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EDITORIAL

The People of Struggle

● At a massive demonstration in Derry, where British soldiers had been redeployed to the North of Ireland in August 1969, the nationalist people delivered a clear message to the British government: *"We are the people of struggle. Ours is the culture of change."* (See *The People's Banner*, page 4). This statement of resistance epitomises the celebration of 20 years of opposition to British interference in Ireland. It is a fitting tribute to the spirit of freedom which seeks to reclaim Ireland's right as a nation to sovereignty and independence.

Twenty years after the Civil Rights movement took to the streets across the Six Counties, seeking modest reforms to the unionist statelet, the denial of democratic rights and the abuse of human rights is more acute than ever. Draconian legislation and armed force have been the major instrument of government.

Instead of putting its energies into producing a democratic solution to the conflict, the political debate by both the British and Dublin governments has concentrated exclusively on security matters and so-called political 'initiatives' aimed at giving partition a human face — at making it acceptable. We have had power-sharing and assemblies, all of which have failed to resolve the conflict because they were exercised in the crisis management

of an undemocratic system of government dependent on a life-support system of repression.

In the past 20 years, some 3,000 people have died. Tragically, the strategy being used to bolster partition is a recipe for future turmoil, suffering and injustice. The major responsibility for all of this lies with the British government. It imposed partition and legislated for the 'apartheid' system in the Six Counties. It has the power to de-colonise and end the conflict. Successive Dublin governments too must share the responsibility. Over the past 70 years, they have paid lip-service to national independence while actively supporting partition. They have contributed to the problem, instead of contributing to the solution.

Partition has clearly failed to bring about peace and reconciliation. On this August anniversary of British soldiers being redeployed to the Six Counties, the simple most worthwhile contribution Britain can make in Ireland is to state its intention to withdraw.

In the words of the people of Derry:

"Until such time, the cries and the groans of our land will be our songs of wisdom, our poetry of anger and hope. Until such time, our watchful murals and graffitied thoughts will be our street newspaper, our uncensored judgement and art."

"But while you dance to our songs and market our lives, read our lips: We are the people of struggle. Ours is the culture of change."

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Demonstrations mark 20th anniversary

BELFAST

■ *"Oglaigh na hEireann [the IRA] wages this war at the front of a risen people."* Thousands of nationalist people and international supporters at a massive show of nationalist strength on Sunday, August 13th, heard Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Féin, praise the 20 years of determined resistance to a war being waged by the British army and its allies.

Listing the British war strategies to date, he continued: *"They tried to break us in '69 and they failed. They interned us in '71 and we kept going. In '76, they tried to criminalise us and in '81 ten young men gave their lives and sent the British strategy down in tatters. In Derry on Bloody Sunday, they tried to shoot us off the streets but we stayed defiant. They tried to fool us at Hillsborough but we weren't fooled. And in Gibraltar in 1988, they tried to kill us but we didn't die."*

The march was led by a colour party and a 120-strong delegation from the British Troops Out Movement, whose representative directly addressed the crown forces present at the rally calling on them to refuse to fight in a futile war.

Three hundred people carried the names of the nationalist people who had given their lives in the struggle for Irish freedom. Supporters from across Europe, the US and Canada marched with delegations such as Irish Northern Aid and the Basque country's Herri Batasuna.

Throughout the day, a huge force of RUC and British soldiers swamped the area in a show of force designed to intimidate people off the streets. As the march began to arrive at Connolly House, the Sinn Féin headquarters, a tight cordon of armoured vehicles encircled the rallying point leaving insufficient room for the marchers. After persistent calls from the rally chairperson, Sinn Féin Councillor Dodie McGuinness, to move the vehicles back, limited success was achieved.

Hugh Annesley, John Hermon's replacement as chief constable of the RUC, turned up in person at the beginning of the march. He commented to journalists that the march appeared very well

organised and highly disciplined!

Speaking at the rally, Bernadette (Devlin) McAliskey called on the world's press to listen and observe and see that the only thing that had changed in 20 years was the increased resilience of the people.

Gerry Coleman of the Irish American Unity Conference pledged continued support through the opening up and sustaining of a "second front" in the US.

Referring to the future, Gerry Adams declared:

"Our vision is a vision of hope and peace, of a future where all the people of Ireland, freed from outside interference, can construct a humane and free country with fair play and justice for all."

