

AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



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THE PAST week has seen the hardest-hitting wave of IRA attacks since the signing of the Hillsborough agreement. Volunteers struck at crown forces in Counties Armagh, Down, Derry and Fermanagh.

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Internment camps ready



LIFERS

INSIDE this week republican POWs describe the British system which keeps prisoners as hostages for life and which cynically manipulates them and their families.

AT THE annual conference of the twenty-six-county Prison Officers' Association in Mullingar last week, its assistant general secretary, Ray Murphy, said that the Curragh Military Camp and Armagh Prison were on "emergency stand-by" for some form of internment.

Both the Northern Ireland Office and the Free State Department of Defence were quick to deny Murphy's claim but their denials ring hollow. Both North and South, the forces of the state are in a permanent state of readiness for any developments that may seem to threaten them. The laws are already on the statute books to suspend the most basic of civil liberties and to intern people without trial.

DICTATORIAL POWERS

In the Free State, the Offences Against the State Act confers dictatorial powers on the government and, like the British Prevention of Terrorism Act, contains all the machinery of repression required by any administration. But the London and Dublin governments have learned much from their use of repression over the past 17 years and only the most

'judicious' use of their sweeping powers will be considered. We can be certain that both governments are considering their options at all times.

The isolation of republicans is central to the strategy of Hillsborough. If London and Dublin consider that selective internment fits that strategy, then they will use it.

In the wake of the Don Tidey abduction in December 1983, the Coalition government had on their Cabinet table a proposal to introduce selective internment. Pressure against it from the British and from among their own 'security services' dissuaded them at the time.

LESSON

The lesson from the Don Tidey experience is that any such move will only be made in co-ordination by the British and twenty-six-county establishments. They have a common interest in ensuring that their repression of republicans is as efficient and effective as possible.

It is essential that all who aspire to a completely free and independent Ireland should realise the potential for repression ranged against them. Only by constantly building support for the freedom struggle can republicans ensure that the machinery of repression fails.

BODENSTOWN

Sunday 22nd June

Assemble 2pm
Sallins

Main speaker:
Martin McGuinness



● Crown forces search the area around Carnoonagh Hill near Crossmaglen following the landmine attack by IRA Volunteers of the South Armagh Brigade

Commanding officer killed

IN A DEVASTATING landmine attack on Thursday afternoon, May 22nd, IRA Volunteers in South Armagh inflicted the most serious casualties on crown forces in the North for over six months.

The bomb, containing 500lbs of explosives, had been hidden in a ditch on high ground at Carnoonagh Hill about two miles outside of Crossmaglen.

Early on Thursday morning, a large force of British troops from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment, under the command of Major Andrew French, the British army commanding officer in Crossmaglen, moved into the area. They were accompanied by a token RUC presence and continued with a

search operation which had been going on for several days.

According to an IRA statement, the landmine was not immediately detonated. Although at various times during the course of this search operation individual soldiers were close to the bomb, the IRA active service unit deliberately waited, believing that the vantage point, where the landmine was placed, would eventually attract a larger number of crown forces.

Shortly before 1pm, French and two RUC men moved to the

spot where the camouflaged bomb had been placed to monitor the progress of the search. At 12.55pm an IRA Volunteer detonated the huge device by remote control, killing the three instantly. The blast was heard ten miles away.

An immediate and intensive follow-up operation was launched by the British and RUC but it failed to uncover the IRA Volunteers, who quickly withdrew from the scene.

CUSTOMS POST BOMBED

Shortly after 9pm on Friday evening, May 23rd, the customs post at Killea, County Derry, was destroyed in a bomb attack. A five-pound bomb had been

placed at the building by IRA Volunteers and a warning given.

FERMANAGH BOMB ATTACK

The IRA in Fermanagh has claimed responsibility for the bomb which was placed on a tractor belonging to a member of the UDR at Roscor, near Belleek.

The bomb exploded prematurely on Tuesday afternoon, May 27th. No one was injured.

UDR SOLDIER KILLED

The fourth crown forces fatality within a week occurred in an IRA ambush at 7.30pm on Wednesday, May 28th, when a UDR patrol approached Rafferty's Garage, Newry Road, Kilkeel, following a bomb warning.

As six UDR men walked round to the side of the building, the bomb was detonated, killing one UDR soldier and seriously injuring another.

BRIT POST MORTARED

Late on Wednesday night a British army observation post two miles from Crossmaglen was the target of an IRA attack. Three mortars were fired from within 100 yards of the post. As we go to press there are no reports of casualties.

Informer executed

THE FOLLOWING is the text of a statement issued by P. O'Neill, on behalf of the Irish Republican Army, through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, Dublin, on the execution of Frank Hegarty, whose body was discovered near Castlederg, County Tyrone, on Sunday, May 25th.

THE BODY on the outskirts of Castlederg is that of Frank 'Franko' Hegarty, executed by the IRA as a British agent. The background to this case is as follows.

About seven years ago, while out walking greyhounds on the back road behind Glenowen in Derry city, Mr Hegarty was approached on several occasions by men with English accents. He was asked to work for British Military Intelligence and was persuaded to meet other Englishmen in a room at the White Horse Inn at Campsie.

Although by this time a supporter of the Republican Movement, the men informed Mr Hegarty that they knew that when he was a member of the armed wing of the Workers' Party, some years previously, he was responsible for planting a bomb in a car which exploded in Ebrington Barracks, killing two civilians.

After some questioning, he admitted this and was assured that in return for

becoming an agent he would be granted immunity from prosecution. He was given a payment of £400 and received weekly payments of £25 plus expenses incurred in meeting with his handlers every ten days in the Limavady or Waterside areas. On one occasion he was taken into Ebrington Barracks by one of five handlers to whom he reported or phoned over the years. During this period he was in no great position to pass on really valuable information so, about two years ago, he was instructed to slowly ingratiate himself with the IRA and his offer of services were eventually accepted in the form of a 'helper'.

MAJOR ARMS MOVEMENT

Over a period of time he picked up pieces of information but in January of this year he became aware of a major movement of arms in the Free State. He contacted one of his handlers, 'Brian', giving him the details and confirming the locations on an Ordnance Survey

map. He was assured by 'Brian' that, in order to protect him, the weapons would be monitored but would not be seized until they were broken down into smaller dumps and picked off at will.

However, to the British and Dublin governments the temptation of demonstrating to the loyalists the security value of the Hillsborough agreement was too great and so they decided to act on January 26th.

Within hours of the seizures, armed English agents, apparently without normal British army or RUC cover, or without their knowledge, met Mr Hegarty as he came out of his home in Shantallow at 8.45am. He took his car to the New Foyle Bridge, where he transferred to an enclosed van. From a base in the North, he was taken by private plane from Aldergrove to England. He claimed that Minister of State Nicholas Scott was on this plane journey, though he had no contact with him.

He told us that he stayed at 77 Bell Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. In this semi-detached house he was debriefed by his handlers. They also occupied the semi next door. He said he was extremely angry that, contrary to assurances, his cover had been blown.

RETURNED

After some months away from Derry

he decided to return, convinced that if he firmly maintained that someone else, not he, was responsible for the weapons seizures, then he could also convince the IRA that he had been kidnapped and compromised to look the scapegoat for someone else within the IRA.

The version he gave on his return was that, while he was aware of the arms dumps, he definitely did not inform the authorities but was arrested by British agents and taken away, rather than being an informer who was rescued.

While he strongly suspected him and concede that his brazen return to Ireland baffled us, we were not prepared to take action until we had proof of his guilt. When confronted by the IRA, he voluntarily admitted that he had been lying, that he gave the arms away, and that he returned to Ireland to give the impression that someone else was the culprit. If successful, the effect of this plot would have been to cause confusion and internal distrust within the IRA.

We have now executed Frank Hegarty. Responsibility for the danger in which he finally placed himself rests not just with his handlers, or the British government but with the Dublin government, now a partner with Britain in the recruiting of agents and spies.

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

FOR YEARS NOW, Official Unionists have been divided in two camps: one arguing for total integration of the six counties with Britain, the other advocating a return to devolved Stormont rule.

Extreme right-winger Enoch Powell was the devolutionists' leading light while integrationists included the OUP's vociferous deputy leader, Harold McCusker.

The 'devolutionist versus integrationist' debate has taken on new life since the London-Dublin agreement. Apart from gaining new recruits such as Bob McCartney, the integrationists have also been arguing that the Hillsborough agreement would force unionists to accede to power-sharing in order to obtain devolution. Integration on the other hand now sounded more like the safe option which would cement the union.

Last week, the Young Unionists launched their policy document *The New Agenda* in which they said that "devolution had been continually used to tempt us into structures which push us further adrift from the Union" and "power-sharing was the inevitable consequence of devolved, tribal politics in Ulster". The solution, they argued, was to call for the "total equality of rights" with total integration.

The only unionists who dared to call for some form of power-sharing with the SDLP, the self-styled Charter Group which included retired politicians like former DUP leader Harry West, whose seat Bobby Sands won in April 1981, were accused by the Young Unionists of "supporting the politics of surrender" and by the DUP of being "politically out of touch".

As for the OUP's deputy leader, Harold McCusker, he has been very quiet lately...

MODERATION?

There have been few signs of moderation or of new awareness in the unionist camp since last November, contrary to what the Irish establishment hinted would happen. And the integrationist debate in the OUP suggests that most unionists prefer anything rather than granting some measure of political power to nationalists.

Opposition to the agreement is still as strong as ever, even in the supposedly moderate circles of the Protestant churches. The Church of Ireland's recent public statements suggested some violent protests which they feared might lead the North "out of the Union".

On Wednesday, May 21st, the Church of Scotland's General Assembly opposed the London-Dublin agreement, and a Presbyterian Church report published last Friday, in advance of their synod, said of the agreement, "We cannot see it right to support something that appears so unjust." The report spoke of the "majority" being "openly discriminated against" and called on London and Dublin to "take realistic and urgent steps" to enable talks to start — in other words, to freeze the agreement.



● Beating the big drum in Hillsborough

CEMENTING UNIONISM

The agreement seems to have achieved the opposite of what Dublin, the SDLP and the British hoped it would: instead of the long-awaited fragmentation of the unionist camp, it has cemented it.

In the hope of increasing the pressure on unionists, the British government has now started making noises about a possible dissolution of the Stormont Assembly. Assembly elections are due by next October, but if unionists refuse to play ball and the SDLP continues its waiting game, there may well be no candidates standing next

October. Dissolving the Assembly would save the British government embarrassment and also deprive the unionists of a comfortable monthly income and a weekly public forum. But the British have to weigh this against the risk of pushing unionists deeper into street politics at a time of the year when they need no encouragement.

NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES

The agreement is no nearer delivering any substantial changes for Northern nationalists. The appointment of Catholic

barrister Jim Nicholson as a High Court judge will not change the operation of the Diplock courts.

However, the agreement was not about change but about cosmetic dressing-up — 'perception' was the key word. As Hume reminded those nationalists who believe the British presence to be the cause of the problem, "The central problem is the perception of the judicial system by the minority community." Having noted Hume's implicit acceptance of the border in the words "minority community", those nationalists will conclude that Hume would be satisfied if the courts sentenced loyalists as severely as nationalists, just as Hume rejoiced last March when the RUC fired plastic bullets at loyalists.

There is no doubt that the SDLP would content itself with an even distribution of injustice, just as long as the middle class remained unscathed.

