

**The lesson of
1916 is:**

Resist British rule

IRISH Republicans mark the 94th anniversary by once more restating the basic position of Irish Republicanism as handed down to us by succeeding generations. The 1916 Proclamation not only sets out history's claim for Irish nationhood but lays the template for the All-Ireland Republic.

The Proclamation was a document ahead of its time in many respects – it proclaimed universal suffrage before it had been granted by many so-called developed democracies. It is not an historical relic but a living document which has steered the course of revolutionary Irish Republicanism since it was first read aloud to the

MacDonagh's speech to his court-martial).

In its Easter Statement the Leadership of the Republican Movement sets out the position today: "In the past year it has been stated that policing will be transferred from Westminster to Stormont. However, political policing will continue and will remain guided from

support role."

MI5 will not be accountable to the Stormont Policing Board for security-related matters but it will be available to brief the Board in secret on what it considers 'appropriate'. This is not the devolution of policing and justice powers. London will remain in control."

The final part of this charade will be played out on April 12 when the devolution of limited powers of British policing to Stormont takes place. There are some who cite the devolution of certain powers of British policing and justice as an extension of self-determination.



Throughout Irish history resistance has been an inevitable consequence of the presence of British forces in Ireland. To deny this reality is to ignore cause and effect of British occupation in Ireland.

That cause and effect was evidenced in the on-going attacks on nationalist communities by the forces of the British Crown in areas such as Craigavon – where plastic bullets have been fired – Lurgan and Armagh (see reports page 2 & 3).

A new generation of people who continue to resist British rule on the ground have been dismissed as "disaffected youth without either aspiration or hope" by one commentator. It is nothing new to dismiss young Republicans in such terms.

Over the decades the idealism and belief of each new risen generation has been dismissed in similar terms as a means of denying the legitimacy of the Irish Republican demand for a free Ireland. Such denial does a disservice to the idealism and hope of young

Irish people for a New Ireland. Falsehood has long been a tool in the armoury of the enemies of the All-Ireland Republic and today is no different the Easter Statement gives an unequivocal message:

"Week after week the tabloid gutter press seeks by its falsehoods and fabrication to sow confusion in the ranks regarding the Republican position. The faithful are loyal to the All-Ireland Republic under one authority. That position has been vindicated again and again as the only basis on which to proceed."

Irish Republicans wish to break out of the failed sectarian politics of partition and the proposals contained within **EIRE NUA** for a Federal Ireland

with maximum decentralisation of power and decision making provide a credible and clear alternative.

In *The Irish News* of March 16 a columnist posed this question in regard to what a united Ireland would mean: "Are we to become beggars at the table of an almost bankrupt Republic?" The answer is that Irish Republicans are not seeking the incorporation of the Six Counties into the 26-County State.

"We seek a New Ireland within which all of the Irish people will take their place at the table not as beggars but as citizens of a New Republic. That is the greater cause which demands our loyalty and calls upon our idealism and commitment.



• **RSF President Des Dalton, Vice-President Geraldine Taylor and a young nationalist from Lurgan at the press conference in Belfast on March 4.**

citizens of Dublin by that 'Prophetic shock minority' 94 years ago. "From minds alight with Ireland's vivid intellect it sprang; in hearts aflame with Ireland's mighty love it was conceived. Such documents do not die." (Tomás

London. Under the St Andrews Agreement, amended by the Hillsborough Agreement, "security intelligence" in the Six Occupied Counties will be the responsibility of the MI5 Security Service with the RUC/PSNI in a

The exercise of the duties bestowed on Stormont by Westminster is merely the administering and enforcing of British rule in Ireland and to describe it as anything else is to parody the concept of Irish national self-determination.



**Honour
Ireland's
Dead**

**Wear an
Easter Lily**

Wheelock family call again for public inquiry

ON March 14 the family of Terence Wheelock, Dublin called for a public inquiry into his death as they take their case to Europe.

Terence Wheelock spent three months in a coma after having been found unconscious in a cell in Store Street Garda station in the north inner city on June 2, 2005.

Unsurprisingly a Garda Ombudsman Commission exonerated the gardai of any mistreatment resulting in his death and claim he committed suicide.

The report, released on March 9, stated that "All possible lines of inquiry and all possible sources of evidence were followed to exhaustion. All

available evidence was then reviewed and tested. Several fresh avenues of investigation were examined. Several new witnesses were interviewed and several new pieces of evidence were found and examined."

An inquest into Terence Wheelock's death found that he died of suicide, a verdict the family refused to accept to this day and claim that he was not suicidal but that he had been mistreated in custody. Within a few days of his death the Gardai cleaned and redecorated the cell where Terence Wheelock was

held thus destroying any chance to gather forensic evidence.

Larry Wheelock, Terence's brother, said: "I cannot understand how it took three years to carry out this report, which has the same findings as an inquest into his death, which took a week."

On March 14, the Wheelock family released photos of injuries they believe Terence suffered while in Garda custody as they called for a public inquiry into his death.

The photos – taken by a clinical photographer at the Mater Hospital – show significant bruising to his legs and back as well as badly cut hands and a wound to his back that was not explained in a

report by the Ombudsman's report into his death.

The community from which Terence Wheelock came have no doubts about what the truth is. In the corridors of power and the Garda Social Club the story will be different, they will be satisfied that the system again has performed as it is meant to and protected the institutions of the state from any "horrible vistas".

Terence Wheelock was a victim of a cruel and unaccountable police force in one of the worst Garda stations notorious for its violence, in the 26-County State.

This report does not deliver justice, it was never intended to and it never could.

Pikemen march to save Carlow's Liberty Tree

CARLOW Pikemen were joined by members of Republican Sinn Féin in a march to the Liberty Tree in Carlow town on March 5 in protest over the planned relocation of the commemorative sculpture.

The 20-strong group in full battle dress were joined by members of Republican Sinn Féin and also by a large crowd of local people. The President of Republican Sinn Féin, Des Dalton, who was unable to be present, sent his greetings and support to those taking part in the march. "The plan to move the monument to the rising of 1798 is but the latest in what appears to be a concerted campaign to eradicate our history from public record. Republican Sinn Féin stand four square behind communities in commemorating what is our local and national

history," Des Dalton said.

The Pikemen, who are led by Bagenalstown man Andy Gladney, are up in arms over the planned uprooting of the memorial to the fallen of the 1798 Rebellion and they say that they will return on April 10 for a much larger and more vehement protest.

Andy Gladney, who has been involved in the National Pike Association for years, said he was delighted with the turnout on Friday but "was expecting more people from Carlow town itself".

"I heard that the tree was going to be moved and as far as



I'm concerned that tree was put there in memory of the people who died for this country. I'm hoping that by the time we are done with our protests it will be staying where it is," he added.

He is keen to stress that the planned protest in April is not just for Pikemen or women or people associated with the movement. Instead, he believes,

it is for everyone as it was the general public who paid for the Liberty Tree out of their taxes.

"The Liberty Tree belongs to the people of Carlow, who paid for it out of their own pockets. Why should it have to be moved? I presume it doesn't fit in with plans, but surely the council and the developer can come to some sort of arrangement? That tree commemorates the things that took place in Carlow in 1798.

"I know some people will say why can't we get on with it and forget it, but why should we brush it under the carpet? Some of the worst things that happened back then took place in Carlow.

Why should the general public always lose out? They wouldn't move the statue up in Parnell Street for a developer, so why are they doing it here?" he concluded.

Shell and the State lose their case

THE 26-County State and Shell E&P lost their bid on March 4, 2010 to stop two County Mayo residents, Brendan Philbin and Brid McGarry, from pursuing High Court claims as to whether a ministerial consent given eight years ago for the Shell Corrib gas pipeline is valid.

They are also challenging the constitutionality of provisions of the Gas Act 1976 under which the consent was given. The residents had set out their claim in 2005 in a defence and counter claim to proceedings brought against them by Shell. As a result five men spent 90 days in jail after refusing to abide by a court order not to interfere with pipeline work.

Shell and the State contended that the 'residents were out of time' for bringing such a case.

As support for Pat O'Donnell grows, musicians and singers, residents of Erris and Shell to Sea activists and supporters from around the country gathered at Castlerea prison on March 13 for a public demonstration of solidarity and support for jailed Shell to Sea activist Pat O'Donnell.

The day of solidarity was very well attended and turned into a musical event with many well known singers and musicians participating

On March 16, a small but dedicated group of Shell to Sea supporters in England gathered at the Irish Embassy in London and a poster and leaflet protesting the jailing was delivered to the embassy.

At a rally earlier in the month Mary O'Donnell (Pat's wife), read out a message from her husband saying that people should not be intimidated by his jailing.

The rally was also addressed by Eoin Ó Leithín, who was in Castlerea for three days with Pat.

In June 2009 four men, dressed all in black, boarded Pat's trawler during the night and sank it, leaving him to drown.

On March 22 at Belmullet District Court, Co Mayo, Maura Harrington and Paul Lynch were acquitted of two charges of blocking a road. The following day Niall Harnett was sentenced

to five months in prison in relation to an alleged assault on three Gardai at the Belmullet courthouse in March of last year. He also had his driving licence revoked for two years for a road traffic offence in April 2009. He denied the charges and is appealing all of these convictions.

It was revealed on March 25 that 20 months after entering into a legal agreement with local fishermen Shell has still not submitted an application as required to the Environmental Protection Agency to review the emissions licence for the experimental gas pipeline it is imposing on the people of Erris. On the same day 25 of the 27 Shell to Sea campaigners prosecuted 27 prosecuted on behalf of Shell in the local courts had their cases dismissed or withdrawn.

REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN CO DONEGAL

Special Appeal for Funds - to pay off our loan of €1,500

To date, the garden has had visitors from all over Ireland, America, Europe and beyond, and the response has been positive.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way small or big and ask anyone who wishes to make further donations to forward them to any committee member, head office or Joe O'Neill directly.

NB. DVDs and Videos of the opening ceremony are available, price €20.

Gearrscéalta

RSF members attacked in Armagh

IN A statement on March 14 the National PRO of Republican Sinn Féin said that the RUC had engaged in a series of raids in the Armagh City and Keady areas since the previous Thursday night.

"Five members of Republican Sinn Féin were arrested and underwent interrogation in Antrim RUC Barracks. Two others have since been charged. It was clear that this was an attempt to disrupt the activities of Republican Sinn Féin in the period leading up to Easter.

"Republican Sinn Féin condemns the RUC and will continue to promote the ideals of true Republicanism."

On March 15, Niall Ward, 23, and William Wong, 21, both from Armagh city, were charged at Newry Magistrate's Court with possessing pipe bombs.

William Wong was also charged with conspiring to cause a terrorist act after latex gloves and a lighter were found in his possession when he was taken into custody on March 11.

They were remanded in custody to appear at Armagh court via videolink on March 30.

RUC/PSNI complaints rise

COMPLAINTS by the public about the behaviour of the RUC/PSNI increased by more than a third in February 2010.

An internal RUC/PSNI e-mail sent to all members, and obtained by the BBC, revealed that there were 298 complaints against them, a 32% increase on January. The e-mail said failure in duty, oppressive behaviour, and incivility were the most frequent allegations highlighted in the complaints. Police use of special powers to stop and search people have increased in recent months and that also is a factor in the rise in complaints.

Shots fired at British police checking for bomb

UP to eight shots were fired at the RUC/PSNI as they examined a suspicious object on the railway line near Newry on March 20.

The railway line was closed following reports of a "suspicious object". The ambush was one in a series of incidents in Belfast, Derry and Magherafelt over a three day period.

There was also a series of bomb alerts that caused traffic disruption in Belfast and Derry. On March 20 a British army bomb disposal team was called out to deal with a viable device found in Magherafelt, Co Derry.

People were evacuated from their homes and businesses during the alert, which involved the bomb disposal team carrying out a controlled explosion.

In Belfast on March 21 the British bomb disposal unit carried out a controlled explosion on the Whiterock Road, Ballymurphy on what turned out to be a hoax.

Ealú: Political jail escapes on TG4

DURING the month of April and May, six programmes on TG4 will deal with political escapes from jails in Ireland.

The first programme is on Thursday, April 8 and deals with the escape from Crumlin Road jail in 1981 by the "M60 gang".

April 15: Escape of Linda Kearns from Mountjoy in 1920.

April 22: Escape of Richard Behal from Limerick jail in the 1960s.

April 29: Escape of Tom Malone from Portlaoise jail in 1921.

May 5: Escape of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Dáithí Ó Conaill from the Curragh 1958.

May 12: Escape of John O'Reilly, the German spy, from Arbour Hill prison, Dublin, during WWII.

All programmes are screened at 10.15pm.



Results of Dublin raffle

MARCH results: 1st prize ticket no 524; 2nd prize no 281; 3rd prize no 521; 4th prize no 302; 5th prize no 131; 6th prize no 258; 7th prize no 586; 8th prize no 087.

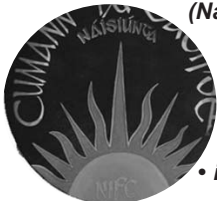
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Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta (National Irish Freedom Committee)

- is committed to supporting prisoners for which CABHAIR is responsible
- is generating publicity in support of Irish national independence.

We need your support. Our website address is:

<http://irishfreedom.net>



Gearrscéalta

New website launched by Galway RSF

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin has launched a new website for Galway.

The website <http://www.rsfgaillimh.com/> will give people an opportunity to view party policies such as ÉIRE NUA and SAOL NUA, and will also include a local news section with statements from Republican Sinn Féin county councillor Tomás Ó Curraoin as well as up to date news from around the country.

Speaking at the launch of the new website, Councillor Ó Curraoin said this will provide an important outlet for Republicanism in County Galway and will allow people to see an alternative to the current political set-up in the state. Councillor Ó Curraoin added that this site will be important in getting the Republican message out to the people and is a sign of the continued growth of the organisation in the county.

Green Isle dispute settled

A HUNGER strike at a frozen food factory in Co Kildare was called off on March 3 after workers reached a financial settlement with their employers.

Three workers who went on hunger strike at the Green Isle Foods factory in Naas, Co Kildare agreed to cease their fasts after compensation was agreed for three workers who were sacked last summer.

Jim Wyse, shop steward at the plant, survived on water and salt for 15 days after he commenced his hunger strike on February 17. He was joined by former Offaly footballer John Guinan one week later.

On March 3, John Recto from the Philippines, who was one of the men sacked, also joined the hunger strike.

However, the three men voted on March 3, along with other Technical Engineering and Electrical Union (TEEU) workers to accept an agreement brokered through independent mediators.

John Recto, who has been living in Ireland for eight years, is unsure of his position. When he tried to renew his work visa he was called to a Garda station. His and his wife's immigration cards were confiscated.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the TEEU are making representations on behalf of John Recto and his family to stop their deportation.

National heritage site to be desecrated

THE 26-County Administration is proposing to build a dual-carriageway within 500 metres of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site in Ireland according to Vincent Salafia of the Save Newgrange Committee.

He said: "The bypass will be visible and audible from the Knowth passage tomb, and although just outside the buffer zone the road still passes through an area protected under the County Development Plan and the European Landscape Convention and the Valletta Convention.

"It also appears to be in breach of the 2002 management Plan for the Site. The seven volumes of the Plan can be downloaded from the right hand toolbar at

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/savenewgrange/>

"Save Newgrange was set up in January, to help ensure that the Brú na Bóinne receives the legal protection it is guaranteed, under Irish, EU and international law. We have made the Environmental Impact Statement available for download at <http://www.savenewgrange.org>

Irish citizen harassed on in Dublin street by Israelis

THE Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) called on March 9 on the 26-County Departments of Justice and Foreign Affairs to clarify the latitude and legal standing accorded to foreign embassy security personnel in Ireland.

This follows the harassment on March 8, of Freda Hughes, a leading Irish Palestine solidarity activist by a member of the Israeli embassy security team.

Freda Hughes was aggressively questioned about her name and movements by an Israeli embassy staff member, accompanied by a member of the Garda Síochána, while walking on Northumberland Road in Dublin 4.

Freda Hughes is a teacher and educational researcher in the National University of Ireland. She is well known as an advocate of Palestinian human rights. Last December, she and a colleague from Trinity College, Dublin were barred from attend a conference on migrants' rights organised by the Israeli embassy.

Condemning the incident, Dr David Landy, Chair of the IPSC remarked: "The arrogance involved is breathtaking. Since when are the security personnel of foreign governments allowed to accost and harass Irish citizens on the streets of an Irish city? It's an outrage."

Dr Landy continued, "Of course, what happened chimes with the recent abuse of forged Irish passports by an Israeli hit team in Dubai. This incident should be fully investigated and an apology should be demanded from the Israeli embassy."

RUC shoot Republican in chest in Craigavon

AT a press conference held in Republican Sinn Féin's Ulster Office on the Falls Road in Belfast on March 4 it was revealed that at least three baton rounds (plastic bullets) were fired by British Crown Forces in the Drumbeg area of Craigavon in County Armagh on Saturday night, February 27, at around 10.30pm.

A spokesperson said: "The RUC/PSNI entered the area at around 10pm. They claimed this was in connection with the discovery of a suspicious object — however this was simply a gas cylinder which had been discovered some 500 yards away at 12 noon.

"The British incursion into the area was resisted by nationalist youths, and three baton rounds were fired by the RUC/PSNI with one man receiving serious injuries to his chest.

"Republican Sinn Féin condemns unreservedly the actions of the British colonial police, namely the RUC/PSNI, and congratulates the people of North Armagh in once again repelling the forces of Occupation."

Geraldine Taylor, west Belfast Republican and Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin, said at the press conference that the devoted justice department will be another "extension of British occupation". She said whoever got elected to the post would be "directing British policy and directing the occupation of Ireland".

She said a new justice

they claimed was 'police harassment in their area following the creation of a local justice ministry'.

RSF's press officer for Lurgan, Martin Duffy, handed the reporter from *Guardian* newspaper a plastic baton

at noon on Saturday, moved away from and didn't return to until about 10pm that night. They knew that by coming back so late in the evening that trouble would break out between themselves and young people. In between they left that hoax there knowing that cars and people were going past it," Martin Duffy said.

One Lurgan man also alleged that the British army's Special Reconnaissance Regiment was still openly maintaining a presence in the Lurgan/Craigavon area.

