

AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS will not be published next week, Thursday, July 10th, to allow holidays for our production staff.

We will be back as usual on Thursday, July 17th.

The paper's offices in Belfast and Dublin will, however, be open throughout the period.

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UDR PUPPETS JAILED -leaders still free

FOUR UDR SOLDIERS who were sentenced on Tuesday to life imprisonment for the sectarian murder on November 8th 1983 of Armagh man Adrian Carroll were merely "puppets", the mother of the murder victim, Teresa Carroll, told reporters outside Belfast Crown Court.

In the North's Diplock courts, heavy recommended sentences of not less than 20, and even up to 30 years are routinely imposed on republicans. A naive onlooker might thus have expected that four members of the crown forces, convicted of carrying out a carefully planned and ruthless sectarian murder while officially on duty, would have received similar sentences.

However, Judge Basil Kelly, a former unionist MP and Orangeman, declined to set minimum sentences for the four UDR men. They will doubtless be expecting to regain their freedom in a relatively short time.

MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

Teresa Carroll was joined by another son, Sinn Féin Councillor Tommy Carroll, in pointing out that the trial had raised more questions than answers. Tommy Carroll said:

"UDR privates and a lance-corporal were the ones to find themselves charged, yet it would have been absolutely impossible for these men to have carried out the attack



● ADRIAN CARROLL

without the full knowledge — and possibly with the complicity — of senior officers."

Calling for a "full and public explanation" of the role played by the RUC in the affair, Carroll added:

"The duty rota of the UDR patrol was changed by the RUC on the morning of the shooting and it was this that manoeuvred the UDR



● Sinn Féin Councillor Tommy Carroll and Mrs Teresa Carroll, Adrian's brother and mother

into the position where they were able to carry out the crime."

In court on Tuesday, a defence lawyer observed that the "mastermind" behind the murder was not before the court and said he believed that "two of the witnesses

were members of an organisation that would make it dangerous not to obey their instructions."

However, this reference to the links of serving UDR members with loyalist paramilitary groups was a can of worms which, predictably,

Judge Kelly chose to gloss over. In his judgement, he acknowledged only that other members of the UDR, in giving their evidence, had got together to "distort the true events" in order to help the accused.

Yet another cover-up.

Election funds recovered

SINN FEIN has recovered substantial election funds which were seized by the gardai in a Dublin city centre street more than four years ago.

In the Dublin Circuit Court on Wednesday, Judge Hanrahan ordered the Dublin government's state solicitor to return more than £70,000 to Sinn Féin treasurer Joe Cahill.

This money included the original sum of £57,000 seized by

Garda Special Branch detectives from Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member Ted Howell in April 1982, plus the interest which had accumulated since then.

In the course of protracted legal proceedings, the court was told that the money had been donated to Sinn Féin by American supporters to help offset the financial debt facing the party after a series of election campaigns in the six and twenty-six counties.



● JOE CAHILL

OPINION

Conspiracy against the innocent

IN THE AUTUMN of 1974, bombs exploded in pubs in Guildford and Woolwich in England. A year later, four completely innocent people were convicted at the Old Bailey in London and imprisoned for life for planting the bombs.

An IRA unit captured at the Balcombe Street siege in 1976 admitted at their trial that they were responsible for the bombings and that Paul Hill, Patrick Armstrong, Gerard Conlon and Carole Richardson were innocent victims, framed by the Special Branch.

On Tuesday, July 1st, *First Tuesday* (ITV) retold the story of the Guildford Four and the extraordinary conspiracy of British police, judiciary and press which secured their convictions as the scapegoats demanded in the anti-Irish hysteria of the mid-70s.

The only 'evidence' on which the convictions were based were 'confessions' which were forced out of them by the police. In these statements there were no facts not known to the police from their own investigations. The confessions contradicted each other and, in at least one case (that of Carole Richardson), there was a cast-iron alibi for the evening of the bombing.

Richardson was at a concert that night with friends who testified to such in court. This alibi was rejected in favour of the extraordinary scenario presented by the prosecution in which Richardson was supposed to have met friends before the concert, sped across London to plant the bombs and sped back just in time for the start of the concert.

In her police-dictated statement, Richardson actually 'admitted' planting the two bombs. Because this was completely out of the question, given the time-scale involved, the judge at the Old Bailey asked the jury to ignore it and take it that she only planted one bomb.

Frank Johnston, a friend of Carole Richardson, remembered that he had been with her in a pub before the concert and he went to the police with his evidence, confident that she would be vindicated. The police then arrested and interrogated him.

They forced him to make a statement changing his evidence to suit the prosecution case. Johnston later withdrew this and stuck to his original account at the trial, but the police had succeeded in creating the impression that he was not without guilt. His evidence was rejected.

The Guildford Four received the largest sentences in British legal history.

Only weeks after their trial, the Balcombe Street siege occurred and the three IRA Volunteers captured there, admitted responsibility for the Guildford and Woolwich bombings.

Later, the four — Joe O'Connell, Eddie Butler, Harry Duggan and Brendan Dowd — were interviewed by Alasdair Logan, counsel for the innocent Guildford Four. Logan said that they gave him clear, consistent and coherent accounts of their part in the bombing.

In 1977, the appeal of the Guildford Four, based on the admissions of the members of the IRA unit, was heard and dismissed. The judges now accepted that Dowd and O'Connell were at Guildford but with the Guildford Four, even though this turned the original trial evidence upside down.

In all, 16 innocent people were conspired against and given savage prison sentences by the British state between 1974 and 1976. They include the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six, the Maguire family and friends and Judith Ward who is still imprisoned, serving 30 years for the M62 coach bombing.

Once again, we repeat that the innocent victims should be released immediately and without condition. The conspiracy against them is part of the wider British conspiracy against the Irish people which can only be ended when national liberation is secured.



• The wreckage of the booby-trapped vehicle in Drumanes, County Down

UDR MAN KILLED

A UDR SOLDIER was killed instantly when a booby-trap bomb exploded in his car early on Tuesday morning, July 1st.

The soldier, who lived at Comber Road in the County Down village of Drumanes, had returned home at 3am after finishing duty at the nearby Ballykinlar UDR Camp. Between then and 7.30am, when the soldier set out for work at a factory in Ballynahinch, IRA Volunteers placed a small booby-trap under the soldier's red Ford Fiesta.

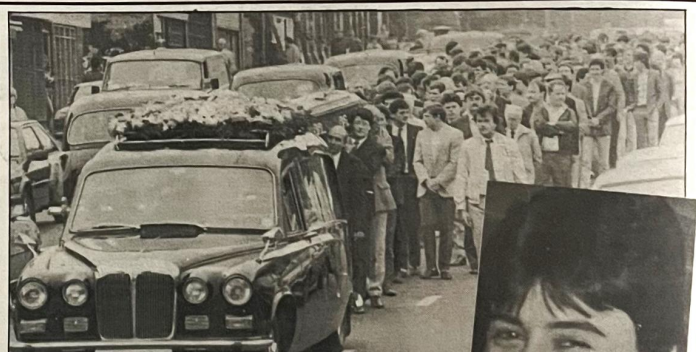
When the man got into his car, the bomb detonated, scattering pieces of wreckage over a wide area. No-one else was injured in the attack.

BELFAST SNIPE

IRA Volunteers in Belfast fired a single shot at British soldiers on Thursday morning, June 19th. Using a high-velocity rifle, an



IRA Volunteer fired one shot from a house in Waterford Gardens at British soldiers outside Springfield Road Barracks in West Belfast.



Volunteer buried

THE SUDDEN DEATH on Wednesday, June 25th, of IRA Volunteer Brian 'Big Dipper' Dempsey stunned his many friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

Brian, aged 25, was killed when the car in which he was a passenger was in collision with an articulated lorry outside Omagh in County Tyrone.

Although only 25, 'Big Dipper' had been involved with the Republican Movement for over 11 years. At around the age of 14 he joined Fianna Eireann and was very active. His comrades during those years before he joined the IRA remember him as an energetic, committed youth, always eager to do whatever he could to further the republican

struggle. His leadership abilities were quickly recognised and he became a member of the Battalion staff.

PROMINENT ROLE

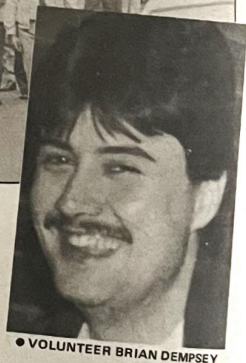
As soon as he was old enough, 'Big Dipper' joined the IRA, where his many qualities ensured for him a prominent role in the armed struggle. For a short period in the late '70s he was forced to go 'on the run'. However, he spent those months on active service along the border. On his return to Belfast he was

arrested and briefly held on remand on arms charges.

He was always very conscious of his own security and that of his comrades; consequently, many of his friends remained unaware of his republican activities.

Respecting the wishes of the Dempsey family, Brian's funeral on Friday morning, June 27th, was private. However, many hundreds of his friends walked with his family to the graveside in Belfast's City Cemetery.

The Republican Movement extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Brian 'Big Dipper' Dempsey.



• VOLUNTEER BRIAN DEMPSEY

BY JANE PLUNKETT

IMAGE-CONSCIOUS UNIONISTS have recently been working flat out to improve their disastrous international credibility (Official Unionists Harold McCusker and Ken Maginnis and the DUP's Jim Allister returned last week from the latest loyalist mission to the United States) and, in the months to come, unionist politicians can be expected to point interminably to the South's constitutional ban on divorce and to hypocritically claim Protestant 'freedom of conscience' as a rationale for preserving the six-county status quo.

The Northern statelet has, from its very beginning, been reactionary and theocratic. Unionist politicians have consistently opposed civil liberation reforms (for example, DUP leader Ian Paisley's 'Save Ulster from Sodomy' campaign which for years blocked the decriminalisation of homosexuality) and in no way could be termed advocates of divorce. Even the DUP's Sammy Wilson, who is separated, frowned upon by fundamentalists, who must be profoundly uneasy at his current prominence as Belfast's lord mayor.

HELPFULLY

Most helpfully in the short-term, the referendum 'no' vote has been used by both the OUP and DUP leaders to claim that the Hillsborough Deal is faltering.

At his party's weekly press conference on Monday, OUP leader James Molyneux claimed that, had the vote been 'yes', FitzGerald would have held a second referendum to 'dilute' Articles 2 and 3 of the Free State Constitution to express no more than an "aspiration" for Irish unity.

Alleging the existence of a "secret clause" in the Hillsborough Deal, Molyneux said that this "dilution" was part of an "instalment package" by the Free State government in exchange for British concessions, and quoted remarks by Conservative Party chairperson Norman Tebbit in support of his claims.

Last Thursday's 'no' vote proved that FitzGerald could not deliver, said the OUP leader, and made the agreement "null and void".

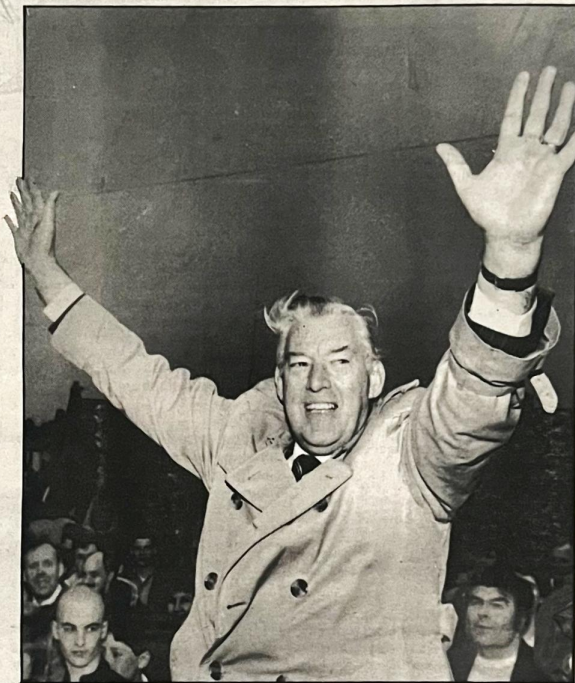
SIGNIFICANT

Molyneux's claims (which were repeated on Tuesday by the DUP leader) are significant, since the failure of both Tebbit and the Free State and British governments to deny them gives support to the republican analysis that the aim of the Hillsborough Deal was not Irish reunification, but rather to copper-fasten partition.

Molyneux's remarks prove that, despite all the rhetoric, the unionist leadership simply does not believe that the North is about to be pushed into a united Ireland by the Hillsborough Deal.