DEFENDERS

In Peter Barry's eyes, the killing of a young loyalist with a plastic bullet has promoted the RUC to the position of "defenders" of Northern nationalists. Barry's words came after last week's major operation by the IRA in South Armagh. Significantly, Barry called the IRA's action "a calculated attempt to inflame sectarian tensions". This is not the first attempt in recent months to blame sectarian attacks by loyalists on the IRA. On Sunday, May 18th, bishop Cahal Daly had blamed the "violent republican campaign" as a "major factor in fanning the flames of sectarianism". Editorials in Irish establishment papers concurred, as did the SDLP: the IRA was "stepping up community tension", accused Alban Maginness.

This joint attempt by Dublin, the SDLP and the Catholic Hierarchy to shift the blame of loyalist assassinations onto the IRA is partly a response to accusations made by the unionists and the Workers' Party against the SDLP in the last few months which called Hume a war-monger and blamed the SDLP for provoking loyalist anger.

It is worth recalling that, in the past, spates of loyalist assassinations coincided not with increases in IRA activity but rather with the political situations which were perceived by loyalists as being advantageous to nationalists. During the 1975 truce, for instance, many Catholics were butchered by the UDA and the UVF as loyalists thought the British were negotiating a withdrawal. After the 1981 hunger-strike, as world opinion was increasingly sympathetic towards the nationalist cause, loyalists started to kill again.

Blaming the IRA for loyalist killings is like blaming the ANC for the continuation of apartheid.

Loyalists have used the assassination of Catholics as a weapon of terror rather than retaliation. They kill to keep nationalists in their place. This is why the six-county state must be dismantled.

Sinn Fein impact at convention

THE NEW IRELAND GROUP held a conference on Saturday, May 22nd, billed as a 'People's Convention', in Queen's University Belfast which was attended by over 200 people. The organisers hoped to get all political shades of opinion in the North together for an open debate on the possible solutions for peace in Ireland.

It was attended by representatives of various shades of unionist opinion although the UDA and UVF both declined to send delegates because Sinn Fein were attending. The Workers' Party also withdrew their delegate.

For 15 minutes at the start of the day, delegates from various political parties and political groups presented their case for a possible solution. There followed

question-and-answer sessions. Pat McGeown, the Sinn Fein delegate, began by stating the need for a common analysis of the problem before we could approach a constructive debate on the solution. He analysed the undemocratic partition of Ireland by the British as the underlying problem, which fed war, sectarianism, and the negation of positive politics:

"Only when partition



● PAT McGEOWN

goes can we approach a solution because the problem isn't only war — it's the state violence of unemployment, poverty and deprivation. The solution to these problems lies not just in

political freedom but in socio-economic liberation also, and it is our (republican) analysis that these can best be attained in an all-Ireland thirty-two-county democratic socialist republic."

PROFOUND IMPRESSION

Throughout the day, and particularly at the most well-attended workshop of the afternoon (on Sinn Fein policies), McGeown and other Sinn Fein members from Belfast and Fermanagh were questioned on their attitude to the IRA's armed struggle, the London-Dublin deal and the

future rights of Protestants in an Irish republic.

In all cases, the Sinn Fein delegates obviously made a profound impression, demonstrated by the final vote taken at the end of the day. Sinn Fein attained a majority of first-preference votes, and — probably more significantly — came second in a complicated method of determining which side had cross-political support.

SDLP CONTRADICTIONS

Both SDLP and Official Unionists had a hard time explaining their plainly self-contradictory policies,

with the unionist proclaiming that "all unionists are Irishmen who want to keep the Union with Britain".

The SDLP delegate, for his part, had difficulty explaining why a party which apparently now wants a federal Ireland has signed and worked a treaty which maintains the Union. Perhaps, in his own words, it's a result of all the "crawling" that they have done to Thatcher. Although another younger SDLP member of the Seamus Mallon wing of the party blamed John Hume for it all, saying that he was "the one who agreed on the treaty, not the SDLP as a party".

BY DONAL LYONS

IN THE FIRST WEEK of the strike by Dublin's 4,200 Corporation workers, the battle lines have been drawn. The Free State army is staffing water and sewerage works, the Corporation is telling the public to break picket lines at rubbish dumps, business interests are hiring private contractors to collect garbage, and the Department of Labour has washed its hands off the affair.

The dispute centres on a claim by the workers for a £15 flat-rate increase (10.27%) and, contrary to establishment media reports, the three unions involved (the FWUI, IMETU and the ITGWU) are united on this demand. The Corporation (under direction from Leinster House) has offered 7% in three phases over 15 months and incorporating a three-month pay pause. This is totally unacceptable to the workers, who are amongst the lowest paid in the country.

FWUI official Eddie Glacken is convinced that this dispute is going to be a long one, but he stresses that the public are not the target.

The dispute has already spread from Dublin city and, from Wednesday, May 28th, bin collections ceased in Dun Laoghaire because of pickets at Ballygon dump. The 280 manual workers in Dun Laoghaire will be withdrawing their labour from today (Thursday), which will halt all services in the borough. The unions have said that they are open to negotiations at any time, but so far a deafening silence has been the reply from the Corporation.

As the Union of Professional & Technical Civil Servants escalate its dispute into the meat factories, the Coalition is using the Free State army in an attempt to break the strike.

The dispute, which is now three weeks old, is over the non-implementation of arbitration awards to 800 UPTCS members in the Department of Agriculture. Up to now, the strike had prevented the intervention buying of dairy products and has disrupted dairy exports. This week, meat classification officers were withdrawn by the union which will result in a similar situation arising in the beef and lamb industry, leading to the closure of up to 20 large factories.

UPTCS general secretary Greg Maxwell described the use of the Free State army as a "panic measure" which would only lead to further escalation. In a statement he contrasted the cost of settling the dispute (£2 million) with the potential loss of £40 million per week in the dairy industry alone.

The announcement by Jim Mitchell, the Dublin Minister for Communications, that shares in Aer Lingus are to be sold, has brought a strong attack from Aer Lingus worker-director Paul Boushell. Speaking at the FWUI annual conference in Salthill, Boushell said, "Once the principle is breached then we will only be arguing about what percentage to sell, and in no time Aer Lingus will cease to be a state company."

The union's general secretary, Bill Attley, wondered how Mitchell could not find money for investment in Aer Lingus when the twenty-six-county government has been able to find £200 million "to bail out the private share-

Battle lines drawn



● Free State soldiers crossing the picket line at Dublin's main sewage pump station

holders in AIB during the Insurance Corporation of Ireland affair".

£200 million revenue per month would be severely disrupted.

Dermot Jennings, general secretary of the Customs & Excise Indoor Staff Association in the twenty-six counties, has threatened that his members will take industrial action if their "intolerable working conditions" are not improved.

In a strongly-worded statement aimed at Leinster House, he said, "Don't tell us there is no money for essentials — we don't believe you!"

If action is taken, the collection of

Collins Brothers, the meat-processing company with two plants in Waterford and Carlow, has gone into receivership with the loss of 50 jobs. A major shareholder in the company is Eddie Collins, the twenty-six-county Minister of State at the Department of Industry, Commerce & Energy.

There was a scandal in the company late last year following the discovery of a bugging device in the canteen where union meetings were regularly held. Wires from the device led directly to the office



● Young members of the People's Theatre group entertain the crowd during the community groups' rally in Dunville Park, Belfast, in support of the Royal Victoria Hospital drivers

of the personnel officer, who at the time denied any involvement in the incident.

For the second successive Friday, bus services across the six counties ground to a halt as drivers continued their campaign of 24-hour stoppages in pursuit of an enhanced pay offer. The company has offered 4.8% but this was overwhelmingly rejected by the workers, members of the Transport & General Workers' Union.

The next strike is scheduled for this Friday, May 30th.

The live register in Cork has grown by a massive 11,877 since April 1979. There were 4,350 out of work then compared with 16,227 registered as unemployed at the end of April 1986, a percentage increase of 273% in seven years.

These frightening statistics have come to light in a document issued by the Planning Department of Cork Corporation.

More bad news on the jobs front from County Meath as the four largest employers in the county, Tara Mines, Zenith Electronics, Wellman International and Navan Carpets announce that they have no vacancies for the county's 1,000 school-leavers this year.

The National Manpower Services has also said that all it has on offer this year for school-leavers is part-time summer jobs.

Belfast schools are next in line in the current round of public expenditure cutbacks.

The Belfast Education & Library Board, which is responsible for the cleaning of schools, has agreed to axe its cleaning budget by £500,000. The Board has said the cuts will affect "upwards of 400 jobs through redundancies and shorter working weeks".

The three unions involved have formed an action committee to fight the cuts, a spokesperson, Howard Burns, warned that, as well as job losses, health and hygiene problems will arise because schools will not be properly cleaned.

At an unemployment conference organised by the Dublin Council of Trade Unions last weekend, DCTU vice-president Jerry Shanahan slammed the present level of job creation in the state.

Claiming that 15,000 new jobs would be needed annually in the Dublin area alone to keep unemployment levels from rising, he pointed out that in 1985 only 7,000 jobs were created in the twenty-six counties.

He also officially announced the opening of three unemployment centres in the Dublin area: in Bonnybrook, North Strand and Tallaght. These centres are funded by the ICTU and their role will be a campaigning one.

The strike by 24 drivers at the Royal Victoria Hospital has now entered its third week and 'peace talks' are presently being held. The dispute is over the implementation of budget cutbacks which were brought in without negotiation with the unions.

Community groups throughout Belfast are supporting the drivers and on Friday, May 23rd, a public rally was held in solidarity with the strikers.

NUPE has accused the RVH board of "strike-breaking tactics" for their use of the RUC to bring supplies through the picket line.

The Hillsborough Agreement



New Sinn Fein pamphlet on Hillsborough Agreement

TO OPEN UP discussion on the Hillsborough agreement, the Sinn Fein Publicity Department has reproduced in pamphlet form the text of a speech which was delivered by Sinn Fein elected representative Danny Morrison in Belfast on May 4th.

This booklet examines the background to the Hillsborough agreement, the text of the agreement itself and the extent to which it has fulfilled the intentions of its signatories. It also examines the nature of loyalism and "constitutional nationalism" in the North.

Explaining that the function of the Hillsborough agreement is to stabilise the six counties in the interests of British rule by accommodating the limited demands of "constitutional nationalism", Morrison points out that this reformist objective has been blocked by loyalists who,

instead of using intransigence as a bluff, "have elevated it to a holy principle".

CHANGED SITUATION

The pamphlet argues that the situation has changed from the last attempted internal settlement (Sunningdale), after which "the SDLP were able to survive because there was no organised political challenge to them inside the nationalist community".

Today, republicanism is organised politically and has established a sound base of support.

In facing the challenge which Hillsborough poses, Morrison's analysis concludes that republicans must continue to build upon this base and be prepared to question traditional perceptions which may be a hindrance.

As a republican analysis of the Hillsborough agreement, this booklet is essential reading. It can be obtained from the usual outlets at 75p (plus postage) per copy with special rates for bulk orders.

Hospital closure opposed

DUNGANNON Sinn Fein councillors have criticised Southern Health Board plans to close Drumglas Geriatric Hospital and cut 22 ambulance drivers' jobs.

