



# An Phoblacht

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REPUBLICAN NEWS

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# GENOCIDE

**T**HREE WEEKS AGO Robert Shaw was in hospital recovering from a heart attack. Today he is dead, gunned down by the UDA on the outskirts of North Belfast because he was a Catholic. He is but the latest victim of the policy of sectarian slaughter being pursued by pro-British death squads in the Six Counties.

The policy of genocide being practised against the Irish nationalist population of the Six Counties is most starkly evident in the north Belfast area. Literally hundreds of civilians have been butchered in North Belfast over the past 20 years for no other reason than that they were Catholics.

The death squads carrying out this genocidal campaign are armed and directed by British military intelligence. Their objectives are to terrorise the nationalist population into accepting British rule and second-class citizenship in the Six-County state. They are trying to tell nationalists that unless they accept this they will be driven out or killed.

The British political and military establishment have the blood of these nationalist victims on their hands but they are not alone in their culpability. The loyalist killers are being greatly encouraged by the recent posturings of the Dublin establishment. Vacillation on the national demand for unity by Dublin ministers has occurred in tandem with an acceleration in the campaign of the death squads. Southern weakness on Articles Two and Three is seen as a direct result of loyalist pressure in all its forms.

Dublin government appeasement of supremacist hate-mongers such as Ian Paisley is resulting in blatant abandonment of the long suffering nationalist people of the Six Counties and is a direct contributory factor to murders such as that of Robert Shaw.

**R**obert Shaw's killing occurred on Monday morning, 15 March, as the 56-year-old sat in his Ford Transit van beside Belfast Lough. The place where the father of four was shot is a favourite spot

for anglers to park their cars, as they dig for ragworms and other fishing bait on the mud flats of the shore.

But the fact that it lies adjacent to the loyalist Rathcoole estate, means that for any nationalist it is an area where the UDA can literally kill at will. The fact that Shaw had parked his van at this spot for a number of years made him an easy target for his killers.

As Robert Shaw sat in his van reading, a loyalist death squad approached him shortly after 10am and shot him several times in the chest, mortally wounding him.

The loyalist killer-gang then drove off in a white Ford Escort car, which was abandoned in Crossreagh Drive in Rathcoole. It was at this stage that some of the gang changed vehicles escaping in a red, mark five, Ford Cortina.

The dead man had open heart surgery and a triple by-pass about five years ago, he also had a lung removed many years ago. His son Bertie narrowly survived a loyalist gun attack 15 months ago in Larne, County Antrim during which he was shot and wounded.

In a statement, Robert Shaw's killers said that he was a member of Sinn Féin. This has been denied by the party.

Describing Monday's killing, North Belfast Sinn Féin representative, Bobby Lavery (whose brother was shot dead at Christmas by loyalists), said it was yet another brutal sectarian killing.

"It is part of the ongoing campaign of genocide being directed against Catholics in the general north Belfast area. It is also part of a continuing loyalist programme of removing nationalists from any areas beside loyalist districts.

Criticising the lack of media



● The van in which Robert Shaw was murdered by a loyalist gang on the shores of Belfast Lough. Like hundreds of others in the North Belfast area since 1969, he was killed by a pro-British death squad because he was a Catholic

coverage of this latest loyalist murder Lavery concluded: "It's as if the murders of nationalists by loyalist death-squads are an inconvenience to some elements in the press. The weapons these loyalist death-squads are using were provided by British military intelligence and such murders will tragically continue as long as Britain maintains its hold in Ireland."



## News

## British soldier shot dead in South Armagh

## UDA death-squad member executed

A British soldier was shot dead by the IRA in South Armagh on Wednesday, 17 March. The soldier, who was a member of a joint British army/ RUC patrol, was hit in the chest by a single shot and died later in hospital. He is the fourth soldier to be killed by sniper fire in the area in nine months.

The attack took place as British soldiers and RUC members were patrolling on the outskirts of Forkhill at the junction of Church Road and Bog Road at around 12.30pm. A single shot was fired, hitting one of the soldiers.

The Forkhill attack is a further severe blow to British forces in South Armagh. It follows another successful mortar attack in South Armagh earlier in the week. As the South Armagh mortar attack was being mounted last weekend the IRA were also keeping enemy forces extremely busy in Dungannon, Derry and Belfast.

As the British forces in South Armagh dig themselves deeper into the ground within their outposts and barracks, the IRA launched the mortar bomb attack on Saturday evening, 13 March. This attack follows a steady rise in such attacks over the past few weeks.

The target of Saturday's attack was the British army's observation post at Glassdrummond, just outside Crossmaglen.

In a statement the IRA said that shortly before 8pm on Saturday, Volunteers of the South Armagh Brigade positioned the mortar launcher close beside the reinforced British structure which overlooks most of the townland of Glassdrummond.

As the British soldiers took to their 'hard cover' bunkers the mortar was fired, resulting in structural damage to the watchtower's perimeter.

## ■ UDA MEMBER SHOT DEAD

Outlining the facts about the execution of a senior member of a loyalist death-squad, the IRA's Belfast Brigade gave details on the activities of UDA/UFF member, Norman Truesdale. The Belfast Brigade said that one

of their active service units executed the leading loyalist on Wednesday evening, 10 March. The statement continued:

"The timing of Truesdale's execution was crucial to the IRA operation as intelligence had been collected over some months regarding his movements. It emerged during this surveillance that Truesdale regularly did the books and accounts in his shop on the Oldpark Road, North Belfast every Wednesday night.

"Truesdale's involvement in the death squads of the UDA/UFF went back to the mid-'70s and his involvement in these killer gangs included being one of the assassins on the numerous sectarian murder attacks against nationalists in Belfast.

"He was also involved in extortion of business people and the intimidation of nationalists in North Belfast, lately in the Manor Street area.

"We have a long standing policy of identifying the members and planners of loyalist death squads, and executing them. We will not allow them to escape the consequences of their actions."

## ■ WIDESPREAD BOMB ALERTS

On Thursday, 11 March, both Belfast and Lisburn town centres were brought to a standstill when IRA Volunteers placed a large number of hoax devices in commandeered vehicles at strategic locations.

The resulting tying down of scores of British mobile patrols at these locations ensured that their pre-planned operations in nationalist areas were severely restricted.

## ■ RIFLE ATTACKS

Later the same day as the increasingly frustrated British patrols returned to their bases following the hoax bomb alerts, IRA Volunteers fired 40 rounds from two AKM assault rifles at an armoured observation position at Woodbourne joint RUC/British army barracks.

At around the same time as this West Belfast attack another ASU fired ten rounds at a Royal Irish Regiment road-block in Oxford Street, beside the High Court in the city centre. In both attacks there was no return fire from enemy forces. All ASUs involved dispersed safely.

## ■ PATROL BLASTED

Another West Belfast attack was launched on Saturday morning, 13 March, and during this operation two British soldiers were injured in an explosion. Volunteers

operating in the New Barnsley area and in command of a two pound anti-personnel mine, controlled by command wire, waited until 1.20am when a British army footpatrol approached their position.

One British soldier, who was crouching beside a hedge where the bomb was concealed, took the full force of the resulting explosion.

While he was seriously injured another member of the patrol also received blast wounds. His injuries required emergency treatment by another member of the patrol. Witnesses to the attack said that some members of the patrol were heard to shout that the more seriously injured British soldier was dead.

## ■ CITY CENTRE BOMBS

With the British forces in the city on a high state of alert following the devastating New Barnsley attack, the IRA again switched their attention to the city centre.

At approximately 11pm on Sunday night, with the usual heavy crown force presence around the city centre, Volunteers once again breached their 'security' net.

At exactly 11pm the first of two ten pound devices detonated outside the Northern Bank in Gloucester Street, less than 300 yards from Belfast's City Hall. Another 10lb bomb was defused in nearby Adelaide Street beside British government offices.

The Gloucester Street explosion, which was heard over a wide part of the city, caused red faces to those crown forces whose patrols include the area around the High Court, scene of Thursday's IRA rifle attack.

This area receives close attention from the crown forces following a number of massive IRA bombs exploding beside both the High Court and Magistrates' courts. These bomb attacks forced the closure of one of the main city centre roads beside the High Court, effectively turning it into another British exclusion zone.

With this audacious attack within what is acknowledged as one of the most heavily patrolled areas of the city, the IRA have shown the futility of British efforts.

## ■ GRENADE ATTACK

The IRA's Tyrone Brigade have claimed responsibility for a grenade attack on a British army footpatrol on Friday night, 12 March.

As the British patrol made its way down Scotch Street, which runs from the town's main square, an IRA Volunteer lobbed the impact grenade at the footpatrol shortly after 9.45pm, but it failed to detonate.

## ■ EXTENSIVE DAMAGE IN DERRY

Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann claimed responsibility for bomb attacks on commercial targets in the Waterside area of Derry city at the weekend. In one of the attacks in Spencer Road, extensive damage was caused to an electrical goods store with damage running into several thousands of pounds.

## IN BRIEF...

### Taxpayers to pay for council's sectarianism

THE CHIEF Local Government Auditor in the Six Counties was sent an official protest by Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Gerard McGuigan, against unionist plans to appeal a Fair Employment Tribunal ruling which found Belfast City Council guilty of discriminating against five Catholic employees.

The sectarian employment practices of the council have already left Belfast taxpayers facing a legal bill of £500,000 as well as possible compensation awards of up to £30,000 for each complainant. An appeal is likely to add £250,000 to the council's bill. Commenting Councillor McGuigan said that the council would only be adding to the legal and compensatory bill it already faces by making this futile appeal.

Calling on the auditor to "use your powers to block this move by the council by insisting if the appeal goes ahead, it is paid for by the unionist councillors who support it", McGuigan said it would be "hypocritical to condone the expenditure of up to £30,000 to defend the council's rotten and bigoted employment practices".