"Whether or not there is a justice minister this week coming means nothing to us. There are British soldiers on our streets, police provoking young people and helicopters and police spotter planes above in the sky round the clock. A local justice minister will want to be seen to come down harder on real Republicans," he said.

He added that there was widespread anger in Lurgan and Craigavon over the Provisionals branding those taking on the RUC/PSNI as "apolitical". "One Provo assembly member told local radio last week that 'they must have got their Giro cheques'. These were young people standing up to the RUC/PSNI. They were not drunks or layabouts. They were carrying on a tradition of resistance to the occupation," Geraldine Taylor added.



• Plastic bullet fired by British Crown Forces in Craigavon, Co Armagh on February 27. On the left can be seen bruising to the body of a young nationalist hit by the bullet.

minister would be "part and parcel of the British Crown".

Asked how the new minister would be regarded by the Republican Movement she replied: "They would be an enemy of the Irish people in just the same way as a British soldier or police officer serving in the PSNI/RUC."

The press conference was attended by a number of young Republicans from the Lurgan, north Armagh area. They told the journalists in attendance that they expected an upsurge in what

round the shape of a roll-on deodorant. He claimed it had been fired last week at point-blank range and had injured a 21-year-old man from the town during disturbances in the area.

"This man did not go to hospital because he feared he would be arrested by the police. He was not involved in any riot, nor is he connected politically to us.

"The trouble in the area last weekend broke out over a supposed hoax device which the RUC/PSNI first examined

Specialist RUC/PSNI unit deployed as MI6 recruit

IN early March the RUC/PSNI confirmed that heavily armed specialist units — Armed Response Vehicles (ARV) — were deployed in the Occupied Six Counties, particularly in Co Fermanagh, following increased Republican activity.

Their aim according to the RUC is to 'disrupt Republicans' waging war on British occupation.

However Fermanagh Independent Councillor, Bernice Swift, said the primary aim of the RUC/PSNI remained the same as the RUC, RIC and the B-Specials.

"That aim is to protect the British state and British interests in Ireland," she said. "It is not about combating a

dissident threat.

"Throughout history, Britain has deployed a wide range of tactics to maintain its occupation of Ireland; however, one element of British strategy in Ireland has remained constant for centuries and it's that of the locally recruited militia.

"The British government and its allies in Ireland continuously claim that the [RUC/PSNI] is a normal

police service for a normal state.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. The PSNI is just the frontline force of Britain's 'Axis of Evil' in Ireland, along with the British army and MI5 forming the other elements."

Provisional Policing Board member Dáithí McKay obviously does not agree as he called for the specialist units to be deployed in other areas to deal with the continuing resistance to British rule.

This comes at a time when the British secret intelligence service MI6 is actively recruiting in the Six Counties. Advertisements were placed

on employment websites seeking applications for "operatives" for the secret agency.

Last year MI5 built a new facility in Hollywood Co Down, which employs over 400 staff who are housed at Palace Barracks (within the British army base) outside Belfast. Also, last year saw the deployment of members of the Special Reconnaissance Regiment [SRR] who have been active in areas across the Six Counties, their presence in Lurgan and Craigavon was exposed at both press conferences held in Belfast during March this year.

Release of all political prisoners demanded

ON March 18 Dieter Blumenfeld, spokesperson of the Republican Sinn Féin International Relations Bureau, called for the release of all political prisoners. March 18 is marked as the International Day for Political Prisoners.

In 1922, the international association for political prisoners Red Aid appointed March 18 as the day in remembrance of political prisoners and those who suffer

under state repression. Since then political prisoners all over the world are commemorated on this day.

Blumenfeld said: "Worldwide, hundreds of

thousands of people are imprisoned for their political activity. Dozens of Irish POWs are incarcerated in jails in the Irish Free State, the Occupied Six Counties and even as far away as Lithuania.

"Countless people are imprisoned in, among other countries, Turkey, Palestine, the Basque Country and Sri Lanka. They are all in jails because of the same reason: they stood up

against oppression, colonialism and imperialism.

"Let us remember the Irish Republican POWs as well as all political prisoners worldwide on the International Day for Political Prisoners. The British and US imperialists might call them 'criminals', but the criminals are those who keep people behind bars for their political beliefs," Blumenfeld said.

For The Record

MON. MARCH 1: Members and supporters of the Ireland Palestine Solidarity campaign (IPSC) staged a demonstration in support of a Dublin City Council motion calling on the Dublin City Manager not to sign or renew any contracts with French multi-national Veolia.

TUES. MARCH 2: Marcus de Búrca, who wrote *The GAA, A History*, died aged 83.

Derry City Council is making a bid for Derry become the "UK City of Culture" in 2013 and said that the names Derry and Londonderry will be used. [Derry is of course in Ireland and not in England].

A security alert on the Cornakinnegar Road, Lurgan, Co Armagh was declared a hoax.

THURS. MARCH 4: Gary Donnelly lost his appeal against a conviction for assaulting a member of the RUC. He was sentenced to seven months imprisonment.

The Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database Systems) Bill was introduced in Leinster House by the 26-County Minister for Justice Dermot Aherne. The Bill provides for a national Database system and will 'update laws on the taking of samples from suspects for evidence in criminal cases'.

The industrial dispute at Green Isle Frozen Foods in Dublin was resolved.

Three hundred and forty-five thousand houses and apartments are vacant in the 26 Counties according to a report by the Urban Environment Project at University College, Dublin.

A new website, www.keepingyourhome.ie was set up to supply information on mortgage and rent problems.

The Musgrave retail group is to shed 143 jobs in Galway as part of a 'restructuring of its distribution network'.

The 26-County state and Shell E&P lost their bid to stop two County Mayo residents pursuing High Court claims as to whether a ministerial consent given eight years ago for the Shell Corrib gas pipeline is valid.

FRI. MARCH 5: The Provisionals opened their Ard-Fheis in Dublin with a call from Martin McGuinness to the SDLP and the UUP to sign up to the devolution of policing and justice powers. An emergency resolution that 'the party consider entering a future coalition government in the 26 Counties' was passed.

Reg Empey, UUP, said the Hillsborough Agreement was not acceptable in its present form in relation to the devolution of policing and justice to Stormont.

Two people escaped injury following a petrol bomb attack, in which two petrol bombs were thrown, on a house on the Rock Road, in Armagh city.

Two UVF brothers, David and Robert Stewart, Newtownabbey charged in connection with the murder of UDA man Tommy English could be free within a few years after turning supergrass.

Torrens Knight lost his legal challenge to the decision by the British secretary of state to revoke his early release licence. He is serving 12 life sentences for the murders of eight people in Greysteel, Co Derry and four workmen in 1993.

SUN. MARCH 7: The Orange Order gave its backing to proposals for parading drawn as part of the Hillsborough agreement on policing and justice.

At least 35 people were killed in a series of attacks in Iraq as people went to the polls in a general election.

John Kelly of Survivors of Child Abuse Ireland said that only a judicial investigation into the handling of abuse allegations across Ireland would satisfy victims.

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers warned that the forthcoming British general election will be in breach of human rights unless prisoners in England and the Occupied Six Counties have the right to vote.

Some of the members of the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four backed calls for the release of Ronnie McCarthy still held in jail in England.

MON. MARCH 8: The RUC admitted that the car believed to be linked to the bombing of the Newry Courthouse, and burned out in Drumintee, South Armagh about 20 minutes after the bombing, was left unattended and was removed after two days by 'unknown individuals'.

TUES. MARCH 9: The Stormont Assembly voted to devolve policing and justice powers from Westminster, despite opposition from the Ulster Unionist Party members. April 12 is the date mentioned for the transfer.

Willie Frazer attempted to serve a writ on Martin McGuinness at Stormont claiming that McGuinness was a member of the IRA Army Council that ordered the murder of his father.

Almost 58,000 X-Rays were not reviewed by consultant radiologists at Tallaght Hospital, Dublin between 2005 and the end of 2009.

WED. MARCH 10: Ciaran McLaughlin had his case



• **Baha Mousa who died in British custody in Iraq on September 15, 2003. See quote below, March 15.**

adjourned at Derry court until April 7 to allow his solicitor time to contact the PPS with a view to having the case withdrawn. He was charged with removing a loyalist flag from a lamppost in Burnfoot, outside Dungiven, last year. The judge said he should be commended and not prosecuted.

Three hundred thousand workers in the 26 Counties threatened industrial action as the Dublin administration goes ahead with planned cuts in wages and services.

Michael O'Leary, Ryanair said that the 300 jobs that Ryanair claimed it would create at Hangar Six at Dublin Airport are now going to either Spain or Germany.

THURS. MARCH 11: The final 31 workers at Tyrone Crystal were put on protective notice. Five workers lost their jobs on Saturday last when the Crystal shop in Belfast closed.

Two members of Republican Sinn Féin were arrested in Armagh.

Donegal Meats reversed their decision to close its boning hall safeguarding its 91 workers.

FRI. MARCH 12: The Public Prosecution Services (PPS) in the Occupied Six Counties agreed to a request from one of Britain's most senior judges Edwin Jowitt to review a previous decision not to prosecute RUC reserve Robert Atkinson for perjury in connection with the murder of Robert Hamill.

Derry city man Seán Johnson was given a three-month sentence suspended for 18 months and was fined £250 for playing a CD of the Wolfe Tones on July 13 while driving up Spencer Road as a loyalist march was in progress.

Former IRA prisoner Tony Catney, west Belfast denied allegations that he is a police informer. The allegations were made allegedly by a former RUC Special Branch member to the media. Catney said his character was 'called into question' since he left the Provos over their political direction. Martin Óg Meehan was also named as an informer. He also denied the allegation.

The British National Party (BNP) was barred from taking new members after a judge ruled their constitution could discriminate against non-white people.

SAT. MARCH 13: Two men and a woman, members of Republican Sinn Féin, were arrested for questioning in Armagh in connection with Republican activity.

An anti-whaling and environmental activist, New Zealander Peter Bethune, a member of the US-based Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, was arrested by Japan's coastguard when the whaling ship *Shonan Maru 2* docked in Tokyo Bay. He had been held on the ship since he boarded it in an attempt to make a citizens arrest in February.

SUN. MARCH 14: Two more members of Republican Sinn Féin, a man and a woman were arrested for questioning in Armagh, but were later released without unconditionally.

Gary Donnelly, Derry, serving a seven-month sentence for allegedly assaulting a member of the RUC, went on hunger strike in Maghaberry jail after he was removed from Roe House and moved into 'a secure wing'. The prison claims that Donnelly, who had his arm broken by the RUC during his arrest, was put under threat by the RIRA.

MON. MARCH 15: Two members of Republican Sinn Féin, arrested in Armagh on Thursday, William Wong (21) and Niall Ward, (23), both from Armagh were charged in Newry Court with possession of explosives.

Matt Baggott, RUC/PSNI chief constable in the Occupied Six Counties, claimed that "God had called him" to the position that he now holds [Shades of George Bush!]

The Department of the Environment in the 26 Counties received 150 submissions in response to an application by Shell to carry out work in north Mayo's Sruwaddaon estuary in connection with the Corrib gas pipeline route.

TUES. MARCH 16: A British soldier, Jimmy Johnson, accused of murdering two men in unprovoked attacks, blamed his time serving in the Occupied Six Counties for 'turning him into a killer'. He said he is suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and accused the British government of failing to recognise the extent of the trauma

suffered by the soldiers.

At least eight civilians died in the custody of British troops in Iraq in the weeks after the illegal invasion. Iraqi detainees were hooded, deprived of sleep, and made to stand in painful stressful positions – torture that was officially banned by the British government in 1972 after it was widely used in the Occupied Six Counties on nationalists and Republicans. One man, hotel worker Baha Mousa, died in custody on September 15, 2003 after having suffered 93 separate injuries.

Thousands of Israeli anti-riot police were deployed across east Jerusalem armed with assault rifles, stun grenades and batons after Palestinians staged a protest at the continuing plans for 1,600 flats for Israeli settlers in the area.

WED. MARCH 17: A controversial Orange march due to take place in Stonyford, Co Antrim was called off following restrictions by the Parades Commission. It was the first time that the loyalist flute band led by Mark Harbinson applied to march in the small mainly nationalist village.

US President Barack Obama thanked Brian Cowen, Taoiseach for the use of Shannon airport to transport troops and munitions in their illegal occupation of Iraq, when Obama entertained Cowen in the White House during St Patrick's Day celebrations.

British secretary of state in the Occupied Six Counties Shaun Woodward defending Peter Robinson, said he has cleared his name and had no more questions to answer, despite an ongoing investigation into financial irregularities by both the Robinsons.

According to figures just released the number of people claiming jobseekers' allowance continues to rise in the Occupied Six Counties albeit more slowly. The figure for February was put at 55,700, up 100.

Boots are to open five new stores in the 26 Counties and will employ 150 more people. It currently employs 1,800 people in the 26-County State.

THURS. MARCH 18: Former Anglo Irish bank chairman Seán Fitzpatrick was arrested at his home as part of the investigation into "alleged financial irregularities at financial institutions".

FRI. MARCH 19: Security alerts were reported in Derry, Belfast and Ballymena, Co Antrim. Severe disruption was caused in Derry as a series of bomb scares closed off many roads. A suspect device was placed inside a van yards from the security gate which links the Fountain to Bishop Street.

SAT. MARCH 20: Several security alerts were reported across the Occupied Six Counties throughout the week; two masked youths hijacked a van on the rail crossing near Lake Street in Lurgan and drove it a short distance before abandoning it; the British army carried out a controlled explosion in Magherafelt after a pipe bomb was found in a car park where a number of homes and businesses were evacuated.

SUN. MARCH 21: An eastern European woman escaped injury after the house she was in was attacked with several petrol bombs on the Galgorm Road in Ballymena, Co Antrim. At least two devices were thrown through a downstairs window causing scorch damage to the floor, walls and curtains. More devices also struck the front of the property causing damage to a window frame.

Shots were fired at the RUC as they investigating a security alert in County Down. The RUC/PSNI and the British army have been examining a suspicious object close to the railway line outside Newry since March 19.

MON. MARCH 22: Up to eight shots were fired at the RUC/PSNI as they examined a suspicious object on the railway line near Newry. The railway line has been closed since last Friday following reports of a suspicious object between Meigh and Killian.

Some time ago between 60 and 80 senior members of the Republican Movement and loyalist members gave interviews and documents to Boston University on the condition that the contents would only be revealed when the individual persons died. Journalist and author Ed Moloney is launching a book – *Voices from the Grave* – based on the material left in Boston College by Republican Brendan 'the Dark' Hughes and loyalist David Ervine.

The Basque separatist Movement ETA said it is 'prepared to take the necessary steps towards political change' but will not give up armed struggle until they 'achieve freedom'.

Up to 11,000 Gardaí in the 26-County State are expected to begin a 'work-to-rule' in the first action of its kind in the history of the force. The so-called 'withdrawal of goodwill' is in protest over public sector pay cuts and the pension levy.

US President Barack Obama's controversial healthcare bill was passed in the Senate.

The Saville Report into Bloody Sunday may not be made public until after the British general election is held, according to the British Secretary of State Secretary Shaun Woodward.

TUES. MARCH 23: Britain expelled a Mossad agent based in the Israeli Embassy in London over the use of forged British passports in the murder of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, a Hamas official, on January 29 in Dubai.

The families of those murdered by the British Paras in Derry on Bloody Sunday 1972, are furious at the continuing delay of the publication of the Saville

Report into the murders.

Several suspicious boxes placed near the Newry/Dundalk railway line closed the main road and cancelled trains as the RUC and Gardaí examined what turned out to be hoaxes. All traffic was diverted and train passengers were bussed between Newry and Dundalk.

The families of eight people murdered by the Mount Vernon UVF gang told the Policing Board they will only accept Nuala O'Loan to oversee the investigation into the killings after a decision was made to transfer the investigation from the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) to the RUC's serious Crime Squad.

Hundreds of people queued at the Passport Office in Dublin as industrial action brought the issuing of passports practically to a stand still. Forty thousand people were left awaiting travel documents.

WED. MARCH 24: The Orange order called for protests against the proposed visit of Pope Benedict to Britain later in the year.

Shell to Sea activist Niall Harnett, Pollathomas, Mayo, was found guilty in Belmullet District Court of assaulting three Gardaí in March 2009. He denied the charges and said that it was he who was assaulted. He was sentenced to five month imprisonment.

US President Barack Obama signed his landmark health Bill into law. However 13 states filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of the healthcare Bill.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, attending the funeral of a policeman shot dead allegedly by ETA, said that he would 'eradicate all ETA bases in France'.

Britain expelled an Israeli Mossad agent from the Israeli Embassy in London over the counterfeiting of British passports used to murder Mahoud al-Mabhouh a member of Hamas in Dubai in January.

THURS. MARCH 25: A leading member of the Orange Order, Nick Blake, is to contest the British general election for the far-right British National Party (BNP).

Ex-leader of the INLA, Martin Duffy, is expected to be charged with the murder of a British army recruiting sergeant in 1992 after being transferred to Maghaberry jail, Co Antrim from Portlaoise jail, Co Laois last week.

Two men were arrested in Craigavon and houses raided.

There were 298 complaints by the public about RUC/PSNI behaviour in February.

FRI. MARCH 26: Relatives of two IRA men shot dead by SAS soldiers are to go before Britain's highest court as part of a legal battle over inquests into the killings. Senior judges have granted leave for lawyers representing the families of Dessie Grew and Martin McCaughy to take their case to the Supreme Court. Grew, 37, and McCaughy, 23, were gunned down near Loughgall, Co Tyrone in 1990. Legal papers in the judicial review application claim four soldiers fired 72 rounds at the two men, with autopsy reports showing Grew sustained 48 wounds while McCaughy was shot by 10 bullets.

Three men arrested in relation to suspected Republican activity on March 23 were released without charge. Two of the men were arrested in Craigavon and another man who was arrested in west Belfast in the same operation was also freed.

Jose Ignacio de Juana Chaos, 54, the Basque separatist is to appeal a ruling that he should be extradited from the Occupied Six Counties to Spain. His extradition was ordered three weeks ago, when a judge rejected his claims he would not receive a fair trial.

Following a series of security alerts which caused widespread disruption in Derry a week ago, the RUC/PSNI stepped up their patrols in the city.

A South Korean ship, the 1,200-ton Cheonan, with 100 crew members sank in mysterious circumstances near the border with North Korea. The ship was on a routine patrol with other vessels in the Yellow Sea off South Korea's west coast.