DERRY

■ On Monday, August 14th, 20 years to the day after they arrived in Derry, British troops hid behind a large RUC presence as thousands marched in the biggest demonstration since 1969 to commemorate the determination of the nationalist people to resist oppression.

A banner bearing the words 'Peace and Freedom' headed the march. A 100-foot long 'People's Banner' was carried by its authors, members of the Derry 20:20 Vision group. It consists of ten hand-painted sections depicting 20 years of struggle.

The march stopped at the home of Samuel Devenny who was beaten to death by the RUC in 1969 – the first person to die in the current phase of the struggle for Irish freedom. Addressing the rally, Bernadette McAliskey said:

"It is not true to say that things haven't change. We've changed. We see things we never saw before and we understand things we never understood before."

Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness declared:

"Between us we have put up the most unbelievable opposition to British rule in the entire 800 years of occupation... I am here to pay tribute to the Volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann [IRA]"

He finished his speech with the simple message: *"Fight on!"*

LONDON

■ On August 18th in London, the Time To Go Charter organised 15,000 people, including a number of British MPs, in a demonstration declaring the futility of the war in Ireland and their belief that after 20 years it was, for Britain, *"Time to go"*.

Among the speakers from Ireland and Britain was Duncan Melville, a British soldier who had served in Belfast and who led a contingent of ex-soldiers on the demonstration. He gave voice to the feelings of the thousands of marchers when he declared:

"We've had 20 years of repression in the North. Do we really need another 20 years?"

DUBLIN

■ The Forum For A Democratic Alternative (FADA), a broad-based organisation in the Twenty-Six Counties, organised a massive demonstration in Dublin on August 19th – the biggest Republican demonstration seen in Dublin since 1981 and the H-Block hunger-strikes.

The huge disciplined march dominated the centre of Dublin on Saturday afternoon with its music, colour and vocal demand for a British withdrawal and a united Ireland.

It was attended by people and organisations from all over Ireland, including the Green Party and Conradh na Gaeilge, the major Irish-language organisation. There were representatives from the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the US and The Irish American Unity Conference.

Much to the outrage of the British tabloid press and in defiance of party disapproval, the rally was addressed by British Labour MEP Michael Hindley and Labour MP George Galloway. Hindley declared:

"If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem. Here in Ireland, it is the Brits who are the problem!"

Taking up this theme, Gerry Adams assured the listening crowd: *"There is a solution and the solution lies with us, the people of this island, free of British military occupation, free of partition and acting for ourselves."*

This sentiment and the general celebratory mood of the day was captured in the beautiful Derry banner bearing the words: *"Slua ag coimhlint is linne cultúr an athraigh — We are the people of struggle, ours is the culture of change."*

What they said about...

Twenty years of British occupation

"It's not true to say that things haven't changed. We've changed. We see things we never saw before. We understand things we never understood before. We understand that elections have virtually nothing to do with democracy. We learned every time we won them they changed the rules. So it doesn't matter whether we won them or not. We don't just want equality. I want the right to be different.... Over 20 years, I have discovered that we should not have to ask the government or organise a petition, or pray to the Bishop. You have to go out and organise your own class and your own people to end parti-

tion, abolish the Northern state, abolish the Southern state and build for ourselves an Ireland we can all live in." – **Bernadette (Devlin) McAliskey, one of the founders of the 1969 Civil Rights movement addressing the Freedom March in Derry on August 15th.**

"This is the greatest generation we've ever had. This is the generation that's going to bring about freedom." – **Veteran republican and political activist, Joe Cahill.**

"There can be no more eloquent symbol for 20 years of failure [by the British government] than the fact that the largest employers are the security and prison services." – **David Pallister of *The Guardian*.**

Celebrating Resistance

■ Following a large carnival parade and amid the clamour of one of the largest children's open-air parties ever in the Six Counties, West Belfast MP Gerry Adams heralded in the 1989 West Belfast Festival as a further example of the determination, courage and resilience of the community.

Speaking at Dunville Park on the Falls Road on August 6th, at the beginning of eight days packed with cultural, sporting and fun activities, Adams said:

"Faced with decades of systematic religious discrimination, economic neglect and unprecedented military repression, the West Belfast community has invariably responded in a positive, creative and dignified manner.