### Limerick harassment

ON 15 MARCH Limerick Sinn Féin Organiser Tom Clancy, a candidate in last November's General Election was filmed with a video camera without his permission, while walking through Moyross to his home. The person operating the camera was inside a car driven by a garda detective, while another unmarked garda car followed closely behind.

Tom Clancy was not asked permission to be filmed in such a manner, nor were any explanations forthcoming. The incident was witnessed by a number of local residents. Limerick Sinn Féin commented:

"This incident, along with others, such as the abuse of Sinn Féin canvassers during the election, shows the bizarre length to which the gardai will go in their harassment of members of a legal political party. Does it also indicate the greater and open democracy as promised in the Fianna Fáil/Labour Programme for Government?"

### Cashel against Section 31

A CALL FOR the abolition of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, was unanimously supported by members of Cashel Urban District Council at their recent meeting. Saying that freedom of speech was a basic civil liberty the chairperson Councillor Seán Hill said it was embarrassing that Sinn Féin's Councillor Michael Browne, an "excellent member" of the council, couldn't speak about housing or the state of roads on local radio, although he himself wasn't impugning those involved in local radio.

Something should be done about Section 31, agreed Councillor Maureen O'Donoghue. It was now time that Section 31 was abolished, said Councillor Tom Wood. If that happened, politicians at national level would have to be prepared to talk and listen to all sides of the divide. Unfortunately, Section 31 had done nothing for the thousands of people massacred, the thousands of jobs lost and the millions of pounds spent on security in the last 20 years.

Councillor Joe Moloney thought that local radio stations should be trying to implement the High Court ruling about Section 31, while Councillor Mattie Finerty didn't believe that Section 31 had saved one life. The motive behind Section 31 hadn't achieved anything, commented Councillor Dick Wood who had previously supported it.

Sinn Féin Councillor Michael Browne proposed that a letter be sent to the Minister for Communications, all local authorities and the management of the local radio stations calling for the abolition of the act.

### Progress in Louth

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Louth Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin, took place on Monday, 8 March 1993. The attendance was one of the largest in recent years, this was attributed to the largely successful staging of the party's ár fheis, in Dundalk.

There was a vote of thanks to the town hall staff, and the townspeople of Dundalk, for the cooperation and hospitality shown to the delegates and visitors, at the ár fheis.

The minutes from last year's meeting were read, and adopted. Outgoing treasurer, Ann Shields, gave the financial report and stated with all the social problems that Louth faces the generosity of our members and supporters is astounding. Considering the costly general election, Sinn Féin's finances in Louth are in a healthy state.

Ann Shields then outlined plans for refurbishment of the party offices in Dundalk.

Pearse McGeough then gave the organiser's report and outlined the party's activities over the past year. The report ended with the organiser thanking party members and supporters. The report was adopted.

The meeting went on to elect a new officer board: Chairperson: Mary McGeough — Dundalk; Vice-Chairperson: Maeve Healy — Drogheda; Treasurer: Ann Shields — Dundalk; Secretary: Brieghe Elliman — Dundalk; Mid-Louth Organiser: Pearse McGeough; PRO: Rory Dougan.

Attendance at the meeting included: Councillors Fra Browne and Frank Duffy (Dundalk Urban District Council) and Councillor Seán Kenna (Louth County Council).



● UDA death-squad member Norman Truesdale, executed by the IRA on 10 March



# News

## Sinn Féin attacks RUC informer strategy

**D**ETAILS of a major leafleting campaign aimed at exposing the RUC's strategy for recruiting informers and agents in the Six Counties were released at a press conference in Belfast on Tuesday, 16 March. The Sinn Féin Break The Link leaflet encourages people to come forward and tell someone they trust if they have been entrapped by the crown forces.

Sinn Féin also produced a dossier which gave the names, details and circumstances of 160 incidents where the RUC and/or British military intelligence had attempted to recruit people

from nationalist areas throughout the Six Counties.

The dossier, stretching back to 1985, is proof of the intense and widespread nature of the RUC's

informer strategy. It also gives the lie to the RUC's stated position, put on public record by Chief Constable Hugh Annesley that "the RUC reluctantly engages in the practice".

Chairing the conference Dunganon Sinn Féin Councillor Francie Molloy, said there was mounting evidence that "the RUC was involved in a major drive across the Six Counties to recruit informers and agents".

This point was reinforced by the presence, at the press conference, of

two young Tyrone nationalists who were arrested on Wednesday, 12 March and brought to Coalisland RUC Barracks.

There RUC Special Branch officers approached one of the men and asked him to work for them as an informer. One of the RUC officers claiming to be the "top branch officer in Tyrone" put a pile of money, amounting to £1,000, on the table. He told the man, who did not want his name published, that he could have the £1,000 and more if he

infiltrated the IRA and supplied information to the crown forces.

Sinn Féin Councillors Hugh Brady and Alex Maskey, from Derry and Belfast respectively, also appeared at the conference. Councillor Maskey encouraged people who may, at the present time, be compromised into working for the RUC to come forward, "that it is never too late to break the link".

**E**mphasising the breadth of the RUC's recruitment strategy and its acceptability in the ranks of the British political establishment, Councillor Brady referred to the case of Brian Nelson who was run as an agent by British military intelligence.

"The widespread efforts to employ informers are symptomatic of a political situation in which the RUC is rejected as a police force and like any armed occupation force must rely on threats and intimidation to secure information" added Brady.

Recruiting informers is and has been a central part of the British crown forces' strategy to defeat the republican struggle. This strategy relies upon the intimidation and coercion of vulnerable and frightened people.

Mindful of the cynical way the RUC uses these people, the Sinn Féin Break The Link leaflet sets out to allay people's fears about coming forward and revealing RUC recruitment.

Indeed it is also a matter of public knowledge that the IRA will grant an amnesty to anyone who comes forward and exposes the contacts they have had with the RUC.

The IRA has stated on numerous occasions that they understand the pressures that are brought to bear on people by the crown forces. The way for them to extricate themselves from the situation is to come forward and expose the practice.



● Hugh Brady, Francie Molloy and Alex Maskey calling on people trapped by the RUC into informing to 'Break the Link'

## British spy equipment at councillor's home

**T**HE DAILY DANGERS faced by Sinn Féin councillors in carrying out their constituency work was exposed again at the weekend when a British army spy camera was discovered near the home of Councillor Hugh O'Neill near Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh.

Along with the camouflaged surveillance camera were a battery pack and transmitter which would have been capable of relaying pictures many miles to a nearby British base. Councillor O'Neill's colleague on Fermanagh Council, Councillor Brian McCaffrey, said that the equipment has probably been in place for over three months.

In early January local people reported to several Sinn Féin representatives that they had noticed suspicious activity around the O'Neill family home. During this time a couple of unmarked British army vehicles sealed off a lane near their home for several hours without explanation. What were obviously British personnel were also noted moving about nearby fields and at a clump of trees. It was here that the British spy equipment was found.

As is common in many nationalist rural areas, unusual behaviour on the part of strangers was noted and reported to Sinn Féin representatives who routinely document these incidents with local solicitors because of the all too frequent cases when British undercover operatives are deployed.

This was the case eight years ago when Councillor McCaffrey and a number of local people flushed out an British SAS unit from a derelict building beside where this latest spy camera was hidden. During that incident dogs began barking and on investigation the covert squad was exposed.

As they withdrew from their hide eight years ago, the SAS opened fire in an attempt to keep local people from getting any closer to them. They were later airlifted out of the locality.

Last Saturday's accidental discovery came about when at around 2pm, Mrs O'Neill walked down the lane, which runs from the main road to her house. Her children had been playing along the lane when one of them, her six-year-old daughter, climbed the wall of a derelict house and was afraid to climb down again.

As Mrs O'Neill helped her daughter down she noticed something unusual hidden within the wall. Examining it closer it turned out to be a video camera, carefully camouflaged and similar to others previously featured in AP/RN after similar discoveries in Counties Tyrone, Fermanagh,

Armagh and Down.

Shortly after Mrs O'Neill's find, a uniformed British army patrol emerged from the nearby clump of trees. She described them as being in a state of panic and were clearly out of breath.

One British soldier shouted, "She's found the kit", while another replied, "Did she find them all?"

**A**t this stage events took a further nasty turn when the British soldiers demanded that Mrs O'Neill hand them the camera.

With shouts of, "That's our camera", they began pushing and prodding her while delivering verbal abuse. Forcing Mrs O'Neill back down the lane they then forcibly detained her some distance from the derelict house to prevent her from seeing what exactly they were doing. From remarks overheard however, Mrs O'Neill is convinced that there was other British military equipment in the area.

As she was being physically held down the lane a yellow van arrived on the scene with at least two men inside. Managing to get a glimpse of the pair, Mrs O'Neill said that they were wearing civilian clothes, blue sweatshirts and plain trousers. All British uniformed and plainclothes personnel then quickly left the area.

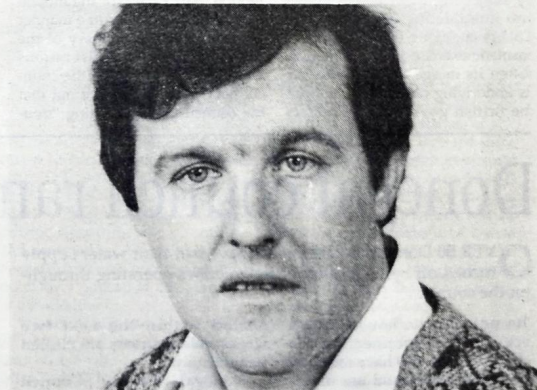
On her return to her home Mrs O'Neill tried to telephone a friend, but

to her further consternation the phone line was dead and remained so for another 30 minutes.

