearby loyalist Edgartown Estate.

A march called by the Independent Orange Order in Portadown later that day unleashed a wave of loyalist attacks on Cath-

olic-owned premises in the town centre. The McGurgan family, who live above a paint shop in West Street, had to flee for their lives when loyalists attacked the shop with stones and petrol-bombs. At 3am on Sunday, April 20th, mobs which were still roaming the streets of Portadown

intimidated another Catholic family from their home in West Street.

The following night a Catholic motorist was dragged from his car and viciously beaten by loyalists in the Brownstown Road area of Portadown when a 150-strong mob blocked the road and began throwing stones and

petrol-bombs.

Towns and villages in County Down also suffered attacks.

In Killeel, loyalists sealed off streets before setting fire to several Catholic-owned premises and part of St Colman's High School in Ballynahinch was burned down.

## Crossmaglen man stabbed by Brits

FOUR British soldiers from the Black Watch Regiment were charged with causing grievous bodily harm at a special court in Banbridge, County Down, on Monday, April 21st. The charges followed a brutal attack on three young Crossmaglen men in which one was seriously beaten and stabbed.

The three men — Wayne Liddy, Roy Albert and Francis McShane — were assaulted in the early hours of Sunday morning, April 20th.

Wayne Liddy told AP/RN:

"As we passed the car-park of the Rangers GAA ground we saw these fellas getting over the wall. We thought they were locals but then these men with Scottish accents told us to stop."

Seven British soldiers, dressed in track-suits and uniforms, surrounded the three men. All the soldiers carried batons.

Wayne Liddy and Roy Albert were threatened with a knife by one of the Brits while others attempted to pull McShane through the turnstiles into the Rangers car-park. One of them pulled a knife on McShane and said, "You'd better come with us or you'll get this." He was then dragged along the road and kicked by the Brits.

Liddy managed to make a run for it and escaped from the soldiers.

## LOCAL PEOPLE

Later, several local people went back to the scene of the attack with Liddy. They saw the Brits running back to the nearby barracks and found Francis McShane lying in a state of shock on the footpath.

He was taken to Daisy Hill Hospital where, as well as bruising to his head and body, it was discovered that a stab wound in his right side had penetrated his lung.



● Wayne Liddy at the spot where he was attacked



## Notes for revolutionaries

NOTES for revolutionaries, the popular pocket-book of revolutionary quotations from throughout the world, will be re-issued later this year and Republican Publications would like anyone who has new quotes for inclusion in this, the third edition, to send them to Brian MacDonald, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, by Thursday, June 12th.



# Emergency measures needed to counter crisis in agriculture

## Farmers face ruin

BY JACK MADDEN

THE COALITION government's response to the fodder crisis and the death of hundreds of cattle daily on farms from Monaghan to Sligo has been described as a "sick joke" by Sinn Féin's agriculture spokesperson, Joe Ennis. North of the border, Paul Corrigan, Sinn Féin chairperson of Fermanagh District Council, has called for the immediate introduction of an "emergency package" to deal with the alarming situation.

Small farmers throughout Ireland are now feeling the full impact of last summer's disastrous weather conditions which resulted in the loss of much winter fodder while a lot of what was salvaged was of a very poor quality.

With reports that individual farmers in County Fermanagh have lost as many as 20 cattle and that hill sheep farmers are also experiencing great hardship with an abnormally-high mortality rate among new born lambs, Paul Corrigan said:

"If aid is not forthcoming, and very quickly at that, many farmers will be facing financial ruin.

"An indication of the enormity of the problem is the fact that the collectors of dead animals are unable to cope with the demands placed upon their services. Sinn Féin understands that they have provided extra lorries and that some of their staff are working on Sundays

in order to cope with the situation. One veterinary surgeon told me that it had been the worst year in his 35 years experience."

A few miles away, in County Monaghan, one collector of dead animals confirmed that there has been a massive increase in animal deaths in recent weeks and that he is being called to collect between 50 and 60 dead cattle each week. In Counties Cavan, Leitrim and Sligo, the story is the same. In Donegal, there are reports that dead sheep are being thrown into the Atlantic Ocean.

### EMERGENCY MEETING

Following an emergency meeting of members of Sinn Féin's agricultural committee earlier this week, Joe Ennis slammed the "inadequate response" of the Dublin



government to the fodder crisis and called for "urgent and radical steps" which would halt an escalation of the problem:

"In recent weeks, the price of silage and hay has more than doubled from £15 per tonne to between £33 and £35 per tonne. Farmers simply cannot afford these exorbitant prices for fodder, particularly when fodder such as silage and hay is of such poor quality in the worst-hit counties. It is quite clear that the crisis on the land has now

reached the proportions of an emergency.

"Given this emergency situation, the Coalition announcement that part of the headage payment scheme for beef cattle is being brought forward to alleviate the problem in selected areas is a sick joke, as this measure falls pitifully short of the urgent and radical steps which are required. These steps must include the:

1. Declaration of a state of emergency of agriculture.  
2. Direction of all ACOT personnel to suspend other dut-

ies so that they can visit every farm and assess the extent of the emergency in problem areas and the extent of surplus fodder stocks in unaffected areas.

3. Establishment of a properly-financed agency to administer the re-distribution of such surplus stocks as are available.

4. Directions to banks and other lending agencies to make interest-free loans available to needy farmers on the recommendation of local ACOT advisers and the imposition of a moratorium on the repayment

of loans for farmers in affected areas.

5. Making of intervention grain stocks available to farmers in need at a cost not exceeding £80 per tonne."

Concluding, Joe Ennis said that, "as a gesture of goodwill", veterinary surgeons working in affected areas and tending dying animals should reduce their fees to a minimum and thereby ease the financial hardship on farmers.

## FIANNA FAIL U-TURN

CORK SINN FEIN has condemned the actions of city Councillors who imposed water and refuse charges for the coming year at their meeting on Friday, April 18th.

Three weeks ago, another meeting of the city council had rejected the charges by 17 votes to 12, but at last Friday's meeting a number of councillors reversed their decision and the rates were struck by 18 votes to 13. Councillors who voted for the charges included three Progressive Democrats — Pearse Wyse,

Mairín Quill and Owen Curtin, who were elected as Fianna Fáil members with opposition to rates as one of their main policies. The city's Fianna Fáil lord mayor and Leinster House deputy, Dan Wallace, also voted 'for' as did Fianna Fáilers Dave Buckley and Tom Falvey.

Cork Sinn Féin said:

"This vote, under the threat of abolition from the Free State environment minister, John Boland, has reduced the power of the Corporation to that of a puppet council. Many of those who voted for the charges at last night's meeting went back on the main plank of their platform at last June's local elections, namely to oppose the water service charges.

"We condemn these councillors

and say that they should do the honourable thing and resign."

At the April meeting of Birr Urban District Council, a resolution from Sinn Féin Councillor John Carroll condemning the "inhuman and degrading treatment including daily strip-searches" of Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson in Brixton Prison was passed unanimously.

The resolution also called for Peter Barry to take action on the torture of the two women.



JOHN CARROLL

## Ballymun tackles job crisis

BALLYMUN, the North-West Dublin suburb with a population of 20,000, suffers an unemployment rate comparable only with Strabane in the North, the recognised jobless blackspot in Ireland. Now the community is fighting back through the Ballymun Community Coalition (BCC) which has developed a strategy to tackle the job crisis.

The BCC has united a group of people who have realised the value of united action and decided to work for the establishment of a community-based job centre in Ballymun. Membership of the BCC is broadly based, the only criteria being that members must live or work in the estate.

The first step towards the job centre was to produce a comprehensive report on the problems Ballymun faces and how to tackle them. The report, *Ballymun — Its Future Can Work*, was launched on Monday, April 21st, in the Junior Comprehensive School in Ballymun. In-



truding the report, John Sweeney SJ said the report had uncovered some frightening statistics such as a true unemployment rate of 61.4% and the fact

that "the unemployed in Ballymun are only 40% as likely as unemployed people nationally to benefit from the special labour market measures introduced

by the state". He went on to condemn the various state agencies for their lack of a cohesive approach in providing jobs for Ballymun and announced that "the time is ripe for an innovative approach".

### SOLUTION

Chairing the meeting of over 200 mainly local people, Brendan Corr, a voluntary worker in the area, echoed the sentiments of Sweeney and explained that the solution to Ballymun's employment problems lays not in traditional policies but in a community-managed, locally-staffed job centre situated in the Ballymun Shopping Centre. The role envisaged for the job centre by the BCC is twofold in that it will help job-seekers find employment and will also assist individuals or groups in turning ideas into real and viable employment for the people of Ballymun.

The BCC is determined that the job centre will become a reality and says that it is greatly encouraged by pledges of practical support from various quarters.



CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
PAID-PERJURERS STEPPED UP

# Show-trial victims highlighted

BY JANE PLUNKETT

ON THE 72nd day of the Christopher Black show-trial appeal (Tuesday) relatives and friends of the defendants picketed Leinster House to highlight the paid-perjurer system.

Among those who had travelled to Dublin from North Belfast were Roisin Loughlin, whose husband, Gerald, was sentenced in August 1983 to life imprisonment on Black's uncorroborated word; Vicky Kane, whose husband, H-Block escapee Paul, is doing 18 years on Black's word; Ann O'Neill, wife of Paul (sentenced to 18 years); Liz Kane, sister of Toby McMahon (sentenced to 15 years) and Ann McKinney, whose husband Thomas is doing 12 years.

During the two-hour protest, relatives handed in letters to Free State premier Garret Fitz-Gerald and other party leaders. Former justice minister Michael Noonan was among those who passed by, but he refused to

even accept a leaflet.

After the picket ended, the group's minibus was followed and then stopped for 15 minutes by armed Special Branch men whose attitude was described by the protestors as "hostile".

Later, the group leafleted outside the GPO on O'Connell Street and were very pleased with the response.

The relatives, who are members of the Stop the Show-Trials Campaign, are stepping up their campaigning to focus attention on the plight of Christopher Black's victims. As part of this, on Monday morning around 40 people picketed Crumlin Road Courthouse where the Black appeal is being held.