"Despite all that has been inflicted on the people of this area and despite the media distortion, the basic decency and humanity of our people remain undiminished."

During the subsequent eight days, West Belfast hosted world-famous artists Rene Castro and Robert Ballagh and internationally renowned musicians and singers, including Peadar O Riada, Tony McMahon and Mary Black. Every day and evening, debates, dances, parties, concerts and children's events expressed the creative strength of nationalist people, with every area within the West Belfast district organising its own local events.

A day specifically for the display of crafts and the performance of literary work by the prisoners of war was led by

the celebrated Irish poet Rita Ann Higgins.

West Belfast, however, was not alone in the celebration of resistance to 20 years of British oppression. All the other areas of nationalist Belfast held local festivals and a fortnight-long Freedom Festival was held in Derry, bringing to a close a month-long cultural expression of the Irish people's struggle for freedom.

Bishops call for end to commemorations

■ The killing of 15-year-old Seamus Duffy by an RUC plastic bullet in North Belfast on August 9th provided the Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, Cahal Daly, with another opportunity to attack its flock. Blaming the local population for the death of the child, he called for an end to bonfires and commemorations. *"It is time to move on from this continual reliving of the past,"* he said. Daly's call received immediate support from the *Irish News*, which devoted an editorial to the subject on August 11th, 'Anniversaries as millstones'.

Daly's call was echoed the following Sunday by the Church of Ireland Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Samuel Poyntz, who called for people to *"leave the commemorations of past events behind, at least until the situation has cooled down"*. In the South, the Progressive Democrats, now in coalition with Fianna Fail, expressed support for Bishop

Poyntz's call, bemoaning Ireland's *"obsession with the past and commemorating it"*. On the following Sunday, ex-SDLP, now Fine Gael TD, Austin Currie agreed with the Bishops in his speech at the Michael Collins commemoration in Beal na Blath!

The Bishops' calls were rejected by loyalists, namely the Apprentice Boys' general secretary, and also by Father Patrick Ryan and the SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon who said that people would continue to want to commemorate past events though they did work for the future, and that the important point was to learn from the past.

It is what Republicans have been trying to do for a number of years. Apart from calls on young people not to riot, calls largely followed, people in Belfast and Derry have organised festivals in August to commemorate history through debates and artistic and cultural events. Republican marches take place within nationalist areas and could hardly be accused of provocation.

The provocation, the incitement to riot, the violence and the tension have come from two sources: the usual triumphalist displays by loyalists around the Twelfth of July with their usual cortege of attacks and killings (*see International News Briefing* of August and this issue); and the extremely aggressive behaviour of the British army.

Daly had not found it necessary to object to crown force harassment or to provocative loyalist celebrations. The timing and circumstances of his call point to yet another anti-Republican, pro-British offensive from this self-appointed spokesperson for Belfast nationalists.

International media told to 'go home'

■ Considerable international media attention was focussed on events marking the 20th anniversary of the redeployment of British troops to the North. In the current atmosphere of censorship, however, their presence drew a wave of criticism from the British government and senior unionists who wish to limit the coverage of the conflict. British Secretary of State Peter Brooke echoed a call by Belfast's unionist Lord Mayor Reg Empey for the media to 'go home' as their presence, they said, 'encouraged' attacks against the British forces and damaged the North's image of a 'normal' society.

The RUC took more direct action by

brutally attacking a French photographer (Giles Favier) and arresting a German photographer (Nick Vogel) on trumped-up charges. (They believed Vogel had taken incriminating photographs of the assault on Favier).

There is no excuse for state censorship and the denial of press freedom. If any criticism is to be levelled, it should be against the media's selectivity in only prioritising particular anniversaries. At all times, they have a responsibility to ensure that the underlying political issues at the core of the conflict in the Six Counties are investigated and accurately reported.

British newspaper calls for withdrawal

■ In a significant development from its previous position on Ireland, the *Daily Mirror*, Britain's largest-selling tabloid newspaper, ran a front-page story on August 10th calling for Britain, not just the troops, to withdraw. "*Britain cannot solve the Irish problem*", it read "*because we caused it with partition in 1921 and we are still part of it. A settlement cannot be reached until Britain has withdrawn, totally, from Ireland.*"

Meanwhile, a TV AM telephone poll showed that 77% of those polled wanted withdrawal. Another poll conducted by the *News of the World* on August 20th showed that the majority of readers polled wanted the troops pulled out. However, the poll's findings were buried on page 35! Polls in Britain over many years have consistently shown that the majority of British people want their government to withdraw from Ireland.