Questioning the legality of Mrs O'Neill's detention, especially by male members of the British army, Councillor McCaffrey told AP/RN that after contacting her solicitor, Mrs O'Neill made a formal complaint about the assault and abuse she suffered. The RUC, it later emerged, refused to deal with the

complaint and said that they only had Mrs O'Neill's word for it. They also refused to come out to the house to examine the incident scene.

McCaffrey emphasised the need for people in rural communities to remain vigilant in the light of this latest sinister incident. He has demanded that Mrs O'Neill and her family receive an explanation and an apology and the British soldiers involved be charged with assault and abuse.



● HUGH O'NEILL



## News

# Campaign against water privatisation

**SINN FÉIN** Councillor Jim McAllister has announced that he will be submitting a motion to Newry and Mourne District Council, which he hopes will secure cross-party support, for the council to host a Six-County wide conference on the government's proposed privatisation of the water service.

Silent Valley which provides water for the Belfast region lies within the Newry and Mourne Council area as do a number of other reservoirs and water-service installations.

Pointing out that such a conference could include representatives from all of the North's councils, political parties, trade unions and other interested groups, McAllister accused the British government of being "involved in a conspiracy to sell off our water service with no real reference to this community and in a manner which endures no benefit to water users in the Six Counties". He continued:

"Evidence from Britain, where water privatisation has already taken place, has revealed a disturbing pattern of water disconnections. Given the levels of poverty in the Six Counties, the spectre of families and others being deprived of their water supply now hangs over many people. In addition jobs will be lost, consumers will pay more and health risks will increase."

## DERRY CHILD SUPPORT UNIT

"The velvet glove concealing the iron fist", is how Shantallow Sinn Féin Councillor Gearóid O hEara described last week's announcement by the Child Support Unit of the Department of Health and Social Services that it is conducting a survey throughout the Six Counties aimed at finding out how people here feel they have been treated by the Unit. O hEara continued:

"It now appears that, not content with harassing people who are caring for children, especially those in receipt of income support, by subjecting them to aggressive and intimidating interviews, the CSU is engaging in a very costly cosmetic exercise in an attempt to soften its image without altering its underlying rationale — to swell the British government's coffers

by clawing back money from those on income support."

Under the Child Support Act, which comes into effect next month, the CSU becomes the Child Support Agency, with the power to deduct up to 20% of a carers welfare benefit, if she or he does not provide information on the child's provide biological parent. It will also be able to deduct up to 25% of the absent parents' wages or 5% benefit. However, as 80% of lone parent families receive Income Support, this money will go straight to the British Exchequer and neither the carer nor the child will receive any additional money.

## ANTI-IRISH BIAS IN STRABANE

Strabane Sinn Féin Councillor Ivan Barr has hit out at "a blatant bias against the Irish language" after unionist councillors blocked a motion calling for the adoption of council-sponsored scholarships to be awarded to pupils who submit winning essays in competitions to be organised this summer by local branches of Conradh na Gaeilge as part of their centenary celebrations.

Barr also expressed disappointment that despite the fact that the motion had been submitted in both Irish and English the motion appeared on the agenda only in English.

Speaking in support of the motion, fellow Sinn Féin Councillor Charlie McHugh pointed out that according to the British government's own figures almost 2,000 people in the Strabane area can speak, read and write Irish.

Responding to an amendment which effectively blocked the motion, Barr called for the motion to be adopted in the same manner in which the tercentenary of the Battle of the Boyne celebrations had been considered by the council. Barr went on to point out that the council was advocating "dou-

ble standards by adopting one attitude for the unionist community and another for the nationalist". A unionist amendment to pass the issue onto the cultural committee was carried.

## SUNDAY OPENING DEMANDED IN COOKSTOWN

Cookstown Sinn Féin councillors are calling for a local referendum on Sunday opening at Cookstown Leisure Centre and are considering legal action to back this "reasonable demand".

Commenting, local Sinn Féin Councillor Seán Begley said that Sinn Féin would not be asking for the court to impose Sunday opening onto the people of Cookstown, but merely allowing local ratepayers a democratic choice through a referendum. Begley continued:

"Arbitrary restrictions on access to leisure facilities by the unionist-controlled district council has long been a contentious issue amongst the people of Cookstown. Due to the unionist ruling, local people are forced to travel over ten miles either to Dungannon or Magherafelt on a Sunday to enjoy facilities which they have already paid for in their own district."

## LANGUAGE INITIATIVE FAILS BECAUSE OF DUNGANNON SDLP

A Sinn Féin motion calling for the erection of Irish street signs to commemorate the centenary of Conradh na Gaeilge was narrowly defeated when the SDLP failed to vote in support of the motion at a meeting of Dungannon District Council last week.

Introducing the motion Sinn Féin Councillor Francie Molloy said that given the centenary and the recent announcement by the British government that they intended to abolish the by-law banning the erection of signs in Irish, Dungannon District Council should commemorate the event by erecting street and town nameplates in Irish in Coalisland and where requested.

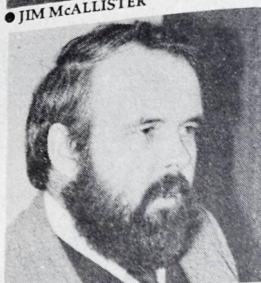
The motion was seconded by fellow Sinn Féin Councillor Brendan Doris but was scuttled by an amendment by Democratic Left Councillor Gerry Cullen. He proposed that the motion be referred back to a special committee in the



● JIM McALLISTER



● SEÁN BEGLEY



● FRANCIE MOLLOY



● MICHAEL FERGUSON

new council term, after the May elections. The amendment was carried after SDLP Councillor Jim Cavanagh failed to vote, despite the fact that he had spoken in favour of the original motion.

## TRUST STATUS OPPOSED IN LISBURN

Local Sinn Féin Councillor Michael Ferguson headed a delegation of party members to Lisburn's Lagan Valley Hospital last week to protest at the imposition of trust status. Speaking to employees at the hospital, Ferguson said that Sinn Féin opposed cuts in health care, whether it be at Lagan Valley, RVH, Mater or City Hospital. He continued:

"At the moment the Health Board are pitting hospital against hospital, attempting to make them compete with one another over illness and disease, the new market commodity. On one hand they are legitimising cuts at the Royal Victoria Hospital by refusing to take on board the fact that there is an established pattern of use of the West Belfast hospital by people from the Poleglass and Twinbrook areas. On the other hand, far from providing extra resources for Lagan Valley, they are hacking away at quality health care in Lisburn."

Ferguson said that health cuts in Lisburn and West Belfast would be opposed by Sinn Féin and described it as "immoral to col-

lapse ill health into some kind of marketable commodity."

## ALL-IRELAND FUNDING CALLED FOR IN OMAGH

The North in general and the Omagh region in particular is not getting maximum benefit from the European Structural Funds because of the British administration, a meeting of Omagh District Council was told.

Presenting a detailed analysis Sinn Féin Councillor Francis Mackey said he had proposed the motion for an all-Ireland approach to funding because he had become alarmed at what he said was the obvious interference in European funding between "this part of Ireland which is controlled by the British and our counterparts in the 26 Counties".

In one sector alone our road infrastructure is the worst in Europe and people of our area have a right to know why, and asking what our MEPs are doing to have proper structural funding for roads like that in the 26 Counties." Mackey said that the British government was simply replacing government funding with EC aid so that no progress is being made.

A motion calling for Ireland to be treated as a single entity in the allocation of structural funding under the new Community Support Framework 1993-97 was adopted by the council despite unionist opposition.

# Donegal council rampage

**OVER 50** Donegal householders have had their water supply turned off by large disconnection crews operating throughout the county.

The unfortunate householders face a £150 disconnection fee while a further 300 have received their final notice and are under threat of having supplies discon-

nected within the next two weeks unless arrears are cleared immediately.

Donegal County Council admitted that it has pursued pri-

vate householders first and has made no move against commercial properties where £1 million in water charges is owed.

With ten large crews in operation around the county, disconnections have been widespread from the Rosses, Ballyshannon and Inishowen.

Donegal Sinn Féin County Councillor Jim Ferry has condemned the council action. "People throughout Donegal are opposed to water charges as a form of double taxation while many others simply cannot afford to pay", he said. Ferry reaffirmed Sinn Féin's opposition to water charges and the party's solidarity with those who resist their imposition. He said that the council was being heavy-handed in its approach.

The National Association of Tenants Organisations (NATO) has pledged to step up its campaign against water disconnections. Chairperson of the Donegal branch, John McCluskey said NATO would not take the council's action lightly and would look at different avenues of protest action including a rents strike.

McCluskey also criticised the increase in water charges and the £150 reconnection fee.



## News

# Stagg challenged on housing conditions

THE LABOUR PARTY minister of state with responsibility for Housing was challenged with the demand to make more funds available for the refurbishment of housing in the capital when he visited the large working-class estates of Kilbarrack and Darndale this week.

Swan's Nest Court in Kilbarrack was the minister's first port of call and he was shown the appalling condition of the flats complex. Open access to the stairs and landings and the constant state of disrepair of the lifts highlight the need for Swan's Nest Court to be refurbished. A plan for refurbishment has been with Dublin Corporation for a number of years, but it has been relegated to 13th on the local authority's list of priorities. The estimated cost is £1.2 million.

Tenants in the flats expressed their anger and frustration at the lack of action on the issue. The minister was also told that the refurbishment of the Kilbarrack

DART station was an urgent necessity.

In Darndale, Stagg was shown the work on the refurbishment of the estate currently ongoing. If it continues at the present rate it will not be completed until after the end of the millennium. Tenants are demanding that phases five, six and seven of the redevelopment be speeded up and completed in the time now allocated for the completion of phase five.