Their anger is simply a reminder that, as in the days of Sunningdale, they will use violence and the threat of violence to resist any dilution of their privileged position.

Paisley off the hook



uneasy too at the DUP's proposed 'alternative' Assembly in Belfast City Hall, OUP deputy leader Harold McCusker threatened an OUP split on Monday. After weekend appeals by Portadown Orangemen calling on rank-and-file members to attend a Twelfth march in Portadown, McCusker, the local MP, hinted that any repeat of last July's violent loyalist attacks on the RUC would lead to "divisions" and possible "defeat" for the campaign against the London-Dublin Deal.

The next day, Tuesday, just one week after his 'mobilisation' rantings, Paisley proclaimed that the civil war threat "had receded".

"The referendum has brought us back from the brink."

The referendum, in other words, has let Paisley off the hook and has given both unionist parties (still worried that their rent-and-rates 'strike' and other protests are a non-event), a breathing space in which to search round for an agreed strategy.

'CONCESSIONS'

Contrary to Molyneux's optimistic pronouncements, the British government has shown no sign yet of jettisoning the London-Dublin Deal and, after months of increased collaboration by Dublin, the British have announced two minor 'concessions': plans to remove I-voter restrictions, and Tuesday's news of a pitiful £76,000 extra funding to the chronically underfunded Fair Employment Agency. Extra funds to the FEA are, in any case, irrelevant without an upturn in employment.

The SDLP, meanwhile, has kept silent over the failure of unionist Judge Basil Kelly to stipulate minimum sentences for four UDR men convicted of the murder of Armagh nationalist Adrian Carroll. This event hardly supported SDLP hints that the British are about to reform the UDR and the North's colonial court system.

The SDLP will have been more pleased by public revelations that they have launched a postal appeal for £40,000, allegedly needed, in part, to repair the party's HQ. This 'hard-times' image is presumably intended to divert attention away from the money the SDLP has received from the CIA-linked National Democratic Institute in the US, whose total is up at 80,000 dollars already.

SUPREMATIST

It seems, at any rate, that unionists generally are not preparing for imminent civil war. But Northern nationalists can still expect the usual supremacist Orange displays over the coming Twelfth period.

The physical attacks on innocent nationalists, the usual attacks on nationalists' homes and property, have already begun.

Extradition threat looms

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

BRENDAN MCFARLANE AND GERRY KELLY now face an increased threat of extradition from the Netherlands to the six counties following a decision by the Dutch Supreme Court this week. The two H-Block escapees are still fighting extradition and their fate will be decided after another hearing in September.

The Dutch Supreme Court, on Tuesday, July 1st, over-turned an earlier decision by Amsterdam District Court which would have prevented the extradition of the two men. The District Court had recognised that the offences for which the British government is seeking the extraditions were

political and thus precluded Kelly and McFarlane being handed over to the British. On Tuesday, however, the Supreme Court ruled that the lower court had erred and that the offences were not political.

SURPRISE

Defence counsel for the

two republicans expressed surprise at the court's ruling which returned to an earlier law, the 1875 Extradition Act. This has a narrower definition of political offences than the 1967 Act. In effect it means that only 'direct' political acts (such as the assassination of a head of state) can be considered political for the purposes of extradition. The Supreme Court attempted to narrow down the definition of political offences, excluding offences connected with political offences and, most significantly, the motivation of the alleged

offender. Its decision is similar to that of the Free State Supreme Court which led to the extradition of Dominic McGlinchey.

Before making its final recommendations, the Netherlands court will take evidence from McFarlane and Kelly on September 10th. If that appeal fails then the two will have one last chance by arguing their case before the Dutch Justice Minister.

PETITION

Another petition, signed by over 300 legal, academic and other prominent individ-



● GERRY KELLY



● BRENDAN MCFARLANE

uals from several countries and opposing the threatened extraditions, was presented to the prime minister of the Netherlands before Tuesday's hearing. The case continues to attract international attention to the issue of the extradition of freedom fighters and to the Irish struggle.

RVH strike settled

BY DONAL LYONS

UNION LEADERS have welcomed the settlement of the two-month old drivers' dispute at the Royal Victoria Hospital following a meeting with Eastern Health Board officials in Belfast on Wednesday, July 2nd.

A compromise was hammered out last week between the Board of management and ICTU officials on behalf of the 24 striking drivers. However, at the last minute, hopes of a settlement were dashed when RVH unit manager Sam Hazlett introduced a second document on working arrangements to be implemented after the strike ends. These terms, which union officials viewed as placing unacceptable conditions over and above those agreed with the board, were described by NUPE regional organiser Inez McCormack as a move to "ensure there is no resolution to this dispute". But on Wednesday, the union demanded, and got, the withdrawal of the second document in order to concentrate on the central issue of settling the strike and resuming normal services at the hospital.

Last week, the Labour Relations Agency, acting as arbitrator, sponsored a three-member committee of inquiry which will examine the causes and circumstances behind the strike and make settlement recommendations. The inquiry meets in Belfast on July 10th/11th and the Labour Relations Agency has appealed to management and unions for a return to work pending the outcome of this investigation.

The planned strike for Thursday, June 26th, by 1,000 ITGWU members at Shannon Airport in support of striking cleaners was postponed to allow an intervention by the Rights Commissioner, Con Murphy, but his recommendations were rejected by the strikers on July 1st.

The sticking point is the introduction of two grades of pay (£143 and £116 per week). Until the Dublin-based Noonan Contract Cleaners Ltd (NCC) won the contract earlier this year, all cleaners received the same rate £141. NCC claim that there are two types of duties performed — 'heavy' and 'light' — a claim the strikers reject. As we go to press, a series of union meetings are in progress at Shannon to decide on future action.

By an eight to one majority, members of the FWUI's No.15 branch in Trinity College Dublin have voted to take some form of industrial action if South Africans participate in the World Computer



●Sinn Féin picket at the Royal Victoria Hospital in protest at the health cuts

Conference to take place there in September.

The branch has requested their national executive committee to give official sanction for strike action, and the Communications Union of Ireland, which represents telephone engineers and technicians, has announced that their members will not service the conference if the South Africans are present. The CUI decision will mean that the conference will not have a telephone service or data circuits.

On Saturday, June 28th, Dunnes Stores striker Mary Manning addressed London's biggest-ever anti-apartheid rally. Over 250,000 people heard Manning describe the marathon strike against South African people and her call for British workers to follow suit.

The general secretary of the 12,000-strong Postal & Telecommunications Workers Union, David Begg, this week warned of a "major industrial row" in An Post this autumn. Begg claims he is coming under increasing pressure from his low paid membership to secure a significant improvement of pay and conditions.

A recent survey carried out by the union reveals that the average take-home pay of a postal worker is £130 — £40 behind the average industrial wage. Begg also accuses the management of

An Post of adopting an "ostrich-like approach" to the problem.

Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Gerry McGuigan addressed a conference of Scottish trade unionists in Glasgow on Saturday, June 28th. The conference — attended by teachers, council workers, miners, Labour Party members and other trade unionists — centred on how best to raise the issue of the Irish national struggle in Britain.

Matterson's, the Limerick food-processing firm founded in 1816, is to close with the loss of 75 jobs.

Since Wednesday, May 28th, the company has been strike-bound in a dispute over redundancy terms.

The local branch of the ITGWU accuses the Irish Sugar Company (of which Matterson's is a subsidiary) of "inaction" and of "making no attempt to safeguard jobs".

Also in the Limerick area, a further 18 jobs have gone as the Shannon-based Foster, Wheeler & Kileen closes. The company was established in 1982 with assistance from Shannon Development and was engaged in the manufacture of high-pressure steam generators.

A major row has blown up between the Dublin Minister for Communications,

Jim Mitchell, and the Aer Lingus trade unions' Central Representative Council.

The council has described as "cynical" the appointment of a stockbroking group as ministerial advisers on Aer Lingus fleet replacement requirements. The unions believe that the appointment of National & City Brokers Ireland Ltd is aimed at ensuring that a report would be produced that would support the minister's long-standing aim of privatising Aer Lingus.

The unions also allege that Aer Lingus is being used as a pawn in a "much bigger game" of privatising state companies in line with "Thatcherite economic policies".

Some stark findings have emerged in the Youth Employment Agency report, *The Young Long-term Unemployed*.

In 1985, the under-25s made up 20% of the long-term unemployed, compared with 12% in 1980. Meanwhile, the number of young people registered as unemployed for over a year rose from 3,800 to 16,300 during the same period — a four-fold increase.

Strike notice, served on Bord na gCon by the Marine Port & General Workers' Union and due to take effect from Monday, June 30th, was extended by the union to allow a Labour Court conciliation conference to take place today (Thursday, July 3rd).

If the strike goes ahead, it will close nine major greyhound tracks including those in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. The dispute centres on a regrading claim for race managers, stipendiary stewards (wages clerks) and control stewards.

Take-home pay-packets in the twenty-six counties are smaller than in 12 other countries surveyed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development. In a survey of 21 countries, Ireland comes 13th in a list headed by Japan.

The seven-week strike by 1,500 Ulsterbus and Citybus drivers in the North ended on Sunday, June 29th, when drivers voted to accept an increased pay offer of 5.4% — a settlement which had been reached the previous Friday.

The campaign of industrial action by the drivers had included a complete stoppage of Friday services and a ban on overtime duties.

The chairperson of the Ulsterbus branch of the Transport & General Workers' Union, David Glover, hoped they could have achieved more but they had to be realistic about the situation.



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Gardaí aid Brit spy-posts

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

EVIDENCE of increasing cross-border collaboration between the British crown forces and Free State gardaí since the Hillsborough Agreement was clearly demonstrated last week during a massive joint operation to erect permanent observation posts in South Armagh.

Over a three-day period from Wednesday, June 25th, to Saturday 28th, roads, fields and hedgerows leading to Crossmaglen and the surrounding townlands were saturated with hundreds of British soldiers and machinery while the gardaí set up roadchecks and diverted traffic from the area.

Local people were constantly stopped and delayed throughout the operation.

SECTION 19

Under Section 19 of the Emergency Provisions Act, which allows the crown forces to "seize land or any other property, to destroy property, close down roads or restrict the right of way", over 300 acres of land was commandeered for the operation, causing massive disruption to local farmers and the community in general.

Farmer Owen Carraher, from Mobane, Crossmaglen — whose high ground overlooked the site

of two posts on land belonging to his neighbour Nicholas Agnew — was outraged at the extent of damage caused to his six-acre silage crop of barley and oats. He told AP/RN:

"They dug seven trenches up to chest-high in the field and ruined a lot of the crop. We're after spending weeks gathering up stones and making the ground level so the contractor can cut it. They'll not want to cut it now with all the stones thrown about all over the place by the Brits. Apart from what it cost to put down the crop, I estimate there's a thousand pounds worth of damage, never mind the fence they trampled through between the fields."

Across the road, Carraher's neighbour also had hundreds of pounds worth of damage caused by deep trenches in his hay crop.

HORRIFIED

Several hundred yards down the main Crossmaglen/Dundalk



● British army observation posts at Drumucknavall, Crossmaglen

Road, at Drumucknavall, Nicholas Agnew is horrified at the building of two permanent British army observation posts on a hill only yards away from his home. When he attempted to approach the posts on Saturday morning, shortly after the withdrawal of most of the British soldiers, he was threatened "Don't come any further or you're looking for trouble." Agnew who farms a small holding, told AP/RN:

"I feel very bad about it. We need every bit of land we have to make a living and we depend on that land for grazing. Now it's

lost. I wouldn't let the cattle onto it now. It's dangerous. I've lost those six acres."

Agnew and his wife feel very intimidated by the close proximity of the posts, situated virtually in their backyard: "They've been down around the house every night, looking through the windows."

Three other permanent posts were constructed on high ground on farmland at Crev Keeran, on the Cullaville side of Crossmaglen, which brings the number of posts situated in and around Forkhill, Jonesborough, Drumin-

tee, Crossmaglen and Camlough to 20.

Local Sinn Féin Councillor Jim McAllister described last week's events as "another example of the so-called 'gains' of the Hillsborough Agreement".

"It is also ludicrous of Seamus Mallon of the SDLP to talk of approaching Peter Barry on this issue. The heavy involvement of Free State forces acting in collusion with the British army is undeniable proof not only of Barry's foreknowledge but of his approval of increased border surveillance."