Aer Lingus cabin crew accepted a €97million cost-saving plan which will result in 670 redundancies, pay cuts across the board backdated from March 1 and changes in work practices.

Public sector unions (CPSU) in the 26 Counties are looking for a reversal of the pay cuts made in the last budget to its members pay as work stoppages escalate.

Sylvia Hermon resigned from the Ulster Unionist Party – the party's only MP – and announced she will stand as an independent in the upcoming British general election.

A probationary member of the RUC was injured when a stone was thrown through the window of her patrol car.

SAT. MARCH 27: A well-attended POW/join RSF picket in Thomas Street in Dublin gave out to 1,000 leaflets to passing motorists and pedestrians to highlight the plight of the POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails.

SUN. MARCH 28: Bus Éireann services across the country will be reduced from today as part of a major cost-cutting plan. Eighteen bus routes will be changed and one route withdrawn in response to a 10% drop in passenger numbers last year. 250 staff at the company will be laid off in the coming months through a voluntary redundancy.

ARRESTS AND RAIDS IN BELFAST

A Belfast Chronology

Thursday, March 4, 2010. It was reported that extra RUC/PSNI were to be drafted into west Belfast following rioting the previous weekend.

Friday, March 5, 2010. What was described as a 'viable' pipe bomb was found in the Glasveay area of west Belfast. The Stewartstown Road was closed for a time.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010. Six men were arrested in west Belfast after two cars were stopped and searched.

Thursday, March 11, 2010. Henry 'Harry' Fitzsimons appeared in Belfast's Crown Court after being extradited the previous to the Occupied Six Counties in connection with the kidnap of Bobby Tohill in 2004.

Friday March 12, 2010. Newly-released secret British army briefing documents showed that the British army knew about the disappearance of two people in 1972 – more than 25 years before the IRA admitted abducting and killing them as informers. Kevin McKee and Seamus Wright were paid agents of the British and worked at a laundry that was set up by British intelligence and run by Military Reconnaissance Force (MRF) in north Belfast. From a false roof in a laundry van, British intelligence spied on Republicans and clothing belonging to IRA suspects, brought in for cleaning, was tested for explosives residue.

A teenage boy who was



• *Members of the RUC/PSNI at a bomb alert at Stockman's Lane on March 19.*

arrested on Monday following clashes in the Springfield Road, west Belfast was released on bail.

UVF member Robert

Warnock, Newtownabbey, applying for bail, denied charges in Belfast's High Court of conspiracy to intimidate a witness and membership of the

UVF. Doorman Trevor Gowdy, who was brutally assaulted, was due to give evidence against Warnock in the assault case. Ronald Bowe, Mount Vernon, Belfast was also charged in connection with intimidation, membership, conspiracy to cause an explosion and possession of explosives.

Tuesday, March 16, 2010. Christy Walsh, West Belfast, finally won his third appeal, after new evidence came to light, as his conviction for possession of a coffee-jar bomb was quashed by the Court of Appeal. Christie Walsh was sentenced to 14 years in 1991 and has spent almost 20 years trying to clear his name.

Friday, March 19, 2010. A number of bomb alerts caused chaos in Belfast.

Thursday, March 25, 2010. One man was arrested in west Belfast and houses raided innorth Belfast. The arrest was made during a planned search operation in the Upper Suffolk and Moorefield areas.

Friday, March 26, 2010. Houses were raided on Broadway, Whiterock Road and other parts of Ballymurphy, Belfast.

Lawyers for Terence McCafferty, argued in the High Court in Belfast that information was withheld from them and accused the then NIO Paul Goggins of 'bias and bad faith'. McCafferty was released in 2008 having served six years of a twelve-year sentence but was rearrested in December 2008 and returned to prison. The reasons were not made known to him.

RSF oppose Galway visit by British ambassador

ON Thursday March 24 members of Republican Sinn Féin from Galway and Mayo showed their opposition to the visit to Galway of the British ambassador Julian King under the guise of trade and tourism.

The reality of the situation is that this was nothing more than another in a long line of attempt's at the British policy of normalisation and is also being used to soften the public towards a visit by the British queen. The message to the British ambassador was loud and clear, Republicans in the West are just as opposed to British rule as Republicans throughout the thirty two counties are, and there will be no welcome for British officials or royalty while Britain continues to occupy the Six

Counties.

A protest was organised outside the Ardilaun Hotel on Thursday morning where a meet and greet was organised, where the local gombeen political figures paid up to €40 per person to bow before and fraternize with the Queens representative.

Another protest was then organised on Shop Street to highlight the call for political status for Republican POWs. There was great support from the public who were dismayed at hearing of the visit by the royal representative



• *Members of Republican Sinn Féin from Galway and Mayo protesting at the visit to Galway of the British ambassador Julian King under the guise of trade and tourism.*

to the city. There was a jovial atmosphere at the protest with one local business close to where the protest was held playing Republican music. Republican Sinn Féin Councillor on

Galway County Council Tomás Ó Curráin was little surprised to note that he was not given notice of the visit but said that he was delighted to see the response we received from the public about both the ambassador's visit and the status of the Republican POWs.

The message to the British ambassador was sent loud and clear that resistance in the West to British rule in Ireland is strong and growing minute by minute, hour by hour and day by day and the onward march to the Republic will not be stopped.

Interview with the British ambassador can be heard at Keith Finnegan Show Podcast galwaynews.ie

Hillsborough Agreement no international role model

THE Hillsborough Agreement is no international role model to solve national conflicts, Dieter Blumenfeld, press officer of the Republican Sinn Féin International Relations Bureau said in a statement on March 8.

Blumenfeld responded to a statement made by the leader of the Basque national liberation movement Batasuna, Arnaldo Otegi.

Otegi wrote in a message to the Provisionals' Ard-Fheis in Dublin on Sunday, March 7, that the Basques should use the methods which were 'successful' in Ireland. According to Otegi, only this would bring a 'peaceful solution' to the Basque country. The Basque politician said: "The success of the Hillsborough Agreement

shows that the roadmap works".

Blumenfeld, spokesperson of RSF International Bureau, said in response: "The Hillsborough Agreement once again showed that the Provisionals are willing to administer British rule in Ireland and nothing else. It has neither brought us closer to a united Ireland nor to peace. The only roadmap they are following is the British roadmap to strengthen their occupation of Ireland".

Otegi once more steps into

his role as international cheerleader of the cul-de-sac the Provisionals follow for the last 25 years, Blumenfeld said. In summer 2008 Otegi addressed a rally in the Basque country saying 'there are no political prisoners in Ireland any more'.

Blumenfeld continued: "Otegi is blinded by the lies that are told by the Provisionals. We urge the Basque people not to follow this path. It brought no solution to Ireland and it will bring no solution to the Basque

country".

The only viable solution for Ireland is a federal, independent, democratic-socialist republic as outlined in the political document ÉIRE NUA. Republican Sinn Féin offers to discuss the situation in the occupied Six Counties with all national liberation movements worldwide. We are willing to provide every international organisation with our alternative to British occupation in Ireland which is ÉIRE NUA", Blumenfeld said.

TEACH DÁITHÍ Ó CONAILL RENOVATION FUND

The Trustees and Ard Chomhairle have decided to set up a fund to renovate the Republican Sinn Féin Ard-Oifig, Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

Donations will be gratefully received from members and supporters of the true Republican cause. All moneys received will be acknowledged and receipted.

Donations should be sent to: The Dáithí Ó Conaill Memorial Fund, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.



• *On March 27 members and supporters of Republican Sinn Féin held a picket in support of Irish Republican prisoners. The supporters stood outside St Catherine's Church in Thomas Street (where Robert Emmet was hanged, drawn and quartered) and handed out information leaflets.*

Seán Keenan remembered in Derry

ON March 7 Republican Sinn Féin in Derry organised the annual commemoration to Seán Keenan.

Proceedings at the Celtic Cross memorial in the Bogside were chaired by Micky McGonigle, Dungiven. A wreath was laid by Richard Walsh, National PRO for RSF and Nuala Moore, Monaghan laid a wreath on behalf of Comhairle Uladh (the Ulster Executive). Vice-President Fergal Moore read the 1916 Proclamation.

The oration was delivered by Cáit Trainor, Ard Chomhairle member from Armagh who paid tribute to the life and Republican service of Seán Keenan: "Seán Keenan was a steadfast Republican all his life, working always to advance the ideals and objectives of Irish Republicanism.

"He was a mentor to many people and he was fittingly Honorary Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin for many years. Seán Keenan and many like him gave hope and determination when it seemed to us that we were on our own, and that the people of Ireland had deserted the Republican

movement except for a faithful few.

"Seán lived through some difficult times and served a total of 15 years interned by the British Government without ever being tried. He dedicated himself to the cause of Irish Independence and he did not waiver in his ideals. He always remained true to the genuine Republican Movement even though mostly it was not the easy option, but for Seán it was the only option.

"Due to the hard work of people like Seán the Republican Movement is once more going from strength to strength and every day younger people are waking up to the fact that normalisation is part of the deceit peddled by those who would have you believe the Brits are here doing us a favour.

"Normalisation is something we must all work to smash — the idea that what is out of sight is out of mind. There is nothing normal about the British occupation of the Irish Nation. We cannot see chains

around us, there may be less Brits on the streets and fewer checkpoints but what is plain to see before our eyes is that Republicans are still being harassed day in and day out, the Brits are still in control and occupying Ireland and Republicans are once more being censored in the Brit and Free State media.

"I think it is apt to quote John Mitchel who was born in Dungiven not far from here:

" 'England has been left in possession not only of the soil of Ireland, with all that lives and grows thereon, to her own use, but in possession of the world's ear also. She may pour into it what tale she will and all mankind will believe her.' "

"For every piece of propaganda the Brits peddle to the world we must shout louder and be more impassioned, we must make the world sit up and listen. Let the world know we will not settle easily under a foreign master, we will show the Brits and the world how Ireland can come together and more importantly that we will triumph.

"Now with the devolution of policing and justice we have a harder task. This has been sold to people as some kind of



• The memorial to Seán Keenan in the Bogside in Derry.

victory, that now that policing and justice is in the hands of Irish people they can determine how it works. It is time that people woke up to the fact we are living in a society where treachery is dressed up as victory!

"The plight of our Prisoners of War is all but forgotten by the general public, most people do not know there are political

prisoners in Ireland anymore. Men right now are languishing in Maghaberry prison fighting for political status, status that we won in 1981 when 10 brave men died on hunger strike and before that men and women went on the blanket protest and endured many hardships to win political status. It would seem their efforts have been forgotten and disregarded as now political status for Volunteers of the Irish Republic has been sold down the river with the signing of the Stormont Agreement.

"People tell us that we have no strategy or mandate. We can tell them now, as Republicans we have a long-standing mandate, dating right back to the '98 rebellion where countless Irish people went out and gave their lives for the independence of this country and since then successive generations have done the same and we in this generation have a duty to take up the mantle that was left to us by our Republican predecessors.

"As for a strategy we have probably the best strategy and framework as outlined in ÉIRE NUA to achieve the republic. ÉIRE NUA is a document that embraces all

sections of Irish society and can be acceptable not only to the nationalist population but to also to unionists. It dispels the myth that the issues we have had are merely sectarian. We have to get our message out to all sections of the Irish nation; we must make people aware that a solution does exist.

"We will always resist and support all those who resist the occupation of the Irish nation. Everyone here today knows what needs to happen in order to successfully rid our country of occupation and experience tells us that we will always face opposition.

"We need to work harder and be smarter, we need to be sure in what we do and know that no matter what hardships come our way we will be able to face them with the determination and the truth that we know, a truth that Seán Keenan also knew.

"We need all the support we can muster. It is not for any self-gain that we ask for this support, it is for the cause of Irish freedom.

"The Irish Republican Movement needs your support and the Irish Nation demands your support."

Guth na Mumhan: Inniu is Inné

Limerick Prime Time a sham and charade

THE RTÉ Prime Time programme on the Regeneration of troubled areas in Limerick was a sham and a charade unworthy of investigative journalism, Joe Lynch from Beechgrove Avenue in Ballinacorra Weston, the Republican Sinn Féin chairperson in the southside of Limerick said on March 8.

He said the programme was

an insult to the people the Regeneration Boards are supposed to assist.

"The fact is the Boards have lost the confidence of the people of the areas where crime, drug dealing and anti-social behaviour are rife.

"I am speaking out as a former member of an advisory committee to the Board. Because of a lack of concrete progress I resigned in protest. The Boards are now more concerned with public relations and media coverage

than in doing the job given to them by the politicians.

"The latest abuse of those living in hope of a new future free from the crime gangs was the Prime Time programme.

"Officials from the Board were seen driving through the Clarina Park area of Ballinacorra Weston. They did not even get out of their expensive cars to talk to the local people.

"Like some Roman Procurator the Regeneration Board Chief drove through a troubled area but never once stopped to walk among the ordinary people.

"The Prime Time programme however served one useful purpose...it showed how far removed the Boards have become from the long suffering people they are supposed to serve."

Irish history talk in Scotland

ST Patrick's Festival Week ran from March 12 to 19 in Scotland.

It included such activities as Schools Gaelic Football Tournament, a "Come and Try" workshop in Irish Gaelic, Irish family Festival, a Céili and on March 16 a history talk by Stephen Coyle titled: "The Contribution of the Irish in Scotland to the Easter Rising and War of Independence 1918-1922". Stephen, Scotland and Donegal, is a historian and author.

The event was attended by over 40 people, among them members of the John Torley/Seamus McElwaine Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin. Stephen Coyle, author of *High Noon on High Street* gave a detailed and well researched talk on the part the Irish community in Scotland, not only in Glasgow but in other areas where there were large Irish communities such as

Dumbarton, Greenock and Coatbridge, played in the Easter Rising and War of Independence.

He detailed how they formed into Cumann in each particular area, not only in the West of Scotland but as far away as Edinburgh, Fife and Dundee, and

met in various halls and establishments to drill, to take part in weapons training and plan on how best to assist their comrades in Ireland.

This mainly took the guise of raising funds and acquiring detonators, explosives, ammunition and guns, these to be smuggled from Glasgow via Belfast and Dublin.

TEAGMHÁLACHA

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin should contact:

Kerry: O'Sullivan/Enright Cumann, Listowel: 087-3231849

Cork: Mac Curtáin/Mac Swiney Cumann:

086-3352006 or rsfcork@gmail.com

Mallow: Seán: 087-749 8967; Stephen: 087-327 7860 or Phil:

087-627 7309

Limerick city: Brughna/Sabbat, Hurson/Sands Cumann:

www.rsflimerick.com

County Limerick: Smith O'Brien/ Colbert Cumann:

086-8153657

Waterford: 086-1244158; e-mail: rejaun@hotmail.com

Dublin: 01-8729747 or e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie/Roger

Meath: Niall Fagan/Thomas Allen Cumann: 086-7326922

Wexford: contact Mick at 0876150484

Kildare: desdalton@eircom.net, 086-329 1809,

www.rsflildare.ie

Longford: 087-2240061 or 086-3384017

Enniscorthy: 086-0608382 or 087 6284338

Belfast: rsfbelfast@googlemail.com

Donegal: rsfdonegal@googlemail.com

Newry: Brendan Watters/Joe Conway Cumann:

rsfnewry@aol.com

Roscommon: Kevin Coen Cumann: Joe Murphy,

086 1281 861

Mayo: McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann:

087 9232 096

Galway: Cumann an hAthair Ó Gríofa: Tomás,

087 2933 782 or Seán at 091 525 977, rsfgallimh@live.ie

Letterim: Micheál at 071 9641 804 or John at

086 4061454

London: Roger Casement/James Stephens Cumann,

0044-7926357676

Birmingham: Maitiu, +44 (0)7824341128

birmingham_rsf@yahoo.co.uk

Glasgow: Francis Hughes Cumann, rsfglasgow@yahoo.com,

web: rsfglasgow.webs.com

Dumbarton: John Torley/Seamus McElwaine Cumann

dumbartonrsf@live.co.uk

RSF Germany/Austria: www.irish-solidarity.net

irish-solidarity@gmx.net, 0664 170 02 92

RSF Italy: rsf-roma@email.it

IMEACHTAÍ

FUNCTION IN HONOUR OF REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN PATRON, RUAIRÍ Ó BRÁDAIGH

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

PERCY FRENCH HOTEL

STROKESTOWN, CO ROSCOMMON

DOORS OPEN 9.30pm

POW PICKET

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 12.45-1.45pm

GPO, DUBLIN

15th ANNUAL MICHAEL FLANNERY

TESTIMONIAL AWARDS DINNER

SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2010, 6-9PM

CONNOLLY'S PUB & RESTAURANT,

121 WEST 45TH STREET, NEW YORK

SEÁN MACDIARMADA COMMEMORATION

KILTICLOGHER, CO LEITRIM

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 3.PM

THE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS MAGHABERRY
are looking for books and publications about Irish

history and Republicanism. The books may be sent to Head Office at 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1 or the Ulster office at 229 Falls Road, Belfast or directly to

Maghaberry c/o Daire McKenna, Roe House, Maghaberry jail, Old Road, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn, Co Antrim, BT28 2PT.

**JOIN NA FIANNA ÉIREANN
IRELAND'S REPUBLICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT**
Contact for details: 085-824 2617

**REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN
REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND
THE TOM MAGUIRE/DÁITHÍ O CONAILL RFB**
Anyone interested in joining please contact 01-8729747 or 085-8242617

REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN IS ACTIVE IN ITALY

and can be contacted at the
rsf-roma@email.it or phone: 0039 349 23 04 936
Republican Sinn Féin è presente in Italia e può essere contattato al

seguente indirizzo e-mail: rsf-roma@email.it oppure al numero 0039 349 23 04 936

Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement

ON the occasion of the 94th anniversary of the historic Easter Rising of 1916, the Leadership of the Republican Movement sends greetings to all who are gathered in commemoration at the graves of the Republican Dead of every generation and at monuments erected to their memory.

In the past year it has been stated that policing will be transferred from Westminster to Stormont. However, political policing will continue and will remain guided from London. Under the St Andrews Agreement, amended by the Hillsborough Agreement, "security intelligence" in the Six Occupied Counties will be the responsibility of the M15 Security Service with the RUC/PSNI in a support role.