Sinn Féin's Larry O'Toole and Mícheál Mac Donncha both met Stagg as representatives of community groups in Darndale and Kilbarrack respectively. In a joint statement they said:

"While Minister Stagg said that

he understood the anger and frustration of tenants, this is not enough. He seemed to be shifting responsibility totally onto the local authority and virtually accused them of mismanaging the funds allocated for maintenance and refurbishment. This is no doubt true, but he also said that he could not interfere in these functions, citing the need for power to be decentralised to local authorities.

"He has already said that housing is a priority and has promised 500 new houses for Dublin. He should now also take the initiative on refurbishment and release the funds needed. He advised local tenants to keep the pressure up on the corporation, but he is the one with the political power and the finances. He may be assured that we will keep the pressure up on both him and the local authority for this urgent work to be done."



● Housing minister Emmet Stagg with Sinn Féin's Larry O'Toole

## DUBLIN GOVERNMENT'S 'INCOHERENT POLICIES'

■ BY NEIL FORDE

"A SERIES of inadequate, piecemeal and often badly thought out responses." This was how Combat Poverty's Director Hugh Frazer described the Dublin government's social and economic policies for the long-term unemployed. Frazer was launching the third research report by the Connolly Information Centre For The Unemployed.

The report is an analysis of the Employment Subsidy Scheme (ESS), which is one of the policy instruments that Frazer criticised. The scheme was initiated last year by Bertie Ahern in conjunction with Fás and the Department of Labour (now Employment and Enterprise). The ESS and the Job Training Scheme were supposed to take 25,000 people off the dole and into the workplace.

The ESS had a target of 15,000 placements. It would run for a year and offered employers financial support to increase their employment levels. The employment period must last at least 18 months. The employment subsidy would run for the first 12 months.

The aim of the Connolly Information Centre report was quite simply to "assess the success of all ESS in all its facets". This involved examining not just the number of people who got placements, but the wages and working conditions of those on the scheme.

The researchers also attempted to assess the views of employers using the scheme, aiming to gauge how receptive they were to the scheme and asking how successful it would be in providing "long-term sustainable employment". However this proved impossible, "confidentiality ruled



● HUGH FRAZER

supreme". According to the report's authors, few employers would volunteer any feedback on the scheme.

The report profiles the job placements offered by employers through Fás into six basic categories. These included clerical and secretarial, unskilled industrial employment, skilled industrial employment, the retail sector, food preparation and service and finally hairdressing.

These categories were compared on their average wage level paid and the level of employer contributions. The report shows that across the six employment categories the average wages of workers on the scheme were way below acceptable levels.

Overall 27% of those employed on the scheme were in receipt of less than £90 per week, 28% earned between £91 and £110, 20% were in receipt of between £111 and £130. Consider-

ing that the state pays £54 for every person employed the employers' contributions were in many cases below what would be a feasible wage.

The report cites a wage of £90 as being barely enough to keep one single person above the poverty line. The authors cite the Council of Europe recommendation of a "decency threshold" minimum income "of 68% of the national average wage as a desirable minimum income". In the 26 Counties this would be £161 per week.

Only 7,000 people were placed on the scheme. The reason given was that in order to qualify for the scheme employers had to produce a tax clearance certificate. These criteria had to be relaxed, otherwise the scheme would have been a total failure.

The report tells us this without qualification or other comment. In the conclusion we are told that the scheme must be considered a success despite the low take up and low wages on offer for those who did take a placement.

This demotes the conclusions of their own analysis which shows that in many cases the scheme was being misused and poverty subsistence wages were being paid to workers. However the report did find space to propose a reduction in employers' PRSI.

In all this was a good report. It was in fact an exposé of the failure of the ESS scheme. The authors should have provided an analysis which matched their findings, not one which attempted to gloss them over.

## New welfare cuts attack education

SINN FÉIN has described as "outrageous" the new legislation preventing third level students in the 26 Counties from claiming unemployment assistance during the summer break, which can last up to four months.

The new bill introduced by Social Welfare Minister Michael Woods will impoverish parents as well as students and means that those students qualifying for a grant of £38 over 36 college weeks will now have to make that amount stretch over 52 weeks of the year. Most university students have to pay weekly rent of more than £30 and many are regularly left short for food and electricity bills. The new legislation will cause considerable hardship for working-class parents with several children at college.

Speaking in response to the decision of Social Welfare Minister Michael Woods, Sinn Féin Student Officer Dawn Doyle said:

"The Fianna Fáil/Labour coalition government's attempt to juggle the unemployment figures will in reality inflict severe hardship on increasingly penalised students. By denying students, who are available and willing to work during the summer the opportunity to claim unemployment assistance while not working is an outrageous attack against education which will inevitably lead to more people dropping out of college and emigrating. The government once again seems bent on making third-level education the preserve of the wealthy."

In attacking the legislation, which also includes a provision to stop people who are 18 when they leave second-level education from signing on the dole for three months Doyle continued: "Forced emigra-



● MICHAEL WOODS

tion will be the order of the day for students who complete their formal education at 18. The denial of any social welfare assistance for three months after leaving school, in a state where there are over 300,000 unemployed is incredible. That the work isn't there for students when they leave school seems to be lost on both Fianna Fáil and Labour who are only interested in producing statistics to show that the numbers on the live register are 'falling'. It is time for the government to implement a real plan of action to tackle the ever-spiralling unemployment crisis instead of punishing those already suffering from government ineptitude."





# An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

18 MARCH 1993

## ■ Albert's paddywhackery

Has anyone seen Albert Reynolds lately? Since this Fianna Fáil/Labour Partnership Government took office its leader has been as quiet as a mouse as unemployment skyrockets and the economy goes down the tubes. This week he led a gaggle of ministers out of the country for the annual excursion to the furthest corners of the globe for St Patrick's Day.

In the United States, as usual, the begging bowl replaced the shamrock as a national symbol. Albert went on the by now ritual cap-in-hand tour of the States looking for multinationals to set up business in the 26 Counties. He recklessly promised that 2,000 jobs would result from his efforts.

After the debacle at Digital which typified the abysmal record of dependance on multinationals for job creation Reynolds' performance is pathetic. He would have us travel down the same road which has resulted in disastrous economic consequences. His announcement of 2,000 jobs was based on nothing but vague promises. If this government is serious about solving unemployment they should end these ridiculous publicity gestures and replace them with coherent democratic policies which would create Irish jobs based on Irish resources.

So far Reynolds has displayed all the foolishness and none of the humour of the stage Irishman.

## ■ A voice of reason

Veteran parliamentarian Tony Benn has long been a progressive voice within the ranks of the British Labour Party.

Benn's proposal this week that the United Nations should send an observer to the Six Counties to report on the situation and make recommendations to the Security Council for the future is a welcome contribution. Such a development would be acceptable to republicans if it would help focus international attention on the Six Counties and the need for a negotiated British withdrawal. His support for a subsequent UN peace-keeping force to "make possible the termination of the British jurisdiction" in the Six Counties, is not as well thought out. The addition of more troops will not make a British withdrawal any easier. Sending in troops to 'keep the peace' is a strategy which has always failed in Ireland.

Benn specifically rejected suggestions that a British withdrawal would lead to a "bloodbath" situation, attributing such prophecies to "the old divide and rule fear".

His arguments for inclusive dialogue and the need for a political solution are constructive as is his hope for a positive contribution to the situation by Bill Clinton. It is always refreshing to hear a British politician who recognises the reality of the situation in the Six Counties.

## Sinn Féin £1,000 Draw

PRIVATE MEMBERS

Comhairle na Sé Chontae and Comhairle na 26 Chontae of Sinn Féin have jointly launched a fundraising draw to offset election debts and expenses. Tickets for the draw cost £2 and each Sinn Féin cumann retains £1 per ticket sold. Prizes for the draw include a first prize of £1,000. The draw will take place in Sinn Féin Head Office on 24 April.

For further details phone Dublin 726100 or Belfast 241429.

## News

CONFERENCE SETS AGENDA FOR MAY ELECTION

## British political project "in tatters"

SINN FÉIN's internal conference called by the party's Comhairle na Sé Contae saw over 120 party activists gather in Belfast on Saturday 13 March to set the political agenda for the forthcoming local government elections. Key addresses were given by the party's president and chairperson, Gerry Adams and Tom Hartley, with most of the conference's work being done in workshops.

Stating that the British strategy was to pull the SDLP, the unionists and the 26-County government into a coalition with themselves to defeat republicanism has failed, Hartley went on to say that the SDLP has surrendered to the British agenda. He also said that Articles Two and Three of the 1937 Constitution were now at the centre of that agenda with the Dublin government caving in to the British on the issue.

"The Dublin government would accept a devolved administration", said Hartley, indicating how far they would go to comply with the British government in furthering their aim to defeat republicanism. Focussing his attention on the impact the Republican Movement has had in the past 25 years of struggle, Hartley pointed to the many victories which the Republican Movement has

achieved. "We have had victories in the gaols, over culture and our party has challenged discrimination and bigotry in the courts and there are plenty more victories", he said. "However, the British are trying to psyche us out. We must keep our nerve. Everywhere the British tell us we can win, but their project is in tatters, so they must use censorship and murder to put us down. But we keep on going. Our agenda is an Irish agenda and we will strive to see its achievement."

Party president, Gerry Adams, closing the conference reemphasised, in his keynote address, that



● Sinn Féin candidates Francie Mackey and Marie Moore on the platform with Gerry Adams



despite all its resources the British government has failed in its project in Ireland and he paid tribute to Sinn Féin's councillors for the work they have done in confronting British rule.

Adams went on to condemn the recent flurry of statements from London and Dublin "directed at reassuring unionists".

"The pretense that these statements are a progressive policy hides the absence of a clear strategy by Dublin to move the British in a meaningful way towards settling the conflict.

"In fact such rhetoric only encourages unionist intransigence.