Amnesty investigates RUC and UDR

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

REPRESENTATIVES of Amnesty International are to investigate RUC and UDR harassment of an Armagh man who last week was arrested for the 20th time in six years under Section 12 of the Emergency Provisions Act.

Stephen Gartland (23) from the city's Callanbridge Park area has served the equivalent of a 12-month jail-term due to continuously being detained for periods ranging from six to 1½ days.

RECORD

Gartland's wife, Elizabeth, kept a complete record of her husband's detention periods, the latest of which was on Tuesday, June 24th, when their home was raided at 7.15am. Gartland was taken to the local Gough Barracks Interrogation Centre where, he told AP/RN, "An RUC man pulled out a roll of money and asked

me to work for them". When he refused to co-operate the RUC told him he would be dead "before the year was out".

Amnesty International investigators Halva Gowan, from the Ukraine, and Hanna Kolff, from the Netherlands, were alerted about Gartland's arrest and past history that same day by local Sinn Féin Councillor Tommy Carroll. The women immediately contacted the RUC and, the following day, Gartland observed that interrogations became fewer and shorter. He was subsequently released on Wednesday night at 10.10pm.

In the past, Gartland has been subjected to physical abuse during interrogations, as in January when he was slapped about the face, punched in the chest and had his hair pulled. Elizabeth Gartland has also suffered abuse in the street from the crown forces and the family are pestered at home with RUC cars regularly sitting outside the front door.

A terrifying ordeal

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

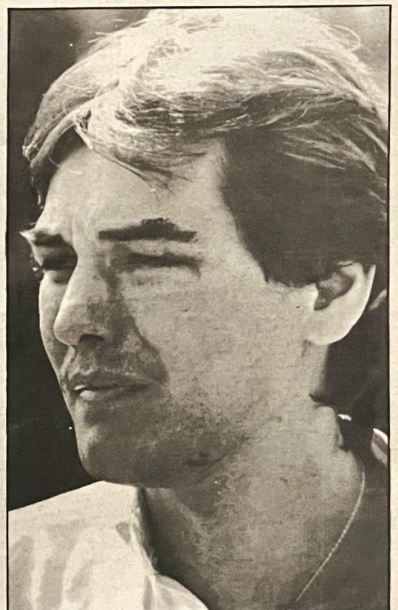
A YOUNG Derry man underwent a terrifying ordeal in the early hours of Sunday morning, June 29th, when he was arrested by the RUC and subjected to a severe beating.

Christopher Campbell (22), from Rinmore Drive in the Creggan, was walking along Westway at 1.30am when a Land Rover stopped beside him and several RUC men jumped out and began questioning him. One RUC man caught Campbell round the neck almost choking him, and he was dragged to the Land Rover.

As soon as the RUC got Campbell into the Land Rover they began a ferocious assault on him, kicking and punching him. The attacks were resumed inside Strand Road RUC Barracks, leaving Campbell badly bruised.

Before he was released at 11.30am on Sunday morning, he was charged with disorderly behaviour and told by the desk sergeant: "There's no point in complaining about your injuries."

Campbell had to go to Altnagelvin Hospital later



● CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL

that day (the RUC had refused to get him a doctor) ious internal injuries, including a severed nerve in his neck.

Defeat for divorce

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

BY A LARGE MAJORITY, the proposal to amend the Constitution of the twenty-six counties to allow divorce and re-marriage was defeated at the polls on Thursday, June 26th.

The massive 'no' vote represented a major setback for those who have been campaigning for the right to divorce for years before the amendment was finally proposed by the Fine Gael/Labour Coalition. The result showed a sharp urban/rural division and also the extent to which the twenty-six-county Catholic ethos remains entrenched after decades of its promotion by the Free State establishment and the Catholic hierarchy.

Only six out of 41 constituencies had 'yes' majorities and all of these were in Dublin. All rural constituencies had comprehensive majorities against divorce.

The campaign was probably the most hotly debated of any amendment to the Free State Constitution ever and the way the arguments on either side were presented had a high degree of influence on public opinion. Of particular importance was the propaganda campaign carried on by the anti-divorce lobby using such emotive slogans as "Divorce kills love", "Divorce will impoverish women", "Jobs not divorce", etc.

SPURIOUS CLAIMS

Many people — especially working-class people — were obviously

worried by the spurious claims of the 'no' campaigners that re-marriage would adversely affect the property rights and social welfare entitlements of 'first families'. The comparatively subtle opposition of the Catholic Church to the amendment had a very big influence on the outcome.

The actual foot-slogging and street campaigning was left to members of lay Catholic groups in the anti-divorce campaign. From pulpits and episcopal thrones, however, the Catholic laity was left in no doubt as to how the hierarchy wanted them to vote.

The most important political factor in the defeat of the referendum was the cynical and hypocritical stand of Fianna Fail.

Officially, as a party, they expressed no opinion on one side or the other, but their membership came out predominantly against the referendum.

For Fianna Fail it was not politically possible to launch an all-out campaign against the referendum, both because of members of their party who supported it and, more importantly, because such a campaign carried out for purely party political motives would have been viewed with cynicism by a significant

section of the electorate.

However, the party used the referendum and its outcome to embarrass the Coalition, regardless of the basic civil right they helped to deny to thousands of people.

WARPED MENTALITY

One of the lessons of the referendum was that the warped mentality fostered by partition and maintained through the years by the upholders of partition still holds sway in many parts of the

twenty-six counties.

After its meeting on Friday, June 27th, the Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle gave its reaction to the divorce referendum:

"Sinn Féin regrets that the result of the referendum has shown a 'no' vote against the proposal for the introduction of a limited form of divorce.

"It is obvious that this vote also reflects the effect of partition on people's thinking in the twenty-six counties. For decades a twenty-six-county ethos, over-

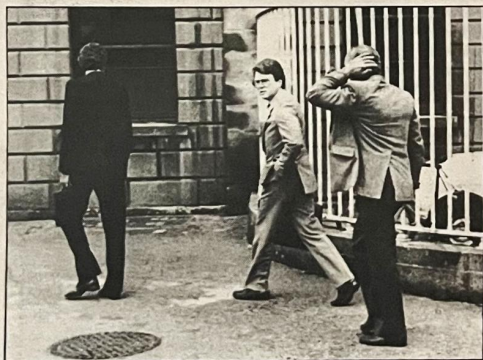
whelmingly Catholic, has been promoted as the nation state by politicians such as Garret FitzGerald despite the fact that the nation consists of a diverse thirty-two counties.

"Fianna Fail also stands indicted for its cowardly stance of having no direction.

"Sinn Féin believes that the vote would have been different if proposals for a pluralist society were clearly linked to a strategy for the reunification of Ireland and national reconciliation."



Demolish Buckingham Buildings



● Slum landlords Meagher (left) and O'Reilly (right)

A RECENT FIRE in Buckingham Buildings in Dublin's North Inner City has led to increasingly vocal calls from tenants for the closing of the flats complex and the rehousing of the people living there.

On Monday, June 30th, the owners of Buckingham Buildings, David Meagher and Vincent O'Reilly of Lanswick Properties, appeared in Dublin District Court where they were required to prove that the flats met fire-safety requirements. When tenants of the Buildings spoke up in court and told of the run-down state of their homes, the judge ordered a further inspection of the flats by Dublin Corporation.

FIRE REGULATIONS

The court case originally dealt only with the landlords' non-

compliance with fire regulations. They had carried out a hasty patch-up job the weekend before the hearing in order to comply with the regulations. Several of the tenants refused to allow the work to be done in their flats on the grounds that the basic structure was unsound.

On Monday, the Corporation and judge seemed ready to pass the buildings as safe — until the tenants described the dilapidation of the flats. In fact, the hearing had been brought forward to 11.30am from 2pm after the tenants had announced on Friday that they intended marching to

the court from Buckingham Buildings.

Another hearing will now take place on Wednesday, July 9th, when the judge will consider the results of a further inspection by the Corporation and the landlords' advisors.

The Buckingham tenants intend to hire their own architect to report to the court.

A video, *Would You Live Here?*, has also been made on the flats.

Following Monday's court case, Councillor Christy Burke said:

"Sinn Féin fully supports the tenants in their calls for the demolition of Buckingham Buildings. Patch-up jobs and legal wrangling are only prolonging the dangers to the people."

Farmers hit by flood

THE RECENT severe thunderstorms and heavy rainfall have caused flooding in several parts of the country. County Leitrim has been one of the worst-affected areas with extensive damage to roads and farmland.

At the meeting of County Leitrim's AODT committee this

week a Sinn Féin motion calling for immediate assistance to farmers who have suffered losses was

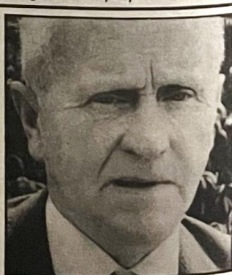
passed unanimously. The resolution proposed by Sinn Féin Councillor John Joe McGirl called on the Department of Agriculture in Dublin to carry

out an assessment of the flood damage with a view to giving financial assistance and also taking into account farmers' losses last year as a result of the fodder crisis.

The chairperson of Leitrim County Council, Mary Bohan, proposed that a telegram be sent

to the Minister for Agriculture, asking him to visit the county to inspect the damage at first hand.

Liam Erwin, of the Irish Farmers' Association, expressed total dissatisfaction to the committee at the state of farming in the county and said that every obstacle was being put in the way of struggling farmers by the Department of Agriculture. He said that where grants or other assistance might be forthcoming red tape was always there to ensure that it did not reach farmers' pockets.



● JOHN JOE MCGIRL

Brit dug-out exposed

A MAN in Roslea, County Fermanagh, who has been a constant victim of British army harassment has discovered a dug-out overlooking his house which has been used by the army to spy on him.

In the dug-out, Tom MacAloon found a cloth-covered can which had been used as a seat. He said the dug-out was "an ideal place for surveillance of my house". The dug-out was apparently last used on June 15th and the British army last visited the MacAloon home on Monday, June 23rd.

CATALOGUE OF HARASSMENT

MacAloon has been the victim of a catalogue of continuous harassment:

- In 1979 he and his friend were fired upon by the British army while out hunting.

- On another occasion he was arrested and released after two days after being threatened and told that his name would be leaked as an

informant.

- British soldiers have regularly circled the MacAloon home on foot, peering through the windows. They have wrecked a shed and a neighbour's fence during their unwelcome visits.

- The MacAloon family was terrorised when their house was searched one morning at 6.40 when Angela and her children were alone.

- The family was stopped coming from Lisnaskea by British soldiers one day. They body-searched MacAloon and wrecked the inside of his car.

- British soldiers also recently told Tom MacAloon:

"We missed you the last time but we'll get you one day."



● Tom MacAloon at the Brit dug-out in front of his home

House wrecked in raid

BY PAULINE MURRAY

IN A SERIES of dawn raids on nationalist homes in North Belfast, seven houses were searched, six people arrested and hundreds of pounds worth of damage caused.

Frank Johnston (53), from Brompton Park, Ardoyne, was awakened at 3.40am on Tuesday morning, July 1st, by the RUC and British army. Johnston and a friend were held in the kitchen while floorboards were lifted, and holes made in the walls. During a search of the attic, British soldiers smashed through floorboards, causing two large holes in the ceiling of the room underneath. A bath panel was pulled off and religious pictures taken out of their frames. A distressed John-

ston told AP/RN:

"You'd have thought a bomb hit the house. They hammered and chiselled from 3.40am to 10am."

CROWBARS

Meanwhile, 27-year-old Maureen O'Neill's house in St Gemma's Court, in the Bone area, was raided at 5am. Twelve RUC men searched the house and arrested Tony Hughes under Section 11 of the Emergency Provisions Act. Using crowbars, the fireplace and panels at the top of the stairs were

pulled out from the walls. When the RUC left, Maureen O'Neill discovered that £35 was missing from her purse.

Sinn Féin Councillor Gerard

McGuigan condemned Tuesday's raids as "a further example of the harassment nationalists are expected to endure on a regular basis. It is particularly to be

condemned considering the pressure under which nationalist communities in the north of the city have to live with during the marching season".



● Maureen O'Neill in her damaged home after the RUC raid

Tribute to Euskadi

IN A DIGNIFIED tribute to the Basque people of Euskadi and despite obstruction by the gardai, Sinn Féin held a ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin minutes after the king of Spain had departed.

