

AN

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POLITICAL WEEKLY

PHOBLACHT

Republican News

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Farming: Crisis? What crisis?	6
Strabane in grip of terror	7
Write an Irish novel in your spare time	8 & 9
Éilimh Ghaeilge faoi bhráid UTV	11
Video review	13

THE COST OF HILLSBOROUGH

**LEO
SCULLION**
assassinated
14.1.86

**MARTIN
QUINN**
assassinated
31.1.86

**JOHN
O'NEILL**
assassinated
14.3.86

**MARGARET
CAULFIELD**
assassinated
7.5.86

**BRIAN
LEONARD**
assassinated
12.7.86

**COLM
McCALLAN**
assassinated
16.7.86

**MARTIN
DUFFY**
assassinated
19.7.86

LATEST VICTIM



● PADDY McALLISTER

IN THE EIGHTH SECTARIAN MURDER since the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement in November, a loyalist terror-gang shot a Catholic man dead in his home on Tuesday night, August 26th. The victim, Paddy McAllister (47), a taxi driver, was dozing on the settee in his front room at around 9pm when a masked man burst in and fired several shots, killing him instantly. The murder, which took place in Rodney Drive, in the St James's area of West Belfast, was later claimed by the Ulster Freedom Fighters, an alias for the UDA.

The masked gunman was seen running out of the Rodney Drive house to a car waiting in Rodney Parade. Two neighbours tried to give chase,

one on foot, the other in his own car. The killers' car, a rust-coloured Honda Civic, with two or possibly three occupants, sped down the Donegall Road,

across the Westlink and into the loyalist area known as the 'Village' on the other side of the M1 motorway.

The RUC immediately cordoned off Rodney Drive, preventing people from going in to comfort Paddy's family on the grounds that "thorough" forensic tests had to be carried out in the house. When they finally left, however, a relative discovered a spent cartridge under a cushion. The RUC left with the family's address book, telling them that there was a bullet hole in it and that it was needed for forensic tests. No bullet hole was found on the address

book when it was returned a few hours later.

CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE

The next day the RUC swamped the area once again while plainclothes detectives went from door-to-door, carrying out a census which had no bearing on the previous night's murder. Locals have come to expect little else over the years.

St James's has always been a strongly republican area and is under constant British army and RUC surveillance: foot patrols, P-checks, roadblocks, and an observation post which overlooks the area on the top of the nurses' flats, and from

which the car could be seen as it waited for Paddy's killer in Rodney Parade. There had been an RUC roadblock on the Donegall Road shortly before Paddy McAllister was murdered.

ALWAYS A TARGET

St James's has always been a target for loyalist murder-gangs from the neighbouring area. "It would not surprise me if they hit our district again, people here are terrified," a local woman told AP/RN.

Paddy McAllister's murder was described by West Belfast MP Gerry Adams as "a predictable consequence and a tragic result of the Hillsborough Agreement".

OPINION

IS IT WORTH IT?

MR JOHN HUME of the SDLP is one of those politicians who regularly argues that the cause of a united Ireland is not worth the shedding of a single drop of blood.

Republicans counter-argue that it is only within the context of a united Ireland that peace and an end to blood-letting can be achieved. And, in the absence of any credible alternative to armed struggle, we accept that blood-letting, however regrettable, will continue.

Should we then agree to differ and accept that John Hume is a pacifist and that republicans are militarists? Clearly not, because there is a glaring inconsistency in Mr Hume's approach, an inconsistency which has become even more pronounced since the Hillsborough Agreement was signed.

A lot has happened since then, most notably the upsurge in a campaign of intimidation and naked sectarian violence directed against Northern Catholics by loyalist hordes goaded on by their political leaders and a fanatical, if nonsensical, hatred of a deal which they perceive is a threat to their interests.

Attempts to blame the IRA for this upsurge in loyalist violence have been as feeble as they have been persistent. *The colonisers will always wage terror against the colonised as a form of blackmail against the imperial power when it threatens to upset their hegemony. It is the nature of the beast.*

Mr Hume knows this. He admitted as much when he spoke last week about loyalist "blackmail" and "the Orange card". Mr Hume, who is a staunch supporter of the Hillsborough Agreement, has called on Britain not to yield to this blackmail, to stand up to loyalism.

To date, that blackmail has resulted in eight dead, hundreds injured, and scores driven from their homes and their jobs as loyalist terror is directed against the "weak link" — the Catholic community or those Protestants who dare to associate with that community.

And so, Mr Hume — or indeed any SDLP representative — in the light of your stated pacifism and your belief that the cause of a united Ireland is not worth the shedding of one single drop of blood, are we then to accept that the Hillsborough package is worth the cost?

Republicans are, and always have been, prepared to stand up to loyalism on the issue which counts — *their veto over Irish unity*. We repeat that it is senseless to take a similar stance for the sake of an agreement which falls pitifully short of any such meaningful gain.

GREIM DOCHT DAINGEAN

EVEN THOUGH its majority has been virtually wiped out through defections and threatened defections, it is clear that the Coalition government has no intention of calling an autumn election but will continue to manipulate the differences amongst its opponents to ensure survival.

This cynical position, reiterated on Tuesday by Coalition Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Barry and Labour leader Dick Spring, emphasises the reality that the central political objective of establishment parties in the twenty-six counties is to gain and then hold onto the reins of power at all costs.

Talk about democracy is cheap but in the end it doesn't matter that their policies have failed or that the electorate clearly wants change. What does matter to them is that they are able to manoeuvre their way through each crisis until a more favourable (or less hostile) atmosphere for an election presents itself.

False promises, hardship, repression and failure — this is the legacy which the current Leinster House administration will leave in its wake when it is forced to release its death-like grip and fall from power. The shame is that, as in the past, Tweedle-dum will merely be replaced by Tweedle-dee and that, 65 years after the partition treaty was negotiated, there is still so much work to be done before the politics of Free Stateism can be replaced by the politics of Irish republicanism.

SPY-POST BLASTED

IN A SERIES of daring operations over the past week, an IRA unit in South Armagh destroyed a British army observation post which has already been the target of two previous IRA attacks, while elsewhere in the six counties IRA active service units attacked both British army and RUC patrols and barracks with bomb and bullet in Tyrone, Derry and North Antrim.

GLASSDRUMMOND

On Thursday night, August 21st, Volunteers of the 2nd Battalion, South Armagh Brigade, mounted an operation against one of the recently-constructed spy-posts at Glassdrummond, near Crossmaglen.

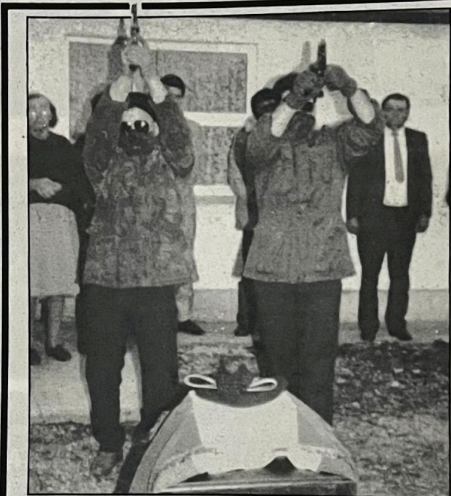
A tractor and trailer, with 14 mortars on board, was driven by a Volunteer and parked directly below the post. Contrary to media reports that only four mortars exploded, all 14 detonated on impact. The post suffered at least two direct hits, with several smaller bunkers being destroyed.

As the mortars exploded, the rest of the ASU opened fire

with machine-guns, creating cover for the other Volunteer to British draw. Subsequently, the British army sealed off the area, even to television crews and journalists. After flooding the area with more soldiers, and contrary to their report that the post was still operational, the British had to dismantle the 40-foot-high tower and have now rebuilt it even higher after a four-day operation. And despite British claims, that only one soldier was injured, IRA Intelligence sources suggest that casualties may have been considerably higher.

CARRICKMORE

On the afternoon of Thursday, August 21st, IRA Volunteers



● Volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann salute the remains of their comrade Eoin McNamee in his native County Tyrone, on the night of Sunday, August 17th

Show-trials continue

BY JANE PLUNKETT

RUC PAID-PERJURER Robert Quigley appeared in court in Belfast on Wednesday giving uncorroborated evidence against Derryman Patrick Deery, recently the victim of unofficial 'extradition' by the Garda.

Deery was arrested with another man in June at Muff, just 70 yards inside Donegal, and handed over by gardai to the RUC. He was taken to Castlereagh, confronted by Quigley, and later charged on his uncorroborated word with conspiracy to kill and IRA membership.

The preliminary inquiry into the case began at Crumlin Road Courthouse on Wednesday.

HUME'S HOT AIR

Commenting on Quigley's appearance there, Derry Sinn Féin Councillor Mitchel McLaughlin said:

"Hume's promises in the wake of the Hillsborough Deal that the paid-perjurer system would end soon were nothing more than a lot of hot air. The appearance of Robert Quigley in court today proves that, far from abandoning the use of paid-perjurers, the British, since the signing of the Accord, have continued to refine and perfect this tactic of using paid agents and their policy of internment by remand.

"The nationalist nightmare of British justice in Ireland continues."

● The judicial appeal by ten men sentenced to a total of over



detonated a landmine as a British army patrol passed along Drumnakilly Road on the outskirts of Carrickmore. Two soldiers were injured by the mine which was made up of 50 pounds of explosives and shrapnel.

DERRY

In an operation on Friday, August 22nd, Volunteers of the Derry Brigade took over the house of a civilian who worked at Strand Road RUC Barracks. This operation began late on Thursday night and the occupants of the house were held until 8.30am the next morning when the man was told to drive a car-bomb to Strand Road RUC Barracks.

However, the car was stopped at an RUC roadblock outside the barracks and the bomb was eventually defused.

In a statement, the IRA explained that the person chosen to transport the bomb was selected because he had ignored all previous warnings to cease working for the RUC.

The IRA reiterated its warning to all people working in military installations to stop immediately.

BALLYMENA

In a daring operation in the overwhelmingly loyalist town of Ballymena on Friday, August 22nd, Volunteers of the IRA's North Antrim Brigade shot and wounded an RUC man on foot patrol in the North Road area.

Earlier, an IRA active service unit had commandeered a car in the predominantly loyalist village of Cullybackey, after which they drove to Ballymena and carried out the operation before withdrawing from the area.



1,000 years' imprisonment (two of them serving life terms) on the sole word of Quigley, described by trial Judge Hutton as a man of "deplorable character", is due to start in Belfast on September 9th.

SUMMER SCHOOL MADNESS

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

"AS SERVILE as MacGill was radical and challenging" is how Mairtin O Muilleoir, head of Sinn Féin's Cultural Department, described the organisers of the MacGill Summer School. The week-long event, which took place in Glenties, County Donegal, is run by a committee based in Glenties, Patrick MacGill's own birthplace. But in spite of this year's theme being *Northern Ireland: The Future*, no representative of Sinn Féin or radical Northern nationalist of any description was invited to speak. Thus the MacGill committee, and especially its director, Joe Mulholland, deliberately excluded the views of 40% of the North's nationalists.

Joe Mulholland is controller of programmes in RTE, and is, therefore, well-used to censoring the republican viewpoint. However, time and again the many people of all shades of opinion who attended the summer school expressed surprise and regret at this glaring omission, and Mulholland spent the week apologising to the audience for not inviting Sinn Féin.

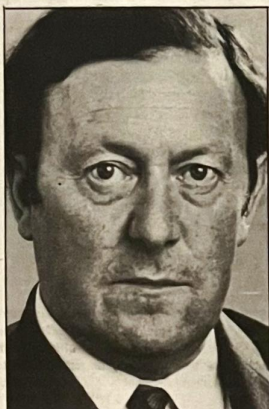
In any event, Sinn Féin had a very high profile throughout the week, both in picketing the school and in asking questions from the floor. However, such interventions go unreported by the media and, therefore, Sinn Féin's views were kept off the front pages, which was the intention of the organisers anyway.

Patrick MacGill, an Irish navy and a radical, had been chased from Glenties by the Church, which ordered his books to be burned. It is ironic that Sinn Féin should also experience censorship in an event named after him.

WOOLLY ARGUMENT

Needless to say the main focus of the summer school was the Hillsborough Deal. Progressive Democrat leader Des O'Malley set the tone for a woolly argument, with lots of "extremists on both sides" (the baddies) and of "moderates" (the goodies). Having set his party's parameter, that "Irish unity is not achievable in the short term", O'Malley expressed the hope that the goodies would win, or, to put it in his jargon: "The triumph of common-sense over historic battle cries and empty posturing."

SDLP leader John Hume is a must at these conferences and, sure enough, he graced Glenties with his presence on Thursday, August 21st. He trotted out the inevitable "framework for a healing process" and reiterated his theory on the emergence of a moderate unionist leadership when unionists realise that violence does not work. But governments should



● (Above) Conor Cruise O'Brien and John Hume; (below) Gemma Hussey and Ken Maginnis



not bow down to unionist blackmail, he added, undoubtedly worried that they might, and not for the first time either.

Another proponent of the Hillsborough Agreement was the week's final speaker, Fine Gael deputy Coalition minister Gemma Hussey. She launched into the obligatory attack on the IRA who "feed voraciously" on all the North's ills, went on to say that it was essential that the Agreement be seen to deliver "if only to sustain the morale" of the SDLP, and finally made her second bid of the month for the headlines — the first was about women priests — by praising Thatcher as the British Tory press no longer dares to do. The woman had shown "sheer guts", said Hussey, adding that "Irish history would judge her more favourably than other British leaders". Apart from the outrage which such words



naturally engender, the judgement of Irish history on Thatcher will largely depend on who gets to write the history books.

PRO-UNIONIST

The pro-unionist viewpoint was also well represented in Glenties, beginning with Conor Cruise O'Brien. Continued IRA action, combined with unionist defiance of the British government, would "harden the mood of rejection" in the British public, he correctly pointed out, but then launched into an Enoch Powell type of conspiracy theory about this being precisely the intention of the British Foreign Office. Drop the Agreement and "don't increase the fury of the Protestant people", he advised.

Another pro-unionist was Dublin Senator Mary Robinson who left the Labour

Party over the Hillsborough Agreement. She called for an immediate review of the Agreement, and for a referendum on Articles 2 and 3 of the Free State Constitution.