Section 31 broadcasting ban challenged

■ The National Union of Journalists and the Federated Workers Union of Ireland lodged an application to the European Court on August 14th calling for the abolition of Section 31 of the 26 Counties' Broadcasting Act. This section of the act bans the state television and radio stations from carrying interviews with certain organisations, including Sinn Féin. It has been in place for the past 17 years, 16 years in advance of similar censorship restrictions imposed by the British government.

The two unions say the ban is "*an unjustifiable interference with freedom of*

expression" and a "*serious infringement of our rights in a democratic society to impart information to the public*".

Significantly, the Director General of RTE, the state's television authority, as well as 19 other journalists, supplied affidavits to support the case. It is expected that this case will reach the European Commission on Human Rights and the European Court before a similar action by the British NUJ. However, it is still expected that the process will take two years to complete.

Petition against British broadcasting ban

■ In Britain, the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom has launched a petition calling for an end to the British government's broadcasting ban. The petition, supported by lawyers, politicians, actors, writers and civil rights groups, will be handed in to Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street, London, on October 19th, the first anniversary of the ban.

The CPBF welcomes signatories worldwide and copies are available from: CPBF, 9 Poland Street, London, W1V 3DG.

CULTURE

The People's Banner

■ One of the more striking initiatives from the 20:20 Vision group, which organised the August festival events in Derry, is a 100ft-long banner consisting of 10ft by 10ft panels each depicting on one side some aspect of people's experience of oppression and resistance over the past 20 years. On the other side, running the length of the banner in both Irish and English, is the slogan: "*We are the people of struggle. Ours is the culture of change.*"

The banner, which was carried on the Derry and Dublin marches, is the result of a series of discussions and storytelling in which local people from 15 to 70 years of age exchanged and analysed their experiences from a wide range of perspectives.

The events of Bloody Sunday in 1972, when 14 people were shot dead by British army paratroopers, are recalled on one panel with a massive tank and a crushed Civil Rights banner beside Free Derry Wall. On another panel, the prison protest for political status is depicted by a picture of Bobby Sands wearing a

blanket made up of an enormous crowd of people.

Creative Writing Prize

■ Laurence McKeown from Randalstown, County Antrim, a Republican prisoner sentenced to life in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, was among four people to win prizes in a creative writing competition organised as part of the West Belfast Community Festival.

At the prize-giving ceremony, well-known Belfast poet Padraic Fiacc praised both the creativeness of the more than 60 entrants. In particular, he paid tribute to McKeown's entry, a poem entitled *Hard Lines*, which reflects on the harshness and rigidity of the prison environment.

Competition organiser Jean Lundy, who heads the creative writing class at Conway Mill in Belfast, hopes to produce a booklet of all the entries in the near future.

New Prisoners Magazine

■ *An Glór Gafa/The Captive Voice* is a new 24-page quarterly magazine, written, illustrated and designed by Republican prisoners and published by the Sinn Féin POW Department. The articles range from political analyses of current events and prison-related campaigns to short stories, poems, book reviews, cartoons and crosswords.

In this first issue, Robert Russell writes of the legal and political U-turns which led last year to his extradition from the 26 Counties to the North, the prisoners in Maghaberry argue that "*the struggle for women's rights needs to be undertaken and pursued now*" and Laurence McKeown, in a semi-fictional piece, describes Francis Hughes as he lies on hunger-strike thinking of old times at home, while a British Labour MP pompously lectures him on the futility of his protest.

The cover illustration by Martin Gough, depicting a pen in a clenched fist wrapped in barbed wire, captures well the spirit of this new quarterly.

An Glór Gafa/The Captive Voice is available from Republican Publications, 51/55 Falls Road, Belfast BT 12 4PD or 5 Blessington Street, Dublin. Price 75p (85p outside Ireland).

Just Published

■ *A Wounded Church — Religion, Politics and Justice in Ireland* by Joseph

McVeigh, Mercier Press, Dublin and Cork, £5.95. A look at the role of the Catholic hierarchy in today's conflict, and its historical background.