The Sinn Féin members who carried the national flag of Euskadi and placards in Basque, Irish and English approached the Garden of Remembrance at 8.45 on Wednesday morning, July 2nd, 15 minutes before the Spanish king's arrival. Uniformed and Special Branch gardai blocked their way and prevented them from entering the garden until the king had left.

When the royal party and their Free State army guard had left, the Sinn Féin contingent entered and laid a wreath next to that laid by the Spanish king minutes earlier.

Lucilíta Bhreathnach, of the Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau in Dublin, laid the wreath, which bore

a tribute to all who have fought and died in the freedom struggle of the Basque people of Euskadi, in opposition to the Spanish state's occupation of Euskadi, and in solidarity with Basque political prisoners.

The simple ceremony was in stark contrast to the pomp of the earlier visit of Juan Carlos and his entourage and the fawning Peter Barry.

RECEPTION BOYCOTTED

On Monday, June 30th, Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke boycotted the official Dublin city reception for the king and queen in solidarity with the Basque people's struggle for self-determination.



PLAYING THE ACE CARD

IN A SINISTER STATEMENT on June 27th 1985, the then British Secretary of State in the North, Douglas Hurd, claimed that "some community groups or persons prominent in the direction or management of such [community] groups" had close links with "paramilitary organisations". Hurd offered no evidence, much less proof, for his assertions, but in the months since, a number of community groups in the North have been denied grants — without explanation — to which they were entitled.

Among the first groups hit by the Northern Ireland Office's political vetting was the Conway Street Develop-

ment Project, an ambitious job-creation and adult-education project in West Belfast.

From the outset, Fr Des Wilson, who is well-known internationally for his educational work and his criticisms of British actions in the North, was on the project's committee.

Des Wilson is also, of course, a founder of the Springhill Education Project (one of several bodies told they would be refused British government grants under the ACE scheme if they continued to work from Conway Street). In this article he outlines the history of ACE schemes in the North and explains the injustices caused by British political vetting.

WHEN the British government created the ACE (Action for Community Employment) scheme, it was said to be for a number of reasons: to give opportunity to people unemployed for at least a year to work at something, and to give community associations a chance to employ people where otherwise they would not have the funds to do so.

On the face of it, it seemed a reasonable scheme, until it appeared that in many such jobs training would be minimal, experience very little, and in many cases pay would be so small that the trade unions would soon be crying foul. The scheme turned out to be one more of those designed to reduce the unemployment figures while not actually increasing the amount of constructive work available.

But some community groups now found that they could afford workers — the government would pay roughly 90% of the wages, the remaining 10% would be found by the community associations. Whatever the social cost might be in the end, the immediate benefit to community associations was clear.

However, the temptations to abuse such a scheme were too many and too strong. By now, after a number of years of the ACE scheme, individuals and groups have benefitted who ought not to have qualified for such schemes at all. Churches have had their buildings renovated, golf and rugby clubs have got face-lifts, universities have enjoyed the luxury of work done at negligible cost.

FIDDLES

There have been fiddles too. Some groups, including some church groups, quietly made conditions when appointing workers. When one remembers that under this scheme, the applicant had to be at least one year unemployed, it is easy to understand why workers agreed. Conditions included employers holding back some

of the grant money for their own purposes. And, in some cases, jobs were not filled but invented.

In all probability, these were exceptions and, in general, employment at fairly low wages became available to people who otherwise would have had no paid work to do.

In some cases the government refused to grant ACE jobs to certain associations. In a predominantly Protestant district of Belfast, for example, such jobs were refused because, the organisers were told quite bluntly, "we don't like your politics." The community associations involved had been severely critical of unionist politicians. On the other hand, where such opinions were not expressed, government aid under the ACE scheme was made readily available to community groups where people involved had present or past associations with, for example, the Ulster Defence Association.

PARAMILITARY CRECHES?

In a few cases, the government refused aid on the grounds that the recipients "were a security risk". A creche, for example, in West Belfast was

refused help under the scheme because the Secretary of State said he had to be careful not to give credibility to paramilitary groups.

That he could have made such a preposterous ruling without being ridiculed and condemned by trade unions and churches is an indication of how weak and enmeshed these two bodies had become in the system.

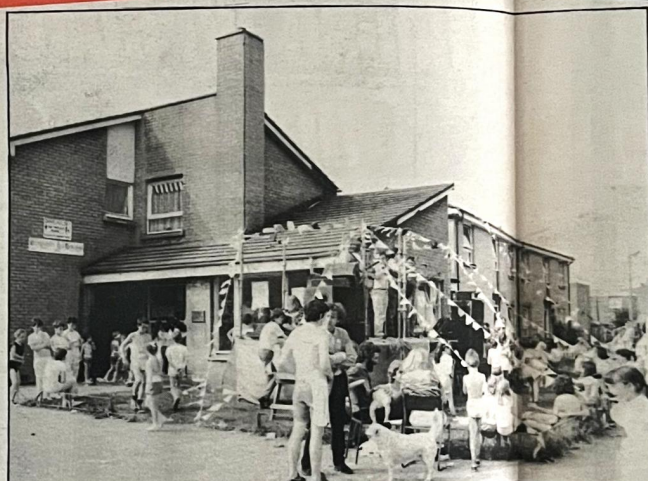
A housing association and community house in Derry were similarly refused, while an education project in West Belfast was told that if its workers worked anywhere else but in Conway Street (a work-creation community scheme), they would be grant-aided. Clearly the ACE scheme was being used to help certain kinds of groups and to penalise others.

Those being helped were those whose political outlook seemed acceptable to the British government. The result was that hundreds of ACE jobs were given to church groups in Catholic areas, and others to groups which were politically approved by the government. The curious situation arose then that some poor community groups were refused government help because they had "alternative sources of income and could employ people on their own" while churches, which had immense sources of income, and sports clubs had hundreds of ACE jobs made available to them.

GOVERNMENT MANIPULATION

The full meaning of the government manipulation of the ACE scheme, however, only comes to light when one sees the kinds of jobs which are being subsidised.

In an area like West Belfast, for example, where industrial-



● The Dove House Community Project officially ended on Friday, June 7th, when its ACE funding finally ran out. To demonstrate their support for the project, hundreds of people from the Bogside took part in a festival of traditional and popular music outside Dove House on Saturday afternoon, June 28th

isation should be a priority, most ACE jobs are for non-productive and non-industrialising work. This means, in effect, that if anyone accuses the government of not giving subsidised jobs to, say West Belfast, they can reply: "We do give subsidised jobs to these areas, hundreds of them". So they do, and one must then go on to ask, what kind of jobs? In almost every case it will be found that they are non-productive and non-industrialising jobs. Thus churches can have these government-subsidised jobs in order to clean up cemeteries or to maintain youth club buildings. They can have them to paint and repair their property. But even a modest project whose aim is to create industrial jobs will be refused.

What is happening, then, is not that the British government is doing away with dis-

crimination, as supporters of the Hillsborough Agreement believe. It is restructuring discrimination, away from the crude monolithic Catholic-Protestant pattern and into a new pattern of identifying potential friends and enemies whether Catholic or Protestant. Thus, a few fairly radical Protestant groups will be disfavoured, along with those groups on the nationalist side who unreservedly demand British disengagement; while, at the same time, friends will be identified, church groups and groups heavily influenced by, for example, local members of the SDLP.

KEEPING UNEMPLOYMENT HIGH

The policy of the government is now, as it has been in the past, to keep unemployment high, and if jobs have to be created then to create

jobs which will not do anything to help a native industry to emerge. In the past this could be done by importing industries and withdrawing them when necessary. Nowadays, when importing industries for political purposes is no longer so easy, a new strategy has to be used. The problem is how to create enough jobs to keep a political position stable but not to create enough industrialising jobs to help the people to create a viable industrial base.

ACE jobs are an almost miraculous answer.

They need not have been, and with all their disadvantages they could just have succeeded in doing a lot of good. In some cases they have done good.

But governments, and employers, being as they are, have been the occasion of a lot of political and economic sin.

● The 'paramilitary' creche in West Belfast



Political vetting of community groups

BY TOM RYAN

THE QUESTION of the involvement of the trade union movement in the issue of the political vetting of community groups is one marked by evasion and distortion which has raised doubts amongst some trade unionists as regards the sincerity of their leaders.

What has emerged is a very clear distinction between the leaders of the trade unions based in Belfast and some of their counterparts in the local trades councils situated in areas like Derry.

Indeed, the apparent apathy of the Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) contrasts sharply with decisions taken in Derry recently in which Derry Trades Council offered full support to those groups affected by attending a public meeting held to protest the decisions of the Department of Economic Development and by sponsoring a number of delegates to conferences and parliamentary lobbies on the issue.

A decision by a Derry branch of the clerical section of the Transport & General Workers' Union (ACTSS) to refer the question of Dove House — one of the groups affected — to the Trades Council was subsequently raised at the ICTU conference held in Portadown on April 29th by Daisy Mules, a local delegate. One member of the Trades Council described the controversy as one which has "cut right across the sectarian divide and brought trade unionists into a conflict in which they appear to be totally united."

Derry Trades Council has already adopted as the basis

of their opposition to political vetting those principles proposed by Fr Des Wilson at a public meeting in the Guildhall in February: that everyone should have access to public funds, providing that such money was accounted for; that no-one should be discriminated against or debarred from ACE funding on account of religious or political views; and that nobody should be sacked without having the opportunity of being heard.

OFF THE FENCE

Paddy Logue, the local secretary and a member of ACTSS, in declaring his support for sacked ACE workers, said that it was time that the trade union movement came off the fence on this vital problem. What is even more frustrating for those workers affected by the withdrawal of funding is that they have no legitimate form of redress. ACE workers, whether they be trade unionists or not, are automatically excluded from appealing against unfair dismissals to the Labour Relations Agency because they are em-

ployed for a period of only one year.

At a conference on ACE jointly organised by the Northern Committee of the ICTU and the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), the conference chairperson, Jim McCusker, general secretary of the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) was questioned by delegates from the Derry Trades Council and Dove House Community Resource Centre on the reasons why the conference failed to take up the issue of the political scrutiny of community groups.

REBUFF

In spite of the fact that the conference, held in Belfast's Fishwick Hall, on Friday, June 13th, was called to discuss problems raised by the ACE programme, the Derry representatives received nothing less than a rebuff from the chairperson of the conference, Jim McCusker. Danny Friel, chairperson of the Dove House Community Trust, and Robin Percival of the Trades Council made representations to both McCusker and Terry Carlin, secretary of the ICTU, but were informed that the matter was not going to be allowed on the agenda, nor indeed, were they going to allow it to be raised as a point for discussion.

REFUSAL

What is particularly interesting is that, in spite of the fact that NIPSA has been

consistent in its refusal to allow the ACE programme to become a substitute for permanent employment, it was NIPSA's general secretary who was most vocal in his refusal to allow the more fundamental question to be raised at the meeting.