But the highlight of the week, indeed its cheap thrill, was the intervention of two unionists, the OUP's Ken Maginnis and the DUP's Jim Wells. The style was civilised, the words reasonable, but the meaning was clear: "Drop the Agreement or our heavies are going to kill tails."

"The gunmen in the loyalist community are beginning to say already that the politicians have failed and must be cast aside," said Wells. "I hate the Agreement," said Maginnis, who spoke of "holy war" looming while John Hume was "globe-trotting". Both agreed that Catholics were going to pay the heavy price for the Hillsborough Agreement.

As if to show that Wells and Maginnis were not bluffing, another so-called moderate of the OUP, its general secretary, Frank Millar, also went on record last week to threaten that any reforms would "see the eclipse of constitutional unionism and the beginning of the final descent to an all-out confrontation".

As for the nationalist view critical of the Agreement, it was represented only by Fianna Fáil's Ray MacSharry, who said that British withdrawal and Irish reunification were the only way to a lasting peace. The British government simply wanted to draw Dublin "more and more deeply into the impossible task of upholding the British presence in Ireland", he added. Fine words, Ray. Easy to see that Fianna Fáil is in opposition at the moment...

MERRIMAN

Meanwhile, another summer school was taking place in Lisdoonvarna, County Clare, named in honour of Merriman of *Midnight Court* fame. Noteworthy contributions included an attack by Patrick McEntee SC on the abdication of legislative powers by Leinster House in favour of the courts when "unpopular decisions" must be made. He quoted as an example the McGlinchey extradition case in which Dublin's Supreme Court "substantially amended the Extradition Act of 1965". McEntee made a plea for more jury courts and less of the Green Street Special Court. Jurors, he pointed out, are "unlikely to become case-hardened, cynical or corrupted with power".

But on Friday, August 22nd, Kevin Boyle, of University College Galway, advocated that the Dublin government should amend its extradition laws immediately to thank the British government for its good faith in the implementation of the Hillsborough Agreement. What was needed, he said, was to "build confidence" in the emergency courts North and South.

More blather at Béal na mBláth

BY MARTIN Mac DIARMADA

ONCE AGAIN, this year the annual Michael Collins commemoration at Béal na mBláth in County Cork has been used by an establishment politician to launch a hypocritical and hysterical attack on the Republican Movement.

Speaking on Sunday, August 24th, Brid Rodgers of the SDLP said that the Republican Movement was panicking at the Hillsborough Agreement. She claimed that the Agreement was dealing with the grievances of nationalists and that republicans feared its potential. The larger part of Rodgers' speech was devoted to this onslaught on the Republican

Movement which she said nationalists saw as "one of the obstacles to achieving the full potential of the Agreement" — the logic being that republicanism must be stamped out before nationalists can benefit from Hillsborough.

REPLY TO RODGERS

In a reply to Brid Rodgers, Craigavon Sinn Féin Councillor

Brian McCann said that the SDLP was paranoid about Britain reneging on the Agreement:

"Brid Rodgers and her colleagues have a compulsive need to shout that the Republican Movement is reeling and in a panic, and fears that the Agreement works."

"This is a distraction and is completely untrue. Brid Rodgers is, apparently, more excited about the prospects of Sinn Féin and the IRA being undermined by reforms than being concerned about the victims of the Agreement, those people burned out of their homes

and attacked and murdered. These are the people who, understandably, are reeling and panicking and I challenge Brid Rodgers to state whether she believes that this mediocre Agreement, which will not bring about peace, is worth the suffering and bloodshed it has provoked."

"I also find it ironic and hypocritical for Rodgers to deliver an oration over the grave of Michael Collins, who had quite a few Special Branch agents and his 'fellow Irishmen' in the RIC shot in their beds."



● BRID RODGERS

AT LEAST 2,000 workers in Bord na Mona plants and offices throughout the twenty-six counties face a bleak winter if lay-offs proposed by management go ahead.

The Federated Workers' Union of Ireland, which represents 4,000 employees in the Bord, was informed of the lay-off plans by management on Tuesday, August 26th. A spokesperson for the union said that it would carry out its own survey to determine the extent of the damage to bogs which would result in turf not being able to be cut in viable quantities. The union said that the situation varied considerably around the country and that management was premature in deciding on the 2,000 lay-offs without a response from them.

The Gallaher's tobacco factory in Belfast is to close with the loss of over 700 jobs over the next year.

Union representatives have criticised the company's failure to diversify given the health dangers associated with tobacco.

Challenged on Tuesday night about the North's chronic unemployment level of over 120,000, British Industry Minister Rhodes Boyson, in racist fashion, singled out the North's high birthrate as a contributory factor and the slowing down of emigration. And he made it quite clear that population control and the encouragement of emigration would form at least part of the British government's response to unemployment.

Bleak winter



● Gallahers — the closure of the Belfast plant and the transfer of the remaining jobs to Ballymena will mean that even fewer Catholics are employed in an industry which has traditionally operated along sectarian lines

Workers in the Matterson's factory in Limerick are meeting today to consider a new Labour Court offer of redundancy payments. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions last week granted all-out pickets to the ITGWU against the Irish Sugar Company of which Matterson's is a subsidiary.

At the Labour Court conciliation conference on Tuesday, August 26th, a new offer of four weeks' pay for 75 years of service was made to the 75 workers laid off last June.

The workers had received Labour Court backing for their original claim of five weeks' pay for each year, in line with other workers in the Sugar Com-

pany and, if, as seems likely, they decide on rejection of the new offer, over 3,000 employees of the semi-state body will be involved in the all-out picket next September.

Overcrowding and chronic working conditions in the Rathmines Postal Office in Dublin has led to unofficial action by the 70 members of the Postal Telecommunications Workers' Union there.

Postal workers are refusing to co-operate with mail deliveries to the 18,000 homes serviced by the office but outgoing mail is not affected. Although the dispute is unofficial, the PTWU has

begun negotiations with management in an effort to improve the working conditions of its members.

Negotiations between News International and the print unions over the Wapping dispute in Britain reopened on Friday, August 22nd, after a lapse of three months. No details are available of any progress in the talks at the time AP/RN goes to press but relations between management and unions are undoubtedly strained following Rupert Murdoch's use of the courts against the 6,000 sacked workers and police violence on the picket line.

First in the ring with a semi-state 26th pay round claim will be the 2,000 Federated Workers' Union of Ireland members in Aer Lingus.

Their current round expires at the end of September and at a meeting of members this week a claim will be formulated. Indications are that the claim will be well above the Coalition's pay guidelines since the union has said that the claim will be based on three factors: the rate of inflation, parity with similar organisations, and the increased productivity of members due to the 500 redundancies over the last number of years.

No change at Shorts



DURING the past week, management at the Shorts' aircraft factory, which is wholly owned by the British state, has been engaged in a propaganda exercise designed to obscure the ingrained sectarianism of the company.

Following recent threats against Catholic workers and publicity about the regular, intimidating display of loyalist flags and UDA and UVF posters, management sent letters to all staff on Friday, ordering the removal of flags and posters. It added that anyone infringing this order would be disciplined.

Although welcomed by the trade unions, loyalist organisations denounced the letter. The DUP termed it an "outrage" while the Orange Order warned of a possible strike if

any bunting is removed. The Order claimed that the British government was behind the letter, alleging that two Northern Ireland Office officials had visited Shorts' management the Wednesday before the letter was sent. However, whether or not bunting is, after so many decades, finally banned from Shorts' shop floor, little change can be expected in the ingrained sectarianism which exists at the factory.

CYNICAL

Around 5% (less than 400) of Shorts' 7,000 workers are Catholics, a percentage scarcely changed despite an 'affirmative action programme' begun several years ago.

Sinn Féin's president, Gerry Adams, described Shorts' management's statement as "a cynical attempt to offset adverse publicity in the US and to avoid jeopardising new orders".

On Wednesday, August 27th, 1,000 Shorts' workers downed tools and staged a walk-out. West Belfast MP Gerry Adams described the strike at Shorts' as a public demonstration of sectarian bigotry at the plant:

"It is clear from today's action that it is the 'People's Loyalist Committee', supported by Paisley and Robinson, who in reality control Shorts, turning sectarian hatred on and off at will.

"Over the past number of days, sectarian symbols have in fact multiplied on the factory floor, with Catholic workers coming under increasing pressure, direct and indirect, to leave their work.

"The £30 million EEC loan to Shorts is, in effect, a £30 million subsidy for sectarianism and should be withdrawn immediately."

SELLAFIELD REOPENS

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

THE SELLAFIELD/WINDSCALE nuclear reprocessing plant reopened last weekend with British Nuclear Fuels spokespersons admitting that they could not explain why there were excessive radiation levels in waste about to be released into the Irish Sea.

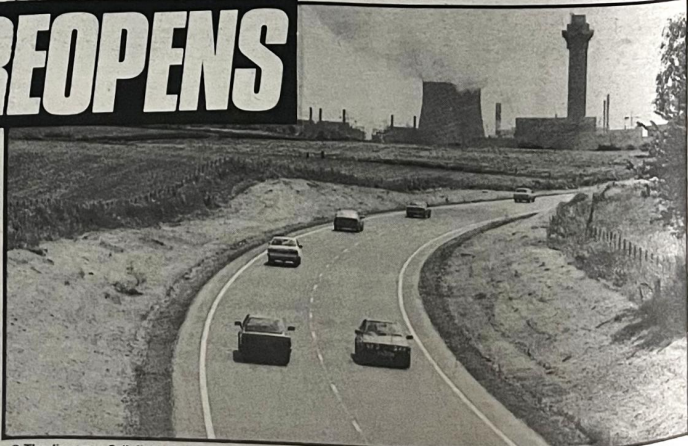
The discovery of the radiation levels above British acceptable standards (themselves 20 times higher than their US counterparts) led to the temporary closure of the plant last week and to renewed calls for its complete closure.

Dublin City Council will debate a motion calling for the immediate closure of Sellafield at its next meeting in September.

The motion has been tabled by Sinn Féin Councillor Christy

Burke, who repeated the party's call for the removal of this threat to hundreds of thousands of lives on both sides of the Irish Sea:

"There have been more than 300 recorded accidents at Sellafield/Windscale since 1950. The Irish Sea is the most radiation-polluted stretch of water in the world and the time has long passed for this time-bomb sitting on Ireland's doorstep to be defused by immediately closing the Sellafield/Windscale plant."



● The disastrous Sellafield/Windscale nuclear reprocessing plant

In Moscow, the report on the Chernobyl disaster last April revealed the horrific extent of the

tragedy. Thousands of people in the Soviet Union may die in coming decades as a result of

radiation released after the explosion with traces of the radiation being found around the world.

INTIMIDATION INTENSIFIES

BY JANE PLUNKETT

AS LOYALIST ATTACKS against Catholic workers, their homes and property intensified in the past week, those forced to leave their jobs have included nationalist building workers, Department of Health & Social Security and Housing Executive staff, and social workers.

Two building companies have been forced to withdraw from a £1 million Housing Executive improvement scheme on the mainly loyalist Ballykeel Estate in Ballymena. Thirty Catholic workers were forced from their jobs after masked loyalists, one wielding a hatchet, entered the site.

In Belfast, death threats against Catholic drivers employed by the Eastern Health & Social Services Board meant that the meals-on-wheels service to pensioners in the Shankill Road area was halted for several days last week. Transport of handicapped people was also affected.

UFF/UDA THREATS

Catholic workers at Housing Executive offices in Killeel and Lisburn received telephone threats from the UFF, a flag of convenience for the Ulster Defence Association.

Also in Lisburn, DHSS staff walked out last Wednesday, August 20th, after a telephone threat warning Catholics to leave. And token sympathy walk-outs were staged at DHSS offices at Stormont, Antrim, Carrickfergus, Knockbreda, Newtownabbey, Falls Road, Andersonstown, and the Shankill Road.

Last Friday night, three Catholic voluntary workers at the Olympia Community Centre in the loyalist Donegall Road area of Belfast were threatened by a masked and armed loyalist.

On Wednesday, August 20th, the DUP mayor of Belfast, Sammy Wilson, said that the DUP had "no difficulty" in working against the London-Dublin Agreement "alongside the UDA", which has played a major role in the recent intimidation and sectarian assassinations.

CONTRAST

By contrast, a number of sectarian threats against Protestant workers have been swiftly condemned by republicans. After binmen from Lisburn Borough Council were threatened by youths on the nationalist Poleglass Estate, this intimidation was swiftly and "unreservedly" condemned by local Sinn Féin Councillor Damien Gibney, who explained Sinn Féin's position to an ATGWU union representative.

Threatening phone-calls, allegedly from republicans, were received at the DHSS office in Newcastle last Friday and at the fire service in Newry on Sunday.

However, in one of a series of statements during the past week,



●(Above) Marco and Ralph McKay pack their belongings prior to moving from Lisburn to Poleglass. In the past week alone, 13 Catholic families from Lisburn have been rehoused outside the town in nearby nationalist Poleglass and Twinbrook; (left) Lisburn DHSS office, staff walked out last week following a telephone threat to Catholics



the IRA firmly denied any involvement in the intimidation of working fire service, DHSS and Housing

executives in any area of civilian employment and specifically in the Executive.

And in a statement last Friday, Jim McAllister, chairperson of Sinn Féin's six-county executive, suggested that threats such as that against Newry firefighters were possibly "a British propaganda exercise against republicanism".

Youth beaten unconscious

BY TERESA LYNCH



● THOMAS JERVIS JUNIOR

A YOUNG MAN from Downpatrick, County Down — whose 56-year-old father was the victim of a calculated RUC murder attempt when he was hit by a plastic bullet on the eve of the anniversary of internment, August 8th — was beaten and arrested on Friday, August 22nd.

Thomas Jervis (20), from the Model Farm Estate, was walking home from the Central Bar in Downpatrick with a friend at 10.30pm last Friday when he was stopped at an RUC checkpoint on the Killough Road. After giving their names they proceeded along the Killough Road but, ten

minutes later, they were again stopped by two RUC armoured cars. Jervis was pulled into the back of one vehicle and heard an RUC man in the car say, "He is one of them wee bastards from Lee Side," referring to his father's house.

Jervis was beaten about the head and knocked unconscious. He was then taken to Downpatrick RUC Barracks and, when he regained consciousness, he was charged with drunk and disorderly behaviour, assault, and jaywalking. These trumped-up charges were presumably an attempt by the RUC to deter him from lodging an official complaint over the assault.