■ **Ireland: Why Britain Must Get Out by Paul Foot**, Chatto & Windus, London, £2.99. A Counterblasts pamphlet series, £2.99. A clear and concise case for British withdrawal.

■ **Off Our Knees**, a video of the '68 Committee'. This popular video is now available in French. £17.50 including postage. Available from '68 Committee, c/o Conway Education Project, Conway Street, Belfast.

■ **Ireland: Information Fact File No. 2**. A very useful eight-page file giving basic background information on Partition, the Civil Rights movement, repressive legislation, social and economic issues, the 26 Counties and Sinn Féin's strategy for peace in Ireland. Available from Sinn Féin Headquarters in Belfast and Dublin. Donations accepted to defray printing and postage costs.

■ **IRIS**. Special 76-page edition of the Republican magazine commemorating 20 years of struggle in photographs and text, £1.50. Available from Republican Publications.

Jobs scheme criticised

■ Gerry Adams MP, President of Sinn Féin, in a press statement on August 4th, described the British government's 'Making Belfast Work' strategy as an elaborate public relations exercise. The allocation of £65 million, Adams stated, was wholly inadequate as it was to be spread over 32 boroughs and lacked any mechanism to channel resources fairly into the areas of greatest need.

He accused the British government of using this additional funding in a less than honest way with political propaganda as the primary aim.

The total sum amounts to less than £17 million for each year the scheme lasts. In stark contrast, the British government is spending £1,200 million to prepare the Harland and Wolff shipyard and Short Bros aircraft manufacturers for privatisation and "to secure the jobs of loyalists in East Belfast — in industries notorious for their record of religious discrimination — while the historic neglect of and discrimination against nationalist areas continues".

Whilst not begrudging the people of East Belfast work, Adams drew attention to the fact that approximately 4% of the unemployed live in that area while nationalist areas such as the Foyle and West Belfast contain 20%, with some ar-

reas in West Belfast having up to 85% of the population unemployed. This disparity, Adams maintained, showed just how committed the British government was to the system of political 'apartheid' upon which the state was built.

He said that serious doubt must be cast on the effectiveness of this 'additional' money as a significant attempt to tackle the high levels of unemployment and economic depression. The British government continues to rely on private enterprise to provide work which frequently results in short-term employment or training schemes whilst the same government destroys permanent employment through political vetting and public sector cutbacks.

RUC murder child on anniversary of Internment

■ In the weeks prior to the 20th anniversary of the deployment of British troops in the Six Counties, British forces saturated nationalist areas in a bid to heighten tension and to provoke confrontation with local people. The RUC and British army aggressively harassed and intimidated communities with increased road-blocks, car and house searches, foot-patrols and harassment of people on the streets.

This aggression culminated on August 8th when the RUC shot dead 15-year-old Seamus Duffy in the New Lodge area of North Belfast. The teenager was shot in the chest at close range from a speeding RUC Land Rover at approximately 1am. Seamus Duffy had been one of hundreds of people attending the commemorative events marking the 18th anniversary of the introduction of internment.

Immediately, the RUC issued statements saying that there was rioting in the area at the time, a claim which has been strenuously denied by eye-witnesses. His death brings to 17 the total number of people killed by rubber and plastic bullets in the Six Counties and he is the eighth child to have been killed by this lethal weapon.

The following day, British Secretary of State Peter Brooke in defending the RUC said that plastic bullets were only used "as a last resort and in very particular circumstances". This statement totally ignores the fact that in the killing of Seamus Duffy the 'Yellow Card Rules' for firing plastic bullets were ignored. Seamus Duffy was shot from a moving vehicle in a non-riot situation and the

weapon was aimed at his chest at point-blank range.

RUC INQUIRY INTO DUFFY KILLING

After the killing, the RUC released a statement saying that they had appointed a senior officer to head an inquiry into the death and that the subsequent report would be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions for him to decide whether any action was necessary. The inquiry is to be supervised by the deputy chairperson of the Independent Police Complaints Commission and will be headed by an RUC Detective Chief Superintendent. The decision to have the RUC carry out their own investigation has been widely criticised.