PERPETUAL PARANOIA

The problem of trade union involvement on this issue is their perpetual paranoia with any question which raises even, in the most facile way, the contradictions inherent in having a 'Northern Committee' of an Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

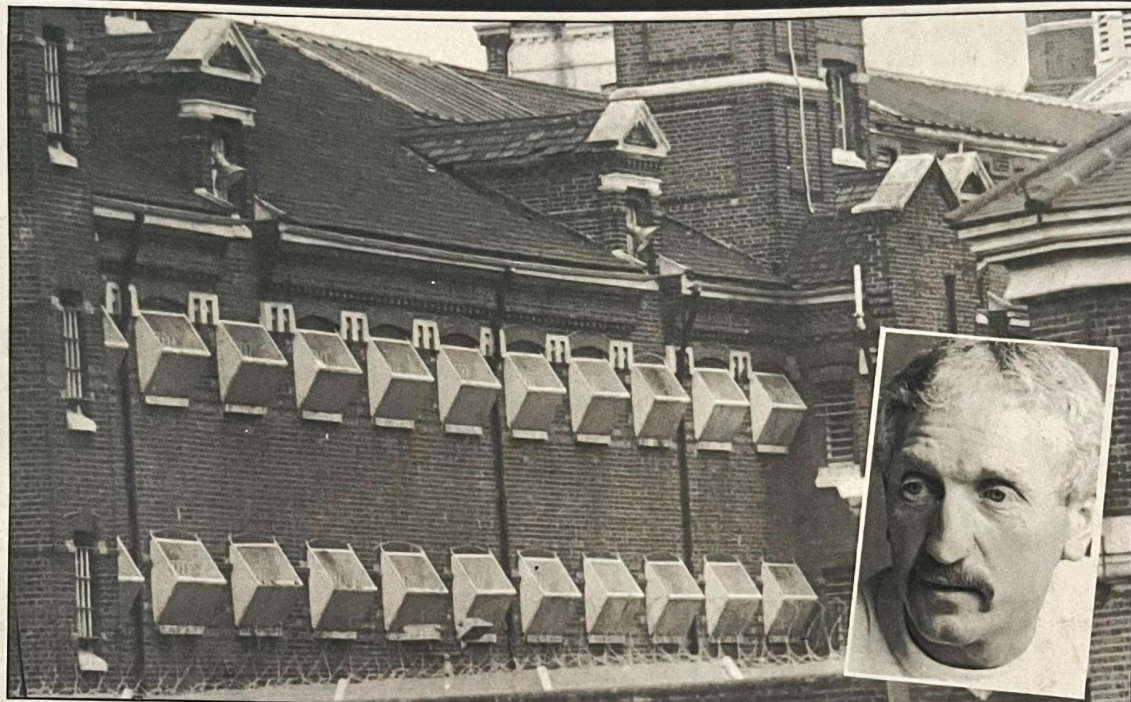
The difficulty of the Northern Committee in coming to terms with the basis on which the trade union movement in Ireland passively accepted a separate and 'autonomous' committee in the six counties is reflected in their rejection of all questions concerning the rights of workers affected by the rigours of the Northern regime. This was patently obvious in the antagonism of the NIC/ICTU to any suggestion that they should intervene in the controversy over the hanging in Castlereagh RUC Interrogation Centre of AUEW/TASS (Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers/Technical Administrative Supervisory Section) member Brian Maguire; and evidenced further when an unofficial strike against the continued British army presence in the Royal Victoria Hospital was declared by National Union of

Public Employees officials and the Northern Committee as "sectarianism". Perhaps the high point came when Roy Mason, a former Secretary of State for the North, was able to declare that he had been "well-served by the trade union leadership".

POSITIVE STRATEGY

Clearly the time has come when the trade union movement has to face the range of problems resulting from the continued British presence in our country. Those trade unionists who recognise the need for positive action to restore the balance within industry, with the trade union movement facing working-class problems with a positive strategy, must find anathema the view that the only way forward from the stagnant morass of shop-floor sectarianism is to ignore the very basis of that problem. The trade unions can help to resolve the whole problem of the political vetting of community groups by refusing to allow industry and the Northern Ireland Office to employ cheap labour under the ACE programme.

The issue of political vetting of community workers has already received cross-community support amongst trade unionists in Derry: it is a challenge which the Northern Committee and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions today will ignore at its future peril.



ON FRIDAY, June 27th, Tony Clarke, an Irish republican prisoner, was released from Wakefield Jail in West Yorkshire after spending 9½ years in various British prisons. Eamon Tracy interviewed Clarke, who is originally from Servia Street in Belfast's Lower Falls, about his experiences.

"THERE was a scientific system of perpetual and persistent harassing which gave the officers in charge of us a free hand to persecute us just as they pleased. It was made part of their duty to worry and harass us all the time."

That description of the attitude of the British penal system towards Irish political prisoners was written by Thomas J. Clarke, signatory of the 1916 Proclamation, who served 15 years in British prisons between 1883 and 1898. It accurately reflects the attitude of that same penal system 100 years later towards today's generation of Irish political prisoners.

Last Friday, another Clarke, Tony, aged 39, was released from a British prison after serving 9½ years of a 14-year sentence for conspiracy to cause explosions, possession of explosives and possession of a weapon. Arrested in Liverpool on February 4th 1977, he has spent the intervening years being moved from one prison to another. Although harassed, he and his republican comrades fought back against a system designed to break them.

Tony Clarke is a tall man, slightly built with short, fair hair going grey. He had obviously made an effort to keep himself fit and he explained that this keenness for fitness and good health was a common feature of all Irish political prisoners incarcerated in Britain.

'LIE-DOWN'

Tony Clarke was held in seven prisons, although like many of his comrades he was regularly moved out for 'lie-downs' to prisons like Durham and Leeds. A

Republican spirit unbroken

'lie-down' is when a prisoner is moved from one prison to another for a period of punishment and isolation which usually lasts a minimum of 28 days. The prison governor can impose this 'punishment' under Rule 40 10/74 for any reason whatsoever and, in the case of Irish republicans, it is regularly applied as a method of harassment under the guise of 'security'.

Almost four years of Clarke's time in prison was spent in Wakefield Prison in West Yorkshire. It is a maximum security prison with the overwhelming majority of its prisoners being sex offenders, hence its nickname, 'Munster Mansion'. Clarke said:

"The regime is very, very strict. You can feel the oppressiveness in the atmosphere as soon as you go in. The Screws hate republican prisoners and go out of their way to torment and degrade us."

"Because we're 'Special Category A' status we are always accompanied wherever we go by two warders. To leave our building for another there must also be a dog handler present."

RESISTANCE

In protest at prolonged petty harassment and 'lie-downs', republican prisoners fire-bombed the cinema in Wakefield in 1979. Although the authorities did not know which of the seven republican POWs was responsible they were all punished. Ray McLaughlin (who died in Ireland last year after his release) and Tony spent six months in 'the Block' in Wakefield.

Wakefield's 'Block' (F-Wing) has a no-

torious reputation. It was built as a control unit to break prisoners. However, following embarrassing disclosures about the treatment of prisoners there, it and others were supposedly closed down in 1975. In reality the control unit in Wakefield had its name changed to F-Wing and continued its existence.

"A big bell wakes you at 6.30am for slop-out and at 7am your mattress and bedding is taken from the cell, leaving you with a bed, which is screwed to the floor, a cardboard table and cardboard chair. The one hour's exercise you get is in silence. Everything in the block is geared to frighten you. For example, four Screws are always present when they open your cell and, of course, you are always on your own and feel isolated and vulnerable."

'THE BRIGHT SIDE'

Even this regime did not crush the POWs' spirit.

Clarke's predecessor, Thomas J. Clarke, wrote of prison life having "two sides — the dismal dark side... and, strange as it may seem, the bright side too, which I can now look back upon with some degree of pleasure and pride".

One 'bright side' for Tony Clarke was when he and nine other republican POWs were on the Block in Albany. Like their counterparts in the H-Blocks and Armagh, they refused to remain silent, and sang songs, talked to each other out the window and generally had 'good crack'. The prison warders couldn't understand this camaraderie and the refusal

by republicans to meekly accept regulations.

Clarke laughed as he recalled one incident which occurred at Christmas 1978 when Martin Brady arrived at Wakefield and was, as usual, put in F-Wing:

"Ray McLaughlin and I were determined he wouldn't spend Christmas and New Year alone so we went to the Screws and told them we wanted to go to the Block and be with our comrade! At first they refused, claiming they couldn't just send us down. So we offered to wreck the office there and then. "Hold on, hold on!" They cried and ran off to get a 'chief' (senior prison warden). He suggested we refuse to lock up at dinner-time and for that we would go to the Block until New Year's day. So that's what we did."

VISITS

One of the many 'dark sides' of prison life in Wakefield is the visits: *"You know before you go down what's going to happen and it takes much of the pleasure from a visit. We always get a strip-search before we go in. The visiting room is small, only about ten feet by ten feet, and in the middle stretching almost from wall to wall are two tables with a sheet of plywood underneath. Apart from a hug or a handshake at the outset, there is no physical contact. The prisoner and visitor are separated by about eight feet."*

A warden sits beside the prisoner while another sits beside the visitor:

"They listen to everything, watch everything and then when the visit is over you get another strip-search. The whole environment is hostile and is aimed at humiliation. For married lads with children it's really bad. It's natural you would want to hold your wife or kids. In Wakefield you can't."

According to Clarke:

"The prison administration claims it is acting under orders from the British Home Office but that's nonsense. Other prisons are not as strict, yet they are operating under the same orders. In the end the visits are at the discretion of the governor and his 'Security PO' (senior prison officer). In Wakefield there is no reason, other than harassment, for what they are doing on the visits."

Travellers denied sites

THE DISPUTE over the provision of facilities for travellers in Downpatrick has prompted Down District Sinn Féin Councillor Geraldine Ritchie to call for restraint and a "willingness to compromise by all the parties involved".

Until Thursday, June 19th, almost 40 travellers' families and around 200 children were living on a site at the Model Farm Housing Estate in the town. The families had been there since their eviction from Market Street Car Park by the RUC in September 1984.

In spite of a 100% grant from the Department of the Environment (DOE) for local councils to provide serviced sites, the unionist bloc on Down Council — ably supported by Eddie McGrady and several other SDLP

councillors — has consistently prevented the council from taking positive action. McGrady demonstrated his callous disregard for both the travellers and the people of Downpatrick with his cynical use of the growing animosity of the settled community during the Westminster by-elections in January. Days before the vote, McGrady issued a leaflet in which he boasted of his opposition to a site and pointed out that his Sinn Féin opponent, Frank McDowell, had supported the provision of such a facility.



● Travellers are forced to settle in the exposed Down Council car park

On Monday, June 16th, the council finally agreed to establish a temporary site at public lay-by amenities at Tullymurray, near Clough. However, in a separate development, the DOE evicted the travellers from the Model Farm Site.

In desperation, on Thursday morning, June 19th, the majority of the travellers moved into the council car park. Meanwhile, loyalist paramilitaries threatened action against any DOE workers who aided the movement of the travellers onto the Tullymurray site, and farmers took out a court injunction and blockaded the site.

ARSON ATTACK

On Thursday night, three caravans belonging to travellers were destroyed in an arson attack and the controversy was further fuelled when Down District Council gave an undertaking to the High Court not to allow the travellers to use the Tullymurray amenity



until planning permission has been granted by the DOE. Geraldine Ritchie told AP/RN:

"The situation is becoming more and more confused and potentially dangerous. The council's response to this problem has been belated and ineffectual. As a result, the people of Downpatrick, travellers and settled community alike, are suffering unnecessarily."

Ritchie has proposed that representatives of the council, DOE and travellers immediately meet to produce a settlement which takes into account the fears and needs of all sections of the community in Downpatrick:

"We cannot try to bury our heads in the sand, as the council has done, and hope the problem will go away. It hasn't and it won't."



Cork protest

PETER BARRY, the Free State Minister for Foreign Affairs, was again confronted by Portlaoise protestors in Cork city last weekend.

On Saturday, June 28th, a picket calling for the release of Michael Fox and release dates for the Portlaoise lifers was placed on the Fine Gael office in Oliver Plunkett Street by the Cork Portlaoise Prisoners Relatives Action Committee.

Peter Barry arrived at the office on foot, closely followed by his two Special Branch bodyguards. He flew into a rage and shouted abuse at the protestors, who remained impassive as Barry stormed into the building. On another occasion recently, an embarrased garda sergeant was heard

to complain about Barry's attitude, saying to his Special Branch guard:

"You should have a word to the minister about the way he reacts to protestors."

Later on Saturday afternoon, a white-line picket was staged at Grand Parade and signatures collected for a petition at Daunt's Square.

DUBLIN

In Dublin, a successful picket was held in Finglas Village. About a dozen local Sinn Féin members took part and leaflets were distributed.



● Ite Ni Chionnaith (third from left) at the Conradh na Gaeilge press conference

Éileamh ar stádas oifigiúil

Language rights

LE CIAN MAC AOIDH

"THE AUTHORITIES of the six counties, since the establishment of the state, have consistently attempted to deny cultural and linguistic rights to a large section of the population," said Ite Ni Chionnaith, president of the country's largest Irish-speaking organisation, Conradh na Gaeilge, which has launched a campaign to win "linguistic rights" for Irish speakers in the six counties.

Speaking at a press conference in Belfast on Thursday, June 26th, the Conradh president revealed that a sub-committee of the organisation had been set up in the six counties to campaign against

"the many blatant discriminatory efforts of the six-county state". Ni Chionnaith said:

"The state's policy towards the Irish language and its speakers is clearly one of contempt. We demand that status as an

official language be given to Irish — such status ensuring that the rights of Irish speakers and those who wish to learn Irish are recognised.

"Conradh na Gaeilge urges the authorities to give Irish speakers their rights, to recognise the rights of those who wish to learn Irish and to assist all worthwhile schemes to promote the Irish language."