"Unionist demands are unreasonable and impractical. They are also totally undemocratic. Britain will depart from Ireland when it



● Councillor Michael Ferguson addresses Saturday's conference

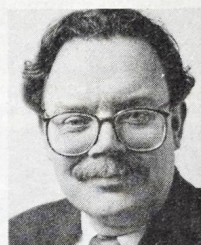
becomes politically expedient for it to do so. The unionist leadership is right about that and they should

come to terms with that reality."

This point was particularly pertinent given Patrick Mayhew's recent remarks that the "British government would facilitate, with legislation, any desire favouring a United Ireland, by a majority in the Six Counties".

Adams challenged Dick Spring to invite the London government, "to examine, in discussion with all interested parties, the steps that would be needed to get northern majority consent for Irish reunification. Unionist consent on the shape of a new Ireland is clearly desirable, but this cannot entail a veto over our future."

Adams then called for a "new initiative", saying that the British must join the



● TOM HARTLEY

"ranks of the persuaders", as there was "little active support internationally for British involvement in Ireland".

Returning to the British and unionist challenge to Articles Two and Three the party president said that, "Sinn Féin has put the British Government of Ireland Act on the Irish political agenda and it is not

good enough for Dublin to raise this issue merely as a defensive publicity response to the campaign against Articles Two and Three."

Commending the work of Sinn Féin's many councillors in local government Adams said, "the party can face confidently into the up-coming elections on the basis of the hard work and the real representation it has given".

Focusing in on the, "common interest", that exists between SDLP supporters and Sinn Féin, Adams said that "it is fair to say that the majority of SDLP supporters would share our position on many issues, not least the need for a real and inclusive peace process.

"We need to distinguish between their feelings and the more extreme anti-republican rhetoric of some of their representatives who are often out of step with popular nationalist feeling on many issues.

"However, our party has a very specific role in the vanguard of struggle as a republican party. For this reason we need to face the May election and the challenge which it presents us in a positive way, mindful of our own strength and of the power of our struggle.

"We need to keep our eye on the big picture and be mindful of the weaknesses of the British position. The overall nationalist and democratic position has an integrity which the British one lacks."

## Racist PTA renewed

ONE OF THE MOST draconian pieces of legislation, the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) was renewed by the British House of Commons last week amidst a continuing acrimonious row between the British Conservative and Labour parties. The vote was carried 329 to 202, with the Liberal Democrats supporting the government and Labour voting against.

Although a Labour government introduced the Act in 1974, the party has opposed its renewal since 1983, on the grounds that the act constitutes a breach in civil liberties. Moves by the British Labour Party to tone down its opposition to the Act were dismissed out of hand by the government last week, who used the opportunity of the act's renewal to announce the introduction of yet more measures.

In line with a report into the PTA by the British government's own adviser Viscount Colville, the British Labour Party focused its opposition on two mea-

sures within the act, seven-day detention and exclusion orders. Britain has already been found guilty of violating human rights through the PTA by the European Court of Human Rights.

Anti-Irish rather than anti-terrorist, the real impetus behind the PTA lies in the wholesale harassment and intimidation of Irish people living in Britain. Since the introduction of the act almost 20 years ago, millions of people, the overwhelming majority being Irish, have been arbitrarily detained, arrested, held and at times deported under the PTA.

The British Home Office stopped publishing figures in 1986 but the government's own advisor Lord Colville has estimated that a million people a year are stopped and questioned under the PTA. Over the last 19 years 7,192 people have been arrested in Britain under the PTA. Of these only six have been convicted of crimes with sentences of more than five years. Four out of the six convicted were members of the Maguire family who were wrongly convicted.

In a recent study into the operation of the PTA a senior lecturer in Social Policy at Bristol University, Paddy Hillyard described the legislation as assuming "guilty until proven innocent". In a sample survey of individuals who had been detained under the PTA, Hillyard interviewed 115 people whose "only crime, it seems was being Irish", he concluded.

The British Labour Party have announced a major review into the PTA and the Emergency Provisions Act to be carried out by a research unit based at London University.

## Maura McCrory Appeal

An appeal has been launched to cover the substantial costs awarded against Maura McCrory in the Hendron election case. Despite finding the SDLP guilty on 69 counts of illegal practices, the judges made a special ruling making Maura McCrory liable for the costs of the petition. This was clearly designed to penalise her and to discourage any future court action against establishment favoured candidates guilty of electoral malpractice. She is now in desperate need of funds to meet the costs of this case. Any donations, large or small, can be sent to the Appeal Fund, Box No 57, Conway Mill, Conway Street, Belfast.

Easter Lilies should be ordered now from:  
Coiste Cuimhneacháin na Poblachta  
44 Parnell Square  
Dublin 1.  
Phone 726932/726100



1916  
Easter  
1993



Requests for speakers for republican Easter 1916 Commemorations must reach the Secretary of Coiste Cuimhneacháin na Poblachta not later than Friday, 19 March. Details of commemorations should also be sent to the above committee and to AP/RN, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 for listing in the paper.

Easter Sunday falls on 11 April this year.



This week an Irish priest writes for AP/RN from the front line in the Central American state of Guatemala. Ruled by a right-wing military regime the people have undergone savage persecution. Seventy-five per cent of the people live below the poverty line and in the last 24 years there have been 100,000 unexplained murders, assumed to be the work of government death squads. During the guerilla war of 1981 to 1983 the regime displaced a million people in this country of eight million. Many were forced to flee to Mexico, most ended up in military supervised villages but in the north of the country 25,000 people are holding out. They call themselves Communities of Population in Resistance and live a life on the run, men, women and children, young and old, surviving in the forests, at all times ready to pack up and go as the army attempts to destroy them. Their story is one of courage and endurance in the face of overwhelming odds.

At 7am on Monday, 21 December, Andrés Claudio, a Mam Indian, left his community in the Ixcán jungle of Guatemala. As local courier for his village, Pueblo Nuevo 1, his task is to deliver mail several times a week to the other villages and to the Ixcán Resistance Committee. At a pre-arranged time and place a couple of hours later he would rendezvous with other couriers and exchange letters, packages and news updates on his area. This highly efficient and rapid communications network is one of the key factors in the ability of the unarmed civilian population of the Ixcán to survive and outwit continuous army attacks on their communities.

The Communities of Population in Resistance (CPRs) were created by the survivors of the Guatemalan army's scorched-earth campaign of the early 1980s when 440 Indian villages were razed to the ground and their occupants massacred. Reluctant to leave their homeland and unwilling to live in army controlled 'Model Villages', they chose to flee into the jungles and highlands of Guatemala. With the army in hot pursuit they regrouped, formed small, highly mobile communities, elected their own local authorities and organised their resistance.

Their methods of resistance are highly original and take many forms. Land to plant corn and beans is communal, the work collective. Lookouts are posted while the men work the fields. Young children, happy to get the day off school, watch the pathways into the villages. The women and old folk grow veg-

etables close to home, ready to grab the children and chickens and flee into the bush at the first sign of the army's approach. The dogs had to be put down as their barking could have alerted army patrols to the presence of a nearby community. Roosters suffered the indignity of losing their crow, by the simple expedient of passing a wire through their vocal cords and tying it round their necks.

'Home' is a rustic shack with a mud floor and roof of palm or bits of old rusty corrugated iron. Where necessary, grass and plants are sown on the roof as camouflage. Within a few minutes prized possessions, such as a handmill for grinding corn, a cooking pot, water jar and nylon can be thrown into a sack for quick flight. Every home has an air-raid shelter dug in the floor, covered with removable logs. Back-up food supplies are hidden in the surrounding jungle.

To detect infiltration by sol-

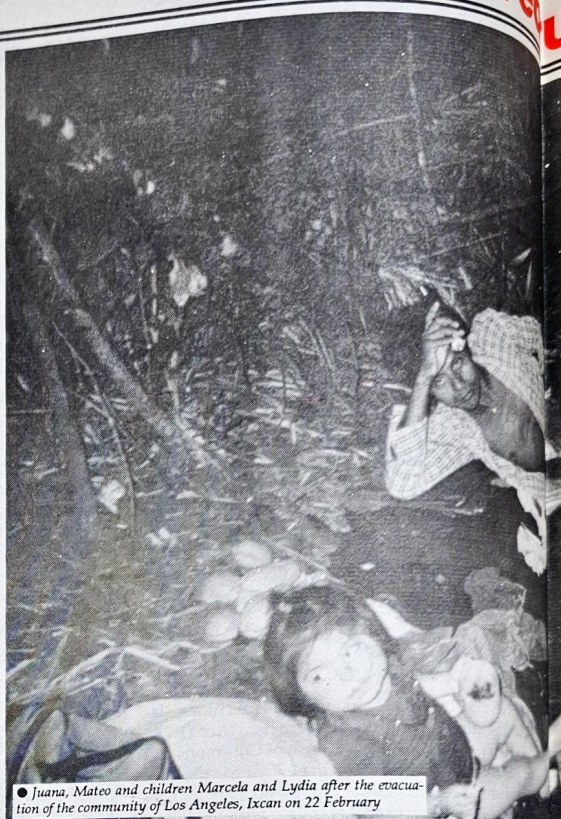
diers in civvies, the people sew a small patch of coloured cloth on their clothes. If someone falls into the hands of the army, the colour is immediately changed. Chopping firewood with an axe is forbidden — the sound reverberates through the jungle. Fires can only be lit at night as smoke inevitably attracts prowling helicopters and a barrage of artillery fire. Bright clothes cannot be dried in the sun for the same reason. Each village has its school, church, clinic and community centre. In an emergency a normal village of 300 to 400 people can be evacuated in about ten minutes.