On their return to Belfast



● Stop the Show-Trials pickets of Leinster House...



...and Crumlin Road Courthouse

after the Leinster House picket, the relatives issued a statement highly critical of the actions of the Special Branch. Describing the "lip-service" by the Free State government and Peter Barry as

"an insult to us", the relatives added:

"Considering that we were picketing outside Leinster House in protest at the use of repressive laws and the corrupt legal system

in the six counties, we found our experiences with the garda Special Branch both frightening and very disturbing and perhaps an indication of the sincerity of Peter Barry & co."

## Unconscious after UDR attack

BY MEAVE ARMSTRONG

A YOUNG Tyrone man was left lying unconscious by the roadside after members of a UDR patrol attacked him on Friday night, April 18th.

Vivian McGee, from Cappagh, was giving Sean Kelly, also from the village, a lift to nearby Galbally when they were stopped by a UDR patrol. McGee was told to get out and open the bonnet and, as he did so, one of the four UDR men ordered him, at gun-point, to put his hands in the air.

The UDR soldier kept ordering him to raise his hands higher and higher, and when McGee told him he could not raise them any higher he was punched in the face. McGee told AP/RN:

"I protested and I was hit again. I was punched in the stomach and fell down. I don't remember anything after that."

As McGee lay unconscious on the road, Sean Kelly was threatened with similar treatment. It was only when two local people came on the scene that the UDR left.

Vivian McGee was admitted to South Tyrone Hospital suffering from bruising to the stomach, legs and back. Both men intend to take legal action against the UDR.



● VIVIAN MAGEE



● (Left) Leg injuries suffered by Conor Mulholland and (right) Maurice O'Neill

## Portadown RUC assaults

BY JANE PLUNKETT

TWO Portadown nationalists were viciously beaten by the RUC in the early hours of Sunday morning, April 20th.

Maurice O'Neill (22) and Conor Mulholland (24) were walking home, along the Garvaghy Road, when two RUC jeeps halted near them and an RUC man aggressively demanded their identities. Conor Mulholland describes what happened next:

"Maurice gave his name, but I couldn't get my name out — I've a bit of a stammer. The RUC man

went berserk and he hit me over the head with a baton."

The two lads were thrown into a jeep and held down on the floor while four RUC men beat them with batons.

They were taken to Portadown RUC Barracks where they were denied access to a doctor. O'Neill and Mulholland were eventually released at 6.30am.

As a result of the RUC assault, Maurice O'Neill suffered heavy bruising to the back of his left thigh and bruising to his head. Conor Mulholland received bruises and abrasions to his legs, a black eye and cuts to his head.

Portadown Sinn Féin Councillor Brian McCann has urged nationalists to be "very wary" of the RUC, saying that the RUC have recently stepped up their harassment of local youths:

"It appears that the RUC will increasingly vent their anger at the loyalist unrest upon nationalists."



# NUCLEAR POLLUTION

## the industry of death

BY MAIRTÍN Mac DIARMADA

**I**N THE PAST few months, leakages and spillages of pollution from nuclear plants in Britain have provoked a level of debate not seen since the beginning of the nuclear industry, following the Second World War.

Like all environmental issues which involve science and scientists, the debate has been confused and at times very misleading. Few of the participants in the nuclear debate have addressed the real issue — the reason for the existence of the deadly nuclear industry.

Since its inception, the industry has been inextricably linked with the production of nuclear weapons. And, as with the decision to make and drop the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, all the major decisions about nuclear power have been taken by a small elite of politicians, scientists and military personnel.

The scientists who developed the first atomic bomb were unsure of what the consequences of dropping it would be. Hiroshima was an experiment with thousands of Japanese civilians as the guinea pigs.

It was only when the effects of the bomb on its victims and their children — born and unborn — were seen that scientists began to understand the deadly power of radiation. Even today the cancer-causing effects of radiation — even in small doses — are not fully understood. What is known is that radiation causes cancer in many forms and 'normal' exposure to it from the nuclear plants (apart from accidental leakages) have resulted in the deaths of many people.

**I**N IRELAND and Britain, the current debate has focussed on the Windscale/Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria in the north of England.

The recent controversy was sparked off by a series of accidents at the plant during last winter. These accidents were only the latest in a series of no less than 300 recorded at Windscale/Sellafield since 1950. Windscale/Sellafield is the largest nuclear reprocessing plant in the world. Spent

fuel from nuclear plants all over the globe is brought to the Cumbrian plant to be reprocessed for further use — including its use for making nuclear weapons. Reprocessing creates huge amounts of deadly radioactive waste. Every year the owners of the plant, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) pour up to three tonnes of this waste into the Irish Sea.

Between May 1952 and March 1953, huge amounts of plutonium were discharged into the Irish Sea from Windscale as an 'experiment' to test its effects on the environment. The analysis of this irreversible act of vandalism was never published. Three years later, there was a major fire at Windscale which burned for three days. It was only discovered on the third day, by which time two million litres of liquid radioactive waste had poured into the sea, similarly huge amounts of radioactivity escaped into the atmosphere.

The full report of this disaster has never been published.

**T**HROUGHOUT the 1970s and 1980s, the 'mishaps' continued while the plant itself was expanded and developed for increasingly complex processes.

In 1983, a survey carried out by Yorkshire Television found that there was an abnormally high rate of cancer and leukaemia in children living



**The Irish Sea is the most radiation-polluted stretch of water in the world**

near the Windscale/Sellafield plant.

The rates were found to be ten times the average for Britain.

Also in 1983, an engineers' report on the plutonium-producing reactors at Calden Hall and Chapel Cross said that they had serious design faults and could collapse after a minor earth tremor. This would result in a holocaust of fire and radiation resulting in thousands of deaths. There are similar dangers — both on-going from radiation and potential from natural disasters — associated with all nuclear plants.

Most of the British plants, including Calden Hall, Chapel Cross and Windscale/Sellafield, are situated on Ireland's doorstep on the west coast of England, Wales and Scotland.

**T**HE IRISH Sea is the most radiation-polluted stretch of water in the world.

Between May 1st 1980 and April 1985, Mary Grehan, a general practitioner in Dundalk, carried out a survey of 473 pregnant women who consulted her. She found an abnormally high rate of miscarriages and stillbirths among them. In her report, delivered at a conference last November, she recorded a still-birth rate of 23 per 1,000 live births as against a twenty-six-county average of nine per 1,000 live births.

It is impossible to scientifically establish definite links between this and nuclear discharges from Windscale/Sellafield but this, and an earlier survey which recorded a high number of Down's Syndrome cases in the Dundalk area, served to heighten public awareness in Ireland on the perils of the nuclear industry.

Media attention and the awakening of public opinion in Ireland and Britain this year forced the Free State government to break its long silence on the nuclear time-bomb ticking away across the Irish Sea. The Dublin establish-

ment has always accepted British guarantees on the 'safety' of the discharges into the sea and, despite its calls for proper 'monitoring', it has never seriously attempted to carry out its own checks on nuclear pollution.

**I**N THE twenty-six counties, the only agency involved in the monitoring of radiation is the Nuclear Energy Board (NEB).

On Thursday, April 17th, the NEB held a press conference in Dublin to announce a joint programme with Spain to monitor the sea south of Ireland.

Eddie Collins, minister of state at the Free State Department of the Environment, repeated the position only recently adopted by his government. This does not call for the closure of Windscale/Sellafield and the winding down of the nuclear industry but for a halt to dumping in the Irish Sea.

In fact, as on so many other issues, the Free State government has adopted a copy-cat position towards Britain, as witnessed by the plan of the Fianna Fail administrat-

ion of the late '70s to build a nuclear power-plant at Carnsore Point in County Wexford. Des O'Malley, now leader of the Progressive Democrats, was the main advocate of this costly unnecessary and dangerous scheme. It met with much opposition, culminating in the mass rallies and concerts at Carnsore in 1978 and 1979. The scheme was shelved but not before large sums of money had been poured into it over the years by the ESB.

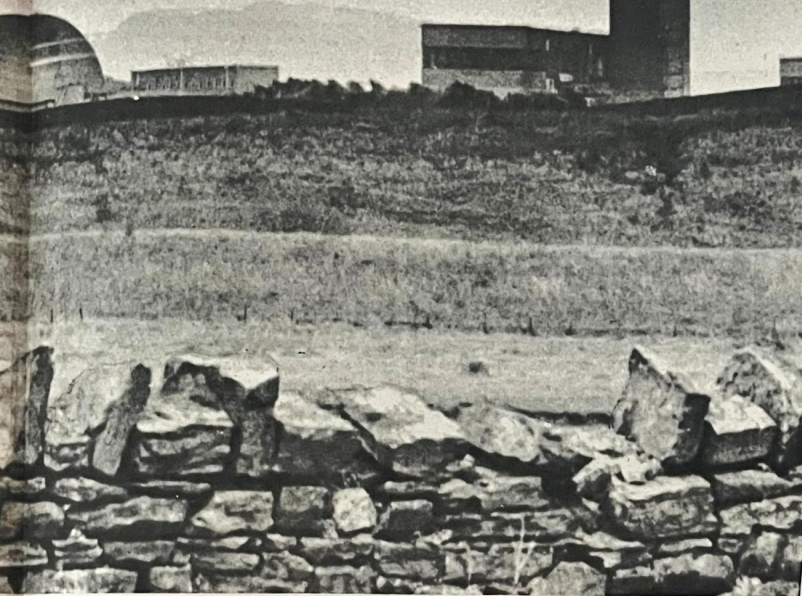
**I**N VIEW of this, it's not surprising that rather than demand the closure of Windscale/Sellafield, the Dublin government has been calling for a halt to dumping in the Irish Sea and for an EEC inspection team.

It is also significant (as the Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament pointed out in a letter to press and politicians last month) that such calls are coming from the Dublin government in the aftermath of their signing of the European Treaty on February 17th 1986. This Treaty

The British government spends only £14 million per year on nuclear alternative sources of



# POWER



Only 4% of Britain's energy needs are supplied by nuclear power



● Sinn Féin Councillors Sean McKnight (second left) and Frank McDowell (far right) meet Declan McGrath and Paul Collins of the United Nations Association of Youth during the Belfast visit by the Greenpeace ship *Sirius*

says that the signatory states — now including the twenty-six counties — are (in the words of the Treaty) “determined to maintain the technological and industrial conditions necessary for their security”. All “defence-related” industries, including nuclear power plants like Windscale/Sellafield, are covered by this provision.