At a special meeting of Dungannon Council on Tuesday, May 27th, three DUP councillors who failed to have the meeting adjourned walked out of the chamber as part of their continuing protests against the Hillsborough agreement. Three Official Unionists, including local OUP MP Ken Maginnis, remained to discuss the cuts.

The Board has proposed an overall cut of £2.8 million in its budget and describes the closure of the 25-bed geriatric unit in Drumglas and the dismissal of 22 ambulance drivers as a 'first step' along the road.

Sinn Fein Councillor Anita Cavan, who was one of the first to publicly highlight the possibility of Drumglas closing, reiterated Sinn Fein's opposition to cuts in general and the closure of this hospital in particular. The council has agreed to meet the Southern Health Board for further discussions.

DOVE HOUSE BACKED

Derry City Council, on Tuesday night, May 27th, agreed to a Sinn Fein proposal to financially support a delegation from the Dove House Community Trust which is going to Westminster next week to lobby MPs. Against the political vetting of their ACE-funded project.

The SDLP opposed a second Sinn Fein motion proposing an all-party delegation to accompany the Dove House group.



● Drumglas Geriatric Hospital

The SDLP amendment allowed for only the SDLP mayor to go to London. Sinn Fein Councillor Mitchel McLaughlin described the SDLP move as "doing the NIO's work of enforcing political apartheid against Sinn Fein".

A Sinn Fein proposal opposing the use of paid perjurers was passed but a motion condemning the use of plastic bullets was turned by SDLP councillors into a proposal praising SDLP leader John Humel.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED

Ivan Barr, Sinn Fein Councillor on Strabane District Council, has accused the

councillor have been attempting to query financial irregularities in the council's accounts as well as seeking greater accountability from council officials. O'Kane, supported by two SDLP and one Independent councillor, has sought to block their efforts at every opportunity, usually by adjourning meetings.

On Tuesday night, O'Kane refused to accept Sinn Fein motions on these matters from a previously-adjourned meeting. When the Sinn Fein councillors rejected his decision, O'Kane also adjourned this meeting. Ivan Barr said:

"We will not be deterred by O'Kane's adjournment tactic from pressing ahead with our efforts to protect the ratepayers of Strabane. We have been assured that our motions fall within the Council's standing orders and that O'Kane is misusing his authority in refusing to accept them. We intend to vigorously pursue these matters."

HOUSING CUTS

Sinn Fein Councillor Charlie McHugh has slammed Housing Executive cutbacks which will seriously affect the Strabane area.

At a special meeting of the Council on Thursday, May 22nd, the Executive's North-West regional director told the council that "six major improvement schemes involving over 100 homes in Strabane and outlying areas have now been deferred".

He also revealed that a major environmental improvement scheme in Drumlough and the construction of 11 new houses have all been postponed.



● ANITA CAVLAN

● IVAN BARR

Independent chairperson, James O'Kane, of abusing his position following the quick adjournment of Tuesday night's council meeting.

For several months now, the three Sinn Fein councillors and one SDLP

SINN FEIN VOTE REMAINS SOLID

A sound base

IN TWO council by-elections held on Wednesday, May 21st, in Fermanagh and Magherafelt, Sinn Fein successfully held its 1985 local government vote, winning one of the two seats comfortably and narrowly missing the second.

In Magherafelt, County Derry, Sinn Fein's candidate, Brenda McMullan, from Maghera, took 1,763 votes, Frank McKendry (SDLP) 1,837, and Francis Donnelly Workers' Party) 760. The Sinn Fein vote remained solid, slipping only 35 votes from 1985 while the SDLP dropped 628 votes. When transfers from the Workers' Party were distributed, the SDLP was left with 2,101 votes and Sinn Fein 1,828.

Sinn Fein county organiser, John Davey, expressed satisfaction at the result:

"Contrary to media speculation that the SDLP would continue to electorally benefit from the hype surrounding the London-Dublin agreement, our vote in the Sperrin electoral areas has remained almost unchanged. We have clearly consolidated a sound electoral base."



● BRIAN McCaffrey



● BRENDA McMullan

Similarly, in the Erne East by-election in Fermanagh District Council, Sinn Fein's successful candidate, Brian McCaffrey, polled 3,082 votes, a drop of only four votes from the 1985 result. His SDLP opponent, Sheila Reihill, who received 1,267 votes, saw the SDLP vote fall by 159. The Official Unionist, Thomas Johnson, received 3,210 votes.

Significantly, almost 45% of

SDLP second-preference transfers went to Sinn Fein.

Jim McAllister, six-county chairperson, said that he was "well pleased" with the results and congratulated all who had worked in the election campaign:

"We are delighted to have won the seat in Fermanagh and are very satisfied to have increased our percentage of the vote in both by-election areas."

Newry councillor harassed

SINCE his election to Newry & Mourne Council in May 1985, Newry Sinn Fein Councillor Brendan Curran has been the target of a concentrated campaign of harassment and abuse by the RUC.

Whenever an opportunity has arisen, Curran has been stopped on the street, held for hours and subjected to sectarian abuse and threats.

In January, while working late one evening, his Volkswagen car was stolen and found burned out. A workmate received an anonymous call informing him to "tell your councillor friend that his car is up on 'Bull Thompson's Hill' — on fire".

Curran suspects that the RUC was responsible for the burning of his car:

"The name 'Bull Thompson's Hill' is only found on Ordnance Survey maps and



only RUC personnel use that name."

INCIDENTS

A number of minor incidents in which Curran's new car was damaged by crown force members resulted in him trying to lodge a formal complaint but the RUC refused to accept it:

"The RUC clearly feel that this sort of intimidation will deter me from fulfilling my duty to the community as a Sinn Fein councillor — they are very much mistaken."



Protest for elderly

THE MEETING of Dublin Corporation's Housing Committee was picketed last week in protest at housing conditions of elderly people in the inner city.

The picket on City Hall on Thursday, May 22nd, was organised by Sinn Féin with the support of ALONE, Simon and Trust.

The conditions in which elderly people are forced to live was highlighted by the case of Michael Morgan which was reported in *AP/RN* on May 15th. Morgan was forced to live in his burned-out flat in Allingham Buildings for weeks before being rehoused. The pickets also pointed out that no provision is made by the Corporation in emergencies "to contact welfare departments or voluntary organisations. People are left in appalling conditions sometimes for months or even years".

Sinn Féin spokesperson Michael O'Muireagáin said:

"People who were born and reared in this area have the right to housing nearby, where care and protection is available, so that older people do not live out their last years in fear."

Fodder crisis

IMMEDIATE action was demanded of the Dublin government to alleviate farmers affected by the fodder crisis at the Leirtrim County Committee of Agriculture this week.

At their meeting on Monday, May 26th, the members passed a resolution proposed by Sinn Féin Councillor John Joe McGill which called on the Department of Agriculture "to examine the losses of cattle and sheep in the worst-hit, disadvantaged areas with a view to giving financial assistance and that this investigation be carried out in conjunction with ACOT and farming organisations in the areas concerned".

Bodenstown bus

A bus will leave Mahon for Bodenstown at 8.30 am. The fare will be around £8-£10. A deposit of £2 will secure a place and the balance can be paid off weekly.

All bookings to Joe Callaghan, 35 Ballinure Avenue; Pierce Duggan, 2 The Paddock; or any An Phoblacht seller.

Torthal crannchur

Dundalk Cumann Cabhrach

Harp: Tommy Dunne; lamp: Jimmy McNamee; hunger-strike picture: Duffy; Sinn Féin cumann; wallet: Joanne Corrigan; wallet: Nellie Connolly.

Louth Sinn Féin comhairle ceannair

Weekly Draw

£50: Thomas Ruddy, Inniskeen; £25: John Murphy, Kilmurry; £25: Packie McDonald, c/o Liam Campbell.

Louth Sinn Féin comhairle ceannair

Special Draw

£50: Tommy Dobbs, c/o Trap 7; £25: John Hearty, Crossmaglen; £25: Peter Martin, Sli-verbridge.



Frightening prospect

"YOU HAVEN'T seen anything yet," Progressive Democrat leader Des O'Malley told an estimated 1,800 people at the conclusion of the party's first annual conference which was held in Dublin's National Stadium last weekend.

His words brought rapturous applause from the audience in the stadium but for hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged people throughout the twenty-six counties, they are a frightening prospect of further and increased hardship in the future.

The Progressive Democrats party (PD) has confirmed its position as an organisation of the most selfish people in the South, those people who don't give a tuppence about the welfare of others because they are so caught up in the philosophy which says 'I'm all right Jack' and everyone else can go to hell.

The new right, which the PDs represent, is an emerging sector in Irish society. It is a sector which has adapted the West British mentality of pro-imperialism as its own and has combined this with the pseudo-cosmopolitan attitudes of those who have tasted or aspire to taste, personal economic success. These are the people who suffer from a national inferiority complex and for whom even the trace of an Irish accent is a badge of shame.

CIVIL WAR POLITICS

When they say that they want "an end to Civil War politics" they are really saying that partition should not be an issue and that they would be quite happy to see an internal six-county settlement which would let the Dublin establishment off the hook.

When they talk about "solving the problems of the economy", they are really saying that they will actively discriminate against the least-well-off. Des O'Malley

said as much when he reminded the conference that:

"It is futile for any person, or any party, to talk about lower levels of taxation if they are not prepared to talk about lower levels of public expenditure."

MORE CUTS

More cuts in health spending, education and social services so that the better off can have more money; a reduction in the higher taxation bands to be paid for by an increase in indirect taxation which is regressive since it taxes people on what they spend rather than on what they earn (and poorer people spend a higher proportion of their income than wealthy people do); and solving the 'national debt' by "actively divesting of state assets" — these are the economic policies of a party which seeks to concentrate wealth in the hands of the elite.

Policies like these are hardly likely to win the PDs majority popular support now or in the future, so we will probably be spared the reality of a purely PD government. However, that does not mean that we will be spared the implementation of PD policies. Some of those policies have already been welcomed by members of the Coalition government and a Fine Gael/PD coalition now seems a real possibility in the future. Nor can a Fianna Fail/PD coalition be ruled out as a future possibility, when the personality clashes which divide them at present are no longer relevant.

A FORCE

Whether as a significant pressure group within Leinster House or as part of a coalition government the PDs are a force in Irish political life which will be with us for some time to come. To some extent this must be a welcome development because, unlike the catch-all politics of Fianna Fail and the Fine Gael/Labour Coalition, the PDs have nailed their class interests firmly to the mast and have clarified the nature of the enemy which Irish socialists must face up to and overcome.

What hope for Jason?

"IT SEEMS LIKE the end of the world," is how 14-year-old Jason Bowler describes his life on the streets of Dublin. Jason was taken into care at the age of three, but six years later went home to his mother's house in Clondalkin, County Dublin. He left there some nine months ago because he claims his mother "no longer wanted him".

Since then, his life has been one of unrelenting horror. He sleeps rough, has taken drink and drugs, and is prey to propositions of sex from "rich men in posh cars". He claims that this is "the only way to get money to survive". Two months ago, after pressure from Father McVerry SJ, the Eastern Health Board placed Jason in the Park Lodge Bed & Breakfast in Dublin. Jason left within ten minutes "because

the manager was very nasty, telling me that no matter how long I was there I couldn't watch the television. Anyway it would have been too lonely up there on my own".

The EHB claims that it has fulfilled its duty in relation to Jason and says that since the closure of the Hope hostel (because of cutbacks) it has nowhere to place homeless boys. Jason wants to go and live with his married sister in Liverpool, whom he says would take him in, but he does not know her address. Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke has taken up Jason's case and is looking for a solution to his problems.