The M15 will not be accountable to the Stormont Policing Board for security-related matters but it will be

available to brief the Board in secret on what it considers "appropriate".

This is not the devolution of policing and justice powers. London will remain in control. For their part, the Republican youth has given the RUC/PSNI their response on the streets of many towns in the occupied area. We appreciate their actions.

In the 26 Counties, the flag of occupation – the Union Jack – is displayed with increasing frequency at festivals and on other public occasions. Similarly British military uniforms are flaunted in public, although the wearing of them was banned south of the Border for decades after 1922.

All of this is a build-up to a state visit by the Queen of England to the 26 Counties. The crowned head which claims sovereignty in Ireland has not visited for a full century. It is essential that such

a visit be opposed. If it is not, then that is an acceptance of her "royal style and title" as "Queen of Northern Ireland" so-called. As Republicans we cannot, we must not, and we will not, tolerate such a situation without a meaningful protest.

This Easter we renew our support for the Shell to Sea campaign in their protest against the exploitation of Irish natural resources by a multinational company and the consequent endangerment of local inhabitants in the Ros Dúmhach ("Ros Doo-ach") Gaeltacht area. We salute the stand taken against the hired private armies of security men by local fisherman Pat O'Donnell, now serving time in prison for his opposition to oppression.

Once more we denounce the description of faithful Republicans as "traitors" by a person who gave a

commitment in 1986 that the war of national liberation would "never, never, never" end until the freedom of Ireland was achieved. On the same occasion he pledged on behalf of his associates never to go to Westminster or Stormont.

NOW they administer British rule in Ireland have offices in Westminster and draw expenses annually from the English government of many hundreds of thousands pounds sterling.

Others have recently followed their example and at the behest of the British government have destroyed weapons and munitions given for the independence of Ireland.

On the other hand we note the continued resistance by Volunteers of the Continuity IRA to the British forces of occupation, the unrelenting

work of Republican Sinn Féin members for national unity and independence and the defiant stand of the Republican prisoners North and South in the face of their jailors. The struggle continues.

Republicans are not dismayed by the threats of further repression from sources in the 26-County Administration. As in the past they will stand up and meet them unflinchingly. Week after week the tabloid gutter press seeks by its falsehoods and fabrications to sow confusion in the ranks regarding the Republican position. The faithful are loyal to the All-Ireland Republic under one authority. That position has been vindicated again and again as the only basis on which to proceed.

We send greetings to our prisoners in Maghaberry, Co Antrim and Portlaoise jails. Their stand day after day is an

example to us all. We undertake once more to support their dependants during the period of incarceration.

A cháirde, the countdown to 2016, the centenary of the momentous Easter Rising, has begun. Just five more Easters have to pass and the Great Day will be upon us. We need to commence preparations now to ensure that the occasion is not snatched from us by those who have ignored the annual Easter 1916 Commemorations since the 50th – in 1966.

Advance then, loyal and true, and rally a younger generation to the imperishable Cause which, in 1916, opened a century of anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggle for the greater good of all humankind!

An Phoblacht Abú!
— Issued by the
Leadership of the
Republican Movement,
Easter 2010

1916 Easter Commemorations 2010

ANTRIM

Easter Sunday, Belfast, Republican Plot, Milltown Cemetery, assemble 11.30am at cemetery gates.

ARMAGH

Lurgan, Holy Saturday, assemble Murals, Kilwilkie, for commemoration at Republican Plot, St Colman's Cemetery, 2pm.
Holy Saturday, Ballymacnab, wreath-laying ceremony at 7.30pm, Ballymacnab Chapel.

Easter Sunday, Keady, wreath-laying ceremony at 1pm at the grave of Vol. Eddie Dynes in the main graveyard.

Easter Sunday, Armagh city, assemble 3.45pm at Banbrook hill (Northern Bar). March to St Patrick's cemetery for commemoration. Function in Shillelagh's bar, Nursery Road 6pm onwards, live music.

CARLOW

Easter Saturday, wreath-laying ceremony at grave of Tony Ruane, Carlow cemetery at 3.30pm.

CLARE

Easter Monday, Drumcliff Cemetery, Ennis, 4pm.

CORK

Easter Sunday, assemble at Wilton Roundabout, 2pm. Parade to Republican Plot, St Finbar's Cemetery.

Good Friday, wreath-laying ceremony, assemble 2pm at Clock House and amrch to Bridge, Malrow.

DERRY

Cúchulainn Memorial, City Cemetery, Derry City, Easter Sunday, assemble at 12 noon.

Wreath-laying ceremonies at the following on Easter Sunday morning: The Lough Cemetery, 9am, at the grave of Brigadier Seán Larkin; and the grave of Tommy Toner in Dungiven, 10.15am at the graves of Vols Kealy, O'Carolan and Kilmartin and hunger striker Kevin Lynch.

DONEGAL

Holy Saturday, Doneyloup, Castlefin 7.30pm. Clady Bridge, 11.30am.

Drumboe Easter Sunday, assemble Johnson's Corner 2.30pm.

DOWN

Easter Sunday, Newry, 10.30 am, St Mary's Cemetery.

DUBLIN

Holy Saturday, Balbriggan Bridge, 2pm.

Easter Sunday, Deansgrange Cemetery, 1pm.

Easter Monday, Assemble Garden of Remembrance, 1.45pm for march to GPO, O'Connell Street, Dublin.

FERMANAGH

Easter Sunday, Roslea, 2.30pm.

GALWAY

Assemble at Cathedral for parade to Liam Mellows Memorial, Eyre Square, Galway city, Easter Sunday, 11am.

Republican Plot, Donaghpatrick, Headford, Easter Sunday, assemble Queally's Cross, Cahirlistrane, 3pm.

GLASGOW

Easter Sunday commemoration and function. Details from

SAOIRSE sellers.

KERRY

Easter Sunday, Cahersiveen, assemble 2.30pm at the Monument, The Square.

Tralce, Easter Sunday, assemble at Denny Street at 2pm parade to Republican Plot, Rath Cemetery.

Killarney, wreath-laying ceremony at Republican Monument.

Easter Monday, Republican Plot, Listowel, assemble at graveyard gates, 2.30pm.

KILDARE

Easter Sunday, the Republican Plot, Grey Abbey Cemetery, Kildare town, 12 noon.

Easter Monday, Wreath-laying ceremony at Republican Plot, St Corban's Cemetery, Naas at 12 noon.

Wreaths will be laid throughout the county.

KILKENNY

Holy Saturday: Assemble at 12.45pm at Roe's Carpark, Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny for commemoration.

LAOIS

Wreath-laying ceremony at Barrowhouse cemetery at graves of Vols William Connor and James Lacey, 10.30am. A wreath-laying ceremony will also take place at 1798 Monument, Portlannington.

LEITRIM

Easter Sunday, commemoration, Fenagh cemetery, grave of Vol Jack McLoughlin, 3pm.

LIMERICK

Easter Sunday, assemble Munster Fair Tavern, Mulgrave Street, 2.45pm, for parade to Republican Plot, Mount St Lawrence Cemetery.

Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremony, Republican Plot, Killougholehan Graveyard, Broadford. Assemble after 9.30 Mass at carpark.

LONDON

Easter Monday, commemoration, Hendon Cemetery, Holder's Hill Road, Hendon, 12.30am. Assemble at entrance at 12.15pm.

LONGFORD

Easter Sunday, commemoration, Foxhall Cemetery, Legan, at grave of Vol Patrick Farrell, 3pm.

LOUTH

Dundalk, Easter Sunday, commemoration, Republican Plot, St Patrick's Cemetery, 2pm.

MAYO

Kilkelly, Easter Monday, 12 noon, assemble at Church gate and parade to East Mayo Brigade Memorial on main Sligo-Galway Road.

MEATH

Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremonies at grave of Fian

Séamus Fox, Drumree, Co Meath, 12 noon; Summerhill, 1pm; Ballinlough Cemetery, Kells, 2pm. Easter Monday, at grave of Vol George McDermott, Ardbraccan, Co Meath, 2pm.

MONAGHAN

Easter Sunday, Commemoration, Urrleshanny Cemetery, Scotstown, at grave of Vol Séamus McElwaine 2pm.

NEW YORK

Easter Sunday, 9am, at the grave of Joseph Stynes, Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York (East 233 rd St & Webster Ave)

For more information contact; Jane at 718 683 6903

Followed by Mass at 10am. Celebrant: Msgr. Patrick Moloney; Commemoration & Irish breakfast at 11am. Sponsored by Sean Oglagh Na hÉireann, the Friends of Irish Freedom, Bronx Gaelic League, the Tipperary N&B Association, and the Irish American Club of LI at the Green Tree Restaurant, Riverdale Ave & West 259th St Riverdale, Bronx, NY.

OFFALY

Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremonies throughout the county.

ROSCOMMON

Ballinlough, Easter Sunday, 12 noon, parade to IRA Memorial. Elphin, parade to County Roscommon Memorial after 11.30 Mass.

Easter Sunday, County Commemoration, Granlahan cemetery, grave of Vol Michael J Keane, Ballinlough, 3pm.

SLIGO

Sligo Town, Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremony, Republican Plot, Sligo Cemetery.

TIPPERARY

Easter Sunday, Commemoration, Hunger Strike Memorial, Banba Square, Nenagh, 10am.

TYRONE

Holy Saturday, wreath-laying ceremony at Edendork, Co Tyrone at the grave of Fian James McCaughey, 10am.

Holy Saturday, Carrickmore at the grave of Frank Ward 6pm.

WATERFORD

Holy Saturday, wreath-laying ceremony at Statue on Quay, Waterford city, 3pm.

WESTMEATH

Holy Saturday, commemoration at the grave of Paddy Dermody, Fore, 4pm.

Easter Sunday, wreath-laying ceremonies throughout the county.

WEXFORD

Republican Plot, St Ibar's Cemetery, Crosstown, Easter Sunday, assemble at Crescent Quay, Wexford at 3pm. Function after in Browns pub. Mass for all who died for Ireland, Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rowe Street, 11am.

WICKLOW

Holy Saturday, 3pm, wreath-laying Hollywood Cemetery, West Wicklow.

'Organise for success an

Interview with Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

AT the Republican Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis in November 2009, veteran Republican Ruairí Ó Brádaigh stepped down as President. He led the organisation since the split in 1969 with a three-year interlude in 1983-86. The elected Patron of Republican Sinn Féin gave a lengthy interview for SAOIRSE to the historian Dieter Reinisch in early March 2010. We carry below an edited version of the interview.

DIETER REINISCH: It is almost six months since Des Dalton succeeded you as President of Republican Sinn Féin. How does it feel not to be president any more?

RUAIRÍ Ó BRÁDAIGH: Well, some people meet me and think I have nothing to do any more. I am as busy as I ever was. So that doesn't arise. The responsibility that went with being president has been lifted from my shoulders and particularly in regard to responding to different things that are said publicly.

But I am well pleased because what I said and what I always used to say is: 'What you see is what you get.' I said at the Ard-Fheis that it was for reasons of health and age and that is the plain fact of that matter. The working day was getting shorter and shorter. So I am glad to say I have been succeeded by a person who is utterly reliable and is prepared to carry the burden and who was returned by more than a two-thirds majority by the delegates at the Ard-Fheis. He has their confidence. I am quite happy with the new arrangements and I feel that the transition was made openly and without any difficulties. So I am pleased.

DR: Reports, particularly in the Sunday papers, claim that you were pushed to announce your step by certain members of the Republican Movement.

RÓB: There is no basis for that at all. This decision was made by myself. I could have made it earlier and I could have made it later. I suppose the more sensational type of tabloids like to make a simple situation difficult.

There is no basis for that at all. Anyone who is close to the situation would realise that. I am still a member of the Ard Chomhairle and I have been elected Patron of the organisation which is in its own ways a vote of confidence. So that's it.

DR: You became active at a time when the movement was very small, fractured and one could say more or less unarmed; there was the split with Clann na Poblachta and even groups like Saor Uladh seemed more active than the IRA in waging an armed campaign against British occupation. A recently-published book calls you 'Soldiers of Folly'. From this perspective, was it a wrong decision to start Operation Harvest?

RÓB: Well, to engage in all-out revolutionary activity especially of a military nature can always be labelled foolish.

I would disagree with you about Saor Uladh being more active than the IRA. Saor Uladh had a unit in East Tyrone that broke away from the IRA. It was a local manifestation and it remained that until the late 1950s when it disappeared from the scene.

Everything must be seen in its time and the aftermath of the 1940s and the

persecution of the movement by the Dublin administration, Stormont and the British government itself had left the movement very weak but reorganisation took place.

Where I was at as a young man in the 1950s there was no organisation at all. I made contact with the movement in Leitrim, where there was an organisation, at Easter 1950. Then in the autumn of that year I went to Dublin as a student and I had already met some members of the movement in the Gaeltacht, in Spiddal, Co Galway.

They were from Dublin. So when I went to Dublin as a student I was immediately in contact with them and I was active straight away. Then I turned my interest towards my home situation in Longford and got involved in the annual Easter Commemoration there and from that on reorganised.

There were big areas of Ireland where there was no organisation at all. There were other areas like Dublin, Cork City, Leitrim and Kerry where there was a well-developed organisation. In Longford after the arrest and capture of Richard Goss there was nothing for the next about ten years. So it was the *tabula rasa*, clean sheet. We were starting with nothing and gathering a few young people and we were moving from there.

So eventually this type of building and spiel cannot go on forever. Well, there was always a push as I suppose there always will be when people say: 'When are we going to have action, when is all this preparation going to end?' I have found out the hard way that people who are pushing like that when they got their chance, they weren't available. And other people like myself just said: 'Have I done all I can? Am I prepared to meet this situation like that rather than worrying about other people?'

So, of course, there would be difficulties and I remember Tomás Mac Curtáin saying according to the overall plan of the campaign there were five requirements. He would be prepared to go along with four of them but not with three or even two. Arms and ammunition and of course money, the explosives and most important of all the development of a spirit among the people, especially the nationalist people in the Six Occupied Counties. I consider this had been done very well in Mid-Ulster where there had been repeated by-elections. It was felt this hadn't been done in other areas.

There are two sides to this question and one should see both sides and weigh them in the balance. Some people trying to be difficult like Joseph MacCrystal who had broken away and joined up with Liam Kelly and the Saor Uladh. It is always the same argument: 'The official movement is not doing anything. It is just passing the time so we are the



• Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

strong Republicans, we are the militant people.' The answer to this type of thing is to continue with the programme.

I remember discussing the situation with Paddy Doyle from Belfast and he asked me what I thought and I said: 'It's either now, in 1956, or in two years time when the 1958 Stormont elections take place. If we have the type of passive resistance – we were precluded from putting forward candidates to the election because the declaration, the oath of allegiance to the British Crown was required – there would be possibilities to try and hold



• Dieter Reinisch

Movement at that time when the ceasefire was declared. When do you think is a ceasefire justified?

RÓB: Seán Cronin said to me after 1962 he felt that there will always be some type of military opposition to the British government in Ireland. Now, of course, the very existence of the IRA at that stage was a threat to the British presence here. It was a potential threat. The statement that was issued in 1962 said that the leadership look forward to a period of consolidation, expansion and preparation for the final, successful military effort against British occupation.

'The issue is: Does a revolutionary movement become or intend to become a constitutional party? That's what Adams is talking about when he says that he introduced politics to the movement. That's his way of saying that he tried to convert a revolutionary movement into a constitutional party and that he partly succeeded but ultimately he hasn't succeeded and he won't succeed.'

alternative elections. An alternative protest that would involve the occupation forces trying to take action against us and the rallying of support from the people in this situation.'

Paddy Doyle made a case to me and said: 'Will we be stronger in two years time or will we be weaker? The Dublin administration had warned that our next action will be our last as far as they were concerned.'

So there it was and it is on the record that the Army Council of that time decided by six votes to one to go ahead. I don't think even now that there was much of an alternative to that in the circumstances of the time. For instance there were plenty of arms but ammunition was very scarce.

The question of finance was a big question as it always is. There was American support which was organised at the time. It was there until the end. The only question that would have worried me and I still after all this time would have preferred if we had developed the situation on the same lines as what happened in 1969-70. The Civil Rights Movement prepared the scene for greater activity.

DR: In 1962 the IRA declared a ceasefire and an end to the armed campaign. You were part of the leadership of the Republican

Movement. The objective is political. People who are taken as prisoners want very dearly to be regarded as political prisoners.

There is 'politics' and 'politics'. There is revolutionary politics, and constitutional politics is a different matter all together. That is the difference. It is not for or against politics. The issue is: Does a revolutionary movement become or intend to become a constitutional party? That's what Adams is talking about when he says that he introduced politics to the movement. That's his way of saying that he tried to convert a revolutionary movement into a constitutional party and that he partly succeeded but ultimately he hasn't succeeded and he won't succeed.

Then bit-by-bit they did all of these things. So as I say it keeps repeating. The question is not personal. It's a question of forces, tendencies and trends. The journalist sees it in terms of the personalities involved because that is more interesting for the people. That is not the question! The question is would so-and-so be involved in a course of action which inevitably ends up in constitutional politics.

DR: But why is there such a different view on the events?

RÓB: The trouble is that because of the partition of Ireland into two statelets and because of people growing up in one situation, either in the South or in the North, they are moulded by the situation in which they grow up and in which they have experience.

What had happened was that the first hunger strike in 1980 ended with a 32-page document produced by the British government. That was accepted. The hunger strike ended just before Christmas.

But when it came to the implementation of the document the British didn't do so and eventually the prisoners felt they had to go on hunger strike again. This was a very difficult situation. I was discussing that with Dáithí Ó Conaill. I found that we agreed that a stalemate had been reached. What was needed was the introduction of a new factor into that stalemate.

Where was the new factor to be found? Then Frank Maguire, the independent nationalist MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone died and because of rivalry between the DUP and the UUP the by-election put forward almost immediately. The question was: 'Could we take advantage of that?' That's where the big arguments arose. The putting forward of Bobby Sands and that's all in the public record that he was elected and so on.

In spite of that the Thatcher government in England did not yield and Bobby Sands and three other hunger strikers died. Then we had a situation that an election was due in the South and it was postponed several times because hunger strikers were dying. In other words the hunger strikes were centre stage. Again the question arose in the event of the general election in the 26 Counties: 'Could another new factor be introduced?'