Several EEC states use the plant in Cumbria for repro-

cessing their nuclear waste and Britain uses it to produce plutonium to make nuclear bombs.

**T**HE Nuclear industry is a deadly game. It causes death by radiation and creates weapons of mass destruction.

Only 4% of Britain's ener-

gy needs are supplied by nuclear power.

Despite the dangers, the British government is planning to expand the nuclear industry. It now spends £250 million per year on nuclear research and development while only £14 million is spent on conservation and research into finding alternative sources of energy. Further increases on nuclear spending are planned by the British.

**RELAND'S east coast is part of a huge rubbish dump for Britain's deadly nuclear industry.**

In addition to the hidden hazards of pollution, this country will suffer death and environmental destruction on a mass scale (and which recognises no border) in the event of a major nuclear catastrophe in Britain.

The response of the twenty-six-country government to this threat has been typically weak-kneed and has placed it side by side with the British in their contempt for Irish lives.

The nuclear industry is a further cause for all Irish people to count the cost of having so dangerous a neighbour controlling our lives and our destinies.



● Personnel from publicity-conscious British Nuclear Fuels monitoring radioactivity levels on the beach at Windscale/Sellafield

# SELLAFIELD

**SELLAFIELD and the threat to Ireland — fact or fiction?** was the title of a one-day conference held in Downpatrick, County Down, on Saturday, April 19th.

The conference was described by the Sinn Féin councillors who attended as “informative and extremely useful.”

had obvious difficulty replying to the evidence to the contrary.

## MILITARY ASPECTS

Frank McDowell, one of Sinn Féin's councillors in County Down, commented early in the conference that “Anderson is concentrating his evidence on the use of nuclear power to produce electricity, ignoring almost totally the military aspects of the industry”. Anderson's opponents, however, quickly established the role of Sellafield in the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons, a fact which was condemned by almost everyone who spoke.

Following the conference, which was generally critical of Sellafield, the three local Sinn Féin councillors — Paddy Young, Geraldine Ritchie and Frank McDowell — issued a statement reaffirming Sinn Féin's opinion that Sellafield poses “a serious threat to the health and welfare of both the Irish and British people”.

In conclusion, they criticised Sellafield's role in the “provision of plutonium for nuclear weapons” and demanded that the plant be immediately closed.

British government now spends £250 million on nuclear research and development — it only £14 million on conservation and finding alternative sources of energy



## Hunger-strike commemoration WEEK

TO MARK the fifth anniversary of the 1981 H-Blocks hunger-strike, Belfast Sinn Féin will be mounting an audio-visual exhibition on the hunger-strike martyrs and the history of Irish political hunger-strikes, together with various other events, from Monday, April 28th, to Sunday, May 4th.

■ Monday (1pm to 5pm): Exhibition at the Andersonstown Felons' Club.

■ Tuesday/Wednesday (1pm to 5pm): Exhibition at the New Lodge Felons' Club.

■ Wednesday (8pm): Traditional music and readings from Bobby Sands, James Connolly, Liam Mellows etc at the New Lodge Felons' Club.

■ Thursday/Friday (1pm to 5pm): Exhibition at the Shamrock Club, Ardoyne.

■ Saturday (1pm to 5pm): Exhibition and POW Department seminar on prisoners at the Felons' Club, Andersonstown Road.

■ Saturday night: Social at the Andersonstown Social Club.

■ Sunday (2pm): National hunger-strike march and rally. Assemble at Dunville Park.

■ Sunday night: Bobby Sands Memorial Lecture at Kilwee Social Club, Twinbrook.

Full details from Connolly House, Andersonstown Road (phone 618-939).

SURVEY SHOWS 98% NEVER TESTED FOR CERVICAL CANCER

## Danger to women's health



● LILY FITZSIMONS

THE SINN FEIN Women's Department in Belfast has carried out an extensive survey on the availability of smear testing for cervical cancer, a common cause of death among women.

Although the information has not yet been fully analysed, it is already clear that family GPs have generally failed to provide many women with the support, advice and information they require to understand this serious issue and the potential dangers it poses for them.

The Women's Department broke its sample survey down into five separate age groups ranging from women under 20 to those over 50. It emerged that 98% of those questioned had never been asked by their GPs to have a smear test to check for the early signs of cancer. Almost three quarters of the women surveyed had never been given any information on the dangers of cervical cancer while a tiny fraction (2%) had the tests carried out by their GPs.

Perhaps one of the most startling and frightening statistics to surface was that of the 91% interviewed who had a smear test, 62% had never received the results.

### SCANDALOUS

Lily Fitzsimons, a Sinn Féin councillor and spokesperson for the Belfast Women's Department, described the findings as scandalous:

"GPs are obviously failing to inform women about and encourage them to have smear tests. This is particularly serious as GPs are the only section of the medical profession with whom most of us have regular contact."

Councillor Fitzsimons went on to call on GPs to take positive action to reverse the present trends:

"Everyday pressures and social conventions tend to make women neglect their own health and GPs must bear this in mind and change their practices accordingly."

The full results of the survey will be available shortly.

## Gaeilgoiri meet Arts Council

BY CIÁN Mac AOIDH

THE FIRST-EVER formal meeting between Irish-language groups, accompanied by Sinn Féin representatives, and the six-county Arts Council on Tuesday, April 22nd, has been described by West Belfast MP Gerry Adams as "helpful and productive".

The Sinn Féin president had asked for the meeting with Arts Council director Kenneth Jamieson to allow cultural activists in West Belfast to put the case for the funding of Irish-language arts. A document, highlighting the fact that no money was spent on the Irish language by the Arts Council in the last financial year, and outlining the arguments for funding, was given to Mr Jamieson by the Sinn Féin MP during a two-hour meeting.

Speaking afterwards, Gerry Adams said:

"The idea behind the meeting was to persuade the Arts Council



● Gerry Adams with representatives of the various Irish-language groups after the meeting with the Arts Council

of the need for them to accept responsibility for promotion of Irish-language arts and particularly for written arts.

"This meeting was both helpful and productive. It proved very informative for the Arts Council as well."

Language representatives said they were very pleased

with the meeting and will now submit a series of requests for grant-aid.

### COUNCILS

Meanwhile, the Sinn Féin Cultural head, Martin O Muilleoir, told a meeting of Irish teachers in Belfast on Wednesday, April 23rd, that the four council sub-committees set up in the six counties on the recommendation of Sinn Féin have already achieved more for the Irish language than the Hillsborough agreement:

"The Hillsborough treaty has been long in hype but short in action as far as the Irish language is concerned. In fact it was after the accord was signed that the Northern Ireland Office attempted to scuttle the Irish Newspaper, LA, by withdrawing grant-aid. On the other hand, culture sub-committees in Omagh, Fermanagh, Derry and Newry & Mourne councils have accorded Irish an official status and accepted that the promotion of Irish culture is within the brief of local councils."

## JIM GRALTON-DEPORTEE

BY MARTIN Mac DIARMADA

SINCE the imposition of partition, many Irish republicans and socialists have been forced to leave the country because of their political beliefs. Jim Gralton, who up to recently has been little-known outside his native Leitrim, was the only person to be actually deported by the Free State government because of his political activities.

In Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim last weekend, a seminar was held to mark the centenary of the birth of Jim Gralton in 1886. The weekend's activities gave, for the first time, a clear view of a much-neglected but important Irish radical.

Jim Gralton was born in Efferagh, County Leitrim, in 1886. He emigrated to the United States, where he became involved in the labour movement. He was also active in the republican cause by raising money for the struggle during the Tan War.

In 1921, Gralton returned to Ireland and became involved in defending the small farmers of his native Leitrim and in the republican struggle against the Treaty. Like thousands of other republicans in this period, he was forced to leave the country and returned to America again.

### RED SCARE

The victory of Fianna Fáil in the 1932 election seemed to herald a more liberal climate in the Free State, but their sweep to power (which wouldn't have been possible without the support

of the Republican Movement) was followed by a 'red scare' in which any form of social radicalism was hysterically condemned and hounded by the Catholic Church, big business interests and their mouthpieces in the newspapers.

Having returned from America, Gralton again set out organising the small farming community. He opened a hall at Efferagh, naming it after Padraig Pearse and James Connolly. His activities in helping to settle land disputes, securing land for the hard-pressed smallholders and organising political education met with fierce opposition from the local clergy. The controversy resulted in an order for Gralton's deportation being issued by the Fianna Fáil government.

### ON THE RUN

He went on the run but was

captured in August 1933 and deported. He spent the remaining 12 years of his life in the United States.

The public symposium in Carrick-on-Shannon from April 18th to 21st followed the publication earlier this month of a book on Gralton's life and times — *Deported*, by Des Guckian.

At the weekend, lectures were given on the same subject by Fr Des Wilson, leading Irish-American labour leader Gerald O'Reilly, local historian John Rooney, Michael O'Riordan of the Communist Party of Ireland, Proinsias Mac Aonghusa, and John Meehan of the ITGWU.

The weekend culminated with a commemoration at the site of the Pearse-Connolly Hall. Jim Gralton's cousin, Patrick, unveiled a plaque there on Sunday, April 20th.



● JIM GRALTON



# FIANNA FAIL ARD-FHEIS

## The cult of the leader

BY MAIRITIN Mac DIARMADA

FIANNA FAIL, the party which describes itself as "our great national organisation" assembled last weekend in Dublin for its 54th ard-fheis.

If there was a theme to the rally (for it was more of a rally than a real conference) it was a theme of continuity — the continuity of a political organisation which has always been held together by the cult of the leader and the cult of the party. Speaking on RTE's *Saturday View* on April 19th, the party's general secretary, Frank Wall, and vice-president, Brian Lenihan, admitted that the Fianna Fail ard-fheis had little real power to decide policy.