If nothing is done, Jason will inevitably be caught up in the vicious cycle of "sex and drugs" that is the reality of life for homeless young people on the streets of Dublin today.



● JASON BOWLER



Sinn Fein internal conference **BROADENING THE STRUGGLE**

BY MAIRTÍN Mac DIARMADA

SINN FEIN'S mid-year internal conference was held in Ballyfermot, Dublin West, last weekend. More than 300 members of the organisation attended over the two-day event.

As with last year's internal conference, the gathering saw a good and open level of debate on the major issues confronting Sinn Féin. The Hillsborough agreement and the republican response to it was the subject of discussion on Saturday morning.

Mitchel McLaughlin from Derry presented a paper which warned of the international aspects of the agreement and its long-term implications. He identified it as the most concerted effort yet by Western imperialism to 'stabilise' Ireland.

Sinn Féin's response to Hillsborough was then debated and this naturally led into the discussion on the need for a clear strategy for republicans. Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams dealt with this in his discussion paper on Saturday afternoon. Its main theme was the necessity to harness all the forces possible in the struggle for national independence. He argued that a broad movement towards this goal must be led by the most socially progressive forces and that Sinn Féin, in setting out to create such a movement, must ensure that its own organisation is disciplined and efficient.

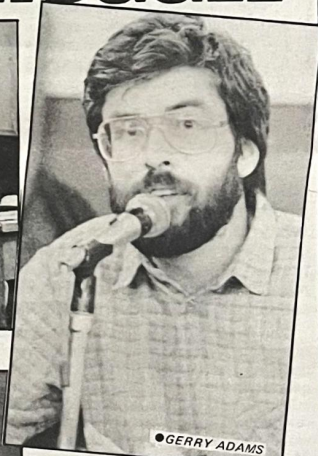
WORKSHOPS

After questions from the floor on Adams' paper, the conference was divided into five workshops which discussed the issues raised. This was the first time that such a format had been used at a national conference and most of those who participated felt that it was successful but that in future more preparation was needed.

In concluding on Saturday evening, Gerry Adams said that policy-making in Sinn Féin should not be left to a few and this could be prevented by continuous debate at all levels of the organisation. He also echoed a theme consistently raised on Saturday — the need for education in order to broaden the base of republicanism.



● John Joe McGill (centre) opens the conference with (from left to right) Mitchel McLaughlin, John Major, Aengus O Snodaigh and Jack Crowe



● GERRY ADAMS



● One of the workshop sessions

On Sunday morning, the conference heard reports on organisation from Sinn Féin general secretary Tom Hartley, national treasurer Joe Cahill and national chairperson Sean MacManus. In the debate which followed, some of the main issues were: the back-up required by elected representatives; the involvement of Sinn Féin supporters in as many as

pects of the party's work as possible; the problems of publicity and the need to reach as wide an audience as possible; and the urgency of building organisation in weaker areas of the country, both urban and rural. In summing up Sean MacManus urged the delegates to "get out there and organise".

The Sunday afternoon session of the

conference consisted of open discussion on issues raised and proposals put forward from the previous day.

A proposal that Sinn Féin frames a set of basic aims around which a broad independence movement could be organised was debated at length.

Another resolution stressed the importance of incorporating culture into the national struggle and speakers said that it was significant that cultural groups like Conradh na Gaeilge were among those who had come out against the Hillsborough agreement.

CONTROVERSIAL

Abortion and abstentionism were the last subjects covered at the conference but both of these controversial issues were debated in a calm and reasonable atmosphere.

Summing up the weekend, Tom Hartley said that it had been constructive but that for future conferences there was a need for topics to be prioritised. He praised the discipline of those present and said that a condensed report of the conference will be available for members in the near future.

MOVES to discredit and undermine the Republican Movement are not rare. From time to time, attempts have been made to harness the emotionalism relating to imprisonment and use it against the Republican Movement. Attempts of this sort, most recently highlighted by Fr Faul's 1985/

86 campaign of selective releases leading to 'peace', involve the cynical manipulation of republican POWs, their families and relations.

It is against this background that the political hostages in the six counties have decided to present their analysis of the current situation.

This is the analysis of the republican prisoners; no-one else has a mandate to speak on our behalf. The Republican Movement is the only channel through which the opinions of the prisoners are voiced.

The stand we take is unequivocal and unapologetic: it allows for no exceptional cases and leaves no room for political manoeuvring by political opportunists or individual egotists, no matter what flag of convenience they fly, be it church, Free State, SDLP, or whatever.

OUR FREDICAMENT as republican POWs allows the British and their Irish collaborators the opportunity to use us as pawns in their political hostage game. The necessary first stage of this game is to present a complete reversal of roles in order to make it seem as if it is the Republican Movement and not the British government that are our jailers.

The phasing out of internment was a classic example of such a strategy, when releases were tied to the climate of the IRA's military campaign. During quieter periods in the war there would be a steady stream of releases, but as the level of operations increased, all releases would halt or slow down to a trickle. The obvious aim was to start a clamour among the relatives of internees for the IRA to cease operations, at least until their relative was released.

Hunger-strikes, protests and escapes have proved to the British how potent a weapon prisoners can be. Having learned that lesson well, they are trying to use this weapon against the Republican Movement. Consequently, prisons have been a frequent feature of British counter-IRA strategies as in 1974, when William Whitelaw, the first direct-ruler, openly invoked the hostage factor, objecting to the repatriation of POWs to the six counties on the grounds that it would deter others from taking the war to Britain.

THE LONDON-DUBLIN AGREEMENT

The London-Dublin agreement is only the latest example of a counter-IRA strategy in which the prison issue

will again figure. The tactics have become much more subtle, but the game is still the same. Now, instead of releases of internees, we have a piece-meal and deliberately prolonged system of selective and conditional releases of SOSP (those held under 'the Secretary of State's Pleasure' - a euphemism for the equivalent of a life sentence for those under 17) and life prisoners. In this situation it is not so much the actual releases, which are few and far between, but the promise of impending release which holds the key to its effectiveness.

To further the aims of the London-Dublin accord, we believe the British are willing to respond to overtures from the SDLP which would allow certain selective - though well-publicised - releases. Suggest-

ions have already been made about the possibility of raising the cases of individual long-term prisoners through the London-Dublin ministerial conference.

The above scenario is close to the position held by Fr Denis Faul for some years now: that the IRA can be defeated through its prisoners. In the belief that his tactic of dividing republican families had succeeded in bringing the 1981 hunger-strike to an end, he is now pursuing a similar tactic around the emotive issue of long-term prisoners. This time he would go one step further and, by dividing republican families, his aim is to divide and smash the Republican Movement. Families are naturally concerned about the length of time served by their sons or daughters and so, he reasoned, they could be induced to exert pressure on the IRA to end the war, believing that this would result in the early release of their relatives.

The shallowness of Fr Faul's

concern for prisoners is easily seen, especially in the light of his calls to inform on anyone engaged in republican activity.

In this last year or so, Fr Faul has introduced a new dimension to his anti-republican campaign, adapting the old British tactic of criminalisation to suit his own ends. He has categorised republican prisoners into different groupings, from the 'hard ones' down to 'misguided youths' - the latter to be released, the former to remain incarcerated. (Repeated requests have failed to elicit from the crusading priest what criteria he uses to differentiate the 'hard ones' from the 'misguided youth'. Perhaps families may care to enquire of him to which category their relatives belong.)

Not only does such categorisation (no matter how ridiculous) ensure that some prisoners remain in jail longer than others but it also absolves the British of blame and clouds the real issue. The fundamental truth is that the

In sharp contrast to their calls for the release of jailed ANC activist Nelson Mandela without preconditions, British government ministers refuse to even consider the release of Irish republican prisoners until they renounce their political beliefs.

war in the North is a consequence of British rule and the injustices of the sectarian statelet which was set up and maintained by the British government. Many young men and women are presently serving long periods in jail simply because of their resistance to that injustice.

THE POLITICAL REVIEW

All republican POWs are hostages of the British government and their release is often dependent upon the political advantage which can be wrung from them. Witness, for example, the early release of prisoners in 1975 through the device of increasing remission from one third to one half at a period when the British were trying to wean support away from the Republican Movement. This cynical use of

prisoners as political hostages is yet more starkly evident in the case of 'lifers' and those sentenced to SOSP.

In January 1985, in response to increasing criticism of the life sentence review procedure, the NIO issued a booklet entitled *Life Sentence Prisoners in Northern Ireland: An Explanatory Memorandum* which purported to detail a major revamping of the procedure. Changes, however, were minimal, amounting to no more than the opportunity for a prisoner to make a written submission to the review board and the presentation, if the prisoner wished, of a report to the board by the probation service.

That the NIO felt it necessary to make even cosmetic changes in the procedure is explained by three factors. Firstly, few republican pris-

Republican prisoners serving life imprisonment in the six counties

*Denotes prisoners serving sentences of the Secretary of State's pleasure.