KILLING WIDELY CONDEMNED

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams said that the responsibility for Seamus Duffy's murder, "lies totally with the British crown forces and their political directors. The nationalist people of Belfast have this week been enjoying festivals and other expressions of community solidarity. The presence and activity of the British army and RUC have been a provocation which we have ignored. They were like birds of prey assembling wherever local people were gathered. Sinn Féin extends its sympathy to Seamus Duffy's parents and family".

Catholic Bishop Cahal Daly visited the Duffy home but refused to condemn the RUC actions and instead sought to lay the blame on local people for heightening tension (see page 3)

SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon called for plastic bullets to be withdrawn from use by all sections of the British crown forces, including the UDR who are shortly to be issued with these weapons (see page 6)

26-COUNTY GOVERNMENT REACTION

The Dublin government's reaction to this latest killing by the security forces was predictably weak. They expressed 'grave concern' and said that the Anglo-Irish secretariat had been asked to prepare a full report into Seamus Duffy's killing. This reaction coincided with calls from the Duffy family to have the RUC killer brought to justice and for the 26-County government to bring Britain to the European Court of Human Rights over the use of plastic bullets.

PLASTIC BULLETS CAMPAIGN SEEKS EUROPEAN ACTION

Several days after Seamus Duffy was buried, the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets at a major press confer-

ence in Belfast called for action on four counts:

- That the Dublin government bring an inter-state case at the European Court in Strasbourg against the British government;
- That the banning of plastic bullets be given top priority at the next meeting of the Anglo-Irish secretariat;
- That governments world-wide and international pressure groups unite in an effort to persuade the British government to withdraw plastic bullets from use; and
- For victims and relatives of plastic bullets to be given justice in the courts.

The campaign condemned the lack of action on the issue to date saying: "Had Mr Haughey and Mr Hume responded to the request of the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets in June, Seamus Duffy might still be alive."

Emma Groves, who was herself blinded by a rubber bullet in 1973, made an impassioned plea: "For God's sake, we are appealing to the Irish government to take up this case and put pressure on the British government. Plastic bullets should not be used in any country. It is a lethal weapon. We hope there will be no more deaths."

UDR to get plastic bullet guns

■ The 6,500 full and part-time members of the Ulster Defence Regiment are presently undergoing training in the use of plastic bullet guns and they are expected to be deployed on the streets of the Six Counties by the end of September. The announcement, which was originally made two months ago, was only confirmed by the British army at the end of August. Claims that the weapon will only be issued to the regiment for use in riot control situations has been greeted with scorn by most nationalists. The timing of the announcement, two weeks after the murder of Seamus Duffy and calls for the banning of the weapon completely, has been roundly condemned.

A spokesperson for the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets said that they deplored any member of the security forces using the weapon:

"However, in view of the UDR's sectarian standpoint, we would condemn their use of these weapons in particular. The fact is that none of the security forces has ever adhered to the rules on their use and we will continue to oppose the existence of these lethal weapons."

Television programme endangers lives

■ Widespread criticism has been levelled at the producers and journalists of a recent television documentary which is believed to have led to the loyalist assassination of one Catholic and the attempted murder of another. *The Cooke Report*, screened in July investigated an alleged IRA network of laundering money through a number of community enterprises situated in the Conway Mill complex in West Belfast.

The main allegations came from an SDLP councillor, Brian Feeney, who claimed, without any supportive evidence, that the Conway Mill was a front for the IRA. At the time, his claims were adamantly rejected by the proprietors of the building, who pointed out that only weeks earlier the SDLP leader John Hume had called on the British government to restore financial support to the essential community enterprises located in Conway Mill.

Several weeks after the programme was screened, John Devine, whose family had close association with the Conway Mill, was assassinated by loyalist terrorists and, shortly after, a taxi-driver escaped a loyalist bomb-attack. He too had family links with the Mill complex. Clearly, the coincidence of both attacks so soon after *The Cooke Report* shows the danger and tragedy of irresponsible reporting in the North of Ireland.

Loyalists shoot Catholic couple

■ An horrific murder attempt by loyalist paramilitary terrorists on the lives of a Catholic couple shocked the nationalist community at the beginning of August.