As a morale-boosting rally, the ard-fheis was stage-managed as well as ever. For yet another year, it was being described as "the biggest and the best".

Much was made of the 60th anniversary of the founding of Fianna Fail and this provided speakers with the opportunity of eulogising their party and the 'purity' of Fianna Fail, purged of its anti-Haughey wing, now centred in the Progressive Democrats.

### ADDRESS

In his leader's address on Saturday night, Haughey made no reference to the PDs. Nothing could be allowed to take away from the euphoria of the occasion or to take the spotlight off

Charlie, the prophet of 'national recovery', the theme of his speech.

As a piece of rhetoric, Haughey's speech was typically Fianna Fail — all things to all people. On the national question it was significant that Haughey devoted only two sentences to the Hillsborough deal. He explained Fianna Fail opposition to it because of their "commitment to the ideal of unity" and said that the deal "purported to provide a legitimacy to partition never before accepted by any Irish government".

Haughey did not say what the Fianna Fail attitude to Hillsborough would be if they returned to power. There was only one resolution about the deal on the card and this simply supported "the party position on the Anglo-Irish agreement, as to support this agreement would be to renege on the principles on which the party was founded".

Again there was no commitment to any form of action by a Fianna Fail government.

### SECTION 31

Under the section dealing with the North, resolutions were passed condemning show-trials and strip-searching. Also passed was a



motion recommending an amendment of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act to allow all elected

representatives to be interviewed on RTE. It remains to be seen whether

the party which introduced Section 31 actually implements this recommendation.

BY JANE PLUNKETT

THERE WERE, unusually, heated exchanges at the DUP's annual conference last Saturday, before party members finally voted to "condemn" recent attacks on RUC members' homes.

By contrast, the scores of attacks recently on Catholics' homes were never even mentioned, much less condemned by party speakers.

In response to the death of Keith White, the first loyalist to be killed by a plastic bullet, the conference limited itself to a call for an "inquiry". A lone speaker who called for the lethal weapons to be banned and also condemned the RUC's murder of the nationalist, John Downes, two years ago was howled down.

### NUCLEAR STRIKE

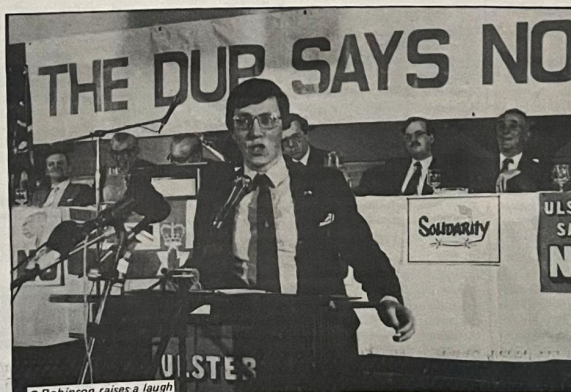
The sectarian meaning behind loyalist condemnations of "indiscriminate" plastic-bullet attacks was illustrated by party leader Ian Paisley. If he were an RUC man on the Falls Road during rioting, Paisley enthused, "I would want to be able to fire a baton round at them."

Another of the DUP's numerous cleric-politicos, the singing Rev William McCrea, suggested that as British premier Thatcher had approved the bombing of Libya, why did she not carry out similar actions on "IRA headquarters in Dublin" and "in Dundalk, Drogheda, Crossmaglen and Carrickmore". And Maryfield, of course. Not to be outdone, another reverend, Ivan 'Third Force' Foster, trumpeted that "a nuclear strike" alone would be appropriate.

The well-heeled small businessmen of the DUP, once again, paid no heed to

## SECTARIANISM DOMINATES DEBATE

# DUP CONFERENCE



social issues. Despite its populist image, the DUP is an utterly conservative amalgam of reactionaries plus madmen of the 'nuke the South' Foster ilk.

Party members did find time to pass the annual obligatory motions calling for a return of hanging, abolition of the

Fair Employment Agency, and threatened "confrontation" should the Flags & Emblems Act be tinkered with.

As usual, conference proceedings were dominated by party leader Ian Paisley who, in debate and in a lengthy address lasting almost 90 minutes, took the

opportunity to prove that he is still very much at the helm.

To prove the point, deputy leader Peter Robinson who, in recent weeks has been identified by media reports as a 'hardline' challenger for the leadership, was roped into the performance. The pair had never had a cross word "in 17 years", stated Robinson.

### HEATED DEBATE

Paisley intervened during a heated debate over a motion warning that DUP support for the RUC is currently no more than "conditional". Paisley's hastily-worded amendment endorsed the party's 'militant' image, but it added a diplomatic "condemnation" of attacks on RUC homes. The DUP must not be "thought" ambivalent, he said, and his amendment was clearly designed to preserve the party's united front with the official unionists. It was also to placate the 'law and order' unionists inside his own party, some of whom were howled down during the debate.

Significantly, while party chief whip Jim Allister and others chided some OUP MPs for breaking the Westminster boycott, Paisley ostentatiously commended OUP leader James Moyniaux who has been somewhat in the shadows lately.

Clearly, Paisley remains a powerful and credible figure among unionists, a key figure who by virtue of his track record as a vote-puller and his long, chequered history and past associations is able at present to pull together the various strands of unionism against the London-Dublin accord.

Other prominent unionist politicians must now be wondering whether Paisley will take all the credit should the British make any shift.





## Republican Publications

51/53 Falls Road, Belfast  
(telephone 232820)  
44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1  
(telephone 726932)



Republican Publications have issued two brand new posters to add to their ever-increasing and wide range of posters, badges, tapes, records and T-shirts.

One of the new posters, entitled *Doing Britain's dirty work*, draws the analogy between the actions of Garda Christy Power firing into a crowded Dublin street in defence of British interests during the Eibhlín Glenholmes case and the actions of Lieutenant Price in similar circumstances when he shot dead Sean Treacy in Dublin in 1920.

The other new poster shows a recent photograph of IRA Volunteers on patrol in the six counties and carries a quote from the 1986 Republican Movement leadership's Easter statement.

*Doing Britain's dirty work* costs 70p and the IRA poster is 60p. (P.e. add postage. Bulk rates available on request.)



### T-SHIRTS

Republican Publications' three recently-produced T-Shirts — featuring the ten H-Block hunger-strike martyrs; IRA Volunteer and clenched fist; *Beir bual* (IRA Volunteer and Cuchulainn) — are available at £4 each.

## Plastic killers

A Chara,

The death of 20-year-old Keith White by a plastic bullet during the recent unionist march in Portadown once again points to a contravention by the RUC of the rules and regulations supposedly governing the firing of plastic bullets.

The authorities seem to be relying on the media image of the plastic bullet as a device which appears harmless and is used only in 'last resort' situations.

Over the last 16 years, rubber and plastic bullets have killed 16 people, including seven children. They have also maimed and seriously injured countless others. Nobody knows the full tally of fractured skulls, limbs, brain damage and other injuries that these weapons have inflicted.

In 1981, up to mid-November, 29,665 plastic bullets were fired — 30,000 'last resort' instances!

In 1981, seven people were killed by these lethal weapons.

The plastic bullet is a solid PVC cylinder, 10cm long and 38mm in diameter, weighing 125 grammes. It is fired at about twice the speed of a cricket ball bowled by a good fast bowler. Soldiers and RUC men inside armoured Saracens and jeeps have shot at people from such a close range that it could only be intentional to inflict severe or fatal injuries.

Carol Ann Kelly (17) was just one of seven people killed by plastic bullets in the North of Ireland between April and August 1981. Carol Ann was returning from a local shop with a carton of milk for her mother. Outside the house of her next door neighbour, she was shot in the head by a plastic bullet fired by a soldier in a passing jeep. She died three days later.

Instances of misuse are often confirmed by local clergy and community leaders and in some instances by members of the international press. Some victims of plastic bullets have been involved in minor street



## Changing Divis

A Chara,

The significantly good news about the demolition of two further blocks of Divis Flats is that no conditions appear to be attached by the Housing Executive — or rather the Westminster-controlled Department of the Environment which really calls the tune. The credit for this victory must clearly go to the residents' committees who have been struggling for so many years against the worst residential conditions in the whole of Western Europe.

I would, however, like to think that our own Town & Country Planning Association has helped the struggle along since last November when we mounted the London exhibition *Demolish Divis*.

Since that time, a great many interesting things have happened — some publicly and some, seemingly, behind the scenes. Divis residents have been received by Ken Livingstone (of the now sadly-misnamed Greater London Council) and by the lord mayor of Greenwich and the leader of his council.

There has been quite a substantial degree of British media attention with the result that a lot more British people are now aware of the scandal that is Divis. The response to the exhibition and the TCPA's policy statement on the flats by the British NIO and the DOE has been, to say the least, hysterical and abusive. The TCPA's endeavour to get a tri-partite meeting, (residents, TCPA and DOE) has ended in failure.

It seems that the 'authorities' will not meet us so long as we insist on two, non-negotiable, conditions — the discussions must revolve around the failure of the Divis site, and the residents must be present in all discussions.

A further interesting development revolves round the press reports of the 'Reagan aid package'. Irrespective of what one thinks of this deal, it is a fact that generally the only project specifically men-

tioned by name is Divis — it seems clear that the flats are on the international agenda in one way or another and being discussed in Dublin, Washington and Brussels. It is also significant that, according to the press reports, the emphasis has shifted dramatically from 'renovation' of the flats to 'replacement' of them by houses.

I believe, very slowly, the struggle is being won but I also think that vigilance is more important than ever. My own (very personal) view is that that great, and new, dangers loom ahead. It seems clear to me that the authorities and the international decision-makers will eventually have to succumb to the overriding public opinion which has clearly seen that Divis is an abomination and has to go. This does not, however, mean that the future of the site will belong to the people. The ultimate, and inevitable, demise of the flats will not necessarily guarantee a radical shift of decision-making (and creative) power, which, in the end, is the important change.