Jervis was denied requests to see his doctor and an RUC doctor refused to take a blood and urine test which he believes would have

verified that he wasn't drunk. He was released at 8.30am on Saturday, August 23rd.

The unprovoked RUC assault was sharply condemned by local Sinn Féin Councillor Geraldine Ritchie:

"Sinn Féin, like the Jervis family, believes that the attack was part of a campaign of harassment, the aim of which is to deter Thomas Jervis senior, who was critically injured by an RUC plastic bullet, from taking legal action against the RUC."

The Stalker saga

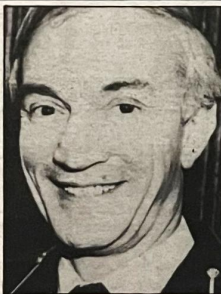
BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

STALKER is back in his job but 'Stalkergate' rumbles on. Just like a good television drama, the 'Stalker Affair' reached a climax last week after nearly three months of leaks, rumours and allegations which started in June with the suspension from his job of Manchester Police Deputy Chief Constable John Stalker.

Stalker was, at the time, conducting an investigation into the RUC's shoot-to-kill policy and several serious press reports linked his demise to RUC, MI5 or even the Freemasons' intervention.

Colin Sampson, the Manchester

policeman who, rather strangely, was given the double task of continuing the RUC investigation and conducting an inquiry into Stalker's alleged friendship with alleged Manchester criminals, issued his report on Stalker on Wed-



● JOHN STALKER

nesday, August 20th. The 1,500-page report which was handed to all members of the Labour-dominated Manchester Police Authori-

ty, was hostile. Stalker was accused of "naivety" in his choice of friends, a "less than excellent standard of professional performance", and attending functions at which members of Manchester's so-called "Quality Street gang" were present.

Sampson's report denied any links between those charges against Stalker and his investigation into the RUC.

On Friday, August 22nd, the Manchester Police Authority met and, after a six-hour meeting, rejected Sampson's report by 36 votes to 6. Stalker was immediately reinstated, with a caution to choose his friends with more care next time. There were immediate calls for him to be put back in charge of the RUC investigation and for RUC chief John Hermon to be investigated for his part in the Stalker Affair.

Several newspapers expressed doubts on Sampson's assurance that there had been no cover-up.

On Saturday, August 23rd, Manchester Tory MP Cecil Franks, a friend of Stalker who had been questioned by police during the investigation, called for a full judicial inquiry into the affair and hinted that there is more to be told about the role of the Dublin authorities. Stalker's report into the RUC mentioned incursions by the RUC into the South, possibly with the knowledge or even permission of Dublin. True or not, this allegation is sure to embarrass Dublin, whose collaboration with the RUC and the British army did not begin only after the Hillsborough Agreement was signed. Indeed, the unionist *News Letter* seized on it and on Monday ran an article entitled: "Stalker sacrificed to save Fitz."

What remains of this strange affair is that Stalker is no longer in charge and Colin Sampson will muddle through, even though he has lost all credibility following the rejection of his Stalker report.

CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS?

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

AS FARMERS were hit by more disastrous weather conditions in the past week, there was fury at the remarks of Austin Deasy, the twenty-six-county Agriculture Minister, who said that the farming sector faced no crisis and he could not (would not) aid those calling for help.

Deasy had completed a tour in which he allegedly visited most parts of the twenty-six counties to 'see for himself' how the bad summer had affected farmers. On Thursday, August 21st, he attended a horse show in Galway. He was interviewed there by RTE and arrogantly denied that there was any crisis.

Deasy added that the Coalition "could not" provide financial aid for farmers and then held forth on the politics of farming organisations, comparing them to the Catholic Church and the GAA.

FURIOUS REACTION

The Agriculture Minister's comments as he stomped around the horse show, obviously enjoying himself, provoked an understandably furious reaction from the farming bodies.

The interview came only a day after the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association had organised a special action committee to subsidise the transport of fodder to an estimated 30,000 farmers in the worst-affected areas of the twenty-six counties.

The severe storm and extensive flooding at the beginning of this week led to what was described as a 'crisis' Coalition Cabinet meeting to be held today (Thursday, August 28th).

The ineptitude of Austin Deasy caused consternation within Fine Gael, adding another headache to the already reeling Coalition as Garret Fitzgerald broke off his holiday in Cyprus to discuss the very crisis his own minister had denied existed.

The extent of that crisis emerged during the week when it was learned on Tuesday that even in the prosperous Golden Vale area, dairy farmers are in severe financial difficulties with 10% unable to make repayments to local co-ops.

COALITION CONTEMPT

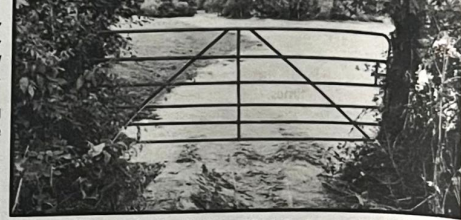
Sinn Féin Agriculture spokesperson Joe Ennis said:

"The Coalition has nothing but contempt for the small working farmers who have experienced the worst hardships in the past two summers."



"They are obviously totally out of touch with the reality which is forcing many small farming families below the poverty line."

He repeated, Sinn Féin's call earlier this month for immediate action to avert another winter feed famine, including loans to small farmers, fertiliser subsidies and the setting up of a democratic Land Authority to replace the Land Commission.



● Flooded fields showing the disastrous effects for farmers of the bad weather



● Tallaght Sinn Féin, Dublin, support Travellers' rights

A VICIOUS CIRCLE

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

IRISH TRAVELLERS are the most underprivileged group within Irish society and live in intolerable circumstances, according to a census carried out in the twenty-six counties by the Economic & Social Research Institute.

The results of the census, which was carried out in 1981, show a very high infant mortality rate among Travellers with these deaths accounting for a quarter of those which took place in the

period surveyed. The authors of the census report say that the growth in the population of Travellers and their intolerable living conditions underline the urgency of immediate action to

alleviate their plight on a planned, state-wide basis.

Twenty-seven per cent of Travellers in the twenty-six counties live in the Dublin area and only one sixth of this total are in housing. Fifty-three per cent of all Travellers live on the side of the road or on halting sites, the largest proportion of which have no adequate heating, lighting or

water supplies. The report identifies the area covered by the Eastern Health Board as the worst in terms of providing facilities for Travellers.

Most of those who live in deplorable conditions along the roadside do not do so by choice. In the survey, roadside Travellers (even including those who previously lived in local authority housing) state a preference for standard houses and half of them have at some time applied for a local authority house. The report concludes:

"The main reason for the persistence of these conditions is not the housing preferences of Travellers but the failure of local authorities to provide housing in the quantity and form needed."

While Travellers are identified as the most underprivileged group in Irish Society, the ESRI report says that, unlike many other social problems, there are remedies at hand in the short term which could be successfully implemented to solve the problems of Travellers.

Under the present system, the Dublin government does no more than state a general policy of providing standard accommodation for those who desire it and

adequately serviced halting sites for the remainder of Travelling families. This policy corresponds with the wishes of Travellers but remains just that — a policy which is not being implemented.

So the Travellers, says the report, "are caught up in a vicious circle".

"The more squalid and unsanitary their living conditions, the more despised and outcast they become; the more unpopular they are, the fewer services are provided to them by the community, and they are pressurised to move on. The fewer services that are provided, the worse the living conditions become."

GOVERNMENT

The authors of the report say that it is up to the Dublin government to break this vicious circle by implementing an overall plan for the accommodation of Travellers. Immediate action should also be taken on the health needs of Travellers who suffer particularly badly in this area.

It remains to be seen if the ESRI report will be left to gather dust as have so many others. As the authors say:

"Remedies are at hand. They should be taken."

Picket against repression

A UNION JACK FLAG was burned outside the British ambassador's residence in Sandford, County Dublin, on Saturday as Sinn Féin members staged a picket opposing British repression in the North.

The protestors, carrying placards and banners calling for British withdrawal and an end to strip-searching and show-trials, were closely watched throughout the demonstration by several car-loads of Special Branch and uniformed gardai.



Strabane in grip of terror

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

JUST ONE MONTH after hundreds of Strabane people held an angry street protest against the sustained campaign of crown forces harassment in the town, the crown forces have upgraded their campaign to such an extent that they are currently holding the nationalist population of the town in a relentless grip of terror.

The heavy concentration of RUC and British army personnel throughout the town has now become a permanent feature of everyday life in Strabane. During the past few weeks, conditions bordering on curfew have been stringently imposed in Strabane's relatively small town centre. After 7.30pm, people seen congregating there are immediately accosted by the crown forces and ordered off the streets.

The case of 18-year-old Jim Brolly of Drumrallagh Estate is typical of the present plight of young Strabane nationalists: within the last two weeks, Brolly has been stopped and searched in the street and had his shoes removed by both RUC and British Army personnel on more than 25 separate occasions (five of them last Sunday). Several times, in broad daylight, the RUC has put guns to Brolly's head and chest and threatened to shoot him.

"If we are seen on the streets of the town centre at all by the RUC, we are immediately pulled

in — morning, noon and night," he told AP/RN.

BRITISH ARMY JOY-RIDERS

Young people are frightened to travel into Strabane town centre for entertainment and many have been successfully intimidated into remaining within their estates. Yet even there life has been made unsafe for local residents as the British army has recently adopted the highly dangerous tactic of joy-riding. Armoured Land Rovers are regularly driven (illegally) at high speed over footpaths in the Innisfree Gardens and Head of the Town estates, with no care for life or property.

The scale and viciousness of crown forces repression of the local population has shocked even 'respectable' Castle Catholics in the town and has highlighted the RUC's sectarianism.

At around 12.30am on Wednesday, August 20th, 20-year-old Eddie McGarrigle, of Carlton Drive, and several youths travell-



● EDDIE MCGARRIGLE

ing in his car were flagged down by a 10-person RUC foot patrol near Strabane Bridge.

McGarrigle, who is paralysed from the waist down and confined to a wheelchair, was told to get out of the car by a belligerent RUC man.

When McGarrigle explained his condition, he was punched in the face. The RUC man then tried to drag McGarrigle from the car and grappled with the terrified invalid for over 20 minutes. Throughout his ordeal, McGar-



● JUDE MCGARRIGLE

rigle's terrified companions were held at the roadside, powerless to help.

Eventually, in full view of a large crowd which had gathered, the apparently deranged RUC man threatened to shoot McGarrigle and his Alsatian dog in the back seat of the car.

RUC STOP MERCY DASH

In another incident, at around 7pm on Sunday evening, August 17th, a mobile RUC patrol stop-

ped John McGarrigle (no relation to Eddie McGarrigle) as he was driving his 15-year-old son Jude, who had just broken his arm in a skateboard accident, to a nearby doctor.

Although he pointed out that the boy was suffering severe pain, the RUC insisted on carrying out a thorough search of the car and detained them for 30 minutes, during which time the RUC men joked about the pain the lad was suffering.

One RUC man, Paul McClatchey, well known in Strabane as an unashamed sectarian bigot, "stood laughing all the time into my son's face", John McGarrigle told AP/RN.

With no end in sight to this blatant aggression, feelings are running high in nationalist Strabane. Local Sinn Féin Councillor Ivan Barr says:

"By their use of these terror tactics, the crown forces have successfully engineered an atmosphere of widespread fear and intimidation throughout the town. Local people, especially the youngsters, are living a worried and frustrated day-to-day existence, under constant and imminent threat from the state-sanctioned brutality and repression all around them."

GALBALLY BEATING

A COUNTY TYRONE man has revealed how he has been the victim of constant death threats and beatings from the UDR.

The most recent threat to the life of 18-year-old Seamus Nugent, who lives in Glenbeg in Galbally, came on Thursday, August 21st, when the car in which he was travelling home from work was stopped at a UDR checkpoint on the main Galbally Road at about 7.15pm.

The UDR immediately demanded to search the vehicle but Nugent refused because he is regularly singled out to be stop-

ped on that road and on numerous occasions previously the UDR has used this sort of opportunity to give him a kicking.

On this occasion he was trailed out of the car across the ground by three UDR men who twisted his arms behind his back and punched him in the chest and face.

Another UDR man shouted, "Get him down and do him right!" and he was then kicked on the

neck, arms and back. As he managed to get back to the car, a UDR man struck him across the face, threatening, "The next time we search you, you wee fucker, it'll be the last time."

When Nugent's mother, who had rushed to the scene, tried to intervene she was struck on the chest by a UDR man.

The UDR has threatened to shoot Nugent on previous occasions and his father and two brothers have been assaulted by the British army.



Coat-trailing parades

DUNGANNON Sinn Féin Councillors Francis Molloy and Brian Duffin have condemned a loyalist coat-trailing exercise which took place in the 97% nationalist town of Coalisland on Sunday, August 24th.

About 500 loyalists from outside Coalisland were shepherded into the town on Sunday evening by the RUC while the majority of Coalisland people watched the All-Ireland GAA semi-final.

The RUC closed off the town, restricting the movement of local people. A number of young nationalists who were outside the local chip shop were beaten by the RUC Divisional Mobile Support Unit as they cleared the streets to allow the loyalist outsiders to flaunt their

sectarian hatred at the people of Coalisland.

FERMANAGH

Meanwhile, in County Fermanagh, Sinn Féin Councillor Brian McCaffrey has slammed a similar coat-trailing parade through Roslea, a 99% nationalist town, on August 9th. There, British soldiers and members of the RUC swamped the area to allow just eight members of the Royal Black Preceptory, accompanied by a band and 20 supporters (about 50 people in all), to march along the main street.

By-election called

A BY-ELECTION is to be held on Strabane Council to fill the vacancy caused by the disqualification of DUP Councillor Ronald Brolly.

Brolly has been held on remand since June, charged, with other men, with arson attacks on a school and GAA hall in Donegana, County Tyrone, and the burning of a lorry. Having missed three months' meetings, he was automatically disqualified.

At Strabane Council's meeting on Tuesday night, August 26th, Sinn Féin Councillor Ivan Barr proposed that the vacancy should not be filled until Brolly's fate was decided in the courts and he should be allowed to resubmit himself to the electorate.

Barr told councillors that to do otherwise would set a dangerous

precedent for the future:

"It would be easy for the RUC, given their record, to arrest any councillor either on a trumped-up charge or on the word of a paid-perjurer and have them detained for the sole purpose of having that councillor disqualified."