HILLSBOROUGH

An tsachtain seo fosta chuir ceannasaí Roinn an Chultúir Shinn Féin, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir fáilte roimh phlépháipéar nua ón SDLP ar an Ghaeilge ach d'íarr sé ar an pháirtí glacadh leis go bhfuil an ceart ag Conradh na Gaeilge sa méid is go gcreideann siad nach ndéanfaidh comhaontú Hillsborough leas na Gaeilge. Ar seisean:

"Ag an Ard Fheis i mí na Bealtaine ghlac Conradh na Gaeilge le rún a dúirt nach ndéanfaidh Comhaontú Hillsborough leas na Gaeilge sna seacht n-áiríocht nua ndoiciméid nua

"Ó 1982 tá Gaeleoirí ag tuar go spreagadh obair dhíograiseach Shinn Féin ar chursáil Gaeilge, go spreagadh sin an SDLP le polasaithe ar an chultúr Gaeilge a dhreachtú. Tháinig an tuar fán tairéagacht írithe sin inniú."

Gaelscoileanna for Limerick

PARENTS in Limerick are seeking recognition for two new all-Irish primary schools in the city. The applications were announced at the beginning of June at a press conference.

The schools are planned for the affluent Castletroy/Millford Estate and the working-class Corporation estate at Southill. The Southill school will be named in honour of Seoirse Clancy, the mayor of Limerick who was murdered by the RIC in 1920.

Parents from Southill say: "While the area has problems of unemployment and poverty, nothing but good can come from the setting up of a school where the Irish language and things Irish would be in first place. It would be a source of pride and hope for everyone in Southill and an example and encouragement to other

parents throughout the country."

INITIATIVE WELCOMED

Gaelscoileanna, the organisation which helps parents obtain all-Irish education, has welcomed the initiative of the parents and expressed the hope that Limerick would follow the lead of Dublin and Cork, which have both seen a marked growth in all-Irish education.

Work in organising pupils and premises for the schools has been going on since February and the parents are now awaiting the response of the Department of Education.

Derry honours Volunteers

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

WELL OVER 1,000 Derry people turned out on Sunday, June 29th, to honour the memory of the fallen Volunteers of Derry Brigade. Derry's Roll of Honour has sadly been considerably lengthened in the 12 months since last year's commemoration, with the tragic deaths of Volunteers Charles English, Tony Gough and Philip McFadden.

Setting off from the Creggan shops and led by the John Starrs and Michael McLaughlin Memorial Flute Bands, the march, which was interspersed with Sinn Féin cumainn banners, made its way along Fanad Drive to the City Cemetery.

CONTRAST

At Creggan Cemetery, two contrasting sights immediately greeted the marchers — the more than 20 Tricolours flying high from flagpoles erected in the graveyard and the solid wall of riot-clad RUC surrounding the Republican Plot. There was never any doubt, however, that the crown forces' presence would be allowed to provoke the crowd as chairperson Gerry McCartney, in his opening address, asked those attending to "ignore the state terrorists on show and honour our dead with dignity".

Under the towering shadow of the granite statue of the ancient Irish warrior, Cu Chulainn, the graveside ceremony commenced. The Derry Brigade Roll of Honour was read by Christopher McKinney and a large wreath was laid at the



foot of Cu Chulainn by Julie Doherty (wife of the late Volunteer Danny Doherty) on behalf of the Republican Movement.

SOLEMNITY

The two minutes of silence and solemnity that followed was maintained for a further ten minutes as the crowd gave their undivided attention to the main speaker, Sinn Féin Councillor Dodie McGuinness. She paid tribute to the

courage and commitment of the fallen Volunteers of the Irish Republican Army and their "continuing ability to confront and overcome overwhelming odds time and time again".

"The Volunteers of Oglagh na hEir-eann have shown, in a magnificent fashion, that they can oppose the British, can create chaos within the British establishment, and can engage in operations that send shockwaves throughout the ranks of

our oppressors. The fact that Ireland now occupies a central position in the world stage owes little to John Hume and Garret Fitzgerald but much to the heroism of Irish Republican Volunteers."

To loud applause, the Soldier's Song brought the day's proceedings to a close. However, on leaving the cemetery the RUC photographed the marchers, concentrating on band members, one of whom was arrested for carrying the Tricolour.



Dermot Crowley remembered

THE MEMORY of IRA Volunteer Dermot Crowley, who was killed in action on June 25th 1973 in County Tyrone, was honoured last Sunday at Rathcooney Cemetery in his native County Cork.

Over 100 people attended the commemoration which began with a parade to the graveside led by a republican colour party, a lone piper and contingents from Fianna Éireann, Cumann na mBan and Cumann na gCailiní.

Following the laying of a wreath and the sounding of *The Last Post* by the piper, the oration was given by Richard Behal.

He gave an account of Dermot Crowley's life and that of his schoolfriend, Volunteer Tony Ahern, who was also killed in action on May 10th 1973. He also

paid tribute to Volunteers Sean Loughran and Patrick Carthy of Tyrone who died with Dermot.

CONTRIBUTION

Behal reminded the crowd:

"The quantity and quality of life is not measured by years, but by what is contributed, and in their short lives these Volunteers contributed a lot."



Sponsored cycle

FOUR DOWNPATRICK LADS — Kevin Fitzsimmons, Davy Shannon, Ignatius Wynn and Mark Graham — hope to raise £200 for republican prisoners and their dependants from a sponsored cycle on behalf of a very grateful Green Cross on Saturday, June 21st, from Downpatrick to Dundalk.

Green Cross would like to thank not only the lads themselves for their effort but also everyone who provided the back-up facilities and sponsored them.

Newry against Fowler cuts

A BENEFIT TAKE-UP CAMPAIGN by Sinn Féin in Newry's 140-house Drumalane Park Estate has discovered that 50 families are entitled to a range of unclaimed benefit payments for clothing, furniture, laundry additions and heating totalling several thousand pounds.

In view of the British government's proposed Fowler Review cuts in social welfare payments, Newry Sinn Féin will be continuing its campaign over the next few months.

If you're unsure of your social security/supplementary/housing benefit entitlements then contact your local Sinn Féin advice centre (Newry Sinn Féin can be contacted at 685338).

Birmingham remembers hunger-strikers

A RALLY was held in Birmingham on Saturday, June 21st, to commemorate the 12 hunger-strikers who have died in this phase of the Irish freedom struggle.

The rally, which was chaired by Eddie Caughey of the Irish Hunger-Strike Commemoration Committee, opened with a minute's silence. Letters from the republican prisoners in Long Lartin and Gartree were then read out.

Nuala Vaughan, of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, linked the struggle of the African people with that of the Irish:

"The colonisation of Ireland gave the British the power to colonise Africa and Asia. Only the people in Ireland can choose the means of fighting their struggle."

HUNGER-STRIKER'S BROTHER

The meeting reserved its warmest applause for Oliver Lynch, brother of



●Francie Molloy (left) addresses the Birmingham commemorative rally

hunger-striker Kevin Lynch. He recalled the last days of his brother's life, his spirit, humour and determination.

Kevin Hawkes, of the POW Campaign, reminded the rally that there were republican POWs in English jails: "We have a struggle here too."

A speaker from the Jammu and

Kashmiri Liberation Front who was due to address the meeting was arrested by the British Special Branch an hour before the start. Another member of the JKLF spoke in his place and pledged support to the Irish struggle.

The main speaker at the rally was Sinn Féin Councillor Francie Molloy.

He described the progress of the struggle since the hunger-strike and British attempts to regain lost ground through the Hillsborough Agreement.

Summing up the rally, Eddie Caughey called upon all wishing to see Irish freedom to "work together in that common cause".

The Box

Who's guarding the guards?

BY Z. HAMMETT

ENDLESS late-night drinking sessions in unlicensed premises in Kilmainham and Fitzgibbon Street in Dublin. The beer comes from stolen barrels. Raucous scenes. Debauchery.

A Dublin crime gang? Teenage hooligans? Republican subversives? Guess again. The Garda Task Force. Yes, the Garda Task Force. Six Garda sources confirmed that these sessions have been going on, we found out last week on Thursday's *Today Tonight* (RTE) special on the police.

'Ah, but sure, the poor wee lads are wrecked by dangerously low morale', was the message from the analysts at RTE. And why is there such low morale? Because there's not enough guard, everybody answered in unison.

Now, it's a bit of a funny thing that there's not enough guard. The force has doubled in number since 1970 to 11,400. The population hasn't doubled. Hasn't even come close. Still, we are told, there's not enough guard.

At Pearse Street Barracks, so they told us on *Today Tonight*, there are 150 police officers. But only four are in cars, and one is on a motorcycle. The rest are filling in paperwork and guarding important VIPs. Or so they tell us.

'Where are they?' the interviewer asks Deputy Commissioner Doherty.

'They are there. On the street,' replies the good commissioner. 'You may not see them, but they are there.'

Now, for many of us, this is all a bit funny. Yes, we see them too. They are really there. Why, just yesterday, as I was leaving a friend's house, three car-loads of them were 'really there' within a short distance. As I proceeded down a certain street, several more car-loads

of them were 'really there'. Perhaps the deputy commissioner was neglecting to tell us that he's so many of his men doing the dirty work of the British government that none of them are left to protect old ladies crossing the street.

Or perhaps it's all part of a big public relations exercise aimed at building public support for wasting even more of our taxes on the boys in blue. It pays to keep a low profile. It brings 'investigative reporters' onto the streets to ask, 'Why aren't there more policemen?' ...

The image of cops on the television is changing everywhere. They took a beating for many years, and now they have the wagons in a circle.

Hill Street Blues is a perfect example. An old series is being shown (CA, Saturday) opposite the newest series (RTE, Monday). They make interesting side-by-side viewing.

On Saturday, we can watch Sergeant Esterhaus at the beginning of each episode: 'Now let's be careful out there.'

On Monday, it's the new sergeant: 'Let's do it to them before they do it to us.'

Those two statements say an awful lot about how America has changed since the programme started in 1979. The early episodes showed us a big city police force, wars and all. They weren't afraid to show how the police break the laws and endanger people's civil rights at every turn. The characters that filled Hill Street weren't heroes. They were good and bad, in-deed each cop had his good and his bad. Or her good and



● Not waiting for opening time but three Free State Special Branchmen lurking: O'Neill, Fleming and A.N. Other

bad, for the token women, who number the same as the token blacks, but one more than the token Latin.

On Saturday, the old series showed us a police force that went into the ghettos of New York and rounded up a street-full of people. They broke all of their civil rights and herded them in like cattle. Some of the cops even enjoyed their dirty work.

The programme made no bones about it. The cops were wrong. In the 1970s, cops could do wrong things.

On Monday, the new series showed us the noble policemen (our friends) calmly shooting a black commie lunatic. And they were right. Only Goldblum (lousy Jewish liberal commie sympathiser) complained.

And *Hill Street Blues* is still the best police show on the box. I haven't even mentioned the blatant right-wing antics on *Night Rider* or *The A-team*. ...

After an excellent special about Paul Robeson on Monday, Channel 4 brought us a programme about the Havana Film Festival.

I'm always glad to see my screen heroes doing good things, ever since I saw films of Humphrey Bogart standing

up to the US Congress during the 1950s commie witch-hunts. I was happy, then, to see Robert de Niro and Jack Lemmon, two of the greatest actors of our time, defying Ronnie Reagan's orders and attending the Havana festival.

But the real heroes were the Latin American film directors and actors, themselves. They have had little recognition on this side of the water, but their films are among the best and most exciting being made today.

Three subjects came up time and again in these films: women, repression, the church.

Many of the films about repression centred on the new class of 'desaparecidos' — the disappeared — throughout Latin America. *The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo* tells the story of the mothers of the disappeared in Argentina, who stood in the Plaza in Buenos Aires for months, asking the government where their sons and husbands had gone.

Another film featured an interview with a child about his father.

'He is a subversive,' said the child.

'What does subversive mean?'

'Wanting us to live bet-

ter and be free.'

'Where is he?'

'He is in jail.'

We can learn a lot from the clear-headedness of children.

A short film, shown on Channel 4 on Monday, was *A Prayer to Marilyn Monroe*. This film, made in Cuba, is based on a prayer written by the Nicaraguan Minister for Culture, Father Ernesto Cardinal — the man the Pope would not allow to kiss his ring.

The 'prayer' is about the striking differences between the fantasy of 20th Century Fox (the movie company) and the reality of the 20th Century. Marilyn Monroe is a symbol of the tragedy of modern society, a tragic life behind the glitter of Hollywood. 'She was hungry for love, and we gave her tranquillizers,' says Cardinal.