The couple, who have three young children, were shot repeatedly at close range by loyalist gunmen who fired through the front door of their home in Glengormley on the outskirts of Belfast. Joe and Geraldine Haughey both tried to hold the gunmen back by pushing the weight of their bodies against the door but the gunmen punched a hole through it and commenced firing.

Mrs Haughey was shot in the chest and abdomen while her husband received wounds to the neck and shoulder. Neighbours found them both lying in a pool of blood. Their three children were taken into care by friends while their parents were rushed to hospital.

Although still in a serious condition, they are both recovering from their frightening ordeal.

The random attack was carried out primarily because of the couple's religion. Loyalists have been responsible for a quarter of all fatalities in the North of Ireland.

'British controlled loyalists' claim

■ A former member of a loyalist paramilitary group, the Ulster Defence Association, which has killed hundreds of innocent nationalists in the past two decades, has revealed from his Durham prison cell that in the early Seventies a leader of the UDA was 'controlled' by British intelligence officers.

The UDA leader, who was in contact with a British intelligence operative, codenamed 'Bunty', was later assassinated, allegedly in a UDA internal feud.

The jailed UDA man, Albert Baker, also revealed to British Labour MP Ken Livingstone that RUC officers helped the UDA in many ways: by driving UDA weapons safely through British checkpoints; by tipping off the UDA about imminent searches; by giving weapons to them and by handing over intelligence files, including photographs, of Republican 'suspects'.

These and other details will be published in the book *Livingstone's Labour* by Ken Livingstone which is due out in September this year. Livingstone said he would pass the names of the RUC officers involved directly to the British Home Office for investigation. "If only a quarter of what Baker said is true", he said, "it will demolish the government's record and policy in Ireland."

While stories involving British intelligence undercover operations are notoriously difficult to check, a British intelligence source said recently that Baker's claims "fitted with the pattern of security force behaviour at the time."

UN asked to intervene on Gibraltar Three

■ A commission of the United Nations has received a submission from the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) for a public inquiry into the killings of Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage in Gibraltar. The IADL is one of the non-governmental organisations accredited to the UN. In the last decade, it has sent observers to several trials in the North

and helped organise an international lawyers conference on Ireland in 1985.

The submission was made in Geneva on August 14th by French law lecturer, Michele Bonnechere, to one of the UN's Human Rights bodies, the sub-commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities. Ms Bonnechere was the IADL observer at the Gibraltar inquest in September 1988.

In its submission, the IADL described the inquest verdict of "lawful killing" (by nine votes to two) thus:

"We consider this verdict to be unsatisfactory for three reasons:

(1) This judicial procedure, already bound as it was within strict legal limits, was further restricted by the continuous reference to 'security secrecy', which prevented some essential questions from being addressed, in particular concerning the conditions in which the Gibraltar Chief of Police, while officially on a mission to arrest these people, momentarily relinquished his powers to the military authorities, namely members of an elite assault force flown over specially from Britain.

(2) This legal procedure was biased against the solicitor for the families; material evidence was largely destroyed; and the Coroner discriminated against the legal observer for the IADL.

(3) The verdict does not satisfy international norms: namely Article 6 of the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights which protects the right to life, and which implies that a state cannot inflict death except in circumstances of "extreme gravity". The Gibraltar Constitution simply mentions the concept of "reasonable justification", less demanding than the Code of Conduct for law enforcers as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1979."

The submission continues:

"It must be added that officers of the Spanish Police, who did not testify at the Gibraltar inquest — probably for diplomatic reasons — declared in press interviews that they had kept surveillance on the trio up to the Spanish border with Gibraltar, then they had warned their British colleagues that the suspect vehicle did not contain a bomb, and were surprised to see that the three suspects were not arrested at the border.

"In summary, the Gibraltar inquest did not answer the fundamental question: Did a member state of the United Nations, of the Council of Europe and of the European Community decide to have suspects executed rather than arrested and brought to justice?"

The IADL reminded the UN sub-commission of the large number of

killings by the British forces in "disputed circumstances", killings which were denounced in particular by Amnesty International.

"For many British and Irish lawyers, only a complete public investigation can get to the truth about these cases," the IADL said, "and the task can be a perilous one. Let us recall how a senior British policeman, John Stalker, was removed from one such investigation as he was about to denounce serious police irregularities. And in February 1989, Mr Patrick Finucane, a lawyer, civil liberties activist, and as such the acting solicitor for one of the families of the victims of 1982 [killings by the RUC] was assassinated."