ANXIOUS DUP

The DUP, however, is clearly anxious that when Brolly comes to trial he should not go on the record as a DUP councillor. At Tuesday's meeting, DUP Councillor Ronald Kerrigan proposed the co-option of another DUP member, asserting that Brolly was



● IVAN BARR

"no longer interested" in sitting on the council.

This swayed SDLP and Independent councillors into reversing their previous support for leaving the vacancy unfilled. Barr then objected to any undemocratic co-option, as a result of which a by-election will take place.

Z. HAMMETT spent his holidays reading some of the recent novels about Ireland. They included Jack Higgins' *Confessional* and *Touch the Devil*; Nelson De Mille's *Cathedral*; Gerald Seymour's *Field of*

Blood; Peter Lauder's *Noble Lord*; and Terence Who Dares. The following is a rather unconventional present state of literature on Ireland and the republican st

YOU TOO CAN WRITE AN IRISH NOVEL IN YOUR SPARE TIME

EARN
£££!

THINGS are going pretty badly for the IRA. A couple of hundred of their best Volunteers, trained to perfection by two American Green Berets, have just been wiped out by four SAS men. A renegade Volunteer, funded by the Russians, is wreaking havoc in Europe, where he has just attempted to murder Lord Carrington ("one of the most decent and humane of politicians"). Another renegade, this one a KGB agent, is posing as a priest, killing dozens of "counter-productive targets" and claiming them for the IRA. Informants tell us that he is about to assassinate the Pope!

Over in New York, yet another renegade Volunteer has just blown all hell out of St Patrick's Cathedral. This man, who thinks he is 'Finn MacCumail', has just wiped out half of the American National Guard, with the help of an octogenarian veteran of the Black and Tan War.

And, as if things aren't bad enough, the INLA, "the military wing of the Old IRA", is up to its usual stunts. It seems the gardai have just intercepted a huge shipment of arms that they bought from the American Mafia. In retaliation, these renegades exercised their usual hatred for the royal family by attempting to assassinate the Queen on Derby Day. Luckily, the INLA operative, posing as an Arab stable boy, was taken out just in time by a cop from the Caribbean.

Back in the Ukraine, the Russkies have set up a mock-Ulster village, where they are training young Soviet citizens to say "What about ye?", drink lashings of Bushmills, and shoot down 15 RUC men and slice the throats of a few innocent bystanders before you can say, "F... King Billy and the horse he rode in on."

It's all a part of their well-known

policy of creating chaos, fear and disorder in the West. All KGB operatives, it is well known, have "Chaos is our business" sewn into their knickers.

And to top it all off, there's a new supergrass on the loose. This one has fingered the whole Belfast Brigade including "the chief".

AN ILL WIND

Now, this is where the Brits' troubles begin. For it's not an easy thing to hold "the chief" in any jail, from Castlereagh to the Crum' and the Kesh. Problem is, "the chief" has been eating so many Chinese take-aways over the years that he's breathing foul things from both ends. A regular walking Chernobyl is "the chief".

So, when they brought in the supergrass to ID him, "the chief" broke wind. Five RUC Branchmen and a paid perjurer nearly died of asphyxiation.

Meanwhile, back at Number 10.

The prime minister (never refer to her by her real name, just like "the chief"), poor soul, has been working hard. To quote the brigadier's aide-de-camp, "good God, sir! She starts at 6.30 in the morning and doesn't stop until 1am the following morning."

The brigadier, for his part, is on the prime minister's s... list. It seems he has tricked an IRA Volunteer into working for MIS by telling him a lie about how his girlfriend died. The prime minister, of course, has principles. She gives the brigadier a good dressing down for telling that lie to the IRA Volunteer.

"I don't believe that the ego justifies the means, brigadier. I believe in moral imperatives," she tells him.

What's really irking the prime minister is that the IRA Volunteer, incensed at

the brigadier's lie, has just snuck into the prime minister's office, past a few hundred guards, and left a white Christmas rose. He would have killed the prime minister, but he is having second thoughts about his terrorist past. It's hard to reconcile a terrorist past with being a poet and a scholar.

Jut on the streets of Belfast, while the prime minister sniffs roses and "the chief" languishes in Castlereagh, the IRA has just finished its weekly execution of a Volunteer who tried to leave the organisation. "The fools, the fools." When will they ever learn that, once you're in, you can never leave.

THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Now I'm sure you never saw any of the preceding events on the nightly news.

You never read about them in the papers — no, not even *The Mirror*. But they happened nonetheless. In the pulps. In those flashy paperbacks that line the shelves of your local newsagent. And somewhere, somehow, men with names like Jack Higgins, Peter Lauder, Terence Strong and Nelson De Mille are sitting by the pool, gazing at their tennis court, sipping mint juleps and speaking with their brokers over their cellular phones.

"Don't sell that Exxon stock... yes, I do want the stud farm in Kildare, but I can get the money by writing a new book... okay, maybe a few million in Guinness would fill out my portfolio..."



Sounds like the life? Think it's beyond your wildest dreams? Well, think again! With a few easy lessons from the *Zed Hammett School of Creative Writing* you too can make your fortune from 'the Troubles'. It's called, "Making the best of a bad situation," and it's as easy as one, two, three.

First, wipe your mind clean. Forget everything you know about Ireland. It won't do you any good. Those of you

from the six counties will have a bit of a harder time than the rest because reality will keep edging its ugly nose into your efforts at creative writing. Just keep telling yourself, "Reality is my greatest enemy, fantasy is my friend."

Try watching the box to get a few hints. The nightly news is great. You can learn all about "sophisticated mercury-tit switches". You'll learn that if someone tries to kill the Queen in May, it must be the INLA, because the IRA are "Christmas shopping specialists". You'll know that when the IRA executes a RUC man or a Brit, it has nothing to do with the struggle for national liberation. It's "an attempt to encourage loyalist sectarian reprisals." It's all hokum and bunk, but it's what the public want to hear. That means it will also sell books.

Once you have got your mind right, you are ready to begin. The recipe is simple. First, you need characters. The central character in any IRA novel is the renegade. This man (and he must be a man) is driven by the blackest instincts. For a start, make him a former IRA Volunteer, who has gotten "on the wrong side" of the organisation. Let's say he has gotten a taste of blood, because his IRA godfathers have trained him too well.

After some practice, you may want to experiment with the central character. Try some variations on the theme. A KGB agent whose father, an Irishman, was hanged by the British and whose mother, a Russian, took him back to be trained as a commie agent (Jack Higgins used this one). A mercenary American who got a taste for blood in Vietnam and who now wants to turn his skills to making money in Ireland (Terence Strong's anti-hero). Or maybe a Volunteer from Belfast who tried on a ring that had mystical powers and began thinking he was an ancient Irish chieftain (that was Nelson De Mille).

Second, you need a target. This person must be pure as the driven snow. Lily white. This makes them "counter-productive", which is very important (it shows us all that the terrorists are insane). Mere politicians will not do, because they are too corrupt. The Queen (God bless 'er!) isn't bad. The Pope is ideal. But for a real ball-buster of a tale, you want to kill the big G himself. Yes, God is the ultimate target!

Now it's a bit hard to kill Himself, up in heaven He be. The Dublin train don't go that far, so a simple bomb won't do.

Chap 1

It was a dark and stormy night in Belfast. Iger Stravinsky was plotting to destroy the moral fabric of society by killing two corgis, a racehorse and a prize pig. It was going to be beautifully photographed and he was hoping to get Clannad to do the theme music.



Terence Strong's Whisper
conventional review of the
the republican struggle.

RITE

L IN

ME

IT'S
EASY

The best way to kill God is by killing his biggest symbols. St Patrick's Cathedral, for instance. "Wherever two or more people are gathered in my name there am I also..." Blow up St Pat's and you're sure to get God, and probably a patron saint into the bargain.



THE HERO

Now, you need a hero. Somebody has got to stop the crazed renegade from blowing up God. Somebody has to save the world. Here you have some choices. You can pick a Brit — an SAS man, perhaps — but that's a bit obvious and boring.

If you want to catch the American audience, you can throw in a flatfoot cop from New York or Boston. Preferably one with plenty of Irish roots, named Delahanty or Hanratty. He must be a bit pudgy and a few years past his prime, but nevertheless, must have that certain something that drives a beautiful young woman into his trousers before the renegade is killed and the book is over.

But the best hero — gets 'em every time — is the reformed terrorist. He must be a poet and a scholar, and a gentleman as well. He can be young or old, but he must drive ladies wild. But, attractive as he is, he stays aloof from the women, because he knows there is a scar of sorrow in his heart that will make it impossible to truly give himself to any mortal woman.

Most of all — and this is a must — the hero must have been sentenced to death by the Army Council for trying to leave the IRA. Use a flashback, or a scene in a bar... anything... but you must give your readers a scene where the hero is threatened by a hard terrorist godfather.

"Once in, never out!"
"You know you can't leave this organisation, Bannion!"
"Membership in the IRA is for life, McCool!"

Now, if you want to, you can include

the usual supporting cast. The girl (never say woman, always say girl) who loves the hero, but can never have him. Usually, she has been raped by a high-ranking member of the IRA, which adds to the hero's sense of outrage. The priest, who falls hostage to the renegade terrorist and, in the course of a long siege, resolves his fears and doubts about his own personal faith. The Soviet agents, who pass money to the IRA and give little speeches about "chaos, disorder, fear and uncertainty". The Arab sheik, preferably a homosexual who sneaks drinks of Bushmills and snorts cocaine in the privacy of his Mafia apartment. The good SAS soldiers, who wave their yellow cards before they shoot the IRA unit to bits. The possibilities are endless.

And Martin McGuinness.

Every novel about the troubles must have Martin McGuinness. He is the touch of reality. The "guaranteed Irish" label on your Donegal tweed, the cowhide symbol on the label of your leather jacket. "The legendary Martin McGuinness" dresses smartly — blue blazer, grey trousers, tie. He is a devout Catholic. He eats duck à l'orange. He enters a room with the greeting, "God bless all here." And he says things like, "Ireland free and Ireland for the Irish. We don't want any Marxist pap here."

THE SETTING

Finally, you need a setting. Now I know what you are thinking. "I know a wee glen up in Antrim... a perfect place for an ambush." Or, "I know every stone and twig in Derry, we'll set it there."

Nothing of the sort. Nobody buys books about 'the Troubles' to read about Ireland. Belfast isn't glamorous enough. Armagh's just a hole. Set your Irish novel as far away from Ireland as possible. An island in the Mediterranean. New York city. The Ukraine, Arabia, Mayfair, Grenada. Anywhere but Ireland.

Oh, you can have your wee scenes of the Army Council meeting in a remote farmhouse in Monaghan, or a Mexican stand-off with RPGs in the Markets. But the real action must take place somewhere else. Try the casinos at Monte Carlo.

Before I leave you, let me fill you in on a few details. Without these wee hints, you'll never get it published. Nobody drinks whiskey, they all drink Bushmills.



The renegade terrorist doesn't carry a gun. He carries a "Walther". If you really want to do it right, make him carry a "Ceska" or a "Stechkin". Or, if you really want to wow 'em, give him a "Type-64 silenced Chinese pistol!" — you know, the kind that fires rimless ammo.

High-class Brits and Americans don't wear suits. They wear "Saville Row".

If you like, you can add a bit of local lingo. Jack Higgins likes "old son".

"You're for it, old son," said Murphy.

"Think again, old son," replied Devlin.

Really, you can't use these phrases too much. They give your novel "colour". In three pages, Jack Higgins can have five characters of four different nationalities say "old son" at least 16 times.

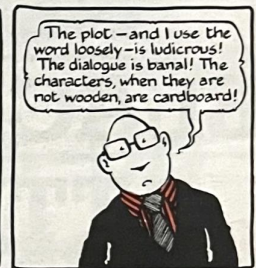
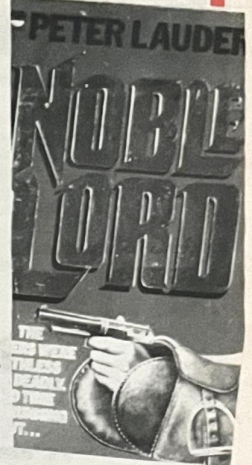
Now — and pay careful attention, because this is the last important bit — when you decide to end your book you must do it right. The hero must foil the renegade's plan at the last possible moment. One second is too much.



NELSON DE MILLE
BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON
CATHEDRAL



THE EPIC
SIEGE NOVEL
OF
OUR TIME



He must arrive at Heathrow, hijack a taxi which gets a flat tyre on the way to London, hitch-hike to the Tube (which breaks down on the way), run five miles to the Derby, and (out of breath) run to the paddocks, and jump in front of a silenced Chinese Type-64 just as it wheezes its rimless shell toward the Queen. He must defuse the special-forces-issue C5 plastic explosives at the instant the second hand strikes 12.

And he must be wounded in the process. Badly, but not fatally (you'll want him around for the sequel). For that special liberal touch, let the rookie policeman help him shoot the renegade at the last moment.

And that's all there is to becoming rich and famous by writing your own novel on 'the Troubles'. Don't worry if you can't write. Neither can these eejits.

Threat fails

TWO SOUTH DOWN men who were arrested and badly beaten in Castlereagh RUC Interrogation Centre last week have exposed how the RUC offered them large sums of money in an attempt to recruit them as informers.

Paddy Fitzsimmons, a former Sinn Féin election candidate, and Oliver Mathers, both from Marian Park in Downpatrick, were arrested under Section 12 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (seven-day order) on Monday morning, August 18th.

During the first day's interrogation Mathers was repeatedly punched, kicked, trailed around the floor and had his head bang-

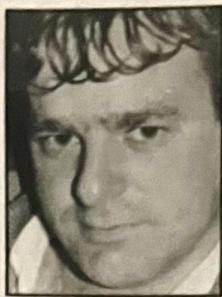
ed against a wall. The following day, he was offered a "large sum" of money by his RUC interrogators which, they said, would be "put in any bank in Castlereagh or Newcastle". In exchange he was asked to provide information about local republicans. He was also offered a new identity abroad if he would agree to name others and was then threatened that if

he didn't co-operate the RUC would throw him "over Shaw's Bridge".

WON'T SEE '87

Meanwhile, Paddy Fitzsimmons was offered £100 a week by two Special Branch men. He was struck about the head and threatened that if he didn't co-operate, "The UVF will be given your profile and they'll make sure you don't see '87."