This change can only occur if the Divis people themselves, without taking away from their very natural involvement in the shocking day-to-day issues of the flats, begin to turn their minds to what their vision is for the future of the Divis site. I will now be so bold to suggest that that vision will be more than a multitude of little houses with front and back gardens (though houses will no doubt be the major element). I suggest that it will be an imaginative interpretation of what Gerry Adams has described as "the ethos of the old Pound Loney" and what Jim Faulkner portrayed as a "future community of a new Pound Loney". And this just has to be more than just 'mere' houses. After all, *Falls Memories* was a vivid account of a living vibrant community, warts and all.

One of the greatest weapons of the oppressor is the insidious one — the capacity to brutalise people by a total environment to such an extent that, in despair, they either lose their imaginative faculties or lose any confidence in them.

Architecture, planning, and the whole creative process of the built environment is, in itself, neither good nor bad; it all depends for what purpose it is used. To their shame these professions have generally served only the strong and powerful, but we would be fools to reject the great wealth of ideas which exist in these fields simply because of the anti-social history of them.

We should now take this wealth and use it as a further weapon in the struggle for the demolition of Divis and its replacement by an environment based on the culture of the people. That, in itself, will surely not be just a monochrome of brick and garden gates, but a rich tapestry reflecting the life of an un-subdued community.

Brian Anson,  
National planning aid officer,  
TCPA,  
17 Carlton House Terrace,  
London SW1,  
England.

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Brian Anson,  
National planning aid officer,  
TCPA,  
17 Carlton House Terrace,  
London SW1,  
England.

A detailed history of all the hunger-strikes from 1913 to 1981 and appeal to your readers for any assistance they might be able to give me.

The book will cover every hunger-strike over the past 70 years, especially the numerous hunger-strikes where demands were conceded without loss of life.

I am particularly seeking information on the lives of Denis Barry (Blackrock) and Andy Sullivan (Mallow, County Cork) who died on hunger-strike in November 1923; Joseph Whitty (William Street, Wexford) who died on hunger-strike in September 1923; and Joseph Lacey (Blackwater, County Wexford) who died in December 1923 as the result of a hunger-strike in the Curragh.

I appeal to republicans in Cork and Wexford to send me information on these four men as I wish to compile detailed profiles of their lives.

I would be grateful for information, sources, personal recollections, documents, letters, pamphlets, newspapers, newspaper cuttings etc on hunger-strikes over the years.

All replies will be acknowledged and all documents and material sent will be copied immediately and promptly returned.

All information, no matter how small, would be very much appreciated.

Pat McGlynn,  
27 O'Connell Avenue,  
Berkeley Road,  
Dublin 7.



## Other people's wars

A Chara,

In 1915, we were told that we would get the freedom of our country if we fought on the side of the British. When the war was over, we got the Black and Tans and their atrocities.

I wonder what sort of carrot will be dangled before us to get into the next war. I hope the politicians take a lesson from the past so that our young people will not be cannon fodder for the big powers like America, which bombs innocent people in their beds.

John Shaw,  
Cork.

## Hunger-strike history

A Chara,  
I am presently researching

member states to ban the use of plastic bullets, and yet still these lethal weapons are being used by the British authorities in the North of Ireland with further plans to extend their use to England.

Query after somebody is seriously injured or killed is not enough. Politicians must give their commitment to having these lethal weapons banned.

Rosa Meehan,  
United Campaign  
Against Plastic Bullets,  
16 Nth St George's Street,  
Dublin.



TV

# REVIEWS



## Puppet on a string

BY AINE MARTIN

IN A WEEK punctuated by rhetoric, the British media excelled itself in its usual biased reporting. The attack by the US on Libya, with the unconditional support of Britain, was almost universally condemned by the nations of the world.

And yet BBC and UTV viewers were presented with the jingoistic rantings of British and US politicians falling

over themselves to condemn Libya and those who refused to endorse the warmongering of Reagan. Only a cursory reference was made to condemnations of the attack.

Appearing on UTV's *Weekend World*, the British foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, echoed Thatcher's claim that there was "absolute and incontrovertible proof of Libya's involvement in terrorist action".

He showed no such proof. Speaking as if Britain and the US are bastions of democracy and fair play, he asked for "countries of the civil-

ised democratic world" to apply themselves to "the international prevention of terrorism".

As foreign secretary of a country which has brought its own form of 'civilised democracy' to many countries (being kicked out of most and to be kicked out of at least one more), Howe endorsed the manic actions of a nation engaged in state terrorism in

Central America. His belief that "if civilised responsible governments remain inactive in the face of government-sponsored terrorism, they condemn more and more innocent people to such attacks" did not appear to extend to US actions in Nicaragua. Questioned on this, he would state only that "we emphasised the need to address those problems with restraint and without the use of armed force".

More useless rhetoric. Meanwhile, Howe mourns the fact that "Britain's independence" (7) should be questioned. The fact remains that Britain danced to Reagan's tune like a puppet on a string.

I missed both the *Flanna Fail* and *Phais* and the preview of the *Eurovision Song Contest* on RTE last Sunday.

For this, I am eternally grateful.

Have you seen the independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) advertisement congratulating itself on its advertising standards — "so you won't be deceived, harmed or offended"?

The IBA has different standards for its news reports — particularly reports on Ireland. The purpose of such reports is that you will be deceived.

leabhar

## Spiral of madness

BY KEVIN CURRIE

*STAR WARS* brings together a number of expert papers under the editorship of the historian and CND activist, E.P. Thompson, which serve as a thorough introduction to Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative ('Star Wars') and indeed to the whole arms game.

The latest in a series from Penguin including *Overkill* (1981), *Defended to Death* (1983) and *Crisis Over Cruise* (also 1983), the book gives the technical and political backdrop to the latest twist in the spiral of craziness that threatens to blow us all away, and demonstrates that the whole business of escalation is, and always has been, US-led.

Basically, SDI is about getting the US back to what Thompson calls "the womb of Hiroshima", those "happy days" immediately after the Second World War when they were the only ones who had "The Bomb". Under Reagan, the US has been busy knocking the present 'balance' — expressed in the strategy of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) where both sides have the other by the goolies — by attempting to recreate the decisive superiority (for they already have superiority) over the USSR that they had in the good old days.

The first problem, of course, is that the Soviets are hardly likely to stand for this.

### ROOTS

Thompson, in a powerfully argued piece, demonstrates the ideological, military, and industrial roots of SDI; how it came to find its moment in 1983 — an election year — and its man in Reagan. By 1983, the 'peace' (or Freeze) movement, both in the US and in Europe, was at its height. As the cost and craziness of the arms race became more widely appreciated, with agitation over Cruise in Europe, and with the scientists (the unbought ones) putting the public wise on the dangers of the nuclear winter etc, the US establishment was coming under pressure. With even the US

bishops demanding a serious return to arms control negotiation, there was a clear need to bring "military strategy into line with public opinion".

Star Wars' time had come. SDI ('The Force', 'The Shield') is supposed to offer an impenetrable shield, a nuclear umbrella, a womb in fact in which Middle America would shelter, safe against the missiles of those nasty commies. Simply, US technology would create a system in which — ping! ping! — Soviet missiles would be destroyed, just like in the video games, before they could strike the US.

With this nonsense (as it turns out), Reagan was able to reassure his terrified citizenry, out-horribly the bishops, and — momentarily — stun the freeze movement. It was also a way of making millions of Americans feel good about spending billions. After all, a shield that was proof against nuclear weapons (and he was going to 'give' it to the Soviets as soon as it was 'perfected') would obviously make those weapons redundant.

Hey presto! Safe at last! Never mind that, as Thompson bitterly puts it, the same objective could be attained in the morning by negotiation.

The trouble is it doesn't work.

Star Wars is a con. In the first place, the technology is hypothetical — it doesn't exist — and even if it can be created (doubtful) would take 30 to 40 years to get into place. Among the minor logistical problems is that it would take the US, flying 30 shuttles a year, somewhere between 3,000 and 4,000 years just to hoist into orbit the fuel necessary to power the (imaginary) lasers

that would do the pinging. Among dozens of obvious counter-measures the USSR could take meanwhile, the single most obvious would be to increase the stock of Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) aimed at the US in order to give the new 'system' more than it could cope with. So things seem set to escalate.

### STAR WARS II

What Thompson calls Star Wars I can't work — although Reagan may not know this — so what the hell's going on? What they're really at, he reckons, is Star Wars II.

They accept (though Middle America isn't being told this bit) that the 'umbrella' will be 'leaky'. But bits of it will work. So the bits that do work can be used to cover 'point defence' (meaning weapons and important people). Again, anything capable of destroying a Soviet ICBM within seconds of its launch can — surely — be used to deliver weapons. Since the whole fantasy will take 30 to 40 years to 'realise' itself, they'll be free to deploy the bits of it that do pop up as and when they become available. So, Thompson figures, SDI is simply the US way of evading all the treaty obligations that have been dragged out of them over the years. For certain, SDI's sole achievement thus far has been to stop dead the Geneva arms talks.

There's a whole pile more in relation to industrial/financial pressures in the US for Star Wars. Thus it comes as no surprise to read that 87% of SDI research is going to ten contractors, eight of them among the Pentagon's top 20 suppliers; that 45% of contracts have gone to Reagan's home state, California; that 77% of prime contractors have gone to states and districts represented by politicians who sit on armed services committees.

PENGUIN SPECIAL • PENGUIN SPECIAL • PENGUIN SPECIAL

## STAR WARS

EDITED BY  
E.P. THOMPSON

Science-fiction fantasy or serious probability?  
Foreword by Professor Dorothy Hodgkin O.M., Nobel Prize Winner,  
President of PUGWASH



Some scientists, baffled at the far-fetched nature of the fantasy, have suggested that it's designed simply to bankrupt the USSR who will have to try to match it. Others reckon that with the Japanese and others now leading the world in technological development, it's a scheme to get vast quantities of public money into private industry under the guise of defence. How else, after all, to get real investment in the 'home' of private enterprise? Certainly a nice big pork barrel has been created via SDI into which the British and other 'allies' are trying to dip their snouts.

### LOCAL BULLY

Speaking of the local bully, Thompson is excellent on the so-called 'special relationship' between the US and Britain. It is, it seems, similar to that between the British government and the Coalition.