This was totally new ground for a leadership which was in the main a northern leadership although Dáithí Ó Conaill and myself were very much to the fore that it was a southern leadership. It wasn't! I suppose it was

RÓB: First of all I want to get a couple of things clear. There is always a political content in the Republican

and striking another blow'

a national leadership but the majority would have been from the Six Counties. They wouldn't have had any experience of electoral politics in the south and therefore they would find it difficult to make a decision in that regard that would be acceptable.

I pushed it very hard. I succeeded in the end and the remark was made: 'Well, we will see in a month's time if Ruairi was right or if he was pushing.' In a month's time there was never a word about it at all. Two candidates were elected.

We found that Gerry Adams was coming into the office in Dublin early in the morning and was ringing up different constituencies and encouraging them not to contest. I don't know if that had been said publicly or not. We had that difficulty. That is something that cannot be tolerated in that type of situation. Once a decision is taken it has to be on an all-out effort to implement it.

When the election was over Adams was saying: 'Oh yes. But more than two should have been elected.' Of course, more than two should have been elected but people would not get elected by hesitation.

DR: Republican Sinn Féin doesn't support what is called 'broad fronts', organising platforms with organisations that claim to be the Republican Movement.

In 1981 the broad-based National H-Block/Armagh Committee was formed. I would understand this as a so-called 'broad front'. Is there a contradiction?

RÖB: The Civil Rights Movement involved all kinds of people, constitutionalists, revolutionaries and so on. That is one manifestation of a broad front. It was essentially a broad front for very limited objectives. It wasn't against British rule. It was for civil rights under British rule.

During the hunger strike situation people like Bernadette Devlin were very useful because members of the Republican Movement were banned from the media in the south. Bernadette Devlin was the PRO for the H-Block/Armagh Committee and in that way she had access to the media in the south.

It was not a broad front for the ultimate objection of ending British rule. It was a broad front for limited objectives in a crisis situation. It depends on the situation that exists in that time.

When people talk about a broad front nowadays, what they seem to mean is that all the parties of the shattering that occurred in the late 1990s should come together with the movement that split in 1986 from the Provos. This would be not just a political movement but also a military one. It's a horse of a different colour if you like. So what they are talking about is getting the whole non-Provo spectrum together again.

Mr Adams said it often that people shouldn't be put out of the movement they should be marginalised first and eventually dropped out. Not as a body but in bits and pieces. He didn't succeed in 1986 but he did succeed in the late 1990s in having a shattering rather than a split.

DR: In recent years a discussion sparked about a deal that could have saved the lives of six of the ten hunger strikers. Do you believe those who say that there was a deal?

RÖB: This question arose with



• Ruairi Ó Brádaigh was presented with a bronze statue of a soldier of Óglaigh na hÉireann by the membership of Sinn Féin Poblachtach at the Ard-Fheis on November 15, 2009. He is pictured here with his wife Patsy and incoming President Des Dalton.

Richard O'Rawe and his book. I said at that time that I wasn't aware of any such proposed deal. There was a committee in Belfast which was dealing with the day-to-day situation of the hunger strikes. I don't know what they may have known.

I know that the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Féin and I, as a president of Sinn Féin, knew nothing of the terms of such a deal. And I don't believe that the military leadership knew of it either.

DR: Now, in the last months there were the discussions about the Disappeared. There is the controversy if there was a deal in 1981 or not. Do you think that certain elements within the Six Counties could have hidden information or didn't inform the national leadership about certain things that were going on?

RÖB: I just don't know.

DR: In a statement dated November 13, 1983 you said: "My departure from the office of President of Sinn Féin became inevitable with the defeat in 1981 by a simple majority of the Éire Nua policy." When did the split become inevitable?

RÖB: When basic principles are departed from, only in that case and that case only. I am 60 years involved in the movement in an active sense and there are many decisions, splits and splinters. But I think they weren't justified except in two cases when, firstly, the Officials sought to take part in the British parliament, Stormont and Leinster House. Going such a road would end up in the absorption of the people travelling that road into the system. They ended up in the belly of the 26-County Labour Party. If we would have gone along with that there would be no Republican Movement today.

Similarly in 1986. This time the medicine was to be swallowed in slow stages instead of altogether. The Provo leadership had learned from the experience of the Officials. They moved first on entry to Leinster House while they continued with the war. In other words there was a contradiction in terms and a non-justified war. From 1986-94 and 1997 in fact it was simply a war to change the nature of the Republican Movement from a revolutionary body to a constitutional

party.

DR: If you watch the video footage of the 1986 Ard-Fheis, during your speech Adams is smoking his pipe, seemingly relaxed and confident of victory. Do you

interview him and find out what is going to happen next?' So I laughed and I said to him: 'I am no prophet on the top of a high mountain or anything like that. But all this has happened before.'

'Martin McGuinness let the cat out of the bag when he stood in front of Stormont with the leader of the DUP and the head of the British police in Ireland and he called people who were doing what he had done for many years 'traitors'.

Who is the traitor? People who continue acting like they always did or people who turned their coats?'

think your speech could have changed anything or was the outcome of the Ard-Fheis clear before?

RÖB: Well, they were seeking to change the constitution which would require a two-thirds majority. Certainly they had a simple majority but I don't think they had a two-thirds majority. But they manipulated the situation.

I think it is Ed Moloney who said in his book that in 1985 there were 400 delegates at the Ard-Fheis. In 1986 there were 600-plus and in 1987, the Provo Ard-Fheis was back to 400 again. There was a majority of nine or ten and that was all. Without this manipulation it wouldn't have been carried.

Harry Truman used to say when confronted with difficult problems: 'Let's look at the record.' Let's see what has happened? Has this happened before? And what was the result? And, of course, this had happened many times before. The result has always been the same.

I tell the story about the *Sunday Business Post* journalist who came down some years after 1986. He was quite friendly and we got on very well. I was curious and I asked him questions. Could he tell me what instructions he got from the editor or whoever it was who sent him down? 'Well', he says, 'no bother. I was called in and I was told: This man in Roscommon, everything he said has come to pass. Would you go down and

You have all these books you see around you here. The record is there. It happened many times. They only thing that is different is the personnel involved which is of course the interesting part for people like yourself. Given such a situation this is what happened and this is where it leads. And there it is.

I used to make a joke. I used to say: 'de Valera studied Machiavelli.' And if you compare that with the current situation it would appear to me as if Gerry Adams has studied both de Valera and Machiavelli. But the result is the same. Martin McGuinness let the cat out of the bag when he stood in front of Stormont with the leader of the DUP and the head of the British police in Ireland and he called people who were doing what he had done for many years 'traitors'.

Who is the traitor? People who continue acting like they always did or people who turned their coats?

DR: When you and your comrades walked out of the Mansion House and reorganised the Republican Movement a Continuity Army Council was set up. The Republican Movement didn't declare its existence until the mid-1990s. Why?

RÖB: I can give you an opinion on that regard that is all. Let's compare it with 1969. In 1969 you had a developing general situation. The British troops coming on the streets, there was what is called a fever among the people. The alleged majority on

side of the Officials was very quickly shown to be not a majority at all but a minority.

In 1986 it was different. It was a simple majority, not a two-thirds majority that followed the Provos. And that happened because they had learned from the situation of the Officials and they kept the war going. If they had opted out of the war in 1986 there would have been an entirely different situation.

So, it is the position on the ground. That is what counts and that's what governs these things.

DR: We have spoken a lot about the past. How do you see the future of the Republican Movement?

RÖB: The forces, tendencies and trends are there! The same as before. British rule remains. Although there is a great pretence that it is not there and that it is different and so on. It's not different; basically it's the same situation. A more difficult situation if you like. The basic position becomes clearer and clearer. Every step the Provos took since 1986 they had lost people. And that is true.

The people they gained were not Republican-revolutionaries. They were just people in support of the status quo and could belong to different variations and different parties. The fact that they are losing councillors is dictated by the absence of an ideology holding them together. The ideology is the binding force and that's not there.

I want to recount an event. A wet Saturday evening in Roscommon in 1963. With two other lads I had just finished selling the paper, the *United Irishman*, as it was at the time. One of them who is still active in our local cumann said to me: 'Ruairi, do you think there will ever be another campaign?' And I began to laugh and I said: 'There will always be another campaign while the situation remains as it is. There is no question about that at all. The question is: When it comes along will it be successful?' That's the question and that's the answer to your question today.

It is like when the Celtic Tiger was being very active among us and people said: 'Ah, yes but you know how these things work, slump, booms, slump and booms.' And others said: 'Oh, not at all. That's all outdated thinking. That's not the way any longer. Things are different now. In Ireland it was never so good.' Well, now they know what the trouble is. Every generation has to find out for itself. We seemingly have a difficulty in that regard that we don't learn from the past because we don't want to learn from the past.

There it is why Harry Truman said: 'Let's look at the record.' The important thing for any national liberation movement is that it organises and gears itself towards success and towards striking another blow. And bearing in mind that the people who shout loudest for this type of activity half the time they are nowhere to be found when it does happen. That may be regarded as cynical. It's a fact of life and I have more experience than most.

But I think that the essential is adherence to the basic tenets of Irish Republicanism. People who don't wobble all around the place then often end up accepting British rule and collaborating instead of opposing it.

Italy: Growing support for Irish struggle

ON March 13 a conference titled “Northern Ireland, a forgotten conflict” took place in the Conference room of the first Municipality of Modena in Piazza Redecocca.

The event has been patronised and supported by “Circoscrizione Centro Storico di Modena” and an intrigued audience of over 50 people participated. The conference was moderated by Dott Stefano Vernole, editor of “*Eurasia*”, a geopolitical studies magazine. Speakers were journalist Riccardo Michelucci, author of the book “*Storia del conflitto anglo-irlandese*”, and Massimiliano Vitelli, Republican Sinn Féin spokesperson in Italy.

After a general introduction by Dott Vernole, Mr Michelucci explained the contents of his publication and British imperialism in Ireland.

Massimiliano Vitelli, read greetings from President of Republican Sinn Féin, Des Dalton, and explained the present situation to the audience. Vitelli evidenced how Ireland is far from being “pacified” as the administrations in London and Dublin, assisted by the Provos are trying to make everyone believe.

The Provos are willing to administer British rule in Ireland; by doing so they try to normalize occupation. In such a situation “it is evident that armed resistance will not cease until a full military withdrawal from Ireland is declared by the British administration”, Vitelli said.

After the conference Vitelli stressed: “International events like this are vital for the life of our movement. We keep in great consideration any chance we are given to spread the news concerning the present situation in the occupied Six Counties. In such a way the silence of the media on occupation and oppression of the Irish people finds a strong and important contrast.

“Meetings like these help build a solidarity network for the Irish struggle and link the experience of Irish Republicans to other national freedom movements as those in the Basque Countries, Brittany, Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Austria: Petition for withdrawal from EU started

A COALITION of groups opposed to the EU has launched a petition for a referendum for the withdrawal of Austria’s membership in the EU in early March. In a press statement the independent initiative said they launch the petition as ‘a response of citizens against the push through of the Lisbon Treaty’.

A spokesperson said the aim is ‘to save the future of Austria’. The platform of the petition includes following demands: Re-establishing a crisis-proof domestic economy and the welfare state, neutrality, GM-free products, repeal of the Euro and introduction of direct democracy.

According to Austrian law a petition must be discussed in parliament if at least 100,000 eligible voters support it.

Meanwhile a second petition for the withdrawal from the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), one of the fundamental treaties of the EU, was started by the Initiative for Peace & Solidarity.

Basque detainees tortured

ACCORDING to a press release from the Basque Committee in Ireland on February 24, recent detainees report shocking torture.

Eight people arrested the previous week told their solicitors in jail they were subjected to horrible torture while under incommunicado at the hands of the Spanish police.

One of them, Jose Camacho was taken to hospital and kept in for four days.

Among the tortures reported are attempts of rape. They were stripped and put on the floor while the policemen tried to introduce a brush pole with a condom into their anus.

Other torture practices included suffocation with plastic bags, beatings while wrapped in blankets in order to prevent leaving marks, simulation of applying electrodes, extended physical exercises (one of the detainees’ muscles tore as a consequence), threats to be drowned in a bath and threats against their families. They were kept naked and blindfolded during the five days under the incommunicado regime.

All the arrested were sent to jail and accused of being members or helping ETA.

French state threatens northern Basque farmers

HUNDREDS of people gathered outside the court buildings in the southern French city of Pau at the end of February to support the Basque Agriculture Chamber’s board of directors.

The Chamber was created in order to respond to the urgent needs of Basque farmers, which had been ignored for years by the French authorities.

Ninety-five local referenda on the question of Basque autonomy have been organised for March 14. It was within that

WORLD NEWS



• On March 15, 2010 Bil’in village was declared a ‘Closed Military Zone’ by Israeli Authorities, meaning that access for International and Israeli anti-Wall activists is outlawed for six months.

atmosphere that the Basque Farmers’ Union ELB decided to organise and set up the Basque Agriculture Chamber.

Farmer trade unionists had to attend trial in Pau accused of illegally replacing the official French chamber and using a “foreign language” (referring to the Basque name of the chamber) to name it.

PFLP denounces torture and isolation of Sa’adat

THE Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) announced that on March 9, 2010, the Israeli occupation authorities had once again transferred Ahmad Sa’adat from the isolation wing of Eshel prison to the isolation wing of Ohali Kedar prison in Bir Saba, continuing their policy of isolation and abuse.

On March 15, 2010, a statement from the PFLP pointed that the policies of abuse, revenge and torture committed by the occupation against all Palestinian prisoners failed to control or break the political will of the prisoners and the resistance.

They sent a message to their comrade: “...we pledge to struggle for your freedom and that of Hassan Salameh, Jamal Abu al-Hija, Mahmoud Issa, Ahmad al-Maghribi, Mohammed Natsheh, Abdullah al-Barghouthi, Ibrahim Hamed, Hisham Sharabati, Mahawish Naimat, Atwal Amour and all freedom fighters inside the walls of isolation.”

Hundreds of Palestinian children in Israeli jails

HUMAN rights groups are increasingly concerned at the treatment of children and teenagers by the Israeli military with over 300 Palestinian children currently held in Israeli prisons (mostly for throwing stones) according to the Defence for Children International (DCI).

The Israeli group B’Tselem said that Israeli security forces had “severely violated” the rights of a number of children, aged between 12 and 15, who had been taken into custody in recent months, according to a report in *The Guardian* newspaper on March 14, 2010.

The family of one 13-year-old boy, Al-Hasan Muhtaseb, from Hebron who was arrested on February 27 by a military patrol and detained for eight days have brought a legal case against the authorities.

Al-Hasan Muhtaseb described how he had been interrogated without a lawyer late into the night, forced to confess to throwing stones, made to sign a confession in Hebrew that he couldn’t read, jailed with adults and brought before a military court. He was only released on bail eight days later, after considerable legal effort by several human rights groups. Al-Hasan Muhtaseb’s experience is not exceptional, it is a common occurrence - this is reality for Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation.

Israel routinely prosecutes Palestinian children as young as 12 and them as adults when they turn 16, whereas Israelis become adults only at 18.

Ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children are “widespread, systematic and institutionalized”, DCI said in a report last year.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/mar/14/palestinian-children-rights-violated-israel>

Palestinians attacked by Israeli forces

TENSION rose in East Jerusalem and the West Bank on March as clashes between the Israeli military and Palestinians escalated when Palestinians were denied access to their Mosques particularly to the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In Abu Dis, an East Jerusalem town, 17 injuries were reported; trouble spread to the entrance of the Shufat camp, north of Jerusalem; to Qalandiya refugee camp and to the Shufat camp, north of Jerusalem.

Israeli forces responded to protests with rubber bullets, tear-gas canisters, stun grenades and sound grenades to disperse demonstrators.

Over 100 Palestinians were injured, with 60 detained, as clashes continued throughout occupied East Jerusalem and the Old City.

Ma’an’s Jerusalem correspondent said 40 of the injured sustained rubber bullet wounds, fired by Israeli forces, with seven sustaining eye injuries.

Extensive security measures were implemented throughout the Old City for more than five consecutive days, including an age restriction.

In Abu Dis, an East Jerusalem town, 17 injuries were reported; trouble spread to the entrance of the Shufat camp, north of Jerusalem; Qalandiya refugee camp.

Israeli forces were filmed preventing journalists from covering the events in Eisaweyah, telling a live Al-Jazeera broadcast that the measures were for the reporters’ own protection.

Rallies were held across the Gaza Strip in solidarity with Jerusalem, with clashes reported across the West Bank. An-Najah University in Nablus suspended classes for one hour at noon. In the village of Huwara, south of Nablus, a peaceful student march was dispersed by Israeli forces using riot dispersal means, including tear-gas canisters and sound grenades.

A number of people suffered tear-gas inhalation and suffocation when Israeli forces deployed tear-gas canisters in the village of Beit Ummar, northern Hebron. 15 military vehicles entered the village. In Hebron’s city centre Israeli forces fired sound grenades and rubber bullets.

Source: Ma’an News Agency

News from Bil’in and Nil’in

ON Friday March 12, 2010 the Israeli military fired rubber bullets at Palestinian protestors at the weekly demonstration in Bil’in. Two children sustained minor injuries. Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) made an active effort to detain one of the groups’ leaders in an effort to prevent media exposure of the event.

Despite the almost immediate release of tear gas, stun grenades, and rubber bullets the protest continued.

Abdallah Abu Rahma, a secondary school teacher, insists the wall violates the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people. He has been in Israeli detention in Ofer Prison since his arrest on December 10, 2009.

Also on Friday, March 13, on the first anniversary of the wounding of international activist Tristan Anderson, approximately 100 Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals gathered for the weekly demonstration in Nil’in.

Tristan Anderson is a 38 year old US citizen who was a volunteer with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) when he was hit in the forehead by a tear gas canister during a demonstration last year. He sustained serious brain damage, and remains hospitalised in Tel Aviv, his condition too serious for him to be moved home to the US.

Nil’in has lost about a third of its land to illegal Israeli settlements, the Wall and electric fencing. As a result of the Wall construction, Nil’in has lost 3,920 dunams, roughly 30% of its remaining lands. Originally, Nil’in consisted of 15,898 dunams (3,928 acres).

Only a limited amount of villagers have permission to access their lands behind the Wall, most of them elderly persons who do not have the physical capacity to farm.

In 2008 residents of Nil’in launched a grassroots campaign to protest the massive land theft, including demonstrations and direct actions.