Both men remained silent throughout their ordeal and were released without charge last



● PADDY FITZSIMMONS



● OLIVER MATHERS

Friday afternoon. But the RUC swoops on the homes of Downpatrick nationalists continued this week with the arrest on

Thursday of five more people, including three Sinn Féin members. This is the third wave of arrests this month.

NEWRY BLACKMAIL ATTEMPT



● CAROLINE WILLIAMS

A SINGLE PARENT from Newry was arrested on Monday, August 11th, taken to Gough Interrogation Centre, Armagh, and pressurised to work for the RUC as an informer.

Caroline Williams (34), who lives

in the Derrybeg Estate with her young child, was arrested under Section 11 of the Emergency Provisions Act. Special Branch interrogators attempted to question her about several local people and told her they would meet her "at 9pm some Sunday" at a social club she frequents.

They offered her £1,000 and threatened that if she refused to work for them she would be imprisoned for two years on a trumped-up charge of 'conspiracy to murder'.

However, she refused to be intimidated and was released without charge two days after her arrest, on Wednesday afternoon, August 13th.

Condemning this and other attempts by the RUC to recruit informers by offering people financial inducements, Sinn Féin Councillor Brendan Curran said:

"In their own best interests, anyone approached in this way should immediately report to Sinn Féin as publicity is the only defence against RUC blackmail."



LOYALIST BOMB ATTACK

THE SINN FEIN CENTRE on West Belfast's Falls Road was the target of a loyalist bomb attack last Friday, August 22nd. Responsibility for the attack was admitted by the Ulster Freedom Fighters, a name of convenience used by the Ulster Defence Association.

The device, containing 10lbs of explosives packed in a navy and red hold-all, was discovered at around 8.30am attached to the security grille of the building. The bomb, which was removed by two Sinn Féin workers who placed it beside empty houses across the road, failed to explode.

Cover-up continues

SINN FEIN'S Danny Morrison has accused the RUC of active involvement in the cover-up of a shooting incident in County Tyrone on January 27th when two nationalists were shot and injured by members of a UDR patrol.

The two young men, Kevin Brennan and Noel Wilson, who were backseat passengers in a car driven by the manager of the Kildress Inn, Arthur Keenan, were shot without warning by members of a UDR patrol which had earlier surrounded the pub, five miles

from Cookstown. Last month, it was revealed that the crown's Director of Public Prosecutions had decided that there will be no state prosecution of UDR men involved in the shootings.

Following the no-prosecution

decision, Arthur Keenan called upon Free State government minister Peter Barry and the SDLP to sponsor a private prosecution in his name but they declined.

"Their refusal," commented Sinn Féin's Danny Morrison, "is a statement in itself about how much confidence they have in the RUC and the courts since the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement."



● DANNY MORRISON

Keenan's solicitor then wrote to the RUC seeking the informa-

tion necessary to launch a private prosecution, including the names of the UDR soldiers involved.

The latest development in this concerted cover-up is that the RUC, in its reply, refused to divulge the information required. Danny Morrison said:

"The RUC calls upon people to help them with their inquiries but they themselves are refusing to help with their inquiries three nationalists, two of whom were shot by the UDR, who need details if they are to seek redress."

Arthur Keenan's solicitor has been instructed to begin proceedings in the High Court seeking the required information.

Éilimh Ghaeilge faoi bhráid UTV

TA DEARBHAITHE ag UTV go ndéanfaidh siad "mach-namh iomlán cúramach" ar mholtaí le haghaidh cláir Ghaeilge a chuir uachtarán Shinn Féin Gearóid Mac Adhaimh faoina mbráid.

Níor craoladh clár i nGaeilge ar UTV ariamh ach i ndiaidh cruinníú leis an IBA (an t-údarás craolacháin ó thuaidh atá freagrach as UTV agus Downtown Radio) scríobh feirire Iarthar Bheal Feirste chuig an chomhlacht ag cur thosaigh saith de mholtaí.

I measc na moltaí a bhí ag Shinn Féin tá:

- Cartúin le Gaeilge curtha orthu ar mhaith le páistí óga. Clár ar nós *Seasame Street* a bheadh oiriúnach do pháistí ag aois naiscoile agus bunscoile.

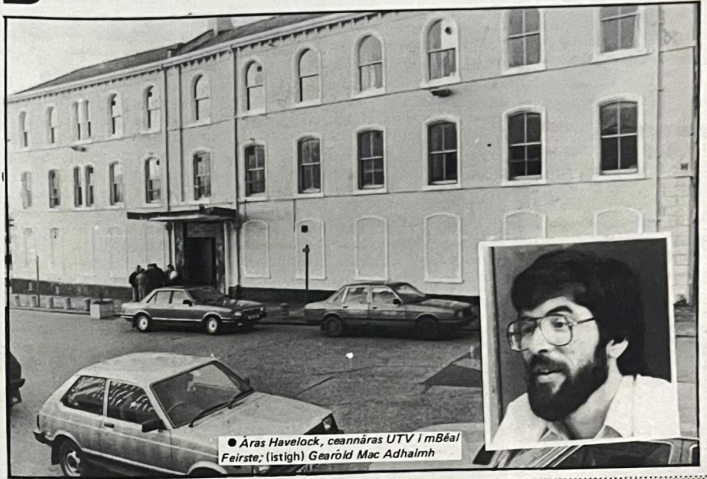
- Irischlár do Ghaeilgíoirí agus d'fhoghlaimneoirí na teanga.

- Clár faisnéise ar athbheochan na Gaeilge le béim ar leith ar an obair a rinne protastúnaigh Uladh leis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa chéad seo caite.

Tá ráite ag an IBA "gur mhaith leo" go mbeadh cláir Ghaeilge ar UTV agus ar Downtown. Faoi lathair ní chraoltar cláir Ghaeilge ar an dá stáisiún sin nó ar an BBC. Ach d'fhógair an BBC ar na mallaibh go raibh siad ag brath léiritheoir a cheapadh a bheadh freagrach as cláir Ghaeilge ar Raidió Uladh atá le toiseacht san Fhómhar.

Ag tagairt do gheallúint UTV go ndéanadh siad staidéar cúramach ar mholtaí Shinn Féin dúirt Gearóid Mac Adhaimh:

"Céim beag chun tosaigh atá ann go bhfuil UTV sásta ár moltaí a scrúdú ach ní bheidh Gaeilge ar UTV a choiche muna gcuireann na heagraisí Gaeilge brú leannúchán ar na húdaráis chraolacháin."



● Áras Havelock, ceannáras UTV i mBéal Feirste; (istigh) Gearóid Mac Adhaimh

Thumbs-up for coláiste

BY CIAN MAC AOIDH

AN IRISH COLLEGE run by Sinn Féin in the Donegal Gaeltacht which came to a close on Monday, August 24th, has been given the thumbs-up by students and teachers alike with an overnight trip to Tory Island standing out as the highlight of the ten-day course.

Twelve adults attended the annual Coláiste Antoine Mhic Ghiolla Bhrighde which was supervised by three voluntary teachers including Lisburn Councillor Padraig O Maolchraoibhe.

As well as formal classes in the coláiste at Teach Chólm Cille, Gortahork, the students took full advantage of the surprisingly good

weather to make daily trips to nearby towns and beaches and even a successful 'assault' on Errigal.

During a visit to Tory Island, which lies eight miles off the Donegal coast, the visitors were given a particularly warm welcome by the islanders and enjoyed a ceilí in the recently-built comm-

unity hall until the early hours.

Padraig O Maolchraoibhe praised the dedication of the students at the coláiste:

"We are very proud of the fact that every student made considerable progress during the short but remarkably intense course."

This is the second year in succession that the Sinn Féin Cultural Department has organised Irish colleges in the Donegal Gaeltacht. In July, ten young people from the South Derry area attended an equally successful Sinn Féin course at Teach Chólm Cille.



CLÁR FÓGRAITHE

TÁ AN CLÁR iomlán de Shlóghadh Shinn Féin i Rath Cairn, Co. na Mí ar 19ú, 20ú agus 21ú lá Meán Fomhair socraithe anois agus táthar ag súil le 150 duine a bheith i lathair.

Le linn na deireadh seachtaine beidh taispeántas darb ainm *Dúchas* as le feiceail agus beidh seastán leabhair ann. Taispeántas griangfanna le téama cultúrtha, a cuirfeadh le chéile ag Camerawork, Doire atá i nDúchas.

Beidh imeachtaí an tSlogaigh a fhéicseannú le go mbeidh tairféad ceart dena léachtaí ar fáil.

Is é clár na deireadh seachtaine:

Dé hAoine 19 Meán Fomhair

7.30pm Clárú

8.30pm Fáiltiú

9.00 Léacht. *Glúaiseach na Poblachta 1966-1986* le Ruairí Ó Bradaigh (iar-uachtarán Shinn Féin). Cathaoirleach Maire Nig Fhinn (Uirlabhraí Cultúrtha Shinn Féin sna sé contae fíchead). Rún buíochas — Gearóid Ó Maoilimhichíl. Cuidiú — Seán Ó Canáinn.

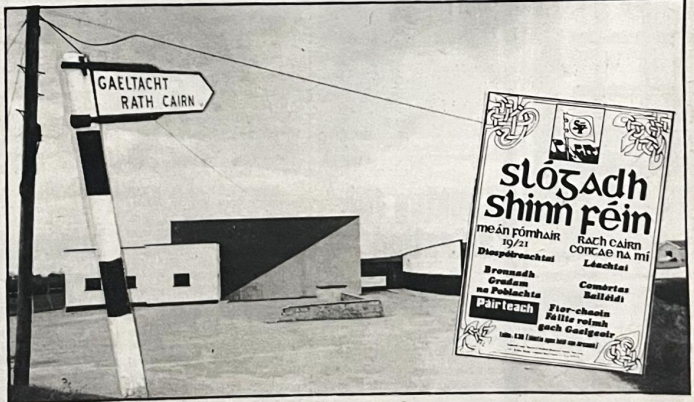
10.00pm Oíche cheoil agus comórtais baili. Bean an tÍ — Blathnád Uí Bhrádaigh.

Dé Sathairn 20 Meán Fomhair
10.30am Oisailt oifigiúil. Gearóid Mac Adhaimh (Feisire Iarthar Bheal Feirste agus uachtarán Shinn Féin).

11.00am Díospóireacht: *An mar ata agus mar ba chóir bheith*. Cathaoirleach: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir. Painéal: Seán Ó Brádaigh, Gearóid Ó hEara agus Piaras Ó Dúill.

12.00am Sos chaife.

12.30 Léacht *An Comhaontú — bac ar shaoirse*. Pádraig Ó Maolchraoibhe (comhairleoir i Lios na gCearrbhach). Cathaoirleach: Séamus Mac Daibhéid (Cathaoirleach) Choiste na Gaeilge ar Chomhairle an Iúir. Rún buíochais: Áine Nic Giolla Easpaig. Cuidiú: Micheal



Mac Con Mara (iar-eagarthóir Gaeilge *An Phoblacht/Republican News*).

1.15pm Plé agus ceisteanna

1.45pm Sos lóin

2.45pm Turas stairiúil

6.00pm Tae

7.30pm Leacht: *Éire na linne seo*

— *saoirse intinne* le Nollaig Ó

Gadhra. Cathaoirleach: Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin. (Comhairleoir i

gContae Muineacháin). Run Buíochas: Brid Heusaff. Cuidiú: Deasún Breatnach.

8.15pm Plé agus ceisteanna

8.45pm Caint: *An Ghaeilge sa*

Jailteach le Coireall Mac Curtáin

ciar chime, i bpríosún na Ceise

Fada agus Phort Laoise.

9.15pm Bronnadh Gradam na

Poblachta

9.30pm Céilí mór

Dé Domhnaigh 21 Meán Fomhair
Ar maidin: Seirbhís eaglasta ar fáil.

£30 an táille atá ar an Slogadh agus má chuirtear £10 earlaise ann anois cuirfead loistín in airid duit. Tuilleadh solais ó Máirtín Muilleoir, 147 Bothar Bhaile Andarsan, Béal Feirste 11. Fón 619719.

The Hillsborough Agreement

THE Hillsborough Agreement, a pamphlet containing the text of a lecture by Danny Morrison in Belfast earlier this year, has been reissued.

Copies are now available from the usual outlets, price 50p (bulk rates available).

The Role of the Language in Ireland's Cultural Revival

A NEW CULTURAL pamphlet, entitled *The Role of the Language in Ireland's Cultural Revival*, focusing on the centrality of the Irish language in the national liberation struggle, has been issued by the Sinn Féin Cultural Department and is available from the usual outlets, price 75p (bulk rates available).

LIFERS

LIFERS is a new Sinn Féin POW Department pamphlet and details attempts by the British government, SDLP and Fr Denis Faul to bolster the Hillsborough Agreement by using republican POWs in the six counties as political hostages and the 'carrot' of selective releases.

Also included is a full list of republican prisoners serving life sentences or serving the 'Secretary of State's Pleasure'.

Copies are available from Republican Publications, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, price 40p (bulk rates available).

Afghanistan

A Chára,
The anti-feudal revolution in Afghanistan helped to free the people from the imperialist yoke. The reactionaries outside the country responded with hatred.

With the intention of preventing the birth of a free, progressive state, the imperialists and others engaged in large-scale acts of subversion against the Republic of Afghanistan. It is the United States that is setting the tune in the anti-Afghan campaign waged by the Western powers and their allies.

Washington, which responds irritably to progressive changes in any part of the world, is particularly sensitive to such processes in countries bordering the Soviet Union.

When the anti-popular dictatorship of Muhammad Daud was overthrown, Washington started to plan the removal of the democratic government to install in Kabul a pro-American puppet regime and to restore the positions of imperialism in the country.

In June 1978, a NATO command symposium was held at Annapolis, Maryland, USA, to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. The CIA renewed its contacts with the Afghan counter-revolutionaries who had entrenched themselves outside the country, mainly in Pakistan. The CIA then despatched to Islamabad a group which included L. Robinson, R. Brook, and D. David, experts in coups and acts of sabotage. R. Lassar was entrusted with the co-ordination of all anti-Afghan activities; he had been expelled from Afghanistan in 1974 for espionage and for a time he had acted as 'coach' for the Shah's secret police in Iran and is now in Pakistan.