The film is as striking as the prayer.

Pictures of Marilyn Monroe are interspersed with pictures of the real world — starving children, American bombers dropping their loads in Vietnam. A startling scene began with the picture of Marilyn, lying nude on her side. Marilyn slowly disintegrated and became a starving child, lying naked in the same position. The truth behind the glitter was revealed, and it was ugly.

Channel 4 promises to continue showing the films of the new Latin American cinema over the next few weeks. Don't miss them. Next Monday, one of the joint winners of last year's Havana festival, a Mexican film about a woman artist, called *Frida*.

... Other goodies in the next week.

On Thursday, a documentary about the Industrial Workers of the World (the 'Wobblies'), a radical American trade union early in this century. Archive footage. A Walt Disney anti-commie cartoon. And, of course, songs by the 'Wobblies' song-writer, Joe Hill.

crow's prosecution witnesses against the six men.

Republicans wanted to believe that the IRA was not responsible and the IRA in Ireland initially did not have the full details. Neither did the passage of time bury an unfulfilled IRA commitment that a full statement would be issued.

With the advancement in recent years in forensic science techniques, and which *World in Action* used last October to demonstrably demolish the central basis of the case against the men, the IRA used the opportunity, in an effort to help clear their names, to state that its Volunteers had carried out the bombings and that they were still free. Mullin interviewed two of these men, who gave exact and convincing details of what happened, and the man who made the telephone call, who explained that an adequate warning was given but was not acted upon.

COMPELLING READING

Mullin's book, to be published next week, makes compelling reading and is a powerful argument for the release of the 'Birmingham Six', not the only, but just some of the innocent victims of establishment hysteria.

● *Error of Judgement*, by Chris Mullin, published in hardback by Chatto & Windus, price £10.95 (270 pages).

ERROR OF JUDGEMENT



Chris Mullin

● CHRIS MULLIN

assaults on the men by police interrogators, which resulted in all but one signing incriminating (and contradictory) statements were covered up by further beatings by prison officers and convicts when the men arrived at Winslow Green Prison.

The experiences of the six men, who between them have served the equivalent of 72 years in jail, are by now well-documented. Their innocence is also attested to by the fact that their case has become a *cause célèbre* for such 'humanitarians' as Peter Barry and former British Home Secretary Roy Jenkins, who introduced the Prevention of Terrorism Act after the Birmingham bombings.

Mullin's research was commissioned by Independent Television's *World in Action* programme, which was broadcast in October 1985. In that programme the tenuous forensic evidence which triggered

off the police lynching party was completely discredited by new forensic testing which showed that the hands of anyone using an ordinary pack of playing cards would have shown traces of explosives! However, in his book, Mullin went a step further by interviewing (at not inconsiderable risk to themselves) one of the IRA Volunteers who planted the two bombs and the Volunteer who telephoned through the warning.

For years there had been considerable confusion about what happened at Birmingham that night. This was complicated by the fact that a British agent provocateur, Kenneth Littlejohn, who had escaped from jail in Ireland (where he had a record of carrying out actions aimed at discrediting the IRA), was then in Birmingham, staying at the home of a man who was subsequently one of the

Imeachtaí

MARCH FOR TRAVELLERS' RIGHTS
2.30pm Saturday 5th July
Parnell Square West
DUBLIN
Organised by Minceir Misi

32-COUNTY SINN FEIN WOMEN'S DEPT MEETING
11am Saturday 5th July
44 Parnell Square
DUBLIN

FINGLAS REPUBLICAN WEEK
Saturday 5th July to Sunday 12th July
5th (1.30 to 3pm): Hunger-strike display
Finglas Village
6th (2.30pm): Republican graves tour
Glasnevin Cemetery
7th (6pm): Anti-Strip-search picket
Dual carriageway, Finglas Village
8th (7pm): Republican video
Sinn Fein Advice Centre
9th (Adm Centre)
Anti-extradition picket
Finglas Village
10th (8pm): Ballad session
Finglas Castle — Tallie E3
11th (7pm): Republican video
Sinn Fein Advice Centre
12th (2.30pm): March in support of POWs
From Tesco supermarket to the Dick McKee Memorial
Assembly at Sinn Fein
Advice Centre,
2 Church Street, for all events
DUBLIN

REPUBLICAN TOURS OF GLASNEVIN CEMETERY
11.30am every Sunday in July
Main gate
Glasnevin Cemetery
DUBLIN
Organised by the National Graves Association

BALLAD SESSION
Music by Tim's Fancy & guests
Tuesday 8th July
Dolly's Lounge
MULHUDDART
County Dublin
Tallie E2.50

FREE THE GUILDFOUR FOUR PUBLIC RALLY
7.30pm Wednesday 9th July
Holborn Library
32-38 Theobalds Road
LONDON WC1
Speakers: Alastair Logan, Liz Hill, Jeremy Corbyn MP, John McDonnell and Tony Sheridan
Organised by the Free the Guildfour Four Campaign

PUBLIC MEETING
Speaker: Lily Fitzsimons
(Sinn Fein)
7.30pm Thursday 10th July
Digbeth Civic Hall
BIRMINGHAM
Organised by the Troops Out Movement

DISCO SOCIAL
Music by Dance Train
8pm Saturday 12th July
Our Lady's Social Club
Moss Side
MANCHESTER
Tallie E1.50 — (Unwaged 50p)
Organised by the Labour Committee on Ireland

VOL MARTIN HURSON MEMORIAL DAY
Sunday 13th July
11am Mass: St John's Church
2.30pm Martin Hurson Football Memorial Cup: GAA Grounds
5pm Memorial Unveiling:
Parade: 3.00ppagh
GALBALLY
County Tyrone

VOL WILLIAM PRICE MEMORIAL UNVEILING
11.30am Sunday 13th July
BROCKHAG
County Tyrone

TEELING MONUMENT REDEDICATION
Speaker: Martin McGuinness
3pm Sunday 13th July
COOLONEE
March to Carrignacat
County Sligo
Organised by the National Graves Association

leabhar

72 years later

BY DANNY MORRISON

ONE THURSDAY EVENING in November 1974, 44-year-old Hughie Callaghan, an unemployed labourer, stood on the platform of the New Street Railway Station in Birmingham and waved off five of his friends. They were taking the train to the Heysham ferry and from there to Belfast.

Four of Callaghan's friends were, like him, natives of Ardoyne, although they, like the fifth man, who was from Derry, had all been settled and married in England for a considerable number of years.

All of them had been fairly friendly with another Ardoyne man, James McDade, who, a few days previously, had been killed in a premature explosion in England. McDade had been claimed as an IRA Volunteer and, out of some loyalty to the dead man and his convictions, the five republican sympathisers on the train were returning to Belfast for his funeral and to use the occasion to see relatives and old friends.

After their departure, Hughie Callaghan went off drinking. In the train, despite the cause of their journey, the five men were in fairly jovial mood (they had had a few drinks before boarding), and they smoked and played cards. Within three hours the lives of the five unsuspecting men — who were not in Sinn Fein

and had no connections with the IRA — would be shattered as first they experienced a Kafkaesque nightmare of being brutally interrogated about incidents of which they were completely ignorant.

No-one had even known that they were arrested. The following night, Hughie Callaghan, returning home from a pub, opened his door and was dragged inside by a police gunman, a dozen of whom had taken over his house seven hours previously. His nightmare was just beginning.

Within three days, Hughie Callaghan, Patrick Hill, Gerry Hunter, Richard McKenny, Billy Power and Johnny Walker would appear in court charged with bombing the Mulberry Bush and the Tavern in the Town public houses in Birmingham, in which 21 people were killed.

PAINSTAKING INVESTIGATION

In his painstaking investigation, Chris Mullin has retraced the events of that night — how the physical



Chris Mullin



● Anne Crilly (DFVC), British Labour MEPs Carole Tonge and Richard Balfe, and Margo Harkin (DFVC)

Strip-search video at Strasbourg

TWO MEMBERS of the Derry Film & Video Collective returned last week from a highly successful five-day official visit to the European parliament in Strasbourg where they presented the updated version of their video, *Strip-Searching: Security or Subjugation?*, to large audiences of elected representatives from every EEC country.

The women, Margo Harkin and Anne Crilly (prominent members of the Derry-based video group since 1984), were invited to Strasbourg by the large socialist grouping of MEPs with the purpose of raising the issue of the strip-searching of Irish women prisoners at a major seminar in the parliament on Tuesday, June 10th, under the subject of *Violence Against Women*. On Tuesday morning and for the following three days, the video (which now highlights the extension of strip-searching to Brixton Jail, England, as well as Maghaberry in the six counties) was shown to MEPs from across the political spectrum including members of Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, the British Labour Party, the Italian Communist Party, the Green Party (Germany), the Dutch Rain-

bow Group and even two members of the British Conservative Party, Margaret Daly and Peter Rice (the latter took a copy of the video and promised to confront the North's Prisons Minister, Nicholas Scott, on the issue).

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

On Thursday, June 12th, the most fruitful and productive meeting of the visit took place when the two Derry women met with the influential European Women's Committee, where the video was again shown and information packs on strip-searching handed out. During the course of their trip, the two women were interviewed by an RTE news team for the programme *Euro-Report* and succeeded in penetrating, for ten minutes, the wall of silence and

misinformation that Section 31 has effectively built around the issue.

Summing up the achievements of their Strasbourg visit, Margo Harkin told AP/RN:

"With no exceptions, everyone we met was genuinely shocked and concerned on learning — many for the first time — about what is happening in Maghaberry and Brixton, especially the various members of the women's committee who promised to do everything possible to bring strip-searching to the full attention of the European parliament."

"Three motions have already been tabled on strip-searching and they will be coming up for discussion at the next Strasbourg session, where, if unanimously adopted by a European committee, a detailed report involving a close investigation of the policy in Maghaberry and Brixton will be asked for. This would be a major achievement in putting pressure on the Northern Ireland Office and British government."

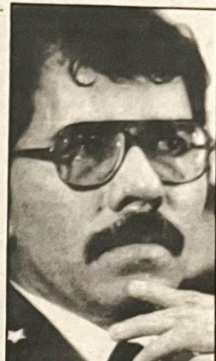
WORLD VIEW Nicaragua

ONCE AGAIN the World Court in the Hague, Netherlands, has ruled against the activities of the United States. On June 27th, it ruled that the Reagan administration is breaking international law by supporting the Nicaraguan Contras and endeavouring to bring down the legal government of Nicaragua.

The World Court's decision came after nearly two years of evidence and deliberation (the case was filed in April 1984) and was passed by a majority of 12 to 3. The three dissenting judges represented, not surprisingly, the US, Japan and Britain. The US judge, Stephen Schwebel, throughout the trial continually questioned the integrity of Nicaragua's evidence and heaped repeated scorn on Nicaragua's witnesses. But the judge could only sit in stony silence as the court found his country guilty. A clearly triumphant Nicaraguan president, Daniel Ortega, declared:

"Justice is on Nicaragua's side. From this moment on, the United States government becomes a criminal, acting outside the law."

Ortega said that Nicaragua is now planning to sue the Reagan administration for 1,000 million dollars damages and intends to do this through US domestic courts.



● Nicaraguan president, Daniel Ortega

UNITED NATIONS MEETING

Nicaragua's agent at the World Court hearings, Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, travelled immediately to New York to hold meetings with the United Nations Security Council. D'Escoto, on receiving the court's decision, said:

"Humanity's faith in the possibility of world peace through international justice has undoubtedly been strengthened." D'Escoto also said that the World Court also clearly upheld the right of Nicaragua to exist in peace and with self-determination.

The Reagan administration predictably rejected the court's findings — the US refused to recognise the court in 1984, 1985 and 1986. The US declared that it is not bound by any rulings and will totally ignore any directions handed out by the court. These directions include a halt to all illegal activities, and immediate compensation for economic and infrastructural damages to Nicaragua. A US State Department official declared:

"The court is not equipped to deal with a case of this nature."

"Nicaragua is engaged in a substantial, unprovoked and unlawful use of force against its neighbours."

AID PACKAGE

Meanwhile, Reagan's controversial 100 million dollars aid package for the Contras finally completed its stormy passage on June 25th when the House of Representatives adopted the Republican proposal of aid. But the Democrats refused to release the whole 100 million dollars immediately, directing that 30 million

dollars "non-lethal" aid be released now whilst 25 million dollars military aid will be handed over on October 1st, followed by 15 million dollars every 90 days.