Just after the US had persuaded the 'allies' to join Cruise on their own reluctant populations, the US announced that they themselves were going to have 'The Shield'.

Since the putative shield is supposed to be a protection only against ICBMs (which travel through space), and since it wouldn't be worth a damn in Europe (where nuclear artillery, Cruise-type missiles etc would be the weapons in use) the 'allies', naturally, went bananas. The US were getting themselves into a position where they could attack the USSR from Europe, using Cruise, while themselves being safe from retaliation.

Guess who'd get it in the neck?

The allies remonstrated. Chief among the remonstrators was Margaret Thatcher who said all sorts of nasty things about SDI before flying out to the US to meet Reagan. There, according to Thompson, she was informed that she could either eat her words or get her lunch in a McDonald's.

She ate her words.

● *Star Wars*, edited by E.P. Thompson, is published by Penguin, price (stg) £2.95.

## Imeachtaí

### 'BOYCOTT APARTHEID' INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

8pm Friday 25th April to  
Saturday 26th April  
Graduates' Memorial Building  
Trinity College  
DUBLIN  
Organised by the  
Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement

**SOCIAL**  
Music by the Irish Brigade  
8pm Friday 25th April  
Berry's Tavern  
DRUMSHANBO  
County Leirinn  
Taillie £2.50  
Organised by Sinn Féin

**SOCIAL EVENING**  
Featuring guest artists  
Friday 25th April  
No.5 Club  
5 Blessington Street  
DUBLIN  
Organised by the Dublin  
Sinn Féin Trade Union  
Department

### WELCOME HOME FUNCTION

For Joe Malone  
recently released POW  
8pm Friday 25th April  
Fagan's Lounge  
TYRELLSPASS  
County Westmeath  
Taillie £2

**SINN FEIN  
YOUTH CONFERENCE**  
12 noon to 6pm  
Saturday 26th April  
11am to 5pm Sunday 27th April  
5 Blessington Street  
DUBLIN

For tickets contact  
Pamela Kane at Dublin 308783

**BALLAD SESSION**  
8pm Saturday 26th April  
Eccles Lounge  
Dorset Street  
DUBLIN  
Taillie £1.50  
Organised by Sinn Féin Youth

**REPEAL SECTION 31  
SOCIAL**  
Music, bar etc  
9pm Saturday 26th April  
Connolly House  
43 East Essex Street  
DUBLIN  
Taillie £2

**JOE CLARKE  
COMMEMORATION**  
3pm Sunday 27th April  
Finglas Road School (city end)  
March to Glasnevin  
DUBLIN  
Speaker: Sean O'Bradaigh  
Organised by  
National Graves Association

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
Speaker: Fr Miguel d'Escoto  
(Nicaraguan Foreign Minister)  
7.30pm Monday 28th April  
Edmund Burke Theatre  
Trinity College  
DUBLIN  
Organised by the  
Irish Nicaragua Support Group

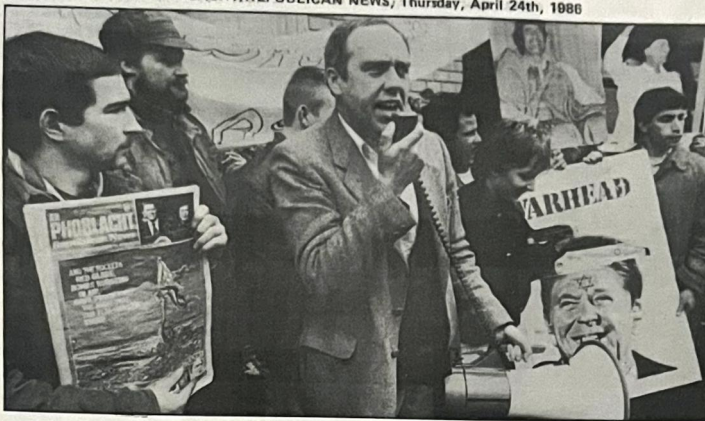
**HUNGER-STRIKE  
WEEK OF ACTIVITIES**  
Monday 28th April to  
Sunday 4th May  
BELFAST  
(See page 10 for details)

**ANTI-APARTHEID SOCIAL**  
Wednesday 30th April  
Sir Henry's  
CORK  
Organised by the  
Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement

**MAY DAY MARCH**  
7.30pm Thursday 1st May  
Parnell Square  
DUBLIN  
Organised by the  
Dublin Council of Trade Unions  
All Sinn Féin members  
to attend with banners

**DUBLIN TRADES COUNCIL  
CENTENARY CEILÍ**  
9pm Thursday 1st May  
Supper Room  
Mansion House  
DUBLIN  
Taillie £3





# Solidarity with Libya

**FIVE HUNDRED** people marched through Dublin last Saturday in protest at the United States' attacks on Libya.

The parade went from Parnell Square to a rally at the GPO. Libyan students in Ireland were joined on the march by several left-wing organisations, including seven Sinn Féin cumainn.

The GPO rally was chaired by Brendan Dorris and was addressed by John Doyle (outgoing president of the Union of Students in Ireland), Sinn Féin's Danny Morrison, Abdu Sharif (of the Libyan students), and journalist Eamonn McCann.

John Doyle compared United States' terrorism in Libya to their ongoing acts of aggression against the democratically-elected government of Nicaragua. He referred to the Dublin government's abandonment of independent action in foreign policy and linked this to the Hillsborough agreement.

Eamonn McCann, who had just returned from the National Union of Journalists' annual conference, where a motion condemning the attack on Libya was passed, called on people to mobilise their trade unions in opposition to US aggression.

## NO DIFFERENCE

Abdu Sharif condemned the Dublin government for failing to oppose Reagan's state terrorism:

"I see no difference between 'Sir' Peter Barry and Sir Geoffrey Howe.

"Libya is accused of exporting revolution. You cannot export revolution — the revolution is already there."



● (Above) Libyan students' representative Abdu Sharif addresses the Dublin rally; (Below) Cork CND demonstration against the US bombing of Libya



Danny Morrison extended the Republican Movement's sympathy to the Libyan people on their tragic losses. He told the rally:

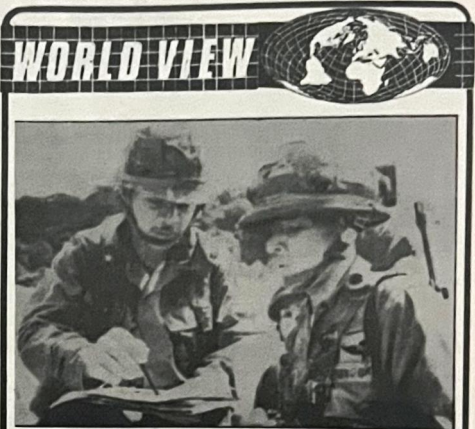
"The Libyan people, the ANC, the PLO and the IRA are not the terrorists. The real terrorists are the governments of Britain and the United States who bombed innocent civilians on Tuesday, April 15th."

A portrait of Ronald Reagan was burned by cheering demonstrators and 150 of them spontaneously decided to march on the US Embassy in Ballsbridge, two miles away, where a picket was held.

Cork CND held a day-long display at Daunt's Square in the city on Saturday, April 19th in protest at the US bombing of Libya.

## CORK PROTEST

CND activists carried placards condemning the attacks and a petition was launched which was supported in large numbers by passers-by.



# Nicaragua

'GENERALISSIMO' Reagan hardly had time to savour the fruits of his infamous 'victory' over the Libyan people, when, on Wednesday, April 16th, the US House of Representatives dealt a body-blow to his crusade against Nicaragua by denying military aid to the Contras.

In a bizarre move, both Republican and Democrats defeated Reagan's request for \$100 million by 361 votes to 66. The Republican vote which sank the Contra aid package was a result of their representatives voting along party lines to defeat the Democrats' Bill to which the Contra aid request was attached. Ironically, the Democrats also defeated their own and Reagan's support for the Contras.

A furious Reagan has now only two major options: to step up covert aid to the Contras via the CIA or to get the aid package back onto the floor of the House of Representatives. Reagan needs half the house (218 representatives, including 50 Democrats) to achieve this. If successful, the request for aid will go to a straight vote without having to be linked to other requests or legislation.

## 'MODEST INVESTMENT'

Before the House of Representatives voted on the Contra aid, US Secretary of State George Shultz appealed to the house to pass the package which he described as "a modest investment in a region so critical to our national security".

The New York Times and the CBS network carried out a survey on support for Reagan's policy on Nicaragua which revealed that only 24% of US citizens supported aid to the Contras.

The survey also revealed the level of ignorance of the US public on Nicaraguan affairs. Only 38% knew that Reagan supported the

Contras, 49% didn't understand the nature of the Sandinista government, and 10% believed that it is a right-wing dictatorship!

## WORRIED

Meanwhile, the presidents of both Honduras and Costa Rica — from where the Contras launch their attacks against Nicaragua — have become increasingly worried about Reagan's aims. Costa Rica president, Oscar Arias, whose country abolished its army in 1948, is scared of "creeping militarisation". Arias claimed that US projects within Costa Rica appeared to be directed towards military ends, especially the extensive amount of road building linking Panamanian and Nicaraguan borders. Arias believes that these are being prepared for the use of US forces based in Panama to allow easy access to Nicaragua. "We want a welfare state not a garrison state," said Arias.

The Honduran president, Jose Azcona, who recently admitted (for the first time) that the Contras are operating in Honduras, has become openly angry with Washington. Azcona claims that damage to Honduras as a result of Washington's war has become unbearable:

"We must have the courage to say we do not like — and as far as possible will not allow — our country to be used as a springboard."

A close aide to Azcona also voiced Honduran fears on the escalating situation:

"He [Reagan] wants a war, but he wants Central Americans to provide the corpses."

# Chile

IT WAS REVEALED in the British House of Commons on April 9th that the British government is providing training facilities for the Chilean military.

During a question-and-answer session on assistance to the Pinochet regime, British Foreign Office minister Timothy Eggar admitted: "We do provide some training for the Chilean armed forces." Eggar also said that the training was to continue into the foreseeable future.