NAME	AREA	D.O.B.	DATE OF ARREST	NAME	AREA	D.O.B.	DATE OF ARREST	NAME
H-BLOCKS				MARTIN HANLY	DERRY	31.5.49	4.76	ART MCGILL
PAUL BAKER	NEW LODGE	11.11.58	13.9.77	IAN HIGARTY*	CO. ARMAGH	26.12.40	17.10.77	SEAN MCCORMACK
FRANK BARBOUR	DERRY	28.3.56	7.1.81	DUTCH HOLLAND*	ARDYONE	12.2.57	5.5.74	THOMAS
SEAN BATESON	ARDYONE	6.5.55	29.5.73	MARTIN KAVANAGH	TEIRY LODGE	9.1.58	76	FRANK MURPHY
SEAN BONNAR	BELFAST	28.1.56	8.77	ADRIAN KELLY	DERRY	18.1.62	13.10.82	MICHAEL
SEAN BRADLEY	MAGHERAFELT	27.11.58	16.1.77	ROBERT KERR	NEW LODGE	9.1.56	10.3.78	FRANCIS
JOHN BURKE	DERRY	26.5.52	6.6.78	BARRY L. WELLYN	DOWNPATRICK	9.1.58	10.11.83	ANTHONY
JIMMY BURNS	BELFAST	11.8.57	11.7.79	BRENNY LILLIS	CULNARD	3.9.51	13.1.76	TOMMY W.
ADRIAN BYRNE	CROSSMAGLEN	28.5.59	23.9.76	PAT LIVINGSTON	TEIRY LODGE	10.12.51	14.9.76	PAUL MURPHY
ADRIAN CALLAN	TURF LODGE	24.1.56	29.8.76	TOM LOUGHLIN	UNITY FLATS	5.5.59	16.1.77	BERNARD
KEVIN CARR	NEW BARNSELY	19.4.54	13.1.77	GERARD LOUGHLIN	NEW LODGE	26.8.55	23.11.81	JACKIE MURPHY
BILLY CHILLINGWORTH	ARDYONE	18.6.54	8.11.76	THOMAS LOUGHLIN	UNITY FLATS	13.9.57	19.9.77	LAWRENCE
GERARD CLARK*	DERRY	15.9.59	13.3.76	BRENDAN MALLY	TURF LODGE	25.3.60	5.1.77	MICHAEL
CATHAL CRUMLEY	ANDERSONSTOWN	17.7.49	6.5.78	EDWARD MAGUIRE	ARDYONE	9.5.54	9.8.73	PAT MULLIGAN
MICHAEL CULBERT	TYRONE	11.2.57	12.10.77	BRENDAN MIAD	TEIRY LODGE	14.8.58	6.6.79	MICHAEL
DENNIS CUMMINGS	DERRY	10.5.57	14.5.78	IAN MILNE	SOUTH DERRY	12.4.55	1.8.77	PATRICK
BERNARD CURRAN	PORTADOWN	18.9.50	30.3.78	JOE MOORE	DERRY	14.5.58	13.1.77	OWEN ROY
FRANCIS CURRY	DERRY	5.4.58	24.5.79	THOMAS MORAN	TURF LODGE	13.10.77		FAMON
KEVIN DEEHLAN	CLONARD	13.10.61	25.4.82	PAT MULLAN	TYRONE	5.10.55	11.81	FRANK O'NEILL
GERARD DILLON*	KEADY	9.5.60	20.4.79	KEVIN MULLIGAN	NEWINGTON	9.11.57	22.5.80	GERARD
SEAMUS DILLON	COALISLAND	28.10.58	11.80	HARRY MCCAVANA	ARDYONE	1.4.55	22.6.84	FRANK O'NEILL
SAM DINES*	SHORT STRAND	7.4.51	5.11.82	HARRY MURRAY	LURGAN	6.5.58	6.5.78	P. O'NEILL
JAMES DOHERTY	DERRY	2.5.55	19.6.79	PAT MCCABE	CLONARD	17.5.58	6.6.77	PAT O'NEILL
WILLIE DOHERTY	DERRY	11.2.57	1.9.75	RAYMOND MCCARTNEY	DERRY	29.11.54	2.2.77	JOHN O'NEILL
MICHAEL DONNELLY*	BELFAST	11.4.65	21.4.84	HARRY MCCARTNEY	ARDYONE	8.10.57	2.2.79	NEIL PATRICK
BRENDAN DONAGHY	CAPPAUGH	25.11.57	10.5.77	GERARD MCCLARTY	ARDYONE	10.57	11.82	GARY ROY
GERRY FEARON	ARMAGH	27.4.40	2.11.79	BRENDAN MC LAGHAN	ARDYONE	31.7.55	13.12.76	EAMONN
LIAM FERGUSON	BELLEVUE	17.10.61	25.4.82	S. MCCONKEY	TEIRY LODGE	28.12.57	23.8.76	P. J. TRAYNOR
PAT FITZPATRICK	MARKETS	29.11.57	26.10.76	ANTHONY MCCOY	DERRY	25.5.77	20.9.77	JOE WATSON
DENNIS GALLAGHER	DERRY	13.10.56	3.7.76	EUGENE MCCORMACK	STRABANE	16.1.51	7.77	PETER WATSON
JOE GIBSON	ANDERSONSTOWN	11.9.59	22.10.79	ROBERT MADRID	MARKI TS	21.9.77	21.9.77	JOHN WATSON
BILLY GORMAN*	NEW LODGE	1.1.55	4.77	MAURICE MCCROSSAN	STRABANE	2.11.57	31.7.77	JOHN WATSON
MICHAEL GORMAN	FALLS	22.11.53	10.9.80	THOMAS MCCULLAGH	PORTLENNON	3.1.60	1.6.83	BILLY WATSON
FRANCIS GORMLEY	CO. ARMAGH	21.11.53	26.2.77	ROBERT MADDID	FALLS	19.12.58	12.81	MARTIN
ELO GREEN	DERRY	18.6.60	13.5.79	ALPHONSUS Mc KILLAN				
PETER GRIFFIN	NEW LODGE	22.6.63	17.5.81	J. McADDIN				
SEAN GRIFFIN*	SHORT STRAND	18.12.44	9.3.81					
NOEL HALL-PENNY	ARDYONE	24.9.53	18.8.75					
PETER HAMILTON	DERRY	20.12.51	31.7.77					
EDDIE HARKIN								

AN EXPLANATORY
MEMORANDUM

January 1985

REVIEW SYSTEM OFFERS NO HOPE

After much debate, the overwhelming verdict of republican POWs is that the review system is degrading and dehumanising and offers no hope.

Extradition treaty deadlocked

BY JANE PLUNKETT

ON SUNDAY, British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd flew to New York for a three-day visit in yet another bid by Britain to secure extradition of Irish political fugitives.

Hurd's visit, which came only a fortnight after that of direct-ruler Tom King on a similar mission was snubbed by a number of Irish-American politicians, is an indication of current British anxieties at the strength of the opposition to extradition. As part of the current British diplomatic offensive, premier Thatcher herself appeared on network TV interviews in the USA last Friday.

The proposed treaty still remains deadlocked in the US Senate, more than 11 months after it was signed by Thatcher and US President Reagan. It faces widespread opposition from a large section of Irish-American opinion, from the civil liberties lobby, and from some Republican senators worried that the treaty's jettison-

ing of the traditional political defence against extradition could also affect members of pro-US regimes of the Marcos variety who are forced into exile.

LIVINGSTONE

Hurd was also complaining last week that recent remarks by Labour politician Ken Livingstone

had "lessened the chances" of the British being able to obtain the extradition of H-Block escapees Brendan McFarlane and Gerry Kelly from the Netherlands.

Speaking at a meeting at Amsterdam University on Friday, May 16th, former Greater London Council leader Livingstone urged Holland not to extradite Kelly and McFarlane who, he said, would be subjected to trial without a jury and "brutality and possible torture if they were returned".

Adding that "the situation in Ireland is a political conflict" Livingstone added:

"There would be uproar in Britain if Jewish dissidents were sent back to the Soviet Union. There would be uproar if Switzer-

land had sent back escaping British prisoners of war to Germany."

Livingstone's remarks highlighted the historical background which the British government has been anxious to suppress when 'selling' its hypocritical policy. In response, Home Secretary Hurd publicly exerted pressure on Labour leader Neil Kinnock to gag Livingstone.

INTIMIDATORY MEDIA

There followed a predictable intimidatory media response ("Red Ken insults Britain — bad news for Kinnock," screamed the Daily Mail) after which Kinnock, who with a general election in prospect would prefer to avoid such controversial topics, claimed that

a future Labour government would seek the extradition of Kelly and McFarlane.

At the weekend, Kinnock's remarks were condemned as "deplorable" by the Labour Committee on Ireland, a pressure group within the party, who said:

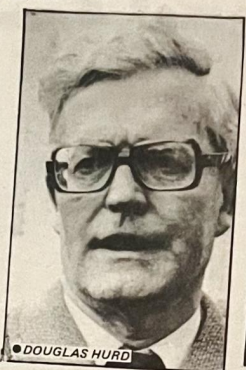
"To deny that McFarlane and Kelly are political refugees is to deny the history of the last 17 years, during which time the continuation of British rule has only been made possible by the denial of democratic rights and civil liberties on a scale not seen in Britain itself."

Describing the record of past Labour governments as "appalling", the LCI pointed out Kinnock's failure to campaign on current Labour policy of Irish reunification and an end to strip-searching, Diplock courts, 'supergrass' trials, plastic bullets and the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

APPEAL

The Politieke Partij Radikalen — Nederlands (PPR) has issued a statement "strongly requesting" the Dutch government not to extradite Gerry Kelly and 'Bik' McFarlane. They say that the men are political prisoners, and that their escape was a political act which was recognised as such by a Dutch court.

The statement also urges the Dutch prison authorities to end solitary confinement and allow the two men to meet.



● DOUGLAS HURD



● KEN LIVINGSTONE

Boland snubs Balbriggan

THE FREE STATE Minister for the Environment, John Boland, has refused to meet a delegation from Balbriggan Town Commission because of the inclusion of Sinn Fein Commissioner Bredge Tuite.

The commissioners recently requested the meeting with Boland to discuss the major problem of sewage pollution along the shoreline and beaches of the town. Boland noti-

fied the Town Commission last week that he will not meet a deputation which includes the Sinn Fein member unless she issued a statement "opposing violence".

Responding to the action, Balbriggan Sinn Fein said:

"Mr Boland insists on playing petty politics with a democratically-elected representative of the Balbriggan people instead of tackling the job he was elected to do by making the beaches safe for public use."

They pointed to Boland's attitude to 'violence' as a member of a Coalition government which refused to condemn the US bombing of Libya.

"Boland corresponds with and has attended functions with Town Commissioner Bredge Tuite in attendance. This is in direct contradiction to his present stance. The minister now refuses to serve the people of Balbriggan and as such is not fit for public office."



● BREDEGE TUITE

Travellers demand recognition

AN international human rights organisation which works with persecuted minorities in Europe and the Third World has made a strong plea for official and public recognition of the rights of Irish Travellers and their organisation, Minceir Misli.

The call came at a press conference in Dublin at which the German-based Gesellschaft Fur Bedrohte Volker (Society for Threatened Peoples) launched a special issue of their magazine *Pogrom*, which deals with the plight of Travellers in Ireland and the state of the Irish language.

There was a large atten-

dance at the press conference in Wynn's Hotel on Tuesday, May 27th, which was opened by Tilman Zulich, of the Gesellschaft. He said that the organisation, which was founded in 1968, is the largest human rights group in West Germany after Amnesty International.

During Nazi rule in Germany, 50% of the Romani Gypsy population died in the Holocaust and Zulich said that they still exper-

ience prejudice in Europe. He pointed out that the Romanis and other Travellers had only gained recognition when they formed their own organisations.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

Tuesday's press conference was held in conjunction with Minceir Misli, the Irish Travellers' organisation, which was represented by Michael McCann and Helen Hutchinson.

Helen Hutchinson said that since Minceir Misli was formed in April 1984, its main demand has been for official recognition as the representative of the Travellers and involvement in decision-making affecting Travellers. Settlement committees and other groups have failed because their members are not Travellers themselves, she said.

Also at the conference were Paul Noonan of the

Committee for Travelling People in the six counties, and Peter Mercer of the National Gypsy Education Council in Britain. Both Mercer and Katrin Reemtsma, of the Gesellschaft, said that the situation of Travellers in Ireland was worse than anything either of them had experienced in other countries. Reemtsma compiled the report in *Pogrom* which was launched at the press conference.



● Tuesday's press conference in Dublin

Blackmail and torture fails

BY JANE PLUNKETT

THE RUC in Gough Barracks brutalised, threatened and bribed a 27-year-old South Armagh man last week in a bid to pressurise him into working as an informer.

Michael McNulty, a single, unemployed man who lives with his mother and two sisters in the village of Cullyhanna, was arrested from his home on Monday, May 19th, and taken to Bessbrook and then Gough RUC Interrogation Centre under a three-day detention order.

On the first day, McNulty was subjected to at least six interrogations, during which he was repeatedly punched and slapped by RUC men.

On the Tuesday, he was caught around the throat by one RUC man and lifted up, while a second RUC man hit him repeatedly about the testicles.

Several times McNulty fell, but af-

ter giving him water, the RUC continued this torture. On other occasions, RUC men in pairs slapped him simultaneously on the face and back of the head.

His RUC interrogators demanded that he work for them, giving information about republicans in the South Armagh area. The RUC threatened that if he refused he would be imprisoned for at least 40 years on the basis of a 'verbal' statement they would concoct. They claimed that if McNulty attempted to escape by moving to the twenty-six counties, they would 'make life hell' for him, using the garda and Special Branch.