Israel commonly uses tear-gas projectiles, rubber coated steel bullets and live ammunition against demonstrators. Since May, 2008, five of Nil’in’s residents were killed. In total, 20 people have been killed during demonstrations against the Wall.

Israeli armed forces have shot 40 demonstrators with live ammunition in Nil’in. Of them, 11 were shot with 5.6mm caliber live ammunition and 29 were shot with 0.22 caliber live ammunition.

Since May 2008, 112 residents of Nil’in have been arrested in relation to anti-Wall protest in the village. The protesters arrested by the Israeli army constitute roughly 9% of the village’s male residents aged between 12 and 55. The arrests are part of a broad politically motivated Israeli campaign to suppress grassroots resistance to the Occupation.

WHAT THEY SAID

The Celtic League calls on England and on unionists in Scotland to respect the referendum and respect the result of the referendum if the Scottish people vote for independence.

We hope they will not try to do as was done in Ireland and demand that Scotland be partitioned to placate unionists who refuse to accede to the wishes of the majority.

— CARN, a Link between the Celtic Nations, spring edition 2010, statement issued at New Year by Celtic League.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became independent again after 50 years of Russian occupation. The Czech Republic and Slovakia separated peacefully in 1993.

Scottish independence will have enormous implications in Ireland too and it will hasten reunification.

— Celtic League statement.

We call on the international community, particularly the European Union and the United Nations, to ensure that England does not use the force or dirty tactics against Scotland in the run up to the referendum or in the event of the Scottish people voting in favour of independence.

— Celtic League.

If this [a British Tory sponsored united unionist bloc] is indeed the UUP-DUP strategy, and if the Tories are in any way giving assent or even turning a blind eye to this chicanery, it will only increase fears among all nationalists that once again the “orange card”, played since the days of Bonar Law and Edward Carson, has come into play once more.

And it isn't just nationalists who are increasingly alarmed over a perceived Tory reach-out not just to the UUP but also to the embattled and scandal-ridden DUP.

— Belfast Telegraph, January 21, 2010, Henry McDonald article.

British Tory Leader Cameron says he will ‘renegotiate’ the (Stormont) Agreement and replace it with ‘voluntary power-sharing’ which is a form of majority rule. Who will he renegotiate with?

— Irish Political Review, February 2010.

Martin Mansergh, now a Fianna Fáil Minister, published a denunciation of Rory O’Brady in the *Times Literary Supplement* in 1998, in which he asserted that the Agreement superseded the 1918 Election because it was enacted by an All-Ireland vote and was part of international law. (In fact the All-Ireland vote was two separate votes, for different objects, held on the same day).

— Irish Political Review, sentence in brackets is part of the IPR text, Ed. Saoirse.

In the working out of whatever it was that voted

for in 1998, the British Government has acted as Unionist (except for Gordon Brown in the last two years) and Cameron has now attached Ulster Unionism to the Tory Party. And, apparently without the South, he says that the GFA (sic) should be set aside.

— Irish Political Review.

Overall therefore the affect on an April election is to be more destabilising for politics in the North than one in May. However, look on the bright side.

Unionists loath each other so deeply that so far they have been unable to maximise their potential to return as many MPs as possible to take advantage of the chance of a hung parliament.

— Irish News, February 20, column by Brian Feeney. He is referring to the possibility of split unionist votes in South Belfast and Fermanagh-South Tyrone, also to electoral interventions by Jim Allister’s *Traditional Unionist Voice* (TUV).

Police fired plastic baton rounds during serious street violence in Co Armagh at the weekend as rioting broke out in the nationalist Drumbeg and Meadowbrook estates in Craigavon.

Three new-style plastic baton rounds were fired when rioters attacked police vehicles with bars and pieces of masonry on Saturday night.

— Irish Times, March 1, *Northern News* Editor Dan Keenan.

Chief Inspector Jason Murphy said:

“This was an attempt to kill or seriously injure our officers”. He claimed his officers had done everything possible to quell the situation before they resorted to firing rounds.

“From time to time we face trying circumstances. It is very clear that [Saturday’s] events were local orchestrated and we an attempt to lure my officers into a secondary attack”, he said.

The trouble followed an attack on Brownlow police station in the area. A device was launched at the station, but missed. Police have warned the public to look out for anything suspicious in the locality of the base.

— Irish Times.

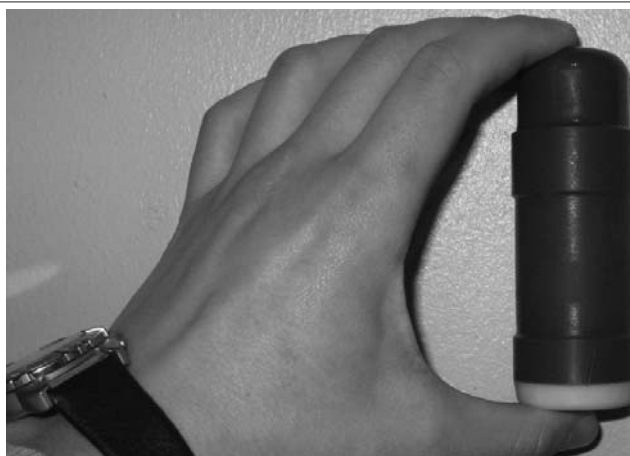
Mr Ahern [26-County Justice Minister] said “the terrorist attacks witnessed in the North in recent months appeared to have been organised there.

“The threat here I believe on this Island is as dangerous as it was at any time during the Troubles”, said Mr. Ahern.

“The authorities faced a “conundrum” in responding firmly to the growing threat in a way it would not alienate some sections of the nationalist community in the North. “What (the dissidents) are really at is to try and bring back troops on to the streets of Northern Ireland (sic) and to destabilize the efforts of political parties in the North to bring final peace.

However, he said the cooperation between the Garda and PSNI in fighting terrorism was stronger than ever.

— Irish Times, March 1,



• New-style plastic baton rounds were fired by the RUC/PSNI at local protesters in the nationalist Drumbeg and Meadowbrook areas of Craigavon, Co Armagh (see quote on left).

2010.

Israel is not likely to lose sleep over a chilling of relations with Ireland after the passport controversy.

— Irish Times, March 1, 2010, *Analysis* by Mary Fitzgerald.

The damning UN-commissioned Goldstone report, which alleged war crimes were committed during Israel’s military offensive in Gaza last year, came on the heels of boycott calls and widespread protests over the deaths of 1,200 Gazans during the fighting. In Britain, arrest warrants have been issued against Israeli politicians.

— *Analysis* by Mary Fitzgerald.

Israeli officials, after all, are pretty much resigned to what they view as “Irish antipathy.” Ireland — is currently one of the European countries most antagonistic to Israel, and a country where the hostility of the press is matched by the tone of the Government”, a columnist in the *Jerusalem Post* wrote during the conflict in Gaza last year.

Earlier this month, another writer at the paper described Ireland as a country where “Israel’s name is routinely dragged through the mud”.

— Irish Times *analysis*.

It is a very dangerous time. A near breakdown of relations between the Democratic Unionist Party and [Provisional] Sinn Féin, while they negotiated the transfer of justice and policing powers and discussed new arrangements for contentious Orange parades, provided a fertile atmosphere for these advocates of physical force.

— Irish Times, March 2, editorial headed “Dissident threat to North peace”.

The grainy difficult side of politics emerged when discussion turned to the Hillsborough agreement and arrangements for the transfer of policing and justice powers.

Martin McGuinness excoriated Reg Empey and the Ulster Unionist Party, while Mr. Adams justified concessions made to Peter Robinson on Orange parades.

— Irish Times, March 8, 2010, editorial on Provo Ard-Fheis.

There is a significant

section of the population of Carrickmore (Co Tyrone) who do not want of trust the PSNI and therefore see the DPP (District Policing Partnership) as a pointless body. The PSNI is an extension of the British state in Ireland even with policing and justice powers devolved to Stormont. Westminster could with the stroke of a pen regain any powers under some “security threat”.

— Irish News, March 9, 2010, letter to the Editor from Pat Donaghy, Carrickmore.

“In an ideal world it would be great to have a police service that could deal with the issues such as anti-social behavior and burglaries but the PSNI is not that service as it has not the confidence of the community and in my view will not have the confidence of a significant portion of our community while it remains a British police force. That is sadly the truth.

— Irish News, letter to Editor from Pat Donaghy.

The DPP meeting in Carrickmore and the statements released [by the Provos] prior to it are as much a stunt as having Ógra Sinn Féin dress up in military uniform and pretend the Patrician Hall in Carrickmore is the GPO in Dublin at the time if the 1916 Easter Rising — an event planned in Carrickmore this Easter Sunday.

However, to paint a picture as Mr McKenna tries to do that Carrickmore is solidly behind the DPP, the PSNI and the (Provisional) Sinn Féin strategy of constitutional nationalism is misguided and far from the truth.

— Pat Donaghy letter.

Madam, — I noticed that delegates to the [Provisional] Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis were wearing self-adhesive Easter Lilies. Does this mean that they have now become “Stickies”?

— Irish Times, March 9, 2010, letter to Editor from Louis O’Flaherty, Lorcán Drive, Santry, Dublin 9. They formally became Stickies in November 1986.

Northern Ireland’s prison population is on the increase. At the last count there were 1,378 men, women and juvenile offenders incarcerated in the north’s three main jails. The only

high security jail, at Maghaberry, is an unusual mix of inmates unique in Ireland and Britain.

— Irish News, March 12, 2010, *Article* by Alison Morris. Despite the spotlight on increased dissident republican activity the rise in the prison population cannot be attributed to the recent upsurge.

— Alison Morris.

There are 29 prisoners in Roe House, Maghaberry’s republican separated wing. On the last tally there were 31 loyalist inmates in Roe House.

— Alison Morris.

The north’s prisons are supporting around 405 remand prisoners at the moment — jailed, in some cases, for up to three years while awaiting trial.

— Alison Morris.

Local support was widespread — though Fanning identifies the interesting exception of a group of old Republicans, who had sustained a healthy suspicion of taking orders from priests.

— Irish Times, *Weekend Review*, March 13, 2010, review by Roy Foster of the “*The Fethard-on-Sea Boycott*” by Tim Fanning, publ. Collins Press, 240 pp, €14.99. “The point at issue was the education of the children of a mixed marriage” in the summer of 1957.

“They [public sector workers] are looking at the stupid and nonsensical going-ons of some people in the private sector who believe they live in a playboy world and then we are able to offload their toxic debts into Nama, for which every taxpayer is paying”, [Kieran] Mulvey told the Sunday Business Post.

— Sunday Business Post, March 14, 2010. Mulvey is executive of the labour Relations Commission (LRC) who is “overseeing” talks between the government and public sector unions.

Mulvey said he believed the unions has “adopted a reasonable approach” in their strategy of escalating industrial action. He said that workers were angry about the government’s failure to tackle corporate wrongdoing.

“They read about the level of bonuses and directors’ fees being paid to people in the

banks,” he said. “It is almost a reward for failure, while they experience cutbacks.

“I think it’s underlined by the fact that in the US 52 corporate individuals associated with banking circles have gone to jail. In Ireland nobody has been charged with anything to date. Frustration is building up”.

— Sunday Business Post, March 14, 2010.

The US president is in deep trouble at home, but global standing has now been seriously damaged by last week’s events in the Middle East.

— Sunday Business Post, March 14, 2010. Tom McGurk column under heading “Obama further undermined by Israel’s acts of defiance”.

Probably more deaths and injuries have been inflicted on the civilian population in Britain by our returning soldiers than by IRA bombings.

— Former British soldier turned academic Aly Renwick. Irish News, March 17, 2010.

Northern Ireland was to Britain what Vietnam was to the Americans. A lot of guys who returned home were just walking time bombs.

— Aly Renwick

In the past 20 years, the British monarch has bestowed in excess of 50 titles/awards on Irish citizens resident in the republic (sic) as if they were her own British subjects.

By accepting these awards and titles, the recipients become, objectively speaking part of the British establishment. Inexplicably, the Irish Government has remained silent on the issue throughout.

The Irish State should adopt the same policy as Canada in this matter, and any Irish citizen who accepts a British title should be denied the privilege of Irish citizenship and surrender their Irish passport.

— Irish Times, March 20, 2010, letter to the Editor from Tom Cooper, Delaford Lawn, Knocklyon, Dublin 16. Controversy followed the conferring of an OBE (Order of the British Empire) on Michael Colgan, artistic director of Dublin’s Gate Theatre, announced on March 18.

Israeli settlements on Palestinian land are illegal under international law. They are illegal under article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention, which states: “The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies”.

“They are illegal under UN Security Council resolution 446, and were ruled illegal in an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice in 2004.

— Irish Times, March 20, 2010, Lara Marlowe from America.

The crisis over housing in East Jerusalem has shown the desperate need for consistency in US Middle East policy.

— Lara Marlowe.

It will be back to business as usual — the “useless quartet” (the EU, the UN, Russia and the US) will keep making statements Israel ignores.

— Lara Marlowe.

Brendan Hughes' Revelations No Surprise To Republicans

A chara

The revelations in Ed Moloney's book *Voices from the Grave* will shock many but comes no surprise to true Republicans and even those who remain in the Provisionals despite their knowledge of the duplicity within the leadership of that former Republican Movement.

Gerry Adams' constant denial of membership of the IRA is by now believed by no one. More relevant is his role in the disappearance of alleged informers. To then knowingly turn a blind eye to those who were employed by the Brits/RUC as major infiltrators within the Republican Movement, ie Scappitici and Donaldson, must beg questions about the continued loyalty of those in his confidence.

Brendan "The Dark" Hughes also touched on the corruption which was rife within the Belfast Brigade under Adams and Co and how a certain level was deemed acceptable by the leadership. The new face of the Provisionals of course will deny all of the above. The Armani Brigade were flaunting their new-found wealth long before the Northern Bank and inflated wages from Westminster, Stormont and

Leinster House.

Those of us who stay true to the Republican principles laid down in the 1916 Proclamation and passed on to us through the generations from Tone, Emmet, Connolly and Pearse saw how power was corrupting these former Republicans and how absolute power will corrupt them absolutely!

PRO
Comhairle Laighean
Republican Sinn Féin

Lip Service To Equal Rights

A chara

Another International Women's Day has passed. Another day when governments urge the people to celebrate the equality of women throughout the world. That is what the governments, especially in the European Union would have us believe. Just what was achieved on Women's Day 2010?

Did any government invite women to join in the policy-making committees, was any more finance promised for woman's health care, was any laws brought in to protect women from violence? Has there been any action or promises to investigate why a woman continues to die in childbirth every minute of every day? No; nothing has been done to further equality for our sisters, governments and world bodies just continue to give lame lip service to equality, just as the give lip



• International Women's Day takes place each year on March 8. What does it achieve? (see letter on left)

service to equality for the poor, the majority of the poor are women, and they do nothing to help either cause.

The naming of International Women's Day is just another government myth that they use to pretend that we live in a democracy; that we are advancing equality in all walks of life. It is a dangerous myth to believe that women have anything like equal rights. It is a myth that has cost the lives of women, through medical neglect, through violence, both

physical and mental. It is a myth that keeps women as second-class citizens and plans to keep them there.

We cannot allow governments to adapt an International Women's Day and claim that it is good enough to give lip service to equal rights. Most importantly, we cannot allow women to lose hope in ever achieving equal rights.

MICHAEL ROONEY
Mayo

Alcohol-Related Deaths at All-time High

A chara

So the alcohol companies have decided to back a campaign of advertisements about the abuse of alcohol on Irish TV. On the day of the launch, I could not wait to see the advertisement; this is what our young people needed to be made aware of. When I saw the ad for the first time, I could only stare in disbelief, it showed young people having a good time with alcohol; that it was to party to consume as much alcohol as possible.

If any government health campaign against alcohol is to set about bringing an end to the abuse of alcohol by young people, then it needs to be

truthful and hard hitting. The truth is that alcohol-related deaths in Ireland are at an all-time high. Alcohol may not be the direct cause of the deaths, but they are alcohol related. The most obverse been drink driving, however, there are many more that cause death due to alcohol consuming.

The deaths by alcohol should be fully published and not covered up by technical terms. One of the main terms used by government figures is that the person died of cancer; no one states that the consumption of alcohol caused the person to get cancer.

If we are to see the dangers of alcohol advertisements, then let us have the truth told. There can be no softening of the deaths caused by alcohol; there should be no gentle approach to alcohol abuse. Alcohol is a killer and it is one of the main killers of Irish people.

CONCERNED READER

Letters to the Editor should be as short as possible and written or typed in double-spacing on one side of the page. Name and address must be included, but on request will not be published. Letters printed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of SAOIRSE.

Postal address: 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

Letters may also be faxed to Dublin 872 9757 or sent by e-mail to saoirse@iol.ie

Please note that all material for publication, articles, features, news reports, combhhroin, congratulations and good wishes greetings, etc must be accompanied by a name, address, signature and telephone number for verification.

Why MI5 is free to operate here while Stormont can't do a thing

AT Stormont on Monday, Mark Durkan said that MI5 had serious questions to answer" in relation to the killing of Kieran Doherty.

Mr Doherty's body was found dumped on the Braehead Road outside Derry on Wednesday night last week. The Real IRA says he had been one of their members and that they'd killed him for involvement in a "cannabis factory" in Donegal.

The Doherty family has denied the allegation and suggested that MI5 had a hand in the events. What gives this suggestion credibility beyond the ranks of conspiracy theorists is that in the weeks leading up to his death, Mr Doherty had repeatedly complained to local media of MI5 harassment. However, the fact that the questions are credible doesn't mean Durkan will get credible answers. Or any answers. MI5 doesn't do answers. Or credibility.

This matters greatly because MI5 is a major player in the north. The scale of its local operation is startling. Just as startling is the fact that it

scarcely rated a mention in the debate over the devolution of policing and justice.

The competing rights of Orange bands and nationalist residents were regarded as far more significant. 'Parochial' would be too grand a word for the hugger-mugger negotiations and po-faced pronouncements.

Putting control in the hands of a power-sharing administration would mark the definitive end of 'political policing', we were told.

But under the arrangements accepted at St Andrews, the lead role in political policing is to be taken not by the [RUC]/PSNI, but by MI5. And MI5's discharge of the role won't come under Stormont control. Not that it's presently under Westminster control, either.