In a major attack on the brutal regime of Chile's General Pinochet, the country's Catholic bishops issued a statement charging Pinochet with complicity in the disappearance and murder of political prisoners.

The statement, issued on April 6th, also challenged the moral authority of Pinochet. The bishops said that the regime has created a climate of tension, hatred and distrust which could destroy Chile:

"No-one who claims to serve his brothers from a position of authority can refuse to listen to our call for peace."

The bishops also heavily criticised the regime's total ban on political activity.

## BRUTALITY EXPOSED

One example of the regime's brutality against the Chilean population was exposed on April 17th when riot police smashed a two-day strike by university students, arresting over 200.

The students organised marches and rallies in protest against military intervention in the running of the universities, especially in Santiago, Valparaiso and Arica.

In Santiago, students forced the rector of the Paedagogical Institute to resign after they occupied his offices. Students were attacked by right-wing gangs and at Arica the offices of the students' union were fire-bombed. After two days of student protests, the Pinochet regime sent in troops and riot police who clashed violently with the young demonstrators, injuring many of them.

# Anti-apartheid seminar

**THREE DAYS** of events on South Africa were organised by the Trinity College Dublin Anti-Apartheid Society in TCD itself and in Temple Bar Studios last weekend which included a play, *The Bargain*, by a South African theatre group, exhibitions, music and videos. Shown here is one of the many videos being seen in a relaxed atmosphere in Temple Bar.







# Prison picket

LONG LARTIN Prison in Worcestershire, England, was picketed on Sunday, April 10th, as part of the campaign of the Irish Republican POW Campaign Committee.

Thirty people travelled from Birmingham and Nottingham to support the demands of the prisoners and a constant barrage of slogans was shouted

during the afternoon's lively and vocal picket.

Messages of support were read out from various groups represented on the picket. The main speaker, Eddie Caughey of Birmingham, stressed the need to win wider support for the campaign and reminded the picket that the prisoners were being held as "political hostages".

## REMEMBERING THE PAST Austin Stack

BY PETER O'ROURKE

AUSTIN STACK, politician, fearless soldier, and uncompromising republican was born in Tralee, County Kerry, in 1880.

His parents, both staunch republicans, served terms of imprisonment — his father for his Fenian activities and his mother for her part in founding the Ladies' Land League.

Long before he became leader of the Irish Volunteers in Kerry, Stack was nationally known as a Gaelic footballer. In 1904, he captained the Kerry team which won the all-Ireland final and for many years afterwards he held a post on the Kerry board of the GAA.

He was arrested with Conn Collins on April 21st 1916 while planning an attack on Tralee RIC Barracks in an attempt to rescue Roger Casement. He was court-martialled and sentenced to death but his sentence was later commuted to 20 years' penal servitude.

Released in the general amnesty of June 1917, he again became active in the Irish Volunteers and was elected secretary of Sinn Féin, a position he held up until his death. Frequently imprisoned, he participated in a number of prison protests and hunger-strikes for political status, which eventually shattered his health.

### ELECTED

In the 1918 general election, while a prisoner in Belfast's Crumlin Road

Jail, he was elected to represent West Kerry in the First Dail. He was sent to Strangeways Prison in Manchester, from where he escaped in October 1919.

During the Tan War, as Minister for Home Affairs, he organised the republican courts which replaced the British legal system in all parts of Ireland.

He rejected the Treaty of 1921 and, following a short publicity tour of the United States, he returned to Ireland to fight on the republican side in the Civil War. In the general roundup of republican leaders in April 1923, during which the IRA chief of staff, Liam Lynch, was shot dead by Free State troops, Stack, the deputy chief of staff, was arrested in a farmyard in the Knockmealdown Mountains. His arrest, only four days after Lynch's death, was a severe blow to the IRA.

### KILMAINHAM

Imprisoned in Kilmainham Jail, he took part in the mass hunger-strike by republican prisoners in October 1923 — his fifth hunger-strike in six years. Shortly after the end of the 41-day hunger-strike, in November, he was released with hundreds of other political prisoners.



He married Una Gordon in 1925, but by this time prolonged periods of imprisonment and hunger-strikes in British and Free State jails had taken their toll. In April 1929, a week after delivering the oration at the Easter Sunday commemoration in Cahirciveen, County Kerry, he entered the Mater Hospital in Dublin for a stomach operation. He never recovered and died two days later.

Upholding his republican principles to the very end, Austin Stack died on April 27th 1929, 57 years ago this week. He is buried in the Republican Plot in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Isghue sa chitill — There's no water in the kettle  
Tá an bláth sa ghairín (thaw an blaw suh ghoyreen) — the flower is in the garden

An bhfuil Máire sa seomra? (un will Maw-reh suh shomwreh) — Is Mary in the room?

Níl, tá sí sa chistin (neel, thaw shee kuh chystin) — She isn't, she's in the kitchen

Tá an cat sa bhosc (thaw un koth suh uskkeh) — the cat is in the box  
Agus tá an bosca sa bhailé (ogghus thaw un buskeh suh woll-yeh) — and the box is at home

### PHRASES

Oíche mhaith (teeh woh) — Good night  
Sín abhaile (slawn awoll-yeh) — Safe home

Go n-éirí an t-ídh leath (guh nyee-an tawé lyath) — Good luck to you  
Mo chéol thá (muh cheowl hoo) — Well done, bravo

## IN DAL CHUIMHNE

CARSON, Billy (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Billy Carson, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed by pro-British elements on April 25th 1979. I measc laochra na nGael a raibh a anam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

CARSON, Billy (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Billy Carson, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed by pro-British elements on April 25th 1979. Always remembered by Sinn Féin Bun na bhFál.

CARSON, Billy (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Billy Carson, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed by pro-British elements on April 25th 1979. Always remembered by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee.

DUFFIN, Dan and Pat (65th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Dan and Pat Duffin, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on April 23rd 1921. I measc laochra na hEireann go raibh a anamacha. Always remembered by Sinn Féin Bun na bhFál.

McCORMY, Stephen (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Stephen McCormy, who was murdered by the British army on April 19th 1982. A victim of Britain's 'minimum force'. Always remembered by Cormac and Pat, Dublin.

MURPHY, Jim (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Jim Murphy, Sinn Féin, who was killed on April 24th 1974. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the republican movement.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed on active service on April 23rd 1977. Ní dheanfaimid dearmad fut go deo. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear nephew, Vol Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed on active service on April 23rd 1977. RIP, Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. He went as one who knew no fear, for the Ireland he loved so dear, he gave his life, he gave it all, he heard that lone some piper's call. His brave young heart now you must keep safe in everlasting sleep. Proudly remembered by his Aunt Bridget and family circle.

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## COMHBHRON

FITZGIBBON, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Robert, who died on April 7th in England. From Norreen and Alfie McGoey and Robin and Mrs Varian.

FITZGIBBON, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Robert Fitzgibbons, who died on April 7th in England. From Cork

## Beannachtaí

ANDERSON, Martina (Brixton). Belated birthday greetings, Martina. Also love and fond thoughts to Ella, Pat and Peter. All here love you all dearly. From the Bard and all around us. xxx P.S. Tell Ella, "Xmas Tree" sends her special love. xxx

ANDERSON, Martina (Brixton). All the best on your birthday, Martina, and regards to your comrades with you. From Mary and Patrick, Buncrana.

ANDERSON, Martina (Brixton). All the best on your birthday, Martina. We are all behind you. From the McDaid/Gaughan/McDoughlin, Sinn Féin cumann, Buncrana.

BUTLER, Eddie, HACKETT, Patrick, LYONS, Martina and the family. Patrick. From the McCreary/Maguire Sinn Féin cumann, Letterkenny.

## Torthaí crannchur

Dublin North-East Sinn Féin, Easter Draw  
Commemorative clock: Noel Sinnott.

who was killed on active service on April 23rd 1977. RIP, Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. He went as one who knew no fear, for the Ireland he loved so dear, he gave his life, he gave it all, he heard that lone some piper's call. His brave young heart now you must keep safe in everlasting sleep. Proudly remembered by his Aunt Bridget and family circle.

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QUIGLEY, Richard (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Richard Quigley, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on active service on April 21st 1984. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a anam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

QUIGLEY, Richard (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Richard Quigley, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on active service on April 21st 1984. "Wherever death may surprise us, it will be welcome provided that this, our battle cry, reaches some recoper. We say, that another hand stretches out to take up weapons and that other men come forward to intone our funeral dirge with the staccato of machine guns and new cries of battle and victory." Never forgotten by Pat McGovern and Cormac King, Dublin, and Nilly, Bogside.

Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair, the Marxievicz Sinn Féin cumann, and Fianna Éireann, Cork City.

HANDE, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Willie Hande, who died recently. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam. From An Cumann Cabhrach, Dundalk.

LYONS, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Maura Lyons, who died recently. From the POW Campaign/An Cumann Cabhrach, Britain.

HACKETT, Patrick (Parkhurst). Happy birthday and loving thoughts to you, Patrick, on the 27th. From Liam, Bridget and Eugene, Maura, David, Roisin, Daniel, Bridin and Niamh; Nuala, Harry and Sarah; Michael, Michael, Jane, Andrew, David and Jennifer. From the McCloskey, Emma and Laura; and Kathleen and Willie.

MARKEE, Peter (Crumlin Road). Happy birthday, Daddy. Lots of love from Peter. xxx

MARKEE, Peter (Crumlin Road). Happy birthday, Peter. Thinking of you. With lots of love always. From Patricia. xxx

KESS AND ANGELA. Best wishes to you both for Saturday. From all the staff at Publications and all your many friends on the paper. Go neirí an tadh libh agus go mairé sibh bhur saol nua le chéile.

Baumont; Framed Proclamations: G. Gallagher, c/o David Walsh, and J. Doherty.

Libraries (Dublin) Sinn Féin Easter Draw  
C100: A. Whelan, Blessington Street; Framed Proclamation: Kevin Doyle, Crumlin, Wicket; Joe Gilligan, Thomas Street.