The first hired assassins and terrorists, or 'fighters for the faith' as Western propaganda dubs them, were sent to Afghanistan in July 1978 after training by US instructors in Pakistan. By Spring 1979, over 10,000 had been trained and sent to Afghanistan.

Joe Mullen,
Peterborough,
England.



Looking for attention

A Chára,
I am just after reading an article in which Lieutenant-General Tadhg O'Neill has attacked the IRA and am about to vomit. It is obvious, however, that the good man in question does not live in the occupied North and is only looking for notice.

If he wants attention why doesn't he do something constructive like putting a gun to his head, try to locate his brain and shoot. Maybe he thinks it's an honour to be a member of the British army, but I most certainly do not.

If it ever does come to civil war in the North, I'd sooner rely on the IRA than the 'mighty' Free State forces.

Tom Larkin,
Newry.

mála poist

ALL LETTERS should be clearly written or typed, double-spaced (one line of space between each line of writing), and on one side of the

paper only. Names and addresses must be included, even when not for publication.



TIME FOR CHANGE

A Chára,

As Oglaiha na hEireann personnel, we give our absolute allegiance to the Army Council and will support their every effort in an attempt to establish the republic.

We firmly believe that armed struggle is an essential ingredient of that effort. We also believe that armed struggle alone cannot achieve our goal. Nor do we believe that the republic can be established or protected by political power alone.

Our analysis of the continuing failure to establish the

republic, as proclaimed in 1916, dictates clearly that only by the astute use of both political and military force can we achieve that goal.

The legitimacy of armed struggle against British imperialism in the six counties needs no argued debate. We do not believe, however, that it would be justifiable to commit future

generations to permanent war unless there was tangible hope of the acquisition of political power. In this respect we believe that Sinn Féin must try to gain political power in the Free State. That can only be achieved through the ballot-box. Over 70% of the electorate there have consistently accepted the mandate of Free State governments. For Sinn Féin to continue to ignore the obvious wishes of the electorate in this respect is, at best, politically naive and, at worst, counter-revolutionary.

We believe that Sinn Féin must place before the electorate a revolutionary programme and, if elected, take its seats in Leinster House and carry out that programme to the best of their ability under Ard Chomhairle direction. We do not believe any republican principle is involved in this issue. The history of our struggle is the history of failure to establish the republic.

It is time for change.

In the final analysis, Oglaiha na hEireann will only give allegiance to the republic; we believe intermediate gains must be made on that road. We ask that the 1986 Ard-Fheis takes decisions which can only assist us in our efforts. We ask that the Sinn Féin Constitution be amended to enable elected representatives to carry out revolutionary work in the corridors of power.

Is there a choice?

Brian P. Keenan,
Paul Kavanagh,
Brendan Dowd,
Patrick Magee,
Leicester Prison,
England.

New look at nukes

A Chára,

An *Phoblacht/Republican News* appears to have fallen in with the wave of hysteria which has swept the Western world in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear accident while your columnists regularly call for the closure of nuclear plants, in particular Sellafield. Indeed, you devoted a full centrespread to the issue recently. But if one pauses and engages in some rational thought on the issue, one is forced to take a more realistic stance.

Ireland is a small island and relies on four sources for its energy requirements: i.e. coal, oil and peat (fossil fuels), and our rivers. In the case of coal and oil, both are imported. Would those countries we import from continue to supply the type of socialist Ireland we envisage? Just ponder on the economic/military campaign being waged against Nicaragua.

Peat is a rapidly-dwindling resource, even Bore na Mona admits that it will be exhausted early in the next century and we simply don't have enough water volume to generate our energy requirements.

So what is the alternative? Extensive research has been carried out by the 'knit your own yoghurt brigade' under the feasibility of wind and solar power. Even these trendy liberals have been forced to admit the impracticability of such madcap schemes. The only viable source which will meet our requirements is, yes,

nuclear power!

Despite the denunciations, nuclear plants are economical, reliable and safe. Infinitely more people die on the roads each year than from living near such installations. I can hear the cries about the dumping of nuclear waste, but it is possible to safely dispose of the waste. The only reason BNFL dumps it in the Irish Sea is that it is cheaper to do so. Capitalists care about profit, not people or the environment.

Sinn Féin has progressively adopted more realistic policies on a wide range of issues over the years, how about some realism on the energy crisis we will surely face in the free and socialist Ireland?

D.V. Ryan,
Dublin.

International Brigade

A Chára,

A German veteran of the Spanish Civil War, Karl Kormes, who was captured and imprisoned along with Frank Ryan, will be one of the guest speakers at an international meeting on Achill Island on September 6th and 7th.

At Dooge, Achill, County Mayo, stands the only memorial on Irish soil to an International Brigader. The Tommy Patten Memorial will be the focus of a weekend that will honour the 61 Irish International Brigaders.

Guests are expected from the USA, Britain, the German Democratic Republic and, most notably, Nicaragua. Par-

allels are being drawn by the organisers between Spain of 1936 and Nicaragua today.

According to the secretary of the committee, John Meehan, an executive committee member of the ITGWU:

"The committee believes that the parallels are unmistakable. It is therefore essential that this gathering, which will attract people from throughout Ireland, take the opportunity to express solidarity with the struggling people of Nicaragua."

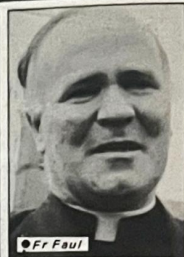
The events will begin on Saturday, September 6th, at 8pm in the Achill Sound Hotel with a film show. This will be followed by a social evening.

The main commemoration has been organised for the Sunday in Dooge, At 11am, the parade and bands will assemble and walk to the Patten Memorial. There a commemorative meeting will be held, chaired by local man Gabriel McNulty. Several veterans of the Spanish Civil War will also be on the platform, as well as the chairperson of Sligo County Council, Declan Bree.

The organisers have stated that the meeting will be followed by an afternoon of "leacht agus craic with musicians from far and wide".

Anyone seeking information in the Dublin area should phone Dublin 711943. Outside of Dublin enquiries should be made to the secretary, John Meehan, Ballinrobe, County Mayo (phone 092-41407).

Spanish-Nicaraguan Anti-Fascist Committee.



Blueshirt Faul

A Chára,

The people (i.e. the good Catholic people of Ireland) are really fortunate, at this time to have someone like Fr Faul to remind them of their moral responsibilities and to tell them out straight just how morally wrong it is to support Sinn Féin.

This mine of moral information is providing a marvellous service in giving the good Catholic people (those who vote SDLP and Alliance) all the moral information they need to assure them that they have made the right decision and that they stand a much better chance of saving their souls.

The people ought to be truly grateful to this wise man — some would say prophet — who is so eloquent on moral affairs. It is such a pity that Fr Faul reserves his moral judgements for one side only and does not give those in power in Dublin and London the benefit of his moral wisdom.

I forget, of course, that there is a tradition of Catholic Irishmen known as Blueshirts who divide the world into two camps: the right and left.

Now, according to this tradition (which includes such eminent people as Mr Peter Barry, of Cork), the right is always right and the left is always wrong and, if you do not suffer for voting for Sinn Féin in this life, you most certainly will in the next. This, it would seem, is the tradition to which Fr Faul proudly belongs.

Fr Joe McVeigh,
Irvinestown,
County Fermanagh.

Edinburgh thanks

A Chára,

The members of the Rising Phoenix Republican Flute Band, Edinburgh, would like to thank the nationalist people of West Belfast for their hospitality during our recent visit for the commemoration of internment.

This was our first time across the water as a band, and although ten of our band members were threatened with imprisonment if they returned within two years, it will not be our last. If this action is meant as a deterrent, it has not worked — it has only reinforced our beliefs and strengthened our support for the nationalist struggle.

Our thanks also to Sinn Féin for helping us out on our arrival in Belfast.

The resilience and strength of the nationalist people has inspired us and taught us all a thing or two. Although our contribution to your struggle is but a small one, we hope it will push things a tiny bit further towards the final inevitable solution — your day will come.

L. Simpson,
Dalry,
Edinburgh.

video

What's on tonight?

BY EDDIE STACK

"WELL NOW, I wonder what's showing in the cinema tonight?" Was it only a few short years ago that we used to throw open the evening paper and head straight for the cinema page? That's something less and less of us are doing these days if cinema attendances in Ireland are to be taken into account.

You can blame the fall-off on many things: crap movies, the war, high admission prices, economic recession, etc. The fact is that the great Irish public is, in the words of the great Louis B. Mayer, staying away in droves. One or two films may hit the jackpot, particularly at Christmas, but overall it's recessionville.

However, the public's lack of appetite for cinemas doesn't mean it's lost its appetite for films. Parallel with the slide of cinema attendances has been the rise and rise of the video. As we all know, nearly one in two houses in Belfast has a video recorder, a particularly recession-proof item in the 1980s. And, of course, it all makes economic sense.

After obtaining the recorder, the price of renting a film for the night is extremely low: if the rental is £1 that price spread between, say, five people, is totally insignificant compared to splashing out over three quid each in the cinema.

Furthermore, the time-scale between a new film arriving in the cinema and it becoming available as a video is on average less than six months (and I can remember seeing *ET* on video three months before the film made it onto the screen here!)

Yesiree, videos have their advantages and offer to the public quite a few excellent films that the cinemas have stopped showing altogether. So which ones to see? This week, rather than traipse down to the cinema and give another negative review to yet another bad film, I've decided to be positive (shock! horror!) and pick ten videos which, in my view, reflect some of the best films on offer in video shops across the country. Like all personal choices, not every one will please everybody, but it will be food for thought if you are stuck for choice one evening. So here's my Top Ten, all of which have won the coveted title of an 'Eddie'.

THE TOP TEN

1. Under Fire

A superb action thriller which covers the events leading to the overthrow of

Somoza in Nicaragua.

Spurned by the US public for its condemnation of American support for the ruthless dictator, it is tautly played with plenty of thrills for even those who disagree with its pro-Sandinista stance. A very brave film for a big US film studio to make.

2. Missing

This deals with the disappearance of an American student during the right-wing coup in Chile in 1973. The student's wife and father come up against one wall after another in trying to find him and the film pulls no punches in highlighting US support for the murderous Chilean junta under Pinochet.

3. The Godfather

The original Mafia film that took a pulp novel and made from it a masterpiece of America cinema. Surely no family in films is as fascinating as the Corleones as they hold onto their hard-won turf in the gang wars of the 1940s.

Marlon Brando as Don Corleone is majestic in this searing look at the corruption underpinning much of American society and business interests.

4. The Godfather (Part 2)

Only one film has surpassed *The Godfather* in the gangster genre and that's *The Godfather (Part 2)*.

This one takes its time in examining how the Corleones fend off exploitation in immigrant New York by becoming exploiters themselves. Most memorable is the portrayal of the don's son, Michael, who ends up killing all dear to him to hold onto his empire. The film that made Robert de Niro a big name.

5. Bonnie and Clyde

Twenty years on, still one of the greatest films ever made.

Warren Beattie and Faye Dunaway play the two hoodlum legends of the 1930s Depression who shot up the American Midwest and became the folk heroes of the oppressed.

It's funny, it's exciting and, at the end, it becomes terrifying as the net closes in on Bonnie and Clyde. Despite the



● (Above) A taste of paradise, the *Bounty* reaches Tahiti and receives a warm welcome from the inhabitants; (below) Nick Nolte and Joanne Cassidy come *Under Fire*



blood they have spilled, we are still extremely sorry at their fate.

6. The Elephant Man

Deeply-moving treatment of the life of John Merrick, the grotesquely disfigured 'freak' who became a celebrity in Victorian England.

This film avoids treating Merrick as an appalling exhibit to be gaped at. By the end we are deeply touched by his kindness and humanity in a cruel Britain crushing many of its citizens in the Industrial Revolution.

7. The Bounty

Anthony Hopkins starred in *The Elephant Man* as the doctor who befriended John Merrick; here he plays the less-likable Captain Bligh who was faced with a mutiny on the British navy's *HMS Bounty*.

The story of the *Bounty* is well-known, the difference here is that Bligh is not some stiff-upper-lip, landed gentry type of captain. Hopkins plays him as a predecessor of Thatcher: the man with humble origins who hounds his sailors to help himself up the greasy pole. Great stuff.

8. Letter to Brezhnev

Heart-warming yarn of a Merseyside girl falling in love with a Russian sailor and her subsequent efforts to beat off official advice and join him in the Soviet Union. A low-budget film, to be sure, but the wit is priceless.

More four-letter words than a rugby locker-room but it's all part of the charm.

9. Scarface

Extremely violent remake of the 1930s gangster classic but which is held together by the magnificent Al Pacino.

Here *Scarface* is a Cuban kicked out by Castro into the dog-eat-dog world of capitalist Miami. He gets everything he ever dreams of by playing the American Dream with a machine-gun in his hands only to find that 'the top' is really the 'bottom'. A great twist to have the down-trodden Cuban destroyed by the 'freedom' America offers him. And, as I've said, it's very violent.

10. Dawn of the Zombies

No, I haven't gone off my rocker. This is a superior horror film made by a director fascinated by the thought of law, order and society itself

breaking down in modern-day America.

In this movie, zombies force ordinary Americans to forage for food and shelter but the parallel with an America after a nuclear holocaust is what comes to mind. Here, four ordinary citizens block-ade themselves into a huge shopping centre and lock out the zombies. They not only have to fend off other citizens looking for food and shelter, but they also have to confront the prejudices and attitudes of their old society which they find have no relevance to them now.

And it's also a film that knows how to pull one's leg.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS

So that's it.

I could easily choose another ten (not to mention classics culled from television like the *Fawcett Towers* series) but one has to stop somewhere. Let's just end on the cautionary note that some films lose a great deal of impact when shown on a TV screen. Never, repeat never, watch *ET* any where other than a cinema.