Last Friday [February 26], one of the most senior judges in Britain, Lord Neuberger, Master of the Rolls, launched a

scathing attack on MI5 for conniving in the torture of former Guantanamo detainee Binyam Mohamed and lying about it afterwards to Parliament.

Neuberger suggested that Foreign Secretary David Miliband had been hoodwinked by MI5 into issuing three Public Interest Immunity Certificates falsely claiming that documents relating to the case should be withheld because national security was at stake.

The real reason, Neuberger proposed, was that the documents supported Mr Mohamed's claim that MI5 officers had flown to Pakistan where he was being held by the CIA to put questions to him, even though the agency knew that he had been tortured by the Americans to try to force him to give information - information which he didn't have.

That is, MI5 condoned and took advantage of his torture and then suborned a government minister to issue a fraudulent document to thwart

the efforts of the courts to establish whether this had in fact happened. This is the publicly-stated view, not of a bunch of Left-wing libertarians, but of one of Britain's highest judges.

As for its role in Northern Ireland, Annex E of the St Andrews Agreement says that MI5 will "continue to run directly a small number of agents who are authorised to obtain information in the interests of national security as distinct from countering criminality".

MI5 is thus sanctioned to run informers in paramilitary groups in the North without the authorisation or knowledge of any office or institution here. Back in 2006, during the Westminster debate on the bill enshrining the St Andrews Agreement in law, Mr Durkan moved an amendment to give the Police Ombudsman powers to investigate security operations which would involve MI5 and the [RUC]/PSNI working together.

He was literally laughed at, accused of sulking at having

been sidelined when the deal was being done.

Durkan said then: "If we don't act on this then MI5's role will undermine the whole point of Patten, which was to grant some democratic control and scrutiny over security policies... a future Minister of Justice would be standing up in the Assembly unable to give the full intelligence picture as he or she wouldn't have any access to that intelligence."

The Mohamed case shows that, when it comes to control and supervision of MI5, Westminster is useless. Under devolution of policing and justice, Stormont will be worse than useless. This helps explain the scale of MI5's operation here.

In the year after St Andrews - 2007 - MI5 established a massive new facility at Holywood, Co Down. At 10,000 square feet plus an underground section, it has a capacity for 400 employees. Its remit isn't confined to the north. Holywood will assume overall control of the agency in the event of the Thames House,

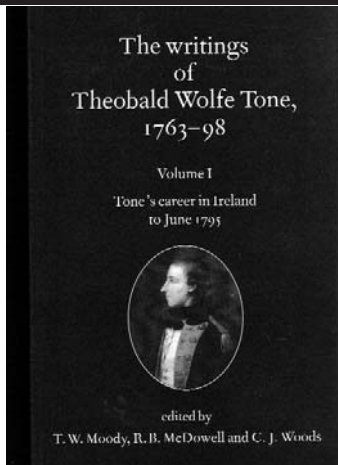
London, headquarters being incapacitated by terrorist attack or other emergency. Many might have thought that the area of the UK most affected by political violence over the past generation would hardly be the ideal location for MI5's second biggest and potentially most important facility.

But that consideration will have been far outweighed by the fact that, once devolution is complete, the north, as far as accountability is concerned, will be a limbo-land for spooks to cavort in. Their natural habitat.

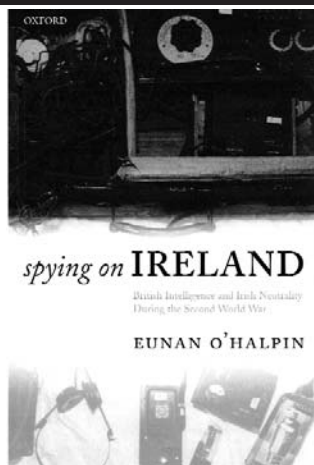
So it will be trebles all round at Holywood when the installation of David Ford as an Executive minister is hailed on the UTV News as signalling that local politicians are at last in control of policing and justice. This time, it won't just be Mark Durkan who's being laughed at, but Stormont itself.

— Éamon McCann
(Belfast Telegraph, March 4)

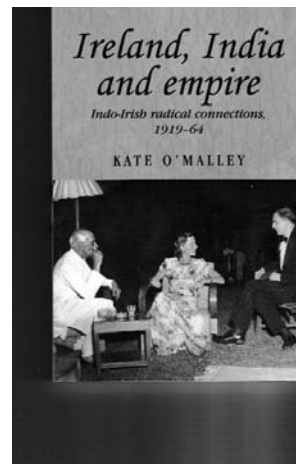
Irish Freedom Press



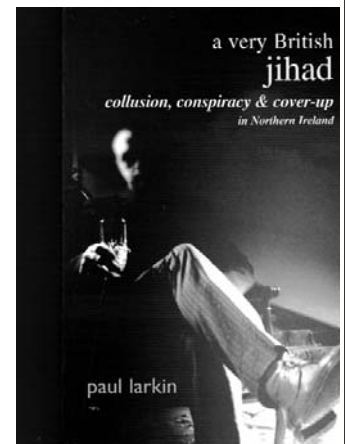
• *The Writings of Theobald Wolfe Tone. Vol 1, Tone's career in Ireland to June 1795. Ed by TW Moody, RB McDowell and CJ Woods. €36.60.*



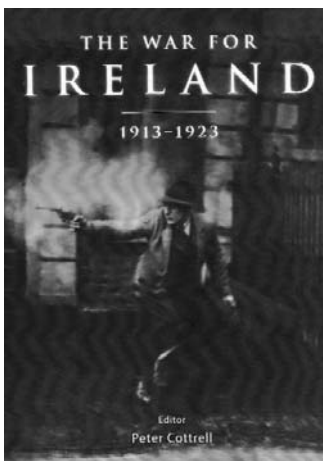
• *spying on Ireland. British Intelligence and Irish neutrality during the second World War. By Eunan O Halpin. €20.70.*



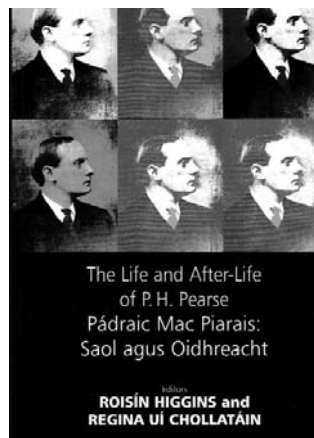
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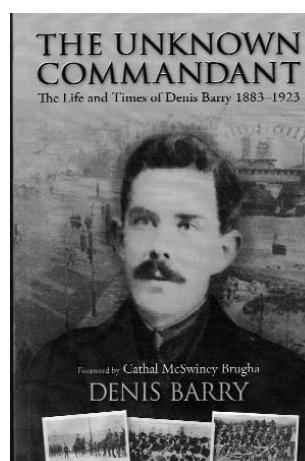
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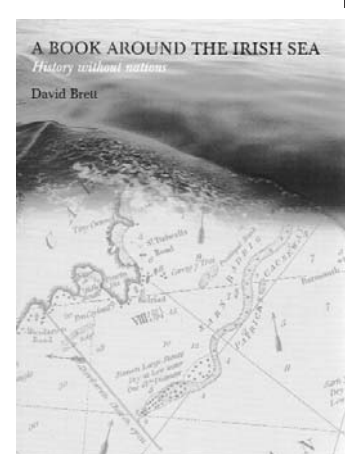
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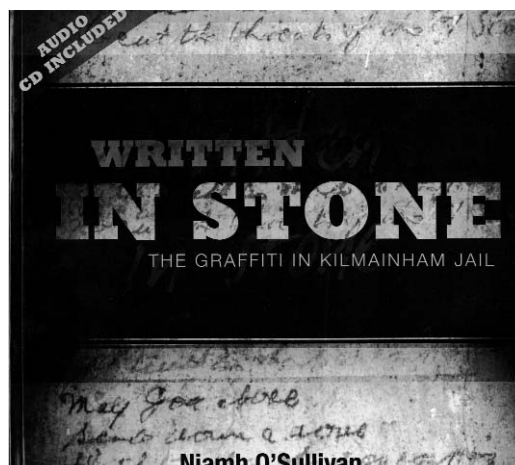
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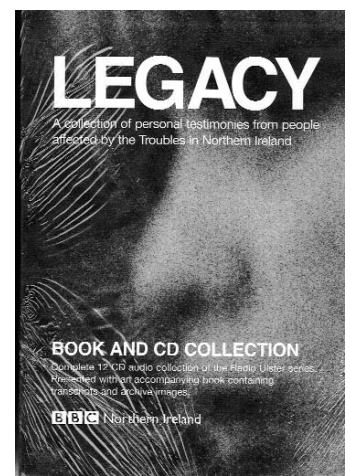
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COLLABORATION AT ITS HIGHEST AT EASTER 1960

50 Years Ago

EASTER Sunday 1960 was on April 17. The leading Commemoration ceremony in the Six Counties was held in Belfast at the Republican Plot in Milltown Cemetery.

The Irish Times of Easter Monday, April 18 gave the attendance at 800 while *An Éireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* on the front page of its May issue said "over 1,000 attended".

All reports stated that many ex-internees marched behind a colour party carrying the Tricolour. It was stated that three wreaths of Easter Lilies were laid, on behalf of the Pre-Truce IRA, Cumann na mBan and the National Graves Association.

Leo Martin, a member of the National Graves Association, delivered an oration in Irish and in English.

The newspaper said "the route of the procession was heavily guarded. RUC Special Branch in large numbers mingled with the crowds." Cine-cameras were used to photograph the parade.

In New York, the Easter Rising was commemorated in the City Center ballroom, 135 West 55th Street, by the Clan na Gael and Irish Republican Army Veterans of America in conjunction with the Irish Freedom Committee.

Addresses on Easter Week and its "application to our times" were followed by a concert programme. Principal speaker was Thomas McGuigan of Philadelphia. He said:

"We sing their praises, yet Ireland weeps, not for those who have proven their love and devotion to her Cause, but for the faithless sons who have sold their country and their people back into the hands of the enemy, in order that they could establish for themselves a snug little Utopia, whose blessings do not touch the people of Ireland.

"A tight little oasis of riches surrounded by a desert of want. They give lip-service to the desire to have the Six Counties included in their so-called Republic, but the truth is that they don't want them, for fear that their little Utopia may be jeopardised.

"They prefer to keep Ulster an armed British camp. They want their British allies close at hand to aid them to war on Irish Republicanism.

"Do not allow yourselves by apathy to be placed categorically with these defamers of the words Irish Republic, but give your moral and material support to Ireland's Freedom Fighters."

Reports of the various Easter Commemorations throughout Ireland made interesting reading, especially for the familiar names of speakers.

Tomás Ó Dúill of Dublin spoke in Monaghan; **Seán Mac Stiofáin** of Cork at the site of the Crossbarry ambush; **Seán Gormley** of Tuam at Drumshanbo; **Máirtín Mac Cormaic**, Limerick at Ballylanders; **Seán O'Callaghan**, Galway at Kiltimagh; **Seán Dougan**, Antrim at Donaghpatrick, Co Galway; **Éigheanachán Ó hAnluain**, TD at Kilmaleck, Co Cavan; **John Joe Monaghan**, Mayo at Drumboe; **Morgan Ó Duinn** at Enniscorthy and Wexford; **Matt Fitzpatrick**, Fermanagh at Castlereagh, Roscommon; **Brendan Lynch** at Navan; **Micheál Mac Tréinfhir** at Ballon, Co Carlow; **MJ Lynch**, Castlepollard, at Killoe, Longford; **Gearóid Mac Cárthaigh** at Dublin's Glasnevin.

The annual Easter Week Commemoration Concert was held in the Ashe memorial hall, Tralee, Co Kerry on Easter Sunday night. Lady Gregory's play *The Rising of the Moon* was enacted, produced by Niall Ó Beacháin.

Ceol-Choir na Cáscu under the auspices of Coisde Chumhneacháin Náisiúnta was held in Dublin's Olympia Theatre. A packed programme included the De la Salle Accordion Band (Ballyfermot); Rinnceoirí Ch'eitinn; Keating Family Céili Band; Patricia O'Keefe; Seán Ó Sióchán; Albert Healy; John Fowler; George Boyle; Cáit Ní Chonchubhair. Máirtín Ó Diomsaigh was Fear a' Tighe.



But for an insight into the thinking of the Movement in 1960, it is necessary to read the Easter Statement.

"Issued by the Resistance Movement in British-Occupied Ireland and distributed by the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau".

"As the years pass and as anniversary succeeds anniversary, the glory of Easter Week in 1916 shines yet more brightly and its historical message comes more clearly to us. We are aware, however, that the noble objectives enshrined in the Proclamation of the Republic and for which our Martyrs died have still to be attained.

"Their achievement is a task for this generation of Irish men and women. Freedom will not be handed to us. We must fight for it.

"The Ireland we know today with its Partition institutions of Government and its British army of Occupation is a mockery of all that Easter 1916 stand for. Who can deny this?

"While politicians may be satisfied with this humiliating caricature of sovereignty, men and women of the Republican Movement, true heirs of Pearse and his comrades, refusing to condone betrayal, militantly resist British Occupation of our country by carrying on the fight for independence.

"Special pleas have been advanced by the enemies of Irish nationhood that the campaign of resistance, which opened on December 12, 1956, should end, that our fighting youth should lay down their arms.

"Let them know that this fight, whose development has been retarded by the collaborationist activities of the 26-County administration, will end when Britain has withdrawn her forces of occupation from our land. Terror and hardship, peril and death can only steel the determination of our freedom fighters to carry on until our excuse is won.

"By treating our jailed comrades as hostages to whom the most elementary form of justice must be denied, the puppet regime in the Six Occupied Counties traded on the inherent humanitarianism of our people. By their terror tactics, by their great displays of force, they hope to so intimidate us that they will be able to purchase our servitude by compromise and surrender.

"Let them abandon such hopes. We are one Nation and one People; this struggle will continue until the sovereignty of the Irish people over all of Ireland has been established and the Republic proclaimed in 1916 has become a living reality.

"When the Irish people recognise that the continuing domination of this ancient Nation by Britain will be ended only by struggle and sacrifice, they will not allow the factionalism and bickering of party politics to stand between them and the fight waged on their behalf.

"On this great anniversary the Resistance Movement calls on our people to support the independence struggle by positive action. Support the Irish Republican Movement, the spearhead and inspiration of the Resistance.

"The sacrifice of our comrades who have

died, of our comrades who, as members of fighting units, have dedicated themselves to the task of national liberation — these sacrifices shall be vindicated by the success of the cause for which they were made. On this 44th anniversary of Easter Week 1916, we make that pledge.

"The difficulties facing the Resistance Movement in this historic task must not be underestimated. The treachery of the 26-County administration in collaborating with British occupation has been a major obstacle on the road to freedom. The blows struck at the Republican Movement over the past three-and-a-half years at the behest of the British government were blows struck at the cause of Irish freedom.

"Their spokesmen and apologists say that to fight for independence is dangerous and reckless. They are looking for a safe route to unity and independence. Men who ask for such safe steps and who go against the lessons of our history in seeking them are surely defeated men who put forward weak excuses for going back on their beliefs.

"The Resistance Movement rejects any attempt to question its right to act as it does against British Crown Forces in Ireland. It is sanctioned by history. It holds in trust for the Irish nation the Republic for which Pearse, Connolly, Clarke, Mac Diarmada, McDonagh, Plunkett, Ceannt and their comrades gave their lives.

"It will remain true to that trust and the idea of freedom which has come down to us through centuries of oppression and generations of resistance will in the end prevail.

"AN PHOBLACHT ABÚ."

Of course, once a statement is published in the name of the leadership it belongs to that body, as is the case with the Easter Statement of 1960. However, from internal evidence it is obvious that the statement that year was penned by Seán Cronin, Editor of the Republican newspaper and Chief-of-Staff at that time. Seán is still with us, living in the United States. We send him and his wife very good wishes.

Two men and two women were brought before Maghera, Co Derry Petty Sessions court on April 24 charged with "violating an order under the Stormont Public Order Act of 1951" by carrying the Irish Tricolour on Easter Sunday at Swatragh. This was the fourth year in succession that the national flag was carried at the head of a parade through the village.

The *Irish Times* of April 21 gave their names as Kevin Murphy (33), Coolsarragh, Portlennone and Joseph McTeake (35), Ballyneese, Portlennone. The women were McTeake's wife, Mary (35) and Mrs Mary Bradley (40) also of Ballyneese. Eight other persons were understood to appear in court arising out of the parade. On Easter Sunday morning St Mary's Catholic (sic) in Obins Street, Portadown, Co Armagh was damaged by an explosion. Windows, doors and walls were damaged.

The *Irish Times* of April 18 said "the hall has figured recently over Sunday dancing". A court had given a licence in this regard. The UI called the explosion "an attempt by the enemies of Irish nationhood to foment sectarian strife and thus confuse the real issue in British-Occupied Ireland".

The Republican paper, May issue, quoted the *Breton News*: "A Breton, Lieut Jean Le Meur, has been jailed in Constantine (Algeria) for refusing to accept the command of a section fighting the FLN (National Liberation Front).

"By accepting," he stated, "I would contribute to repress a revolt which I understand too well; to tame rebels whose cause I cannot in conscience condemn. The misfortune is that too many Frenchmen have accepted to serve a cause they know to be unjust." (Aithnion ciaróg ciaróg eile!)

Among the many arrests for refusing to pay fines for collecting funds for the prisoners dependants, were JJ McGill TD and John Mulvihill of Ballinamore, Co Leitrim to serve seven days in Mountjoy. Seán Dougan, CP Antrim was also arrested as was **Tess Kearney**, Dublin. She was released next day and was the only woman jailed in the 26 Counties during that period.

Another change was noted by *An Éireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* in its May issue. It quotes Mr Lemass's St Patrick's Day message in which he called the Six Occupied Counties "Northern Ireland".

"Northern Ireland" was the term used by a British Act of Parliament when partitioning this country to produce the illusion that there were "Northern" and "Southern" Irelands — which had to be kept separate, the UI commented.

It observed: "Use of this term in such a context is another surrender to Imperialism."

On April 1, 1960, British troops marched out of the gates of Gough military barracks, Armagh city for the last time, the *Irish Press* reported. They took up quarters at the former British naval air station at Eglinton, Co Derry. The Stormont Ministry of Home Affairs took over Gough barracks and in time made it an interrogation centre.