Repeated army onslaughts on the Ixcán communities, some involving 3,000 soldiers backed by air and artillery support, have failed to dislocate the CPRs or daunt their spirit. On 29 November 1992 the army located and destroyed the villages of Cuarto Pueblo 1 and Cuarto Pueblo 2. On 1 December they destroyed the village of Los Angeles. However they failed to capture, wound or kill any of the population, though material losses — homes, domestic animals, tools, cooking utensils, church, school and medical equipment — was extensive.

Attacked militarily, the CPRs respond politically, both on a national and international level. Their political acumen, developed over ten long years of struggle, is proving to be the most potent weapon in their resistance campaign. Within 24 hours of the army's destruction of their villages in November and December a full report with photos and tapes was on the desks of Amnesty International in Europe, America's Watch in Washington and other human rights and church groups in Guatemala and around the globe. On 9 December the Latin American Service of Radio Netherlands broadcast to Europe and the Americas a full report on the army's atrocities. On 29 December a special commission of national and international personalities flew into the Ixcán by helicopter despite any opposition to document the events of the previous weeks.



● Guatemalan army destruction of dwellings



● Juana, Mateo and children Marcela and Lydia after the evacuation of the community of Los Angeles, Ixcán on 22 February

# Jungle

## — from the front

The communities have carried their campaign to the United Nations in Geneva and to the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington, and have even managed to set up their own office in Guatemala City!

Rapid and efficient communication between the communities, on a national and international level, plays a key role in this campaign. At the grass-roots level lies the all important courier service, and people like Andrés Claudio.

When he left his village that December morning, he was carrying two messages, sealed in plastic bags to protect

against the humidity. Both were addressed to the Ixcán Committee. One was a list of names, the other a list of names.



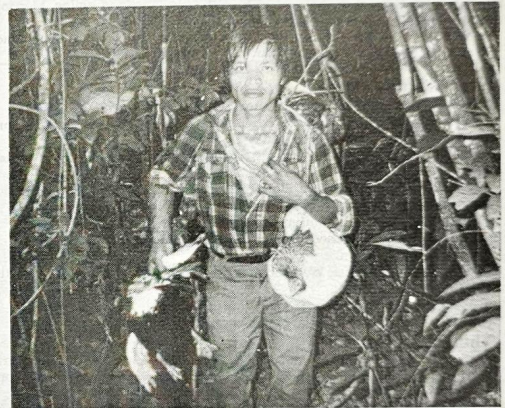
● Surveying the aftermath of destruction of homes



ature



● (above) Smiling health worker in local clinic of Pueblo Nuevo, Ixcán, 14 February. (below) Sebastain saves his ducks and chickens during evacuation of Los Angeles community



# e Post

## line in Guatemala

quest for blan-  
d some sweets  
for the children for Christmas.  
The other carried an update on



November 1992

On 23 December, the Guatemalan army issued a communiqué, stating that on 22 December, in a gunbattle with guerrillas they had liquidated one guerrilla dressed in civilian clothes and carrying an AK assault rifle.

Towards the end of January 1993 a trader who had been selling supplies in the army barracks of Playa Grande mentioned to some friends that during his visit to the barracks he had seen a civilian, about 50 years old, who was recovering from a leg wound. The description answered to that of Andrés Claudio. When he asked a soldier about the civilian, the soldier replied: "Oh, him. He's from the Communities in Resistance. We captured him near Cuarto Pueblo last December." Word filtered back to the Ixcán communities and a campaign is now under way for the release of Andrés and for an investigation into the army's ambush of a civilian and their ongoing harassment of the civilian population of the Ixcán.

On 8 February 1993 the Guatemalan army launched a new offensive against the CPRs. Heavily armed patrols of 150 soldiers each set out from the barracks of Playa Grande, Cari, Monaco, Mayalán, Xalbal, Cuarto Pueblo and Pueblo Nuevo and converged on the communities. The patrols were backed up by air support from helicopters and artillery fire. On 17 February the patrol which crossed the Xalbal River ran into the forces of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG) which operate in the area and heavy combat ensued. Patrols converging on the village of Cuarto Pueblo 1 forced the occupants, some 260 people in all, to head for the Mexican border during

the night, with the army in hot pursuit.

On 18 February, a Pilgrimage, organised by Guatemalan and international church, union, student, NGO's and popular organisations penetrated the ten-year army blockade of the Ixcán and arrived on foot in the Communities in Resistance. Present in the pilgrimage were two Guatemalan bishops, Bishop Julio Cabrera of the Diocese of El Quiché and Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini of San Marcos. Altogether, 250 people were in the pilgrimage. On 20 February, three army patrols converged on the now abandoned village of Cuarto Pueblo 1.

On 21 February, the patrols continue their advance and occupy the old site of Cuarto Pueblo 1 which they had earlier destroyed on 29 November, 1992. They are attacked by the forces of the URNG at daybreak and heavy combat continues till nightfall. The patrols retreat to the local football field — about 20 minutes away. Meanwhile, the pilgrimage leaves Pueblo Nuevo

1 to return to Guatemala City. At a meeting that night in the CPR community of Mayalán they decide to leave behind a verification committee of ten people — all volunteers, as witnesses to the army's treatment of a civilian, unarmed, mostly Indian population of poor farmers. Bishop Ramazzini is one of the volunteers, along with other religious personnel. On 22 February, the community of Los Angeles, 448 men, women and children flee across the border into Mexico, as they are directly in the path of the army's advance. The verification committee returns to Pueblo Nuevo 2. That same night, at 9.20pm, two helicopters overfly the area, strafing with machine-gun and rocket fire. Bishop Ramazzini and the other members of the committee renew their hike through the jungle on 23 February and finally locate the displaced community of Cuarto Pueblo 1. Intense air activity continues late that night, even the cooking fires have to be doused. Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday.



## News

PROGRAMME FOR  
CENTRAL AMERICAN WEEK

Contacts: Morina O'Neill - Dublin 780321/Paddy Kelly - Belfast 230220

DUBLIN — CORK — WATERFORD — GALWAY —  
PORTLAOISE — MAYO — BELFAST — DERRY

## Saturday 20 March

DUBLIN: Launch of Central America Week at the Solidarity Information Day, 12-6pm, Connolly Hall Essex St, Temple Bar, music, books, coffee, stalls and crafts (Cuba Solidarity Campaign, Anne Lowen, Tel 540344)

MAYO: "Learning From our Past, Learning From Abroad." Conference hosted by the Centre for Research and Documentation. Speakers will include Ray Hooker, Nicaragua and Margarita Murrillo, Honduras. National School, Westport. (Conference runs 19/20 March, contact CRD, Belfast 626678)

## Sunday 21 March

DUBLIN: El Salvador Awareness Open Day, Romero Room, 101 Harold's Cross Road, entrance through St Clare's Primary School gates (no 63) (Sr Peter 971516)

## Monday 22 March

CORK: Table Quiz and Samba Band Nemo Ranger's GAA club, South Douglas Road 8pm. (Comhlámh, Eilish Dillon Cork 275881)

DERRY: "View of a Better Future" Photographic exhibition by Jenny Matthews, plus Tradecraft Sale, Magee College.

BELFAST: "Vision of a Better Future" Nicaraguan Health Fund exhibition, Belfast City Hospital. Runs till March 27

BELFAST: Fair Trade Exhibition. War on Want, Botanic Avenue.

## Tuesday 23 March

DUBLIN: El Salvador Awareness Evening, Romero Room, 101 Harold's Cross Road 7.30pm. Also Laineail Esperanza — Leagan Gaeilge de pacaiste oideachas forbartha le hArd ar El Salvador, ag Bord na Gaeilge, Merriem Square, Dublin 2 (El Salvador Awareness, Sr Peter, 971516)

WATERFORD: Margarita Murrillo Public meeting (for information, contact Mary Mollaghan World Development Centre, Waterford 73064)

DERRY: "View of a Better Future" As above. Richmond Centre

## Wednesday 24 March

CORK: Romero Mass, St Francis Church, 7.30pm. (Comhlámh 021 275881)

DUBLIN: Guatemala Slide Show, Teacher's Club, Parnell Square, 8pm (Guatemala Information Group, Molly O'Duffy 364463)

PORTLAOISE: Salvadorean Evening (Laos Justice and Peace Group, Brendan Fingleton, 0502-27048)

WATERFORD: Margarita Murrillo Meetings with women's groups and justice and peace groups. (Mary Mollaghan, Waterford 73064)

DERRY: "View of a Better Future" As above. Central Library.

DERRY: Final of inter-school debates including grand prize giving, Central Library, 2.30pm-5.30pm.

BELFAST: Andean Music Workshop for Children, St Oliver Plunkett girls primary school, Glen Road.

BELFAST: Focus on Bolivia. Talk on indigenous people with Una Lynch recently returned from Bolivia. 224 Lisburn Road.

## Thursday 25 March

DUBLIN: "Land Rights, A Woman's Struggle" With speaker Margarita Murrillo, Honduran land rights activist. Comhlámh, 61 Lower Camden Street, 8pm. (Comhlámh, 783490).

GALWAY: "Food and Thought" Evening Slide show on Guatemala and talk by Avelino Ramirez, Guatemalan refugee representative. Teach Aoife Salthill, Galway (VSI, Mary Magrath, Galway 98121).

CORK: Ray Hooker Public Meeting, Connolly Hall, 8pm (Comhlámh Cork 021 275881).

## Friday 26 March

DUBLIN: "Club Havana" Latin American disco, Connolly Hall, Essex Street, Temple Bar 10.30 till late — no alcohol available, bring your own bottle. (Cuba Solidarity Group, Anne Lowen, 540344).

## Saturday 27 March

DUBLIN: "Our Land, Our Lives" Oxfam conference. Speakers include Margarita Murrillo, Honduras, Ray Hooker, Nicaragua and Avelino Ramirez, Guatemala, Powers Hotel, Kildare Street, 2.30pm 5.30pm (Oxfam 972195/966744).