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## Irish Lesson

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION  
The pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the sound. Vowels can be long or short, the lengthened version being indicated by a 'long' mark. Thus we have do (dun) — to or for and do (doo) — two. CH is pronounced as in LOCH. ERNE, O and T before A, O and U are thick, spoken with the tongue pressed against the upper front teeth. DH and GH are like G far back in the throat.

An chistin (un chishun) — the kitchen  
An bord (un board) — the table  
An bosca (un boskeh) — the box  
An gairdín (un gairdeen) — the garden  
An seomra (un shomwreh) — the room  
Sa bhaile (sa wollyeh) — at home  
An pháirc (un fawirk) — the field  
An cisteal (un kittill) — the kettle  
An uisce (un ishgeh) — the water  
An bláth (un glaw) — the flower  
An t-ian (un tawn) — the bird

Sa seomra 'in the'. It adds h after the first letter of the word that follows it in most cases. This changes the sound of the first letter. So:

Tá an bord sa chistin (thaw an board suh chystin) — the table is in the kitchen  
An bhfuil an t-éan sa pháirc (un will An fhuil an t-éan sa fáirc) — Is the bird in the field?  
Níl an uisce sa chisteal (neel an uisce sa chisteal) — There's no water in the kettle



# The Liam Óg Column The hand of Rome

**DID ANYONE** read the interview in last Sunday's *Observer* with that nice man and intellectual heavyweight, Alan Wright of the recently-formed Ulster clubs?

Alan, who is a member of the Salvation Army, believes that "the Roman Catholic Church lies behind the chaos in Ulster". About the Hillsborough agreement he said:

"Before it was signed, it was Them against Us and the Them was the IRA. Now the Them is every Roman Catholic."

Alan nearly turned out to be one of Them-uns himself. His grandmother, the late Lily Somerville from David Street in Portadown, was a Catholic.

★ ★ ★

**LISTOWEL** Garda Barracks is a rather strange place.

It was there that Sinn Féin's national organiser, Pat Doherty, was detained after he was arrested on Tuesday night, April 22nd, and held until 1pm the following day.

One of the two gardai who arrested Doherty was Special Branch Detective Queally who, according to locals, is a 'spoiled priest' (i.e. he gave up his clerical training before being ordained). Queally may have abandoned the dog-collar in favour of the Uzi, but

his station is certainly not lacking in pious reminders of his original vocation. According to more than one republican who has seen the inside of its cells, the barracks is adorned with a seven-foot-high picture of the Sacred Heart, a portrait of the Pope and a group photograph of the gardai's not-so-holy predecessors in the Royal Irish Constabulary.

Listowel, it seems, is definitely not the place to get yourself arrested if you're a member of the Ulster Protestant League.

★ ★ ★

**I REALLY** thought that Fianna Fáil were going to become zealous crusaders against censorship after they passed a motion at their ard-fheis last weekend calling for Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act to be amended so that Sinn Féin elected representatives could be interviewed on RTE.

Imagine my disappointment when I rang Fianna Fáil headquarters to find how soon I could see Gerry Adams making mincemeat of Brian Farrell on *Today Tonight*. The receptionist in Mount Street knew nothing about the resolution so she put me onto the Fianna Fáil press office in Leinster House, to no less a person than the party's top PR man and Haughey sidekick, P.J. O'Meara. Unfortunately the bold P.J. couldn't even tell me whether the motion was passed or not.

Ah well, I suppose it will be another few years before I pay my TV licence again.

★ ★ ★

**UDR FANS** will be missing the ever-amiable Private Lionel McElhill from St Lucia Barracks in Omagh.

Lionel will not be on patrol for the next two months having been convicted of indecently exposing himself to two schoolgirls to whom he gave a lift in Strabane.

★ ★ ★

**RUC FANS**, on the other hand, will not be deprived of the smiling countenance of RUC Inspector Roy McKeen around the Craigavon area after his acquittal on indecent behaviour charges.

Despite last summer's dismal weather, Roy, it was

**CONGRATULATIONS** to your Majesty Mr & Mrs Adams.

I HAVE been worrying about our president for some time.

As you all know, last Monday was the 60th birthday of Queen Elizabeth. So what does one make of the above notice which appeared in that day's *Daily Telegraph*?

alleged, took to sitting in his Toyota car wearing nothing below his belly-button — not even his Walther service pistol! One woman shopper, who took the number of the car, on two occasions saw the smiling fellow stretching out to catch the hidden sun in his nether regions.

Dismissing the charges, the magistrate said that whilst the case was "teeming with suspicion, nevertheless one had to look at it in the cold light of day."

Thought that's what Roy was doing.

**A KELLS**, County Kerry, patrol cars were "grounded for the night owing to the bad weather conditions". Who said pigs don't fly?

**ELECTION** helpers for the most articulate Workers' Party spokesperson ever seen or heard on RTE's *Today Tonight* programme arrived on a building site in Linden Street, off Belfast's Falls Road, where construction work on new public housing is to commence. They demanded that the company hand over to them several thousand pounds worth of scrap metal from water, gas and sewage piping unearthed at the site.

"Now we are not the Workers Party, but the 'Official IRA,'" one of them told labourers. "Have you got that? The 'Official IRA', not the Workers' Party. What have you to say if anybody asks you? That's right, it definitely wasn't the Workers' Party," said the smug gunman, confident that that old trick of tying a bush to the tail of your horse wipes out your tracks.

However, we don't need a *Today Tonight* investigation to follow the tracks from Linden Street to a certain politico in Leinster House, do we, readers?

**GEORGE** Younger, Britain's Minister of Defence, would have been an "even told BBC Radio 4's *World* greater" loss of civilian at One on Sunday that if Mrs Thatcher had refused. That must have been the United States per- relatives of the dozens of Force bases for the raids

**LAW AND ORDER** freaks who call for conscription to be introduced for joy-riders and the like seem to be getting their way.

Free State soldiers John Price and Anthony Leamy of Limerick, both members of the army gymnastics team, were fined at Tralee District Court last week for "taking unlawful possession of a car, dangerous driving and driving without insurance".

The court was told, according to a local newspaper, *Kerry's Eye*, that Leamy was "a very skillful gymnast but as a result of the incident has been unable to continue in his roll (sic)."

## QUIET SIAD

The attack by the United States on Libya, which involved the taking of up to 100 human lives, including the lives of children, was an act of barbarism.

The IRA has never dropped bombs onto the homes of sleeping civilians, slaughtering babies in the process. Were they to do so, they would be rightly excoriated. Ronald Reagan should suffer a similar reaction for the barbarity of his action.

— Sunday Tribune.

★ ★ ★

Would Rambo or his intellectual mistress please tell me whether the sixteen-month-old was toddling away from or towards the US task force?

— Angry letter to the Guardian.

★ ★ ★

What right does the US have to murder and massacre a people as a reprisal for the death of a sergeant in a brothel in West Germany?

— Nicaraguan interior minister Thomas Borge.

★ ★ ★

A flagrant violation of international law.

— European parliament condemning the US raids.

★ ★ ★

Civilian casualties were inevitable, and they [the United States] knew that too.

— Ferdinand Mount in the right-wing, pro-Thatcher *Daily Telegraph*.

★ ★ ★

Either not civilians or shouldn't be there.

— George Shultz, US Secretary of State, dismissing criticism of civilian casualties caused by US bombers' inability to hit their intended targets and declaring 'open season' on civilians living anywhere near military bases.

★ ★ ★

The sour and salutary fact about the Prevention of Terrorism Act is that it has not prevented terrorism, it will not prevent terrorism, and you provoke terrorism.

— Neil Kinnock, British Labour Party leader, to Margaret Thatcher.

★ ★ ★

That's what happens [exposing Britons to retaliation] when you turn the British bulldog into Reagan's poodle.

— David Steele, British Liberal Party leader, to Margaret Thatcher.

★ ★ ★

One way or another, when Peter Barry was questioned in the *Dail* about the US raid neither he, nor any member of the Labour Party, nor the leader of Fianna Fáil, nor the leader of the Progressive Democrats were prepared to utter a single word deploring the US attack.

— Gerald Barry, Sunday Tribune.

★ ★ ★

In the end, it looked as though Canada, Israel and South Africa were the only countries to give public support to the American action and to Britain's help in carrying it out.

— *Daily Telegraph*. [By their friends shall ye know them?]

★ ★ ★

A planned meeting at Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire between base commanders and parish councillors was called off after a fight broke out.

— *Daily Express* report on the strains between US air force personnel and British civilians.

★ ★ ★

If she [Thatcher] supports the bombing of terrorists' headquarters in Libya, why has she not dropped bombs on the IRA headquarters in Dublin? Why has she not sent the bombers of the British forces to bomb installations in Dundalk, Drogheda, Crossmaglen and Carrickmore, and I suggest that place also called Maryfield.

— "Boxcar" Willie McCrea, DUP.

★ ★ ★

Nobody greatly loves him... His charisma, his rhetoric, his genuine desire to turn Libya into a wealthy socialist state, turned him into the darling of the peasants.

— A slightly confused John Ellison of the *Daily Express* talking about Colonel Qadhafi.

★ ★ ★

You have to remember that, from where I live, Nicaragua is only two hours air-time away with all those Palestinian and PLO camps.

— An American tourist interviewed on UTV's *Daytime*.

★ ★ ★

No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended until the Senate gives its advice and consent to the ratification of the supplementary treaty.

— Resolution proposed by Reganite republicans on the US Senate foreign relations committee linking passage of the Irish Aid Bill with ratification of the supplementary extradition treaty with Britain which is aimed at denying Irish republicans political refuge.

The outstandingly high quality of political wall murals in republican areas of the six counties since the 1980/81 hunger-strikes has amazed republicans and non-republicans alike.

The latest example of this 'People's Art' is pictured here. This mural in Beechmount Avenue, in West Belfast, shows the links between the struggle of the African National Congress and the struggle of the IRA.

AP/RN has been so impressed by the standard of this and other murals that we are offering a prize of £250 to the area which produces the best mural on any aspect of Irish republicanism by July 31st.

Colour photographs of all entries should be sent to AP/RN at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, as soon as they are completed.