Under this pressure, later that day, McNulty agreed to work for the RUC and was allowed to rest.

CAR-PARK RENDEZVOUS

The next day, the RUC told him what to say about his time in Gough and told him to meet them near a car-park in Portadown last Wednesday, May

28th. If he missed the meeting, he was to go there two days later.

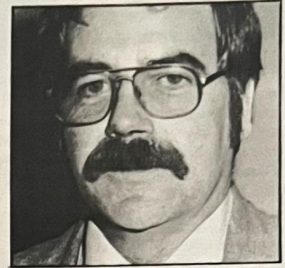
McAnulty was told that at the Portadown car-park, one of his RUC interrogators, wearing a blue bomber jacket, would be standing. The RUC man would stop and pull up his socks as a signal for McNulty to get into their car.

During his time in Gough, the RUC told McNulty that he would have "no problem" with tax, insurance and "petrol money", and would be given £300-£400 "now and again". If he ever intended to set up a small business, the RUC said, they would help him.

Sensibly, however, McNulty contacted Sinn Féin immediately on his release and explained what had happened.

Condemning the RUC's "callous methods", local Sinn Féin Councillor Jim McAllister said:

"The brutality used by the RUC on this occasion highlights how desperate the crown forces are for any scraps of



● JIM McALLISTER

information from within the nationalist community. The RUC show no concern for the victims they recruit and since publicity is an individual's only defence against RUC blackmail, I would appeal to anyone who has come under pressure or agreed to act as an informer to promptly come forward to Sinn Féin."

RUC jail widow

A COUNTY TYRONE widow, the mother of seven young children, was arrested and jailed for the non-payment of a fine for not having car tax (a fine she was not aware of).

While unionists boast of their refusal to pay road tax in protest against the London-Dublin agreement and have remained safe from prosecution, Carrickmore woman Sally Hurson was taken from her home at 5.30am on

Tuesday, May 27th, while her children slept.

The RUC threatened that if she did not pay the £54 fine immediately, she would be taken to Maghaberry Prison and her children would be taken into care. When she told them that she did

not have that much money, Sally Hurson was arrested. Five car-loads of RUC personnel were present at the house.

Sally Hurson's husband, Francie, brother of hunger-striker Martin Hurson, died tragically in December 1984. She was unaware that the road tax on their car expired at the end of February and, as she told AP/RN, "Anyway, I wasn't driving it. After Francie's death, I couldn't drive the car."



● Sally Hurson (right) with her seven young children

The RUC claim that they saw Sally Hurson driving during the time the tax had lapsed but they never stopped or charged her. Nor was she informed about the

court case where she was fined.

After the fine was anonymously paid, Sally Hurson was released from prison at 3.30pm that day.

LOYALIST intimidation of nationalists living near the Fountain Estate in Derry city continued last week with an attack by a mob of over 30 masked loyalists on the Hawkins Street home of former Derry City Football Club manager and IIP candidate, James Crossan.

The attack took place at 2.10am on Saturday morning, May 24th. John Crossan (17) had just come home when he heard voices outside. Suddenly, two concrete blocks were thrown through the window narrowly missing him. A mob which had gathered outside then ran back up the street, setting fire to a derelict house and stoning the fire brigade on arrival. The RUC, who witnessed the arson attack and stone-throwing, made no attempt to apprehend any of the loyalists and instead threatened James Crossan and his teenage sons with arrest.

Although this is the first time that the Crossan family has been physically attacked since moving



● James Crossan (right) examines the damage to his home

DERRY ATTACK

to Hawkins Street in January of this year, their car has been vandalised on two occasions and the family have been verbally abused by loyalists from the Fountain Estate.

This pattern of loyalist intimidation is similar to that of other nationalist families over the past few months, several of whom have been forced to abandon their homes.



● The McDonnell family

Mother and son assaulted

BY JANE PLUNKETT

DURING A RAID in the South Armagh village of Crossmaglen last Thursday, May 22nd, British soldiers kicked and rifle butted a 20-year-old man repeatedly and kicked his sick mother when she attempted to rescue her son.

The incident began at 8.30pm as British troops and the RUC were raiding the house next door to the McDonnell family's home in the Ard Ross Estate. When Patrick McDonnell (20), a joiner, went out of his back door to go to a nearby shop, he was seized, spread-eagled against a wall and searched by British soldiers who shouted "Get your f...ing boots off!" McDonnell refused their illegal demand and then, he told AP/RN, "They just laced into me."

While RUC members of the patrol stood by, Patrick McDonnell was thumped, kicked repeatedly and struck with rifle butts by five or six British soldiers.

When his mother Bridgie McDonnell — who is due to have an operation on her leg in two weeks' time — intervened, she was kicked on the legs.

The vicious beating of Patrick McDonnell ended only when a crowd of angry neighbours gathered.

CHARGES THREAT

The dazed McDonnell was taken in a Saracen to Crossmaglen RUC Barracks and threatened that trumped-up charges may be brought against him. He was released after 20 minutes.

McDonnell, who is registering a formal complaint over the attacks, was examined that night by his doctor, who found that his legs and knees were a bloody mess, and found bruises all over his body, including the track of a boot on his left side.

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Strip-searching condemned

THE CALL for an end to strip-searching made by the Prison Officers' Association (POA) at their annual conference last week has been welcomed by the Portlaoise Prisoners' Relatives Action Committee (PPRAC).

The PPRAC has written to the POA, asking for a meeting and, in a statement issued on May 23rd, they said:

"Once again, members of the Prison Officers' Association have verified what our committee has been saying all along (i.e. that the use of strip-searching is an unnecessary and punitive measure against the prisoners).

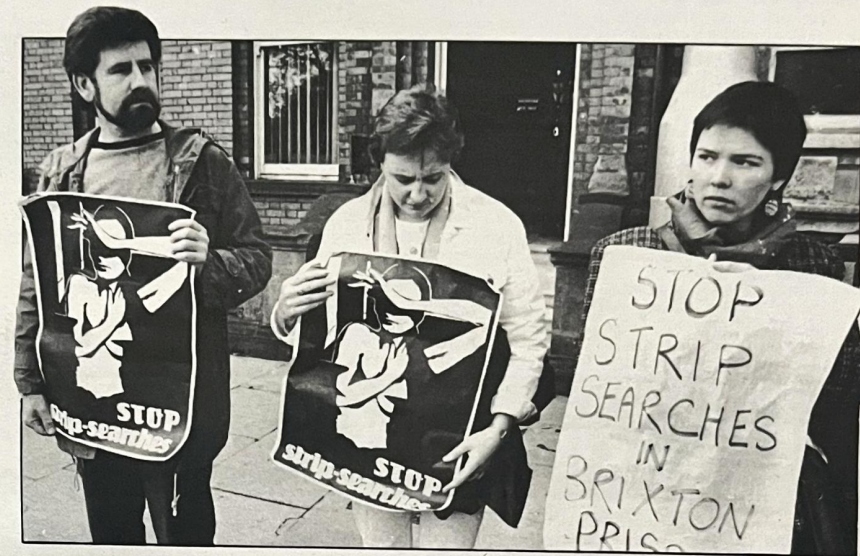
"The number of strip-searches carried out on republican prisoners in Portlaoise Prison this year are: January: 86; February: 64; March: 114; April: 73; and May: 64.

Seventy people picketed Brixton Prison on Saturday, May 24th, in protest against the strip-searching of Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer. Contingents travelled from Coventry and Birmingham to the protest which continued for two hours.

Also on Saturday, a rally was held in the centre of Philadelphia, in the United States, against the strip-searching of Irish prisoners in Irish and British jails. A large crowd attended the rally and afterwards the video *Security or Subjugation?* was shown in the Balch Institute.

LABOUR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

At the British National Labour Women's Conference in Scotland on May 17th and 18th, resolutions were passed condemning



the Hillsborough agreement, the maintenance of the loyalist veto, and strip-searching.

A comprehensive composite motion was carried which incorporated these issues and said that the Labour Party's support for the agreement on the basis that "discuss-

ions on the ending of strip-searching" on the Irish people and without any might produce results in "six months to a year" was misplaced and represented a reintroduction of bipartisanship.

It further called on the National Women's Committee to "support British withdrawal from Ireland without placing any conditions

The conference also called on the NWC to organise a major national demonstration against strip-searching on November 15th in conjunction with Irish organisations and the trade union movement.

Newry repairs pledge



● Sean Maguire of Sinn Fein in Courtney Hill

AFTER YEARS of meetings, lobbying and protests by Sinn Fein and residents of the Courtney Hill area in Newry, County Down, the Housing Executive has now confirmed to local Sinn Fein Councillor Brendan Curran that refurbishment work will commence early next year.

The scheme will include the installation of central heating, the extension and refurbishment of kitchens and bathrooms, and the removal of asbestos sheeting from the front and rear of

the houses.

Newry Sinn Fein has given a guarded welcome to the news, promising tenants that it will try to ensure that adequate compensation will be paid for the incon-

venience suffered while the work is being done. "Newry has one of the worst housing records in the six counties. Courtney Hill is only one of several areas where refurbishment schemes are urgently needed. The cut-backs must be fought and the Executive forced to provide the funds necessary to overcome our housing difficulties."

DAMP

More immediately, Newry & Mourne Sinn Fein councillors are demanding action on two particular houses, 43 and 45 Courtney Hill. In addition to their need for refurbishment, these two houses have severe dampness caused by water running under their foundations.

Next Monday, the Council is expected to serve a Public Health Act order on the Housing Executive which will be followed by legal action if they fail to carry out the necessary repairs within 14 days.



● Some houses are infested with bugs because of dampness

Soldiers stone flat

A YOUNG Dublin mother and her one-year-old child were injured when Free State soldiers, who are strike-breaking at the Marrowbone Lane Corporation depot, threw stones at the family's flat in the adjacent Allingham Buildings.

The incident happened on Monday evening, May 26th. Rose Griffin and her son, Patrick, were sitting opposite the window when it was smashed by a stone which struck Rose in the back. The child's eye was hit

by a flying splinter of glass and was bleeding when he was taken to the Eye & Ear Hospital. Rose Griffin was also treated in hospital for a cut on her back and for possible damage to her lung. She was particularly distressed

as she is 2½ months pregnant.

Anthony Boyle, who also lives in the tiny flat in the crumbling Allingham block, told *AP/RN* that he saw the soldiers throwing the stones from the roof of the Marrowbone Lane depot. He was standing beside the window seconds before it was broken and saw the two soldiers running away. The family is now considering taking legal action over the incident.



Rose Griffin with her son Patrick and friend Anthony Boyle

film

No surrender

BY EDDIE STACK

A FILM with such a title and by a dramatist such as Alan Bleasdale (who wrote *The boys from the Black-stuff*) had me licking my lips in anticipation, yet it wasn't half an hour into the story before an uneasy tingling ran up and down that part of my brain which deals with trite British political cop-outs, even if my funny bone had quite a good time during the film.

Its attitude to the question of sectarianism in the two main traditions on this island had me reaching for the sick-bag. While the film is actually set in Liverpool and deals mostly with the attitudes of Liverpudlian Irish Protestants and Catholics, Bleasdale's position is that both traditions are equally lunatic and preposterous. To emphasise the point, he takes as his characters two opposing parties of pensioners who are, one unhappily New Year's Eve, both booked into the same night-club. The sight of geriatric nationalists and unionists giving the V-sign and throwing paper plates at each other is used by Bleasdale to turn the audience off both 'traditions'.