DUBLIN: Romero Mass, Merchants Quay, 8pm (El Salvador Support Committee, Brendan Butler 8405469).

## Monday 29 March

CORK: Margarita Murrillo Public meeting, held by Comhlámh and Women's Federation, Imperial Hotel 8pm (Comhlámh 275881).

## Thursday 1 April

DUBLIN: Pub Quiz INSG, Teachers Club 8pm. Adm £12 per table.

## Friday 2 April

DUBLIN: Brazil Awareness Evening Viatore Christy, 39 Upper Gardiner Street, 8pm (Sr Peter 971516).

BELFAST: "Hole in the Wall" Theatre co-benefit function, St Agnes Hall, Andersonstown.

## Saturday 20 - Friday 26 March

BELFAST/DERRY: Visitors during Central America Week include, Ray Hooker, Nicaragua, national assembly delegate for the Atlantic Coast and worker in the autonomous movement, Carlos Choc Caal, Santos Juanpedro and Avelino Ramirez, Guatemalan Refugee Representatives.

Three Nicaraguan muralists who will be in residence at the Frontline Theatre Company, working on a Central America Week mural. For further information on their availability for meetings and talks, please contact Paddy Kelly — on Belfast 230220.

ALL EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

## Defending Irish Women

THE IRISH WOMEN'S DEFENCE CAMPAIGN (IWDC) in London staged a successful public meeting and exhibition on Thursday, 11 March, at the Roger Casement Centre, Islington. The meeting was called to highlight the impact of the war in Ireland on women's lives and to hear first hand experiences from Irish women in this country and in Ireland.

The meeting was chaired by Angie Birtill (IWDC) and speakers included Kate McGee, Eilish McAnespie McCabe and Patricia Campbell.

Describing her recent arrest and detention under the PTA, Kate McGee talked of the 'horror' of being separated from her child and of being held incommunicado

for 16 days. She was strip-searched continually, even following a visit from an Irish Embassy representative, Pat O'Sullivan.

The harassment and suffering of women in Ireland was detailed by Eilish McAnespie McCabe, whose brother Aiden was shot dead by the British army in 1988. "In addition to suffering the loss of our loved ones, women in Ireland are frequently sexually assaulted by the state forces", she said.

Patricia Campbell, IWDC, gave the meeting an update on the situation in Maghaberry Jail and read out a solidarity message for the 21 women prisoners who were subject to a mass strip-search in March 1992. She also complained at the "indifference and contempt" shown by government ministers in response to this "flagrant abuse of human rights".

A picket against strip-searching was held by the group on Friday 12 March at Downing Street, during which a letter of protest to John Major was handed in.



● Anti-strip-search picket, Downing Street, London, 12 March

Hugh Bradley —  
an Appreciation

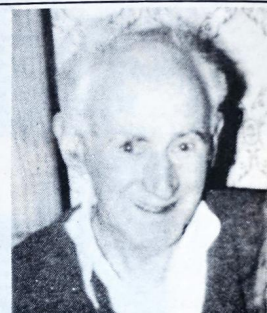
THE DEATH occurred on the 3 March of Hugh Bradley of Aghagaskin, Magherafelt at the age of 80. Born on 12 December 1913, he lived his entire life in the townland of Aghagaskin.

A lifelong republican his home was first raided on Easter Sunday 1960 by the B Specials. This was the first of many raids the Bradley family were to suffer over the next 33 years. In fact it became a way of life for a young family growing up, because Hugh was to marry Mary, his wife of over 40 years and have 12 children all of whom at some stage have experienced crown forces harassment. One son, Séamus, is currently serving a life

sentence for his political beliefs.

Following the assassination of Máire Drumm in 1976, Hugh along with a number of local republicans decided to form a Sinn Féin Cumann in Magherafelt in her memory. As testimony to work they undertook the cumann is still in existence. Hugh was always there to guide new and younger members.

As the priest officiating at his funeral said, "Hugh was never



● HUGH BRADLEY

afraid to show his colours or speak his mind". Surely a fitting tribute to a true republican.

To his wife Mary, brother and sister, six sons and six daughters and very large family circle the Republican Movement in County Derry extend their heartfelt sympathy.

Simon Donovan  
Obituary

THE DEATH took place recently of veteran republican Simon Donovan of Cobh, County Cork.

Born in 1911 he was the last surviving of the five republicans who were arrested from Cobh and interned in the Curragh in 1940.

After joining Fianna Éireann in the 1920s he progressed to the ranks of Oglagh na hÉireann in the 1930s and operated under Tom Barry's Cork No 1 Brigade, which was very active in the Cork area during the mid 1930s.

Following his release from the Curragh in the '40s, Simon settled down and married, playing a

more modest role in the movement. He put most of his energy into the local GAA club, of which he was chairperson for a period.

Simon remained firm in his republican convictions and maintained contact with republicans throughout the remainder of his life.

From his sick bed last November, Simon made his way to the polling station to cast his vote for Sinn Féin on election day. As he said, it would be the last gesture of defiance he would make in Ire-

land's long freedom struggle.

Simon is survived by his wife, four daughters and six sons, and in accordance with the family's wishes there was no formal republican presence. Wreaths were placed on behalf of the Republican Movement and Sinn Féin at the graveside. As Simon's coffin was lowered into the ground one final gesture was made by one of his sons who took an Easter lily from his coat lapel and placed it on one of the wreaths, a clear indication to all present that the flame of freedom still burns on in the Donovan family.

The funeral of Simon Donovan took place on Sunday, 7 March after 10.30 mass at St Colman's Church to St Colman's Cemetery. Deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, family and friends. I measc laochra na nGael go raib a anam dílis.



## A bitter year

■ BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

THE PARNELL SPLIT was one of the bitterest episodes in the history of Irish nationalism. Even today it can provoke controversy and the issues it raised still have echoes in Irish politics.

This book chronicles the split from the divorce court in November 1990 to the aftermath of Parnell's death in October 1891. The author Frank Callanan relies mainly on reports of speeches by the main players in the drama during that year of internecine strife in Ireland. In doing so he gives a new insight into the character of Parnell and of his main opponent, Timothy Healy.

In many ways Parnell fell victim to the political strategy which he himself had devised. It was not directly the 'scandal' of the divorce of Catherine O'Shea which brought him down. It is clear that many of his own party at Westminster and, for that matter, everyone else in the 'Mother of Parliaments', knew of his life with Catherine O'Shea who had long

been effectively estranged from Captain O'Shea MP. Parnell's sin was that he broke the 11th Commandment — he got caught. The Liberal non-conformist conscience, that hypocritical English morality that presented the creation of the biggest and bloodiest empire in the world as a moral crusade, rose up in mock outrage at Parnell's adultery.

The Irish Parliamentary Party at first supported Parnell as leader, even though many thought he should step down and perhaps return when the scandal had blown over. But when the Liberal leader William Gladstone made clear that he would not accept Parnell as the leader of the Irish party it was a different story. Seeing that the alliance with the Liberals, on which they had

pinned all their hopes of Home Rule, was under threat, the majority of the nationalist MPs turned against Parnell. The party he had created ended up destroying him.

Parnell refused to accept defeat and fought tooth and nail to win back the leadership. On his side he had the workers in the big towns, especially Dublin, and the smaller tenant farmers and farm labourers in many parts of the country. But the forces against him were more powerful — the Catholic middle class, the bigger farmers and the Catholic hierarchy and nearly all their clergy. Only one national newspaper, *The Freeman's Journal*, supported him and even this deserted him in the end. Throughout his career Parnell had cleverly balanced these forces and rallied them behind him, including even radical republicans.

He tried to do the same again during the split and successfully appealed to the sympathies of workers and Fenians. He hinted that he would support physical force methods if parliamentarianism didn't work and advocated improvements in working conditions,

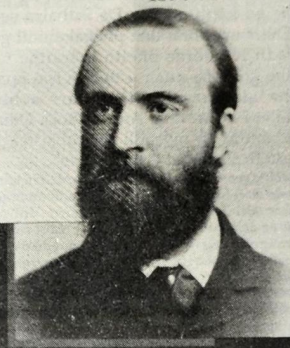
which he previously showed little interest in or opposed. As much because of the reactionary nature of the forces against him, as because of personal loyalty to him as a principled leader, he did win the support of Fenians and workers. But he was unable to galvanise a coherent political movement before his three by-election defeats and his untimely death.

What is most interesting in this book is the light it throws on Timothy Healy. This poisonous little man literally hounded Parnell to the grave. He described Catherine O'Shea as a "proved British prostitute" and brought character assassination to a new peak. On most of his platforms he was joined by several Catholic priests and even bishops. How appropriate then that it was this man who should be chosen to be the first governor general of the Irish Free State in 1922. The alliance of big farmers, city merchants, gombeen men and bishops who brought down Parnell had rediscovered their figurehead.

● *The Parnell Split* by Frank Callanan. Published by Cork University Press. Price £35 (hardback), £15.95 (paperback)

## PARNELL THE SPLIT

1890-91



Frank Callanan

## A good week for the GAA

■ BY BREANDAN Mac RUAIRI

THE DECISION by An Bord Pleanála to give the green light to the GAA's plans for developing Croke Park is to be welcomed. The initiative is truly exciting and one hopes it can proceed without further hitches.

Once more the association has shown itself to be light years ahead of the Dublin government and other sporting organisations in providing for the needs of its patrons and indeed for the entertainment and pleasure of the entire nation. A "state of the art" stadium, that every Irish person can take pride in, is now firmly on the horizon, while the extra employment which is also envisaged as a consequence is no harm either.

The only blot on affairs is the negative reaction of some people living in the proximity. Consultation with the community regarding any respect of local planning and development is not only an imperative but also a healthy exercise in democracy.

However community politics is open to the same prejudices, axe-grinding, intrigue and grudge-bearing as the broader political environment. The public utterances of the objectors betray all these characteristics.