Greyhound Camp, Helen's Bay, Co Down was also evacuated by HQ 39th Infantry Brigade Group which was transferred to Thiepval barracks, Lisburn, also HQ of "Northern Ireland" Command of the British army of occupation.

During April also the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau once again caught out Stormont in a lie. In March the IRPB in a statement denied that Crown Forces had captured an arms dump in the Roslea area of Co Fermanagh. The claim was totally false.

This was now confirmed in Stormont itself. Home Affairs Minister Faulkner replying to a question said: "He would not reveal any facts about the arms find at Roslea — for security reasons." Days before that, high-ranking RUC officers asked local persons to sign prepared statements saying they had seen British forces take away equipment found. They refused.

Then in the British House of Commons Colonel Grosvenor (Fermanagh-South Tyrone) said the campaign of resistance had resulted in the deaths of four RUC member while 28 British soldiers and RUC had been wounded.

"They were British policemen and British soldiers," he said.

The damage caused was estimated in the nature of 700,000 sterling. That was a charge on the British taxpayer.

He said the Stormont government had done all it could. It rested with the British government to do the work. It should ensure that the 26-County government did its share.

Also in the Commons, Mr Butler, British Home Secretary had said, "Your soil is our soil" to the delight of Unionist MPs. The London Council of the Anti-Partition of Ireland League deplored Butler's statement and sent him a resolution saying the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 aimed at "one governmental authority for the whole island".

On the contrary, the Dublin administration was collaborating closely with the British occupation Forces to maintain the Border. Writing before Easter the *Irish Times* said:

"Official security measures will be most stringent in the week ahead [Easter]. Just over a week ago, gunmen attempted to ambush two RUC vehicles on the Fermanagh-Donagall Border. This is the type of sporadic raid that has succeeded the direct operations against police barracks and other installations."

Before that British armour was in March attacked at Corragant, Co Fermanagh, a mail van was blown up at Clara, near Augher, Co Tyrone and a transformer too exploded at Forkhill, South Armagh.

Hundreds of British troops with large numbers of RUC and B-Specials engaged in intensive comb-outs with spotter planes overhead. Meanwhile hundreds of 26-County police conducted a similar operation simultaneously. Roslea one day, Wattlebridge and another etc; but no arrests were made and nothing found. But people going about their daily routines were harassed.

Collaboration was at its highest at Easter 1960...

(More next month. Refs. *An Éireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, April and May 1960; *Irish Times*, April 12, 18 and 21; *Breton News*; *Irish Press*, April 1.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

THE United States, like any nation, has the right to protect itself and its citizens from threats against its national security by its avowed enemies.

It does not have a similar right with regard to other nations even though those nations may be friends and allies. Each nation is responsible for protecting its own people from foreign enemies and especially foreign operatives.

Being a democracy, the UDShas imposed restrictions on how far it can go to protect itself and still guarantee the freedoms set out in the Bill of Rights with special attention to the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech, association and assembly. There has been conflict between rights and security after the attack on September 11, 2001.

Post September 11 concerns about international terrorism and US reaction has increased this conflict as the US has adopted heavy-handed tactics the British used in the North of Ireland. Can you have true freedom alongside the state's security authority? The language of the First Amendment is absolute and does not provide for any exceptions.

Dissent in America is patriotic because the country was founded on dissent against the British and their oppressive regime. John Dickenson of Pennsylvania was the leader of a Peace Process with the British which was answered by brutality, and war ensued.

Supporters of the True Republican Movement of Ireland in the US welcome and support the pending challenge to the Supreme Court regarding activity with foreign groups.

We believe that the Republican supporters should not be brought under the scope of the laws being challenged because we do not support international terrorism.

Irish Republicanism is not terrorism and this has been established before the US Congress, which has been ignored. This will be set out later in this article.

We who support the True Republican Movement object to any Irish group being designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO). None offer any threat to the national security of the United States. This issue has been investigated and should have been put to rest.

The Secretary of State of the US designates groups as terrorist and they are put on a terrorist list. There are no rules for her to follow to designate a group terrorist or non-terrorist.

Any person can make suggestions to her and she may act on these suggestions. She has at present designated only two groups as terrorist, the Continuity IRA and the Real IRA. Why? They are against the "peace process".

EVIDENCE

Does there have to be overwhelming evidence for a group to be designated a FTO? No, there is no requirement of any evidence. If she says you are an FTO then you are. If you challenge the designation you have no right to see any reason she may have for making the designation.

What if there is evidence that a group is not within the definition of an FTP and is clearly not any threat to the US? It is totally irrelevant. Secretary Clinton has a vested interest in the "peace process". It is her husband's foreign policy legacy.

The bogey man the United States had for a long time was international communism and then it became international terrorism which became the concern of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC).

The Committee became concerned with groups in the US and sought out spokesmen to interrogate and because of the war in Ireland, the Committee had an interest in the Irish American Community (IAC) and its relations with groups in Ireland.

There were activists in the IAC who supported the republican Movement that the HUAC believed was the Irish Republican Army (IRA) which the British had been demonising.

An appearance was set up at the request of HUAC for two of the leaders to testify before the Committee. It was held in camera because both also worked for the US Government.

The Chairman (C) opened the questions: "The British government, the Irish government and our own State Department have named the IRA as an international terrorist group. This committee wants to determine on an independent basis if that designation is warranted. Do either of you and does the IAC view



the IRA as terrorist?"

WITNESS (W): "No, Mr Chairman, we do not and the IAC do not. We consider them heroes. My grandfather was in the Republican Movement and it is viewed in a better light than the Dublin government who are viewed as cowards who do not demand an end to the partition of Ireland. We request the Committee that a document we offer called A BRIEF FOR THE PROVISIONALS, be placed in the record of the Committee."

C. "It is so ordered, please continue."

W. "What supporting evidence was offered to the Committee by London, Dublin or State that the IRA were terrorists?"

C. "To be honest, absolutely none. They only made a statement as we asked for evidence and they refused to submit any. Beyond their statements."

W. "Sir, the IRA is a group of Freedom Fighters, a guerrilla army that has as its goal the removal of Britain from Ireland by any means necessary. They have a military command structure and their targets are the British army, police and other legitimate British government-related targets."

W. "At times, innocent civilians have been hurt or killed unintentionally and the IRA accepted responsibility. They are like our National Guard who protect the people against the abuse and brutality of the British."

C. "Why doesn't the Irish army protect its own people; it's their duty I would think?"

W. "You will have to ask them. The only army offering protection is the IRA. Dublin has sat back idly and watched its citizens be abused, tortured and killed by the British. They are a disgrace. I would call them the ultimate cowards."

C. "It seems they have abandoned their own people and left it to the IRA to fight back. This does not make them look good and casts a new light on the IRA as protectors."

"This Committee must concede that the IRA are a distinct irregular army brought into existence by this inaction of the Dublin government. No wonder they want us to see the

IRA as a terrorist group because they must cover up their own inaction. They should be taking action against the British in support of their own people and yet they take a similar line to the British.

"This is quite enlightening and we must give it more attention. Ireland is a friendly nation as is Britain and perhaps this Committee can recommend to the State Department that they should encourage the British to consider some form of interim position while preparing to leave all of Ireland to determine its future. That seems the most logical thing and would stop the violence which is in everyone's interest."

W. "What you suggest, Mr Chairman, is what would be a positive step for Ireland."

C. "The question before the Committee is, whether the IRA is a threat to the national security of the United States? This must be established and the evidence is in their favour that they are not because the British and Irish governments have not given anything to consider and as I think back they were irate that we asked."

W. "The IRA are no threat to the US, Mr Chairman, because if they were they would have no support from the IAC who are loyal Americans. We see the IRA as being similar to the Sons of Liberty who fought against the British in this country. The Sons protected American citizens from British brutality."

C. "Do you think the IRA would call a ceasefire to negotiate with the British if they indicated they would leave sometime in the future without an exact date?"

W. "That is what they want for the British to declare an intent to leave sometime. It is all set out in THE BRIEF FOR THE PROVISIONALS. They have a plan and political leaders Ruairi Ó Brádaigh and Dáithí Ó Conaill have set this out."

C. "Your testimony has been educational and gives us a new perspective on the IRA and on the Republican Movement. They are not like real terrorist groups who have caused havoc around the world. We will study your brief, but we can say the IRA is not a terrorist group as commonly defined and are no threat to the United States. This committee denies the British et al call for us to say otherwise. We thank you for your appearance before the Committee and your cooperation."

THIS appearance before the HUAC established the IRA is not a terrorist group as recognised by Congress. This translates that the CIRA is not a terrorist group to be consistent. It

shows how the FTO list is a fraud and a propaganda whim.

Congressman Hamilton Fish in 1978 wrote a series of notes to Chairman Peter Rodino of the US House Judiciary Committee who had authorised Fish and a full delegation to investigate visa denials to Irish Republicans.

He asked Fish to give his personal views on the IRA because Fish was very pro-British before his trip to England and Ireland. He wanted his opinion as to who was the real culprit in Ireland for continued violence.

Fish responded: "Mr Chairman, when I went to Ireland I assumed the IRA were just a mindless terrorist group, but that has changed after firsthand experience. Our delegation met with all parties and to be honest, the IRA and the Republicans were the most cooperative."

"They have a plan for a federal Ireland that guarantees rights for all parties. I read it [ÉIRE NUA] and it could work. The loyalists want an independent North which is not as viable as the IRA plan."

"The British and Irish governments have nothing to offer only a demand that violence end. It won't end until there is direction. The British do not have the confidence of the majority of the people, Republican or loyalist."

"What bothered me was an incident that happened when we went on a tour of a nationalist/Republican area. A British army patrol were beating up some civilians, I called upon them to stop. They then aimed their weapons at me."

"I called for the officer in charge to come explain himself after identifying myself as a US Congressman. He said his men had been attacked. I said they beat up civilians and I pointed out one appeared to be in her seventies and others aged."

"I told him he ought to be ashamed. He refused to give his name or regiment and quickly departed. The British are the problem. They need to go. They act like the real terrorists."

"If the British do that in front of a US Congressman, what do they do when no one is looking. The US needs to help them to leave. I will send you more notes."

What is obvious here is that the US Congress set a standard that the IRA are not a FTO and they should not be so declared. This is important to note because a case is before the Supreme Court about aiding terrorists groups and the IRA is not a terrorist group and anyone in the United States has a right to offer political support to the Republican Movement. The decision should be announced soon.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

741 65L15 na hÉireann—Irish Volunteers
"B" COY., 8th BATTN., GALWAY REGIMENT.
DRAWING OF PRIZES (In Aid of Equipment Fund)
At HEADQUARTERS, BALLYCAMALAN, CORT, Co. GALWAY,
On FRIDAY, 17th MARCH, 1916, at 7 o'clock p.m.
1st Prize—A MAGAZINE RIFLE
SECOND PRIZE—
A HARRINGTON & R. REVOLVER,
.22 Cal., nickel-plated 3-inch barrel.
THIRD PRIZE—
A BEAUTIFUL PIKE HEAD,
of the best K-steel, nicely finished.
Ticket Sixpence Each.
Winning numbers will be published in the "Irish Volunteer" of March 25th, 1916.

• Ticket printed by Mahon Printers, Yarnhall Street, Dublin in 1916. Mahon Printers are still printing material for the Republican Movement. They printed the Centenary Booklet in 2009 titled 100 Years of Revolution. (Raffle prizes are somewhat different today!)

Comhbhróin

NOONAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Noonan family, Limerick on the death of their sister Regina. From Republican Sinn Féin and Mick Hanley, Limerick.

I gCuimhne

O'NEILL. In proud and loving memory of my dear father, Vol Liam O'Neill who died on April 6, 2006 and also his son, Vol Danny O'Neill, killed on active service, January 7, 1972. Always remembered by his son, Gerard, wife Margaret and grandchildren, Tara, Donal, Clodagh, Conall, Geraroid and Deirbhile. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for them.

Beannachtaí na Cásca

EASTER and birthday greetings to Alix. From Daddy.
EASTER greetings to Martin O'Rourke, POW, Portlaoise jail. From Neely, Veronica, Darren, Pajo, Logey and Steph.
EASTER greetings to all our comrades in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails. From the Ann Devlin/Robert Emmet Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Liberties, Dublin.
EASTER greetings to the POWs, Maghaberry prison. From Martin, Joe, Ken and Darren, Portlaoise jail.
EASTER greetings to Paddy Ennis and Joe Smith. From the Republican prisoners, Portlaoise jail.
EASTER greetings to Darren Mooney, POW, Portlaoise jail. From Kelli and Aaron; and all your family and friends.
EASTER greetings to Darren, Ken, Martin and Joe. From all your Basque friends.

Beannachtaí

HAPPY birthday to Aaron Mooney on April 26. Lots of love, Daddy.

The times they are a changing

WHEN Gerry Adams called on people to come forward and report crime, he must have expected that they would report “dissident crime” only.

It seems like the leaders of other corrupt institutions of the two partition states, Gerry Adams and his cronies think that some crimes and some perpetrators should be exempt.

It is an indication of how low he has brought this country that his closest friends have become informers.

It is an indication of how his mind games have temporarily corrupted the moral compass of some of the best and truest freedom fighters this country

has ever seen.

That he can exert such control over his minions is explained by the methods Darkie Hughes describes in his testament.

That so many of his former associates have stepped aside must be recognised for the courage they are displaying.

That so many have stepped aside and described themselves as “neutral” is also explained.

That so many pretend to be loyal to their ‘master’ is an indication that many have neither the physical nor moral courage of Darkie Hughes.

The *Sunday Times* of March 28, 2010 rolled out the first of

a series of revelations about Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness and the way they colonised Republicanism. Ed Moloney chronicled the dying testament of Darkie Hughes.

Hughes is obviously a decent man who was driven by a combination of patriotism and personal loyalty to Gerry Adams and the cause he thought that man represented. Hughes was eventually forced to question his actions in the light of what was accepted as a settlement by Adams and his Limited Intelligence Group and how it undermined the moral authority which is necessary to wage war.

He accuses Adams of a

number of War Crimes not least the “disappearing” of people and the running of a “personal death squad”. While all of us should be very careful not to accept un-corroborated accusations, the fact that this is a dying testament gives it great strength. In fact in Adams’ newly accepted policing and justice system this would be evidence of the strongest type. Gerry Adams’ response was to question Brendan Hughes’ state of mind.

SOME weeks ago, when one of his former associates accused him of being less than honest with his representation of himself and his part in the

war Gerry Adams questioned her sanity. Some years ago Adams and his British buddies would simply have sent her and Darkie to Bedlam Lunatic Asylum and left them there to rot. Gerry should note that Bedlam is closed, the Magdalene Homes are no more and people in power are being expected more and more to live under the laws they themselves would enact and uphold.

Gerry stated that Darkie was a very ill man and was ill at the time he made these accusations. This is just a layman’s opinion, but I think Darkie was a man completely

cured of illusion, who maintained his Republican ideals and who rightly or wrongly felt that telling the truth was the only way to right the wrongs he had witnessed.

He was a man who for many years was blinded by his love of Gerry Adams and who ultimately was freed by his over-riding love of his country and honest comrades.

He was a man who eventually saw the truth of the often spoken maxim of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Joe O’Neill — “Follow the cause, not the man”.

— Mac Cool

Parle, Hogan, Creane remembered in Wexford

ON March 14 the annual Parle, Hogan and Creane commemoration was held in the Garden of Remembrance at the Old Jail in Wexford.

A colour party stood as guard of honour as Ritchie Bierney welcomed everyone on behalf of the Wexford Republican Graves Association. He said: “Eighty-seven years ago this weekend, James Parle (28), Patrick Hogan (20) and John Creane (18) were taken from their cells in this prison and at 8am were put against that wall and shot by firing squad, executed by enemies of the existing All-Ireland Republic.

“By coming here today we are not just passing an hour on a Sunday afternoon. It is our duty to be here if we are to call ourselves Wexfordmen and Republicans. By continuing to attend commemorations here and elsewhere we are ensuring the Republican cause can never

be lost.”

Wreaths were laid at the wall of the Old Jail: RSF President Des Dalton on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin; former POW PJ Kelly on behalf of the Republican Movement; Joanne Murphy on behalf of Wexford Republican Graves Association and Paddy Hogan on behalf of the families. Tom Malone, Wexford Republican Sinn Féin, laid a wreath at the Edentubber Monument and Kevin Kavanagh, Enniscorthy RSF, laid a wreath at the Hunger Strike monument.

Jimmy Kavanagh read the Wexford Roll of Honour. Ritchie Bierney said: “There are 63 names on that list. Sixty-three Volunteers of Continuity Óglaigh na hÉireann. The direct lineage cannot be denied.

For the benefit of Kevin Myers and his garda friend the people of Wexford are proud of every one of them and we are proud to tend their graves and monuments.”

He then called on Nickey Barnes of the Pádraig Ó Pearaill Cumann, RSF to give the oration.

Nickey said: “Today we commemorate three true Irish soldiers who gave everything for their country, their time, their dedication and, ultimately, their lives. They died believing in a 32-County Republic, not a Six-County statelet or this collaborationist government of the 26 Counties.

“Republican Sinn Féin is the only political movement working in a realistic way to remove the British presence and achieve its aims as outlined in our documents ÉIRE NUA and SAOL NUA. The Provos are finished and are no more than Fianna Fáil or Fine Gael.



• Nickey Barnes giving the oration at the Parle, Hogan and Creane commemoration in Wexford on March 14.

This group of sell-outs have even started to sell out on themselves. Martin McGuinness and Co are doing no more than upholding British

rule in Ireland. They have no intention of removing Partition. Why would they want to remove Westminster when that’s where their fat cheques

come from.

“Our beloved Ireland has suffered enough at the hands of these traitors and the British and the money-grabbing snakes of Leinster House, which set up NAMA to bail out their friends.

“The Irish people have put up with this nonsense long enough. Let us work to make Parle, Hogan and Creane’s dream come true. Victory to the Republic! Tíocfaidh Ár Lá.”

A minute’s silence was then observed with the dipping of the Tricolour by the colour party and by Jappa Murphy on the flagpole.

Ritchie then thanked everyone for attending, especially Mrs Kavanagh, Séamus Mac Suain, Mick Morris and Tom Malone who have been attending this commemoration for over 40 years.

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