In the film, the 'non-sectarian' element (i.e. the Brits) stand in the middle, baffled by the lunacy of age-old hatreds. Like the squaddies in the North, they have to 'separate the combatants', keep the mad Irish from destroying themselves. It's bad enough seeing this philosophy being espoused by our masters in the media, but coming from Bleasdale it came as a real kick in the goolies.

Bleasdale might turn around and say that it's Britain he's reflecting and sectarianism should have no place in British life and that really isn't it pathetic that 60-year-

old hatreds should smoulder so forcefully? Of course sectarianism should be condemned, but to portray the two traditions the way he does is like saying that the Jewish faith and nazism are equally pathetic.

BLACK COMEDY

Our story, a 'black comedy' we are told, begins when an ageing loyalist paramilitary turns up in Liverpool on the run from the police. What he has done we will never know, but he gets his former colleague, Billy, to give him refuge. Billy, an old unionist hard man, has turned his back on violence since he himself left Belfast but now the loyalist gunman threatens Billy that if he doesn't help him, he will inform the cops back home that Billy's daughter in Belfast is actually (Shock! Horror! Hold your breath!) living with a Catholic!

Alas for Billy, this demand on his time coincides with his attempts to get his local Orange Lodge pensioners all out to a dilapidated night club for their New Year's Eve knees-up.

The story switches to the club itself where the new manager arrives to find the place in chaos with a magician too nervous to perform, a singer who can't sing and a comedian who can't tell jokes. What's worse, as the sounds of screams and broken bones



James Ellis as blind ex-boxer Paddy Burke fights on in *No Surrender*

ring throughout the air, it seems the club is a front for 'the Mob'.

In the meantime, a group of Catholic pensioners in fancy dress arrives at the club. The tension between the two elderly groups builds and builds and, worse, a group of 90-year-old stroke victims are brought into the club and placed between the two warring factions. The deformities of this latter group emphasise the tastelessness which by now totally dominates the film.

Billy, our passive unionist, finds he has no choice but to strangle his paramilitary friend in the toilet. Meanwhile, back

at the ranch as they say, the new manager has to decide whether to put up with the torture chamber the Mob have erected in the back of the club or ring the police and get the Mob nicked. He plumps for the latter and the police come and break up the fighting in the club where by now the sectarian 'coffin dodgers' are in full cry.

TOTAL IDIOTS

If you want to see writhing stroke victims, blind ex-boxers and other octogenarians running about like total idiots, then this is the film for you. Despite the occasional funny and sharp Liverpudlian dialogue, this film is

often too slow, too sentimental and too reliant on the word "fuck" to be entertaining even if one forgets about the issues raised earlier in this review.

To cap it all, it's directed by the same man who made that racist Irish-baiting TV series *The Price*, where I discovered that we Irish still say "begorrah".

If I haven't put you off yet, please allow me to report that in the last 'reconciliation scene' Billy rings up his Catholic son-in-law whom he has totally boycotted before and asks him if he could wish him a Happy New Year.

Pass the sick-bag, Alice.

leabhar

An anatomy of apartheid

BY KEVIN CURRIE

THE APARTHEID HANDBOOK, into its second edition less than 12 months after its publication - that's how quick things are breaking - is an excellent 'anatomy of apartheid' with a wealth of detail on just how the South African state's racial policies work out in day-to-day practice.

It's got 42 chapters in question-and-answer format dealing with such matters as the race classification system, how the government works, and the whole area of 'social' segregation in sport, clubs, the cinema, beaches, and so on.

There are lighter moments. The relaxation of 'petty apartheid' turns out, for instance, to mean that in Natal in 1984 "blacks could walk on any beach as long as they didn't swim, or look as if they were intending to swim".

There's that sort of look

you know the hard statistical detail on the appalling level of institutional discrimination in state services, health, social welfare, education, and housing; as well as sections on employment with its structural inequalities, its massive wage differentials, and some of whose officials would clearly feel at home in Ballylunford, Shorts', or Harland & Wolff.

REPRESSION

The feeling of reading about somewhere else deepens

in the sections on the administration of 'justice' / forces of repression where we find the Minister of Law and Order defending the shooting dead of a transparent innocent as having resulted from "an unfortunate confluence of conditions"; the Supreme Court judge in the recent notorious 'milk money' case (a white had shot a black dead for stealing the equivalent of 40p) remarking that the accused "deserved a medal for what he did"; and the judge who referred to a bunch of prison officers who had beaten prisoners to death as "heroes of the truncheon". (Want to swap judges, Botha?)

There are even calls (from South Africa's equivalent of the DUP) for the 'reforming' Botha to 'get the gloves off', 'unleash the security forces', and so on; while the suspended sentence of a white right-wing terrorist organisation, the AWB (with its quota of ex-cops and suspected links to serving ones), warn the police that if 'you can't protect us and cannot keep order, the AWB will maintain the order'.



The parallels don't end here, of course, for the fact that demands for the dismantling of apartheid have thrown the state into crisis has a clear similarity with what happened in the North when the demand for civil rights was raised.

IMMORALITY

The deeper historical similarities, meanwhile, are irresistible.

Successive Immorality Acts (apartheid depends on preventing inter-marriage) have a counterpart in the Statutes of Kilkenny enacted in 14th Century Ireland in order to prevent the absorption of yet another wave of colonists by us cuddly Gaels; while the form of franchise adopted after the four original colonies united to form the Union of

South Africa in 1910 could have been taken straight from the Irish experience. Then - in 1910 - the more 'liberal' of the ex-colonies allowed a (restricted) franchise to black voters. That they had, however, to vote for whites could have been developed from the Catholic Relief Act - of 1793 that allowed a restricted franchise to Catholics but prevented them from sitting in parliament themselves for another generation.

GREAT LAND THEFT

Apartheid's Great Land Theft merely deepens the feeling of reading about Ireland.

In a pamphlet dealing with the land question, the 'removals' and the 'reserves' - observations that formed the

basis for the present so-called 'independent' homelands' - Ernest Harsch shows how an indigenous social and economic system was shattered by dispossession, expulsion, and plantation. Relating its history to present ANC policy on the land, Harsch brings out the full importance of the land question in South Africa today.

Somewhere, of course, the parallels must end, for the fact is that black South Africans are living now with legislation that would not be out of place in the 14th or 17th Century. It's as if all the worst features of the 500 years that the conquest of Ireland took to accomplish had been compressed or telescoped into the same intense handful of years.

When the native Irish came out from the 'Hidden Ireland' in which they'd been buried after the 17th Century wars, and went on the offensive, they at least made gains - if far too slowly - in the shape of Catholic emancipation, disestablishment, and the land reforms of the late 19th Century. For black South Africans, meanwhile, there has been nothing. Having emerged from the 'sullen acquiescence' that followed Sharpeville, let us will them a liberation as intense and as telescoped as was their conquest.

● *The Apartheid Handbook* by Roger Omond is a Penguin Special, price Stg £3.95.

● *Apartheid's Great Land Theft* by Ernest Harsch is published by Pathfinder Press, price 90p.

Imeachtaí

SOCIAL NIGHT
Friday 30th May
No.5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Taillte £1

VOL SEAMUS McELWAIN
MONTH'S MIND SERVICE
8pm Friday 30th May
KNOCKATTALLOON
County Monaghan

SINN FEIN FUNCTION
Music by Latch
9pm to 11pm Saturday 31st May
The Welcome Wagon
CROSSAKIEL
County Meath
Taillte £1

JIMMY STEELE
COMMEMORATION
1pm Sunday 1st June
Milltown Cemetery
BELFAST
Organised by the
National Graves Association

JOHN TURNLEY
COMMEMORATION
2.30pm Sunday 1st June
Assemble Ballymena Road
CARNLOUGH
County Antrim

POKER CLASSIC
8pm Thursday 5th June
No.5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Taillte £10

SINN FEIN
TRADE UNION SOCIAL
Music by guest artists
Friday 6th June
No.5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Taillte £3

SINN FEIN SOCIAL
Music by Skittles
8.30pm Saturday 7th June
Dorothy's Forge
MOYNALTY
County Meath
Taillte £1.50

PICKET AGAINST
STRASSEARCHES
Sunday 8th June
MAGHABERRY
County Antrim

DUBLIN BUS TO
MAGHABERRY
12 noon Sunday 8th June
Art Gallery
Parnell Square
Taillte £6 (children free)

VOL MICHAEL GAUGHAN
COMMEMORATION
(12th ANNIVERSARY)
1.30pm Sunday 8th June
Parkhurst
Newport
Isle of Wight
ENGLAND
Organised by the POW
Campaign Committee

JUMBLE SALE
Books, clothes, cakes,
auction & refreshments
2pm to 6pm Sunday 8th June
Dublin Resource Centre
Crow Street
DUBLIN
Donations of jumble welcome
Organised by the Campaign
Against the Kerry Tribunal

AN CUMANN CABHRACH TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Due to the huge demand for tickets for the annual An Cumann Cabhrach Testimonial Dinner last year, republicans who wish to attend this year's event are asked to book their tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets, price £8, are available from 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

An Cumann Cabhrach Testimonial Dinner
7.30pm Saturday 21st June
Park Lodge Hotel
North Circular Road
Dublin



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Nicaraguan women in Dublin

TWO WOMEN from the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, in Dublin at the invitation of the Nicaraguan Support Group, attended a meeting in the offices of the twenty-six county Council for the Status of Women on Monday, May 26th.

The peoples of what is now the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua represent largely the remains of the indigenous Indian inhabitants of

Central America. They differ from the rest of the population in Nicaragua in their historical, cultural, economic and religious traditions. The population of the area comprises 60,000 Miskitos, 10,000 Sumos, and 1,000 Romas

along with Creoles or descendants of black slaves.

After the Sandinistas' victory over the Somoza dictatorship in 1979 the revolutionary government made what they now admit were a series of mistakes in their handling of the situation of the Atlantic Coast.

Thousands of Miskito Indians were evacuated from the areas near the Honduran border because of attacks by the Contras.

In 1981, the government published a 'statement of principle' in relation to the Atlantic Coast region and have been ensuring representation at national level for the indigenous peoples and preservation of their culture and identity.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Dorothea Wilson is a member of the Nicaraguan national assembly as a representative of the Atlantic Coast. She is also a member of the Autonomy Commission. Women make up 30% of the government.

Soyla Connolly is a member of the regional committee of the Autonomy Commission and has been involved in consultations with her community over what people want from autonomy.

She is also a teacher in the adult education scheme, and says that illiteracy in Nicaragua was 75% in 1979 — this figure is now 12%. There is also training for doctors and nurses based in the communities.

Dorothea Wilson stressed that autonomy is not given by decree but is a right. She added that it was not separation or independence her people sought. Nicaragua is a country with multi-ethnic minorities and a constitution which is being drawn up would recognise that.

German delegation visits Derry

A DELEGATION of German trade unionists on a fact-finding tour of the North were given a warm welcome by Sinn Fein when they visited Derry last week.

The 12-member delegation from Frankfurt stayed with nationalist families in the city and attended a programme of



daily events organised by Sinn Fein. These covered all aspects of the Irish freedom struggle with special emphasis placed on the apparatus of repression directed against the nationalist people of the six counties. Workshops and discussion sessions (with appropriate video showings) were held on strip-searching,

plastic bullets and paid-perjurers.