We have been told the revised skyline will be a "monstrosity". I would have thought it would be a considerable improvement on the somewhat unsightly status quo. It has also been suggested that an increased capacity of 80,000 will create excessive inconvenience. Yet crowds of over 90,000 were commonplace in the '60s when the welcome and hospitality bestowed on guests from every corner of Ireland by the north-side Dublin community over the generations became legend.

An Bord Pleanála is not renowned for progressive or imaginative decisions but the verdict on Croke Park is certainly in that category.

The good times for the GAA on the field of play also are set to roll on after the concluding games in the league section of the National Football League (if that makes sense to the unacquainted). Sunday's activities threw up four potentially spectacular quarterfinal contests on Easter Sunday.

While each game will have its own unique attraction, the re-run of last season's provincial finals in Leinster and Ulster in particular set the adrenaline flowing.

Since taking over, Pat O'Neill has done a fine job in putting Dublin's fortunes on an upward curve after the confusion and demoralisation surrounding the final days of his predecessor. Luckless Limerick were the latest casualties of the Dublin fightback.

Some new blood has been introduced with good effect but a combination that can bring the team from the capital back to the heights of the seventies still seems some distance away.

Kildare will seldom have a better opportunity to put one over on their neighbours. They looked stylish and impressive when putting Leitrim out of contention in a testing fixture before a bumper crowd at Carrick-on-Shannon. Mick O'Dwyer has compiled a panel, which on paper is surely one of the country's finest. Yet should

they fail to the Dubs this time, self-doubt might well neutralise them for the foreseeable future.

The clash of the All-Ireland and the League champions will have the faithful flocking from all over the northern province and beyond. The few fleeting television pictures we saw from Derry's win in Drogheda indicate that the Oak-leaf county are very much on song and playing with the same power and precision that won them so many admirers last year.

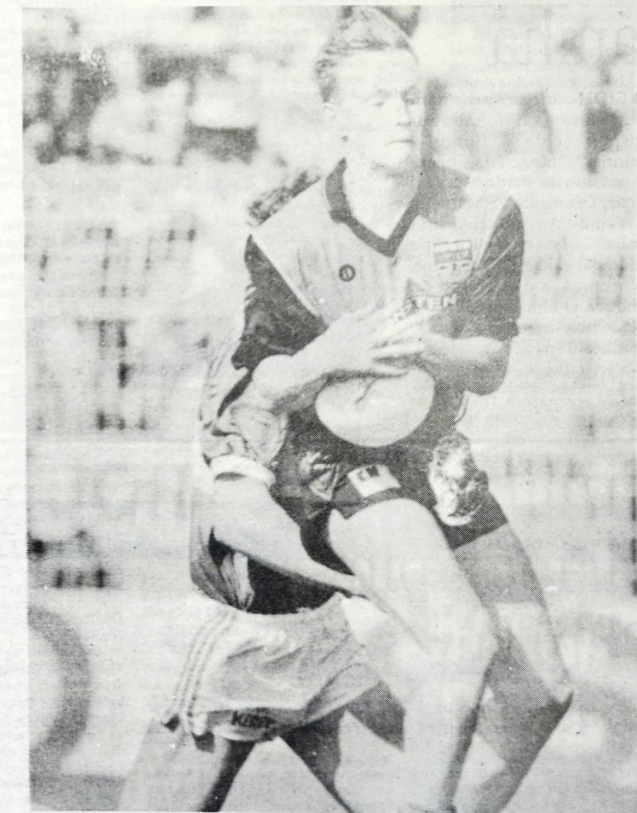
However Donegal's consistency and apparently insatiable appetite for success since taking Sam Maguire north makes them hard to oppose. It's truly a brave person who would bet against them these days.

Clare and Mayo make up the third quarterfinal. Jack O'Shea will be disappointed that his charges failed at home against Armagh and the result must raise doubts about the extent of Mayo's progress. The Banner county's sparkling league form is emphatic and convincing proof that their breakthrough is no flash in the pan. A league semifinal place is well within their capabilities. Clare will improve with every big game experience. Pretenders to their Munster throne should take note!

The shape of the fourth quarterfinal is yet to be resolved. Meath and Down must play off for the right to meet Kerry. Either combination will represent a clash of traditional football giants.

Down are striving almost frantically to recapture the form of '91, and one feels that despite their topsy-turvy winter campaign Down are the most likely team to emerge from the trio.

RTE coverage of this, one of



● John Kelly of Down who are frantically seeking to recover the form of 1991

the finest league tournaments for a long time, has been fairly lamentable. One hopes the station gets its act together for

Easter Sunday when a feast of Gaelic sport beckons.

Deadlines forbid a look at St Patrick's Day's engaging Croke

Park programme of club finals, now a very special day in the GAA calendar. We shall return to the subject again.



# Nuacht

## Daoine i mbaol a mbáis

**T**A DAOINE a chónaíonn i ngar do bheairic CRU ag Ard an Róis i nDoire ar buile faoi thitim claí cosanta ag an bheairic go luath maidin Dé Sathairn seo caite. Dúirt urlabhraí den phobal áitiúil go dtiocfadh le daoine bheith maraithé nó gortaithe go dona nuair a thit an claí nua-thógtha síos ar mhullach carr a bhí pairceáilte i nGarraithe Ard an Róis. Dúirt an t-urlabhraí go mbeadh sé "tubaisteach dá dtarlódh a leithéid le linn an lae".

Rinne daoine gearán leis an CRU faoi dtaobh den titim agus rinne siad iarracht oibriú a stopadh a bhí ag atógáil an chlaí tráthnóia Dé Sathairn. Bhí na hoibrithe ag deisiú an chlaí díreach mar a bhí sé roimh an titim agus bhagair siad ar dhaoine áitiúla go scaoilfí iad mura mbogfaidís. Sa deireadh mar gheall ar dhíúltú na ndaoine ligint don obair dul ar aghaidh mar a bhí sé, shocraigh an CRU an claí a bhogadh.

Cheana féin tá muintir an cheantair ag eagrú iarratais le cur faoi bhráid Chomhairle Dhoire ag cur in aghaidh thús faire ollmhór a tógadh ag an bheairic cheána.

Ag caint i ndiaidh titim an chlaí Dé Sathairn, chuir Comhairleoir Shinn Féin Mícheál McLaughlin i leith an CRU agus rialtas na Breataine go raibh polasaí acu chun daoine a úsáid mar "sciath cosanta daonnachtúil" lena mbaill féin a chosaint.

Dúirt McLaughlin go raibh sé chun an cheist a thógáil ag an chéad chruinniú eile den chomhairle. Arsa sé:

"Tá polasaí cinnteach ag lucht straitéise na Breataine chun bunáiteanna an CRU agus arm na Breataine a shuíomh in aice le títhe, scoileanna agus áiteanna eile a bhfuil cuid mhór sibhialtach ann.

"Tá rún acu an pobal sibhialtach a úsáid mar sciath cosanta daonnachtúil chun iad féin a chosaint ó ionsaithe."

Dúirt McLaughlin nach raibh an polasaí seo i bhfeidhm i nDoire amháin agus luaigh sé Bunscoil Chloghogue a cuireadh d'íochall air druidim anuraidh nuair a tógadh bunáit nua i ngar dó. Dúirt sé gur chóir cuntas a dhéanamh ar an mhéid bunáiteanna ar fud na Sé Chontae atá suite in aice le líon mhór sibhialtach.

Ghlaoigh McLaughlin ar Chomhairle Dhoire foram pobail a thionscnamh chun an cheist seo a scrúdú agus gur chóir cuireadh a thabhairt do ghrúpaí chearta daonna ar nós Helsinki Watch freastal air chun labhairt le daoine a chónaíonn in aice leis na bunáiteanna seo.

Mhol sé muintir Ard an Róis as seasamh s'acus an ag rá: "Tá comhghairdeas tuille ag muintir Ard an Róis mar gheall ar a seasamh ar an cheist seo agus faoi choinne a n-íarracht agus a bhfuinneamh i mbrú chun tosaigh a n-ádhúil agus a n-íarratas. Tá siad ag tabhairt ceannaireachta do dhaoine eile ar fud na Sé Chontae atá sa tsuíomh cheána.

bríomhar Phríonsabail Mhic Ghiolla Bríde i Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá agus an troid in aghaidh idirdheallaithe sna Sé Chontae.

Dúirt Rúnaí Cothromais, Oilibhéar O Cearnaigh, "gur mór an onóir dúinn an scannán seo a léiriú. Craolfar ar Cháineal 4 níos maíle sa bhliain é agus is damnu ceart é de pholasaíthe rialtas na Breataine a chruthaigh agus a spreag biogóideacht agus idirdhealú."

I ndiaidh léiriú an scannáin 50 nóiméad, labharfaidh aoidhainteoirí ó Chomhghráil Náisiúnta na hÉireann (CNE) leis an chruinniú, ina measc Robert Ballagh, cathaoirleach an CNE, agus an troid chearta daonna, Bernadette McAliskey. Tá siad chun *Children of the Nation* — tuairisc ar chruinniú náisiúnta an CNE i nDroichead Tuaim i Mí na Nollag seo caite — a sheoladh ag an cruinniú.

"Beidh Robert Ballagh agus Bernadette McAliskey ag baint úsáide

as an imeacht le hiarratas náisiúntach a lainséil i gcosaint Airteagail a Dó agus a Trí," arsa O Cearnaigh.

Lean sé leis:

"Amharcaimid ar an teacht le chéile seo de roinnt feachtais ar ardán amháin mar pháirt de phróiseas chun meánna náisiúntach a neartú in aghaidh ionsaithe de chuid scaideanna báis dhílseacha agus ionsaithe polaitiúla in aghaidh Airteagail a Dó agus a Trí. Taispeánaimid