Imeachtair

TALLAGHT PRISONERS WEEK

Thursday 28th August:
Various Stalls
at H. Williams Shops
3 to 4pm Friday: Picket
Garret FitzGerald's house
(Garville Avenue, Rathgar)
3 to 5pm Saturday:
White-line picket and
lobbying of elected reps
For more info contact
Tallaght Sinn Féin Advice Centre
2a Dominic's Shops
(phone 511522)

BALLAD SESSION

To welcome home ex-POW
Mick Gorman
8pm Thursday 28th August
Finglas Castle
FINGLAS
Taillé £3
(plus £1 for bus home)

MOURNE CULTURAL SOCIETY

IRISH NIGHT

8pm Friday 29th August
Longstone Hall
ANNALONG
County Down

SOCIAL NIGHT

Friday 29th August
No.5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Organised by the Sinn Féin
Trade Union Department

HUNGER-STRIKE

COMMEMORATION

Speakers: Liam McElhinney
Michael Flannery (Noraid) &
Fr Joe McVeigh
3pm Saturday 30th August
Town Centre
BUNDORAN
County Donegal

TOOME BUS TO BUNDORAN

9am Saturday 30th August
Arrives back in Toome
Midnight Sunday 31st

TOM WILLIAMS

COMMEMORATION SOCIAL

(44th Anniversary)
Music by The Flight
Saturday 30th August
Highfield Social Club
BELFAST
Taillé £1
Organised by Sinn Féin

COLE/COLLEY

COMMEMORATION

12 noon Sunday 31st August
Assemble The Rendezvous
March to Memorial
Yellow Road
Whitehall
DUBLIN

PUBLIC MEETING ON

STRIP-SEARCHING

2pm Sunday 31st August
Memorial Hall
GULLADUFF
County Derry
Everyone welcome

GIBBS/ROSS

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION

Speakers:
Domhnall Mac Giolla Phoill
3pm Sunday 31st August
Old Cemetery
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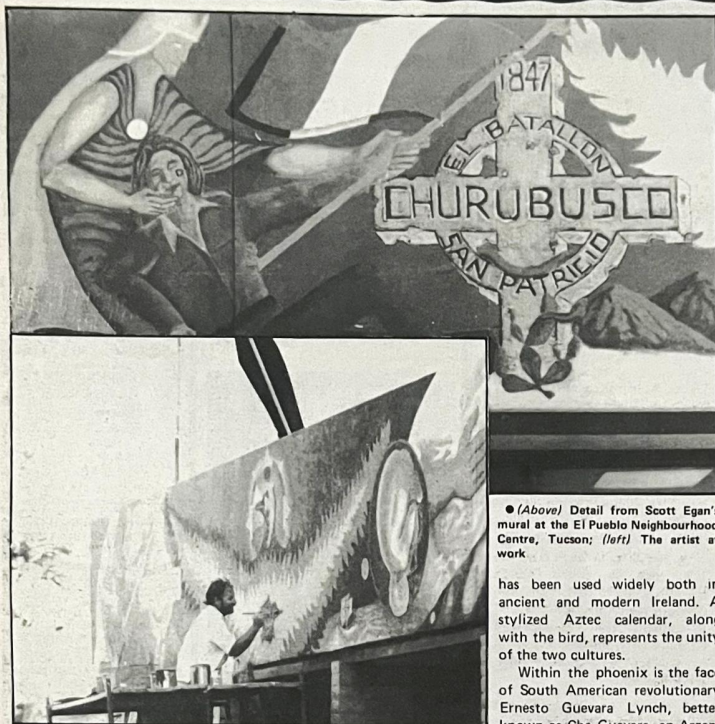
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AP/RN REPUBLICAN MURAL COMPETITION



● (Above) Detail from Scott Egan's mural at the El Pueblo Neighbourhood Centre, Tucson; (left) The artist at work

UNITY AND SACRIFICE

THEY SAY that everything in the United States is bigger than anywhere else, and that's certainly true of the latest entry AP/RN has received for its £250-prize wall mural competition.

Scott Egan, an Irish-American who hosts a weekly Irish radio show in Tucson, Arizona, has created something of a masterpiece, incorporating several Irish-Mexican and other revolutionary themes in one of the most strikingly colourful murals we've seen.

And it's Scott Egan's first

attempt at a mural, so don't be nervous if you haven't painted one before. The competition deadline is Monday, September 29th, so make sure colour photos of your murals reach our Dublin office at 44 Parnell Square by then.

The bulk of the article below is taken from the weekly *Tucson Citizen*.

DRIVE ALONG West Irvington Road, past the El Pueblo Neighbourhood Centre, and you'll undoubtedly notice the colourful murals at the top of the building.

Look closely and you'll see an unusual chapter in history memorialised.

The latest addition to the centre's murals is a work by Scott Egan. It honours a battalion of Irishmen who fought for Mexico against the US in the 1840s.

Famine in Ireland in the 1840s sent large numbers of Irish to the United States and to gain US citizenship many joined the army. As a result, large numbers of Irish fought for the United States against Mexico in the war from 1846 to 1848.

"That was the war in which we absconded with half of Mexico's territory," Scott Egan said.

ATROCITIES

After seeing the atrocities of the war, particularly the burning of Catholic churches, about 700 Irish deserted to the Mexican side

and formed their own St Patrick's Battalion. "They were fierce fighters for Mexico against the US," Scott said.

When about 50 members of the battalion were captured by the US army, half were hanged. The rest were forced to bury their comrades, suffered 50 lashes each, and were branded with a 'D' on the face for 'deserter'. (The face of the dying member of the *San Patricios* is that of Bobby Sands.)

It is to the St Patrick's Battalion and to the themes of sacrifice and rebirth that Scott Egan dedicated his mural.

CELTIC AND AZTEC

The work combines Celtic and Aztec designs and incorporates themes important to the Irish and Mexican people.

The centrepiece is a phoenix, an ancient symbol of rebirth that

has been used widely both in ancient and modern Ireland. A stylized Aztec calendar, along with the bird, represents the unity of the two cultures.

Within the phoenix is the face of South American revolutionary Ernesto Guevara Lynch, better known as Che Guevara, an Argentinian of Irish descent. Guevara "did controversial things, like leading revolutions", Egan joked.

The right-hand side of the mural carries on the theme of rebirth, and shows an unborn child and a Mexican woman, Adelita, a great revolutionary and comrade of Pancho Villa. Also featured is the Starry Plough and St Brendan's boat.

The left-hand side is dedicated to sacrifice. Four mountains depict the four provinces of Ireland. Three are green but one is orange, representing Ulster, which is partly under British control. Egan said he is looking forward to the day all of Ulster is returned to Ireland, when he will paint the orange mountain green, to match the others.

A Celtic Cross bears the name *Churubusco*, the site of the battle at which the Irish fighters deserted to the Mexican side. Alongside the Celtic Cross is a red, white and blue noose (symbolising the colours of both Britain and the US).

The mural was officially presented to the public on May 5th, the anniversary of Bobby Sands' death on hunger-strike in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and the day Mexico celebrates winning its independence from French occupation.

FIRST MURAL

Although he's done some artwork previously, especially silk-screens, this is Scott's first mural and it took him three weeks to complete. His 'real life', he said, carries through the theme of Irish-Mexican unity and he's been working at the El Pueblo Neighbourhood Centre for ten years now, particularly with a bilingual theatre group named Teatro Libertad.

His wife, Pernela Jones, is of Hispanic descent and is a teacher at the Davis Bilingual Learning Centre.

WORLD VIEW



PLO

ON THURSDAY, August 14th, Spain became only the third West European country to grant official recognition to the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The other two countries are Greece and Austria.

Spain's decision, which was greeted with outrage by Israel, came 14 years after the PLO first opened offices in Madrid, in 1972. Five years later, in 1977, the PLO opened a mission which so impressed the Spanish that, in 1979, PLO leader Yasser Arafat was welcomed as a head of state.

The Spanish government, announcing the new status of the PLO, said that by granting the PLO official recognition the Spanish people were confirming the "traditional policy of friendship and solidarity with the Palestinian people". The PLO will now enjoy all the privileges of a sovereign nation in a foreign country: official honours, protection and diplomatic pouch. The only privilege denied to the PLO is that of 'diplomatic immunity', which smacks of the Spanish government covering its back in the face of pro-Israeli critics. The PLO's head in Spain, Fouad Yaseen, said that the PLO is not worried about the denial of diplomatic immunity: "We don't need immunity, all our actions are legal."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry launched a blistering attack on Spain, accusing the Spanish of trying to "encourage terrorist elements at a time when the PLO's influence in the world is waning". The Israelis' expression of "disappointment and regret" went on to lambast the



● YASSER ARAFAT

Spanish government for granting official recognition "when the terrorist nature of the PLO has become a matter of common knowledge."

Only days before this historic event, Greece reinforced its close ties with the PLO. The PLO has given an undertaking not to use Greece as a base for any operations against the Israelis, and in return the Greek government will not undertake any review of the PLO's status in Greece.

These two events have greatly strengthened Yasser Arafat's hand, especially now that certain factions, unhappy with Arafat's leadership, have been trying to come up with an alternative plan and leadership. Chief amongst these have been the pro-Syrian Palestine National Salvation Front.

Contras

EDUCATIONAL tours with a difference are now being offered to Nicaraguan contra "buffs" by a US-sponsored organisation, the National Endowment for Democracy.

The NED has set up a 'tour' organisation called PRODEMCA which is short for Friends of the Democratic Centre in Central America, and is offering 'free' tours to a contra base camp in Honduras. Before anyone rushes for their bush-hats and bandoliers, the offer is only open to politicians (bona fide), academics, and upright members of the upper strata of society. Journalists are not included.

One US congressman who has already visited the ear-marked base in Honduras has described the tour as "a dog and pony show for visiting

Congressional delegations".

Two interesting points to emerge from this latest US 'initiative' on Nicaragua are that:

● PRODEMCA has been revealed as a major financier of Nicaragua's opposition newspaper *La Prensa* — now banned by the revolutionary Sandinista administration.

● The NED, which provides funds for all sorts of right-wing efforts throughout the world, funds an organisation called the National Democratic Institute, which, in turn, is funding John Hume's SDLP.

Nelson Mandela

COLLABORATION between the US Central Intelligence Agency, the British Secret Service and the South African Secret Service have been exposed by the *New York Times* and CBS TV respectively.

The revelations have provided added embarrassment to the Reagan administration's policy on South Africa and the African 'Front-Line States'. They charged that the CIA and the British have, for over 30 years, maintained 'deep' surveillance of the African National Congress, the South African People's Organisation, and their Front-Line State supporters, and have passed the results of this surveillance to the South African secret police.

One result of this close co-operation between the three nations' spies was the arrest and detention of ANC leader Nelson Mandela in 1962. Mandela was arrested at a roadblock outside Howick, Natal, in August 1962 and has been in prison since then.

At the time of his arrest, the Pretoria regime launched a smear campaign against Mandela's comrades, accusing 'dissidents' within the ANC of betraying him. According to the *New York Times* and CBS TV, Mandela was in fact 'fingered' by the CIA.

They claimed that a US consul official in Durban, Don Rickard, was a top CIA agent who had infiltrated the ANC and had 'exchanged' Mandela in return "for information useful to the Agency (CIA)". According to Rickard, who is now in 'retirement' in the US, he had arranged to meet Mandela on the night of his capture but had instead tipped of the Durban Special Branch, who were able to pick out Mandela even though he was disguised.

Further proof of the CIA's involvement in South Africa was presented by the right-wing Senator Jesse Helms when he made public (with the permission of CIA director William Casey) CIA profiles of leading ANC personalities — to 'prove' that they are all communists.

President Reagan, whose antics over South Africa over the past few weeks can only be described as 'unbalanced', believes fervently that the ANC is now ready to seize power (let's hope so) and is anxious that his South African friends get all the help they're going to need.



Killarney honours patriot

ON SUNDAY, August 17th, a new limestone memorial to honour Vol Patrick Casey, 4th Batt Kerry No. 2 Brigade IRA, who was killed on active service on February 19th 1919, was unveiled by the roadside where he fell in the beautiful setting of Derrycunihy Wood, Killarney.

Present at the ceremony was Nora Casey, a sister of Patrick, and other relatives and neighbours of the Casey family who hail from Gullaulla, Blackvalley.

Chairperson of the Killarney Republican Graves Association (KRGA), Redmond O'Sullivan, presided and the unveiling was performed by Donnie Coffey. The Last Post and Reveille was sounded by Paddy Short. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Killarney

Sinn Féin, the KRGA, and the IRA.

The oration was given by Richard Behal, who recounted the events surrounding the death of Volunteer Casey, the first Kerryman to die between the Easter Rebellion in 1916 and the outbreak of the Black and Tan War.

Along with a comrade, Casey had attempted to seize a powerful rifle which belonged to John

Lyne, a gamekeeper with the Kenmare Estate.

Armed only with a shotgun, as they were expecting little or no resistance, the Volunteers waited for Lyne on the roadside below Derrycunihy Church and when he approached they called upon him in the name of the Irish Republic to hand over the rifle. But as Casey moved towards Lyne to collect the rifle he was caught by surprise by the reaction of Lyne, a highly-trained ex-British soldier who opened fire and hit Casey at short range and killed him.

REMEMBERING THE PAST Samuel Neilson

BY PETER O'ROURKE

SAMUEL NEILSON, so much maligned by latter-day students of 1798, was described by Dr R.R. Madden, historian of the United Irishmen, as "a blunt, bold, resolute, energetic and enterprising man".

The son of a Presbyterian minister, he was born at Ballyronan, County Down, in September 1761. When he was 16 he was apprenticed to his elder brother, a woollen merchant, and at 24 he married and set up his own business. In 1790, he abandoned that business to enter politics.

His first active involvement with the cause of Irish freedom began when, in 1791, he suggested to Henry Joy McCracken the idea of a society of Irishmen of every persuasion to overthrow British rule in Ireland. He became associated with Wolfe Tone and together they founded the Society of United Irishmen in Belfast.

As the editor and chief shareholder of the *Northern Star*, Neilson was responsible for much of the early direction of the United Irishmen. He had adopted Tone's republican outlook and his paper came to advocate complete separation from England.

In 1795, he was one of the small group who gathered on Cave Hill, outside Belfast, with Wolfe Tone and swore never to desert in its efforts to subvert English authority in Ireland.

The following year, he was arrested for a 'seditious' article in the *Northern*

Star and, with Thomas Russell and others, he was transported to Dublin for imprisonment. Seventeen months in Newgate and Kilmainham jails left him broken in health but after his release, in February 1798, he soon became active in assisting Lord Edward Fitzgerald to prepare for a rising.

Following the arrest of Fitzgerald in May 1798, Neilson went to Newgate Jail in the hope of rescuing his friend. He was captured after a desperate struggle in which he was badly wounded.