In conclusion, the IADL asked the experts of the subcommission to accept the case of the Gibraltar Three, and remarked:

"The Gibraltar case highlights the ambiguities of the use of armed force in the Northern Irish conflict: an arrest operation that went wrong? or an act of undeclared war? If it is a war, it would be today in its twentieth year, and those who endure it are still awaiting a political solution based on the respect of the right of peoples to self-determination, itself the condition for human rights to flourish."

The IADL's initiative was warmly welcomed by the families of Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage, who are presently organising an international petition demanding a public inquiry (see *International News Briefing*, August 1989).

Britain deports Irish American

■ Martin Galvin, spokesperson for the US organisation Irish Northern Aid (Noraid), was arrested in Derry on August 15th and deported back to the US.

In July 1984, Galvin had been served with an order banning him from entry into Britain or the Six Counties. The British had taken this step after the extensive media coverage given to Noraid-organised fact-finding tour the previous year and the subsequently heightened profile of the war in Ireland with the America public.

Galvin tried to challenge the ban by appearing at a Republican rally in Belfast in August 1984, but so eager were the British to seize him that they ordered the RUC to charge the thousands of demonstrators, causing the death of John Downes, shot at point-blank range by an RUC plastic bullet gun.

On August 15th of this year, Galvin

and a few Sinn Féin councillors set out on a walkabout in the Bogside of Derry. As an impromptu press conference was about to start at Free Derry Corner, the RUC moved in and arrested Galvin. He was immediately flown to England and put on a flight to New York. He was denied access to his solicitor, because the case was "under the personal supervision of [British] Home Secretary Douglas Hurd" and at no time was Galvin's whereabouts disclosed to his solicitor.

Galvin's deportation received extensive coverage in the US media, as did the British government's refusal to allow him to challenge through the courts the banning order against him.

IRA military operations

■ We Will Break Britain's Will — IRA.

"The IRA strategy is very clear. At some point in the future, due to the pressure of the continuing and sustained armed struggle, the will of the British government to remain in this country will be broken. That is the objective of the armed struggle."

So stated a spokesperson for GHQ Staff and the Northern Command of Ogliaigh na hEireann (IRA) in a statement to the Sinn Féin weekly *An Phoblacht/Republican News*.

In outlining the origins of the current military offensive, the spokesperson said: "The nature of British repression necessitated a move to an armed offensive by the IRA."

Commenting on the idealistic 'short war theory', the spokesperson explained: "As the struggle progressed, we recognised the need to fight on many fronts and to build a struggle around all the manifestations of imperialist rule."

In reply to a question regarding the attacks on the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR), a locally raised regiment of the British army, and on the RUC, the spokesperson stated that in many areas the UDR and the RUC are the final line of defence for British colonialism. However, in refuting the idea that their aim was to bomb a million Protestants into a United Ireland, the spokesperson declared:

"Britain has used this 'religious war' propaganda to distort the reality of the conflict in Ireland which arises from colonial interference in Irish affairs... An independent and free Ireland is the only guarantee of equality for all the Irish people. We invite the unionists at this historical juncture to join with us in the building of new country."

Meanwhile, throughout the first few weeks of August, the IRA has continued to breach high-level crown forces security to attack border posts, military bases and commercial targets which serve the army of occupation. Large numbers of the British military were tied down trying to stop the IRA striking at will. Three members of the RUC were injured.

Sinn Féin's demands

● Sinn Féin's ultimate objective is to create the political conditions necessary to secure a true and lasting peace in Ireland. This can only be achieved by:

- The ending of partition arising from British rule in six of Ireland's 32 counties;
- British disengagement from Ireland and the restoration to the Irish people of the right to exercise self-sovereignty, independence and national self-determination;
- The setting of a definite date within the lifetime of a British government for the completion of this withdrawal;
- The disarming and disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment as part of the military withdrawal;
- The calling of a Constitutional Conference to which all political parties would be invited. This conference to be responsible for determining the nature and composition of an emergent national police service and the judiciary. If Britain was sincere about disengaging and was committed to an orderly transference of power, this could be achieved with a minimum of disorder; and
- The unconditional release of all political prisoners.

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