The German group also had fruitful meetings with Derry Sinn Fein's Trade Union Department, the Women's Department and six elected city council representatives who gave a detailed and lengthy analysis of the attitude of Sinn Fein to the London-Dublin agreement.

TURKISH TRADE UNIONIST FACES JAIL OVER DUBLIN SPEECH

Democracy on trial

A LEADING TURKISH trade union and political activist, Muzaffer Sarac, is presently standing trial in Turkey on a charge of "slandering the Turkish state abroad" following a speech he made in Dublin's Buswell's Hotel in June 1985. (This is his 11th trial for his political views since 1980).

Also standing by every word in the indictment against Sarac are two London-based Turkish exiles, Adnan Bucak (chairperson of the Turkish section of the British Labour Party in Islington) and Dr

Bedir Aydemir (a founder member of the Turkish Peace Association and a leading member of the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey), both of whom spoke at the Dublin meeting with Sarac (see AP/RN, June 13th 1985).

The meeting, which was hosted by the Irish Distributive & Administrative Trade Union, was held to form an Irish branch of the CDDRT and Sarac is now facing five years' imprisonment for his speech which detailed life in Turkey under the military junta and called for greater democracy there.

DEFIANT

Sarac, formerly president of YÖİS, the roadworkers' union, and vice-president of the Party of Social Democracy (which has now merged with the Populist Party) to form the Social Democratic Populist Party, told the State Security Court on May 15th that his Dublin speech was no different from many he had given in Turkey. He defiantly stated:

● Muzaffer Sarac

"This trial is yet further evidence of the Turkish regime's attempts to intimidate its political opponents and — at a time when it is trying to develop close relations with member states of the EEC — prevent international public opinion becoming aware of the real situation in Turkey."

● The CDDRT has issued an appeal for all political, trade union and progressive organisations to lobby support for Sarac. The CDDRT can be contacted at 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin (phone 746321); or 129 Newington Green Road, London N1 (phone 226 2688).

Aranmbóthar don teanga

LE CIAN Mac AOIDH

PHILL foireann an nuachtáin laethúil, *Lá*, ar Bhéal Feirste an tsachtain seo i ndiaidh rothaíocht mhór thart ar Éirinn a shaothraigh roinnt míle punt don fhoilseachán Gaeilge agus a chuir ceist na teanga sna sé chontae i mbéal an phobail.

Chinn Gearóid Ó Cairealláin agus Eoghan Ó Néill ar an astair neamhghnách mar iarracht le airgead a thógáil don pháipear. Ar an rothaíocht bhuail siad le muintir na Gaeilge in achan chontae agus

bhailigh siad airgead urraíochta. I Muineachán, i bhFear Manach agus i nDoire shocair ionadaíthe tofa Shinn Féin fáilúití oigigiúil don bheirt díograiseoir.

Tá súil ag foireann *La* tabhairt faoi fhoilsiú an nuachtáin arís eile is iad arais sa bhaile. Is cinnte mar sin féin go mbeid cinneadh Oifig Thuaisceart Éireann le deontais a tharraingt siar ón scéim de bhri go bhfuil siad lonnaithe sa (Sean-Mhuileann, Béal Feirste, ag cur as go mór dóibh ar fad.

GAELTIONÓL

Rinneadh dul chun cinn don Ghaeilge ag deireadh na seachtaine fosta ag Gaeltionól

dha le a d'agraigh Cumann Gaelach Leath Chathail i nDún Pádraig. Chomh maith le léachtaí agus díospóireachtaí tá staid na teanga sna sé chontae le bhí turas stairiúil agus ocaidí soisialta eagraithe don 100 Gaelgeoir a bhí i lathair.

D'fhreastail Pádraig Ó Maolchraoibhe, comhairleoir de chuid Sinn Féin i Lios na Gcearbhach, ar oscailt an Ghaeltionóil Dé hAoine 22 Bealtaine. Dé Sathairn tugadh léacht ar obair na gearbhachais is na geum agus rinneadh tagairt don líon mhór ranganna atá ag Sinn Féin i mBéal Feirste agus dáir bhfoilseachán Ghaeilge *Saoirse* agus *Nuacht Feirste*.

Every picture

MY ADMIRATION of the IRA's sophistication has increased immeasurably following revelations in last Friday's *Daily Telegraph* about the recent Beit art robbery.

"It is not generally known," reports the *Peterborough* column in the Thatcherite organ, "that the IRA, unlike the smaller breakaway INLA, has an Art Historians' Section, part of the Education & Welfare Branch of the IRA General Staff..."

"They [the Beit paintings] may have been taken again not so much in the hope of a ransom as for further study and reproduction for educational purposes."

"The IRA art historians are known to be particularly interested in Vermeer, whose *Lady Writing a Letter* is among the pictures stolen."

"There may be pressure from the Psychological Warfare Branch of the IRA General Staff to have this picture altered so as to incorporate an IRA propaganda message. But the art historians, who take their work very seriously indeed, will resist this most vigorously."

"Further developments should be interesting."

★★★★

COULD the arrest in Dun Laoghaire on Monday, May 26th, of Dublin Sinn Féin's education officer, Michael O Muireagain, and fellow ex-Portlaoise POW Philip 'Flair' Campbell be one of these interesting further developments?

★★★★

ANOTHER fine example of the impartiality of the law, post-Hillsborough agreement, was seen at Armagh Magistrates' Court last week when UDR man Paul Cooke of Steeple Road, Antrim, received a savage 12 months conditional discharge.

Cooke had smashed his rifle butt into the face of Middleton farmer Pearce Conville, breaking his cheek bone, during an incident outside the local RUC barracks.

The resident magistrate, while accepting that Cooke "had used excessive force", expressed concern that the sentence "would not have an adverse effect on his career."

The UDR man had claimed that he had "merely pushed" the farmer. I suppose that if he had merely fired a warning shot in the air he could have blown the man's head off!

Come to think of it, that probably wouldn't affect his career prospects either.

★★★★

AND THEN there's the case of law-and-order duo Brown and Bacciochi.

Omagh UDR men Ian Spencer Brown and Dean

the flying column



● Members of the Art Historians' Section appreciating the finer details of Goya's portrait of Doña Antonia Zarate in the library of Russborough, home of Sir Alfred and Lady Beit in Blessington, County Wicklow — the house is only open by special arrangement to cultural societies

Edgar Bacciochi, who operate out of St Lucia B barracks, were apprehended recently in possession of a loaded shotgun in suspicious circumstances at Ballinamullan Road in the town.

No doubt they too will suffer the full rigours of the law.

★★★★

HOT on the heels of last week's *Flying Column* report of the dirty deeds of a Conservative councillor and his wife who were given suspended sentences and fined for running a brothel in the English Midlands comes word of another Tory cashing in on customers' sexual frolics.

Gloucester Conservative Party Councillor Tony Phillips is facing Labour Party calls for his Brunel's

Wine Bar to be closed down after a recent show at the bar included two naked girls using whips and allegedly performing a sexual act with a member of the all-male audience.

Is this what Mrs Thatcher meant by seeking a return to "Victorian values"?

★★★★

REMEMBER the shooting incident last August when a British soldier fired two shots into a crowded CIE bus which had been stopped at a Brit roadblock on the Newry/Omeath road near the County Louth border?

Two high-velocity shots smashed through a side window, narrowly missing the conductor, Sean O'Reilly, and injuring two children with flying glass.

The Director of Pub-

lic Prosecutions in the North has decided, in his infinite wisdom, that the soldier involved should not face any charges.

Surprise, surprise.

SHORTLY before 1am on May 5th 1985, people ran for cover as a Belfast man, Owen Seenan (23), opened fire indiscriminately with his rifle at passers-by.

During several bursts of gunfire, one flimsy prefabricated home was shot three times, and a 29-year-old father-of-three who was on his way to buy milk was wounded by a single bullet which punctured his lung. He was detained in hospital in intensive care for several days.

Had Seenan been a nationalist, with no evidence against him except some-

one's paid word, he could have expected life imprisonment.

But Seenan is not, and he opened fire on nationalists in the Jamaica Street area of Ardoyne. An attempted murder charge was withdrawn and at the Diplock trial last Thursday, Seenan pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of 'malicious wounding' and was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

This followed helpful words from an RUC inspector who described the vicious sectarian attack as "bravado", not "malice". And loyalist Judge Peter Gibson, notorious for his praise of the RUC's shooting of unarmed IRA Volunteers, was helpful too. Three years was "the least sentence I can properly pass", Gibson apologised to his fellow loyalist.

★★★★

PARENTS of pupils at Deramore High School, Belfast, have threatened to keep their little darlings at home because the teacher of the Home Economics Class (cookery to you) refused to allow a boy to wear a Union Jack apron.

A 'Butcher's Apron' apron?

★★★★

RUC MAN Lawrence Smyth, who was killed last week in the IRA bomb blast in South Armagh, had left instructions that, in the event of his death, all his possessions were to go to Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

One can't help but wonder what use Smyth thought Mother Teresa could have for his plastic bullet gun, his Hoekler & Koch automatic rifle and his .357 Magnum revolver.

THE LADS of the 2nd



Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment, are a bit upset following the loss of one of their colleagues, Major Andrew French, in an IRA bomb attack near Crossmaglen last week, so the *Flying Column* would like to give a few of them a personal mention just to let them know we're interested in how they're all getting on.

We'd like to say hello to Fermanagh-based Leicestershire lads Privates Paul Joyce (Wigston Magna), Trevor Booth (Melton), Andrew Holders (Loughborough), Martin Hall (Barwell), David Kyffin (Markfield), Kevin Stanton (Beaumont Leys), Adam Shaw (Billesdon), Lance-Corporal Vernon Doucet (Leicester), and Corporal Paul Ford (also from Leicester).

And let's not forget the 2nd Battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Peregrine Rawlings, who, prior to last week's IRA attack, didn't expect morale to be a problem for the short time his men are here.

★★★★

LAST WEEK'S *Leitrim Observer* carried a report of a Leitrim ICA meeting where a Mrs Helen Flynn spoke of "the dangers of using coloured toilet tissue" but doesn't say what these horrific dangers actually are.

I think we should be told the awful truth immediately so that we can get to the bottom of all this.

★★★★

DASTARDLY deeds in Dungannon earlier this month. A Dungannon court heard how local man Patrick J. Cassidy was stopped by three car-loads of RUC men. One of them, named Black, snatched a newspaper from PJ's pocket, tore it into pieces and threw it into a pool of water. PJ was then punched and bated, and dragged off to the local barracks.

RUC man Black, however, denied vandalising the paper, saying it "appeared to fall to the ground".

Happily, the charges against PJ of assaulting the RUC were dismissed, but our readers will be horrified to learn that the newspaper which provoked the wee b... sorry... Constable Black's fury was none other than our own illustrious organ, *An Phoblacht/Republican News*.

Tut, tut, tut.

★★★★

POSTMASTER William Davidson is operating a nice little sideline in loyalist paraphernalia over the counter of his post office in Church Square, Banbridge.

If you've a mind to, not only can you buy a postal order there but also a sash from the Orange Order. And the *Flying Column's* sources report that Billy's emporium is doing a brisk trade in loyalist 'Ulster' flags at £3.95 each.

Does this sort of business have the stamp of approval of the Post Office?