Charged with high treason, he refused to recognise the court and told the judge:

"I scorn your power and despise that authority that it shall ever be my pride to have opposed."

BANISHMENT

Seventy-three of the leaders awaiting trial in Newgate and Kilmainham - including Thomas Addis Emmet and William MacNevin - seeing that the rising had failed, and in order to stop further executions, agreed to disclose their plans without implicating individuals and to submit to banishment. Neilson was included, probably because



the government was unsure of being able to secure his conviction.

Despite the agreement, he was detained at Fort George in Scotland from 1799 to 1802 when he was deported to Holland. After a secret visit to Dublin and Belfast, he made his way to America in December 1802.

As he was about to launch an evening paper, Samuel Neilson died suddenly at Poughkeepsie, New York, on August 29th 1803, 183 years ago this week.

Marshall, c/o Angela; £100: Little Lad, c/o No.5; £75: Tara Mooney, c/o McCabe/Quigley cumann; £75: c/o Martin Forsyth, c/o Deirdre, Lower Falls Sinn Féin fortnightly August 24th
J. McCreavey
Martin Forsyth Sinn Féin cumann
Harp: E. Monks, Willbrook; Framed picture: Mick O'Neill; Spirit of Freedom poster: Maradona, c/o V. Heffernan, Harold's Cross; Book: Mick Kerins, Ballinaboden.
Republican Prisoners Relatives Transport Committee
July
Joe Geoghegan, Cushlawn Park, Tallaght; Annette Finnegan, Ballyfermot; Dáithí De Brú, c/o the Cole/Cole/Sinn Féin cumann, Coolock; Vincent Kehoe, c/o Marie Kehoe.
Vol Tom Smith Band
9th August
1st: 5; 2nd: 28; 3rd: 6; 4th: 67.

TORRTHAI CRANNCHUR

Castlefinn Sinn Féin draw
Table talk: John Doherty, Curragh Killybeggs, County Donegal; Handbags: Leo Patton, Meenlaugh, Castlefinn; Roll of Honour: Ann Duggan, Hillhead, Castlefinn; Purse: Patricia Carlin, Hillhead, Castlefinn.
Donegal Sinn Féin
5-Week Draw
July 26th: Frank Freely, Bundoran; Patsy Murphy, Buncrana; Bridie Patsy, Buncrana; Brandy: Paddy Sullivan, Ballycumber; Meal for two: John Corrigan, Clareen, Ballycumber; 200 cigarettes: Ann Foran, Killybeggs; Garden seat: Frank Henry, Clonfallyhough, Winesey; Paddy Cusley, Ballinagaree; Bedside lamp: M.B. Heenan, Breaghmore, Ballycumber.

ADIL CHUMHENE

BRADLEY, Eamonn (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Eamonn Bradley, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed by British forces on August 25th 1982. I maeis laochra na nGael go raib sé. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

BRADLEY, Eamonn (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our son, Volunteer Eamonn Bradley, murdered on August 25th 1982. Eamonn was shot in the back by two British soldiers on the streets of Derry. British laws may kill the Irish but never keep our spirit down. Always remembered by Mother and Father.

BRADLEY, Eamonn (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Eamonn 'Bronco' Bradley, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was murdered on August 25th 1982. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his country." Always remembered by Trilger and Paddy Browne.

BRADLEY, Eamonn (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Eamonn 'Bronco' Bradley who was murdered by British forces on August 25th 1982. "It is not those who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most who will triumph." Always remembered by Sammy and Boller.

CARLIN, James; CURRAN, Martin (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol James Curran and Martin Curran, South Down Command, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died as a result of an accidental explosion on active service on August 26th 1972. Thug sé a raib sé agus a mhuintir agus a dtíre. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the South Down Command.

HALL, Francis; MULVENNA, Patrick (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Francis Hall and Patrick Mulvenna, Belfast Brigade, who died in August 1973 on active service. Always remembered by Belfast Sinn Féin.

HALL, Francis (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Francis Hall, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died as a result of an accidental explosion on active service on August 26th 1972. Fuar sé bás as troid agus a mhuintir na hÉireann. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

McKEOWN, Patrick (12th Anniversary).

COMHBHRÓN

CARROLL. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Carroll family.

Beannachtaí

CLARKE, James Plus (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Jim. Lots of love now and in the future. From Deirdre, McCARTNEY, Ronnie (Gartree). Wishing you a happy birthday on September 3rd and best wishes for the future. From An Cumann Cabh-

rach, Walkinstown, Dublin. Tíocfaidh ár lá!
McDERMOTT, George (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, George. With best wishes from the Sioan family.
McDERMOTT, George (Portlaoise). Best wishes on your birthday, George. See you soon. From Olive, xxx
McDERMOTT, George (Portlaoise). Greetings on your birthday, George. Love from Babs, xxx

Beannachtaí

CLARKE, James Plus (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Jim. Lots of love now and in the future. From Deirdre, McCARTNEY, Ronnie (Gartree). Wishing you a happy birthday on September 3rd and best wishes for the future. From An Cumann Cabh-

Be mhaithe liom (buh with lium) - I would like

Is maithe liom (is mih liyo) - I like

Ní maithe li (ní may liay-ee) - She does not like

Is fearr leo (is far leo) - They prefer

Níos fearr (níos far) - Better

Is fearr (is far) - Best

Oic (uik) - Bad

Níos measa (níos measa) - Worse

Is measa (is measa) - Worst

Maithe (mih) - Good

Níos fearr (níos far) - Better

Is fearr (is far) - Best

Be mhaithe liom cupán tae - I would like a cup of tea

Is maithe liom bainne ach ní maithe liom súcra - I like milk but I don't like sugar

Ní maithe li Seán an cós sin, is fearr leis an ceann eile - Seán doesn't like that coat, he prefers the other one

Tá an tús níos fearr ná an deireadh - The beginning is better than the end

Bhí an aimsir go hiontach inné ach innis tú yesterday but today it is worse

An duine is measa ná sé seo - The worst person in this place

rach, Walkinstown, Dublin. Tíocfaidh ár lá!
McDERMOTT, George (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, George. With best wishes from the Sioan family.
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Ar mhaithe leat? (ar with lyat) - Would you like?

Nár mhaithe leat? (nawr with lyat) - Wouldn't you like?

Ar mhaithe leat? (ar with lyat) - Would you like to go out now?

Ar mhaithe leat píosa aráin? - Would you like a piece of bread?

Nár mhaithe li dui abhaile anocht? - Do they not want to go home tonight?

PHRASES

Chomh fada agus is maithe leat - As long as you like

Maithe mar a tharla - It happened for the best

Nuair is maithe leis - When he likes

Go dtí pointe áirithe - Up to a certain point

Go dtí an de déiridh - Right until the last breath

Ní bheadh imní ort - Do not be worried

Chéannaigh sé muid i mála - He bought a pig in a poke (lit. in a pig in a bag)

Tá mé marbh le píonta - I'm killed with pains

Creid nó ná creid - Believe it or not

Ní chreidim an scéal sin - I don't believe that story



THE FLYING COLUMN

IN 1955, the British Ministry of Defence was faced with a tricky problem — how to dispose of vast amounts of bombs, gas and shells which had been captured from the Germans during the Second World War. Then some chinless wonder remembered that, in 1946, large quantities of German VX nerve gas had been dumped at sea.

VX nerve gas is thought to be methylphosphonothioic acid-diisopropyl-amino-ethyl-o-ethyl-ester, a highly toxic and dangerous substance. It contains phosphorus which is safe so long as it remains in water but another element in the gas does not dissolve in water and would be as active today as it was 40 years ago. It is so toxic that one millionth of a gram would kill.

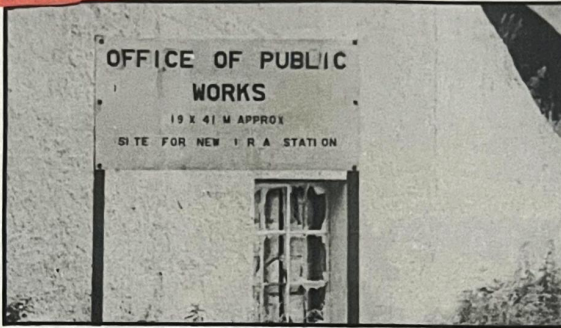
It was revealed last week that, from 1955 to 1957, the British Ministry of Defence dumped 17,000 tons of German war bombs and 8,000 tons of shells and bombs containing phosgene and mustard gas at the site of the previously-dumped nerve gas. Experts from the Defence Ministry and the British Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have assured the British public that there is no health danger to them whatsoever. And they're probably right.

However, if you live in Ireland you may hold a different opinion. The dumping ground used by the British is 1,000 fathoms under the Atlantic Ocean on the Continental Shelf and just 70 miles off Bloody Foreland, North-West Donegal.

SAS MAN Peter Shenton, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, killed himself on August 12th by taking a Paracetamol overdose after being charged with threatening his ex-girlfriend with a high-velocity rifle.

Did Shenton take his own life because he was overcome with remorse at the distress and suffering he had caused by threatening his former lover? Not a bit of it!

Shenton, an inquest in London heard last week, left a suicide note saying that he couldn't face being booted out of the Territorial Army SAS if he was found guilty of the offence.



Proposed site for a new Garda barracks in Ashbourne, County Meath — or is it?

"WE'LL UFF and we'll puff and we'll blow your house down," threatened the UFF and last Friday they attempted to do just that. The resulting confusion at the Belfast Sinn Féin Press Centre in Seavastopol Street meant that a number of Sinn Féin personnel were left standing about at the corner with both arms the same length.

Enter stage left, one extremely inebriated local.

"I know you," he said, grabbing the lapels of a certain Derry elected representative. "You're yer man, aren't you? You're thingy, the Sinn Féin councillor. You're Alex Maskey, aren't you?"

"I am indeed," replied our Art Garfunkel lookalike.

"You've just done seven days in Castlereagh, haven't you?"

"I have indeed," answered 'Maskey'.

"It must have been rough doin' seven days in Castlereagh."

"Not really," answered the Derry wan. "If you tell them everything you know on the first day, the rest of the time is really easy," he said, tongue in cheek.

Exit stage right, one extremely disillusioned Alex Maskey supporter.

ANOTHER brave Brit, Stephen Joseph Hassatt, has at least one hit notched up. 'Sniper' Hassatt borrowed a .22 air rifle complete with telescopic sight from one of his cronies and opened fire from

Kinawley RUC Barracks in Fermanagh, hitting a passing motorcyclist in the back. Luckily the motorcyclist only suffered a slight flesh wound. Hassatt was fined £280 at Enniskillen Court after his "good record" had been taken into consideration.

A FORMER MEMBER of the British army's elite Brigade of Guards, Wayne Rhead, was jailed for 18 months by Manchester Crown Court last week after being found guilty of causing bodily harm to his girlfriend's 18-month-old son.

Rhead, described as "a placid man" by his defence counsel, bit the child and broke his leg when he wouldn't stop crying.

YET ANOTHER ex-British soldier is behind bars after using his army training to torture a youngster.

William Crawford (32), of Paisley, Scotland, was jailed for three years by Glasgow High Court for abducting 16-year-old David McKenzie at gunpoint from his home and trying to break his arms and legs with gun butts in a graveyard.

McKenzie told the court that he was then taken to a reservoir where he was made to stand in freezing water up to his neck until his captor left and he managed to stagger to nearby flats before collapsing on the stairs.

THREE VISITORS from New York, Mary Maderias, Lonni Kellar and Harry Lee, were being shown around South Armagh recently by unofficial Newry & Mourne tourist guide and Sinn Féin councillor Jim McAllister. Jim was pointing out all the things the council's tourist committee studiously ignores — Brit barracks, helicopters, border outposts, electronic surveillance, etc.

On the outskirts of Meigh village, the party was stopped by a 12-person Brit patrol who expressed themselves unsatisfied as to the identities of the visitors and their reasons for being in South Armagh in the company of a Sinn Féin member. After an hour's wait by the roadside, four RUC men arrived in a helicopter and went into the whole identification process again, holding the unfortunate four for another hour. A second helicopter then arrived to take the three New Yorkers to Forkhill Barracks (while Jim went home for his dinner).

One New Yorker, Lonni Kellar, asked an RUC man why he came by helicopter instead of by car. "Landmines," was the RUC man's reply. "Landmines?" said Lonni. "The tourist brochure mentioned golf, it mentioned good food, it even promised sunshine, but it never mentioned landmines." The visitors were released after two hours.

WELSH ATHLETE Neil Horsefield, of Bassaleg, Gwent, who was a 1,500 metre finalist in the Commonwealth Games, has been stopped his unemployment benefit for the two weeks of the games because the British Department of Employment says that he was "not available for work".

A disgusted Horsefield said last week: "It's supposed to be an honour to represent your country, but something like this takes the gloss off it."

Now, Neil, if you'd been a South African runner named Zola Budd I'm sure the British government would have set another world record in breaking through the red tape.

IN A straight-from-the-barmen's-mouth report in the *Mail on Sunday*, Chester Stern claims that Belfast republican Martin Meehan has been appointed as "a hard-line new commander" to organise "a new IRA terror campaign this winter". Martin is presently held on remand in Crumlin Road Jail, where he has been for the past two months.

NOTES



© cormac

I was opposed to the Hillsborough Agreement... but I thought the Anglo-Irish Deal was a great idea...



On the other hand I thought the Hillsborough Pact was a tragic mistake...

Oh dear... there's a mental giant on the loose!



That's really... ah... really... Tell me, what do you think about the possibility of civil war?

I think it's inevitable!



But it will probably never happen... but it is, of course, imminent! Or do I mean eminent? Immanent?



It's wonderful to have a man about who really understands politics...



QUIRT SIAD

We are moving rapidly, and sadly, into the third phase of opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement... We have seen the upsurge of Protestant sectarian gangs which have not been active really since 1974.

The DUP's Jim Wells, shedding crocodile tears for the North's nationalist community and conveniently forgetting to mention his party's self-confessed links with the UDA/UFF murder-gang.

Intimidation is rampant, sectarian murder once more commonplace. The approaching nights of winter promise yet more suffering and grief.

Official Unionist Frank Millar.

It is to the RUC that those who are under threat and attack must look, whatever their religion or politics.

Workers' Party chairperson Seamus Lynch.

Q. Who tried to shoot Jack Ewing in the early days of Dallas?

A. John Stalker.

— Downtown Radio competition.