The deal for the Contras is also accompanied by a comprehensive aid package worth 350 million dollars for Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

The final hurdle for Reagan's bid to bail out the battered Contras was reached after an emotional nationwide appeal by Reagan on June 24th on TV and radio. But Reagan didn't have his own way with his appeal. First of all he was turned down by the House Speaker, 'Tip' O'Neill, when he asked to make a last-minute plea to the House of Representatives. Then, in a further blow to his prestige, the three main TV networks refused to carry Reagan's address to the nation, saying that it did not have much news value.

During his address, Reagan claimed that the Sandinistas are turning Nicaragua into "the first Soviet base on the American mainland".

BATTLE READINESS

The revolutionary government in Nicaragua has ordered its people to "battle readiness" in reply to Washington's moves. President Daniel Ortega said that Nicaraguans would have to be prepared to face "more difficulties on the economic level, more shortages, more sacrifices". Ortega also said that these latest moves by Washington "could translate in time into a new military escalation, leading to the intervention of US troops themselves in our country".

Afghanistan

THE AFGHAN 'REBELS' showed their true colours last week when four leaders of the 'National Alliance', an umbrella group for seven different organisations, were feted by President Reagan in Washington on June 16th.

The Afghan 'contras' — they are fighting the Afghan government and Soviet troops — are seeking more money and more weapons from Reagan. Since 1980, these rebels have been the beneficiaries of what has been described in the US as "the biggest CIA paramilitary operation" to the tune of 700 million dollars. Much of the money has been channelled through a CIA front organisation euphemistically named the 'American Afghan Education Fund' (AAEF). Educational props handed on to the 'rebels' in recent months included 300 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and 150 launchers. It would appear that the CIA forgot to include firing instructions for the missiles as, according to a 'confiden-

tial' AAEF report, the rebels had fired 12 of the missiles and missed with every one.

REAGAN UPSET

Reagan is extremely upset that the Afghans have not received more aid and has blamed the CIA, along with his own State Department, for 'dragging their heels'. Reagan would personally like to see aid to the Afghan contras doubled or even trebled, especially as the USSR has hinted that a pull-out of its troops is seriously under consideration.

The US has been plotting for years to topple the socialist administration in Afghanistan, a country which they regard as a key area in East-West confrontation politics.

REMEMBERING THE PAST Jackie Griffith

BY PETER O'ROURKE

BY THE SUMMER of 1943, the IRA was decimated by the large-scale arrests and the internment of Volunteers both North and South of the border.

Those few still 'on the run' ran the risk not only of arrest but of being gunned down by trigger-happy Special Branch men. Such was the fate of Volunteer Jackie Griffith.

Griffith was born in the Killester area of Dublin in November 1921 and from an early age took a keen interest in Irish history and culture.

At the age of 17 he moved to England with the rest of his family where his father had secured employment. Here he joined the IRA, became closely associated with the late Jack McCabe and was active in the IRA bombing campaign in British cities which began in January 1939.

He later returned to Ireland and was attached to the IRA's Dublin Brigade while living with his grandparents in Ringsend. He worked in the local 'Bottlehouse' glass factory, where he became an active trade unionist.

ARRESTED

In March 1942, he was arrested after a struggle with Special Branch men in the Benburb Street/Blackhorse Lane area of Dublin. His grandparents' home was raided and 44 revolvers and a quantity of ammunition were found. The captured short-arms had been bought by Griffith several days earlier from a Free State soldier in Islandbridge Barracks.

Griffith was brought before a military court in Collins Barracks and

sentenced to a total of 33 years on a variety of charges, the sentences to run concurrently.

ESCAPE

In Mountjoy Jail, along with several comrades, he planned a daring escape. In the early hours of Sunday, November 2nd, the bars of one of the cell windows were pushed loose. Strips of canvas were tied together and used as an escape rope, enabling Griffith, Frank Kerrigan and Jim Smith to climb down into the yard and make their escape over the prison wall.

By the time the prison authorities discovered the escape, the three men were in hiding. Griffith in a safe house in Margaret Place in Dublin.

He immediately reported back to the Dublin Brigade and on St Stephen's Day 1942 he cycled across the Dublin Mountains to Carlow to begin the job of reorganising Leinster. He worked closely with Charlie Kerins (later executed by the Fianna Fail government), and made contact with the other escapees, who were all now active with their units.

LAST OPERATION

However, the Free State forces were closing in and his safe house in Margaret Place was raided. On Thursday, July 1st 1943, Griffith took part in what was to be his last operation with the Dublin Brigade. Along with Kerins and Archie Doyle, he held up a



wages van at the Player Wills factory on the South Circular Road. All three rode up to the factory on stolen bikes, held up the occupants of the wages van and escaped with £5,000. The money was badly needed as the IRA was desperately short of funds.

GUNNED DOWN

On the following Sunday, Griffith set off on a bicycle from a house in Ballsbridge to meet a contact in Phibsboro. At 1.30pm, as he turned into Holles Street from Lower Mount Street, he was overtaken by two carloads of Special Branch men, who opened fire on the young Volunteer with a Thompson sub-machine gun. Griffith, who was hit by 16 bullets, fell dead by the roadside.

Aged 21, IRA Volunteer Jackie Griffith was gunned down by Dublin Special Branch detectives on Sunday, July 4th 1943, 43 years ago this week.

SHOCK! HORROR! A *Flying Column* undercover unit has come across startling evidence that the secret DUP/republican talks that were exposed last month (see *AP/RN*, June 12th and 19th) are merely the tip of an incredible iceberg of intrigue, plot and counter-plot.

And Da-Do-Rhon-Rhonda's Da Da will not be pleased.

When DUP do-do Sammy Wilson pulled the chain of office and became Mayor of Belfast, we revealed how Rhonda Paisley was chosen to be his mayoress/minder so that she could act as the 'eyes and ears' of Big Daddy, thus preventing any recurrence of the DUP/republican round-table talks which were held in Spain last August, where Wilson represented the DUP. Our readers will be horrified to learn that silver-tongued Sammy has seduced the hapless Rhonda with his irresistible mediocrity and persuaded her to join the 'Let's talk to the Taigs' faction.

Da-Do-Rhon-Rhonda's Da Da will be very, very annoyed, nay, apoplectic, to learn that his darling offspring *fronted* the DUP delegation that met Sinn Féin representative Fra 'The Blanketman' McCann last Friday at a secret venue in West Belfast (see photograph).

In an attempt to discover just what was discussed at that meeting, our undercover unit rendezvoused with McCann at an address in his Divis stronghold. McCann arrived flanked by two 'assistants' who were referred to only as 'Chip' and 'Jap' throughout the interview.

The following is a verbatim account of the eyeball to eyeball interrogation carried out by our unit.

Q: Is this photograph genuine?

A: Yes, but...

Q: Are you the person on the right-hand side of the photograph?

A: Yes, but...

Q: Is the woman with the bow-tie and the ornate gold chain one Rhonda Paisley?

A: Yes, but...

Q: What were youse talking about?

A: We were talking about...

At this point McCann was bundled out of the room by 'Chip' and 'Jap', thus ending the interview.

As we go to press, numerous attempts have been made by our units to contact Ms Paisley — all have failed.

One phone-call to the DUP headquarters was immediately terminated with a curt "Piss off!" when we identified ourselves as *AP/RN*.

the flying column TAIG-TALKS



● Daughter of Paisley meets The Blanketman (extreme right)

Watch this space for any further appalling revelations — we will *not* be silenced.

We will tell the truth behind the lies that lie behind the lies behind the truth!

★★★
THE LAST LUMP was removed from Rhonda's pit on Monday.

No, it wasn't a loyalist Lothario being dragged from Rhonda Paisley's boudoir by an enraged Big Daddy but the last lump of coal from the Maerdy pit, the last pit in the Rhonda Valley, South Wales.

The militancy of Maerdy's miners in industrial disputes down through the years earned the area the name 'Little Moscow' and on royal occasions people would fly the hammer and sickle flag from their homes.

The valley has now been ravaged by the National Coal Board and the Conservative government, leaving a 30% unemployment rate (most of the unemployed being aged 18 to 24) in this proud bastion of the working-class.

★★★
SECTION 31 of the Free State's Broadcasting Act has been breached again!

The gardeners of Ireland were placed in grave moral and political peril last Saturday when RTE radio's *Ask About Gardening* provided a platform for a self-confessed supporter of the men and

women of violence, one Jesse MacDonnell of Coolock Sinn Féin, Dublin.

This subversive swine was allowed the unbridled use of the nation's airwaves to launch a vicious attack on the democratic institutions of the state and pollute the minds of impressionable youth by... asking where he should transplant his laburnum tree!

Answers on a postcard, please, to: Director-General, RTE, Dublin 4.

★★★
JUST for the record, *The Flying Column* takes no pleasure whatsoever regaling you, our esteemed readers, with the tales of misfortune which overtake the British army and other servants of the crown but we feel that you should be kept informed of events however distasteful they are to our sensitive souls.

Take, for instance, the 25th Signals Regiment who are over in Germany playing Cold War warriors at the moment.

Five of the 25th's lethal fighting machines who ended up in hospital with chest pains, back aches and mystery bugs were closely followed by the *Birmingham Evening Mail's* appropriately named 'defence correspondent', Stan Slaughter, who went down with an unexplained skin rash.

Urghh!

★★★
THE TORY government's claims that

nuclear power is beneficial to the community aren't fooling Sir Marcus Fox, Conservative MP for Shipley and a former Department of Environment under-secretary.

The sly Fox has sold his 'holiday home' at Druridge Bay, Northumberland, because the Central Electricity Generating Board has earmarked the area as the possible site for a nuclear power station.

★★★
THE praiseworthy efforts of the Northern Ireland Office in promoting the Irish language (according to Barry, the tea millionaire) are influencing even the lowest of 'other ranks', it seems.

A young Belfast republican was stopped and 'P-Checked' by the RUC last Sunday afternoon on the Glen Road. They forced him to turn out his pockets and scrutinised his notebook. As this was being handed back to him, he automatically responded with a polite thank you:

"Go raibh maith agat," he said.

"So will ours," snarled the RUC linguist. "And it will be a lot sooner than you think, you f...er!"

It's a bit like waving a green flag at a pig, I suppose.

Tiocfaidh ár lál!

DUIRT SIAD

Do you agree that, unfortunately, one of the reasons for Mr Stalker's suspension was that, in showing that commitment [to the detection of crime], he recommended the prosecution of senior officers in the RUC for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice?

— Alex Carlile QC, Liberal Party spokesperson, questioning the British Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd.

★★★
My memory will long retain the picture, on the front page of *The Times*, of his wife cheering him on his way to martyrdom.

Only the boldest would deny the strong likelihood that, well before the year 2021, when his 35 years are up, he will be released as part of some amnesty deal over Northern Ireland.

— The *Sunday Telegraph's* Paul Barker on Pat Magee, the man convicted of the Brighton Grand Hotel bombing, and predicting an amnesty for republican prisoners.

★★★
A man who certainly impressed me yesterday by his total dislike of violence may, indeed, be able to help in that process towards a dialogue and the end of violence.

Our official level contacts and my meeting yesterday were attempts which the government believes should be made to bring an end to the violence and to start a dialogue.

— Lynda Chalker, British Foreign Office Minister, following her meeting with Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress.

The British government has not made any similar approach to Gerry Adams to "bring an end to the violence and start a dialogue" in Ireland.

★★★
If Mrs Chalker asked me to renounce violence I would ask her, 'Why should I?' — Oliver Tambo.

Power comes from either the ballot box or the barrel of a gun.

— Ian Paisley.

★★★
We do not have censorship. What we have is a limitation on what the newspapers can report.

— Louis Nel, the South African Information Minister. (There is no truth in the rumour that the Dublin government wants to hire Mr Nel to defend Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.)

NOTES

GOTCHA!



©CORMAC

GLORY HALLELUJAH!!
THE MORAL FABRIC OF
IRISH SOCIETY HAS BEEN
PRESERVED!



My, my! North
of the border and south of the border
the CARNIVAL OF
REACTION is in
full swing...



REJOICE!
REJOICE!



Not everyone
will greet the result of
the referendum
with such undiluted
enthusiasm...



It seems that divorce
is out of the question.

On a political and
ideological level I find it
deeply disturbing...
...but personally I
don't really mind...



...for I can see nothing
or no one on this island that
would tempt me into
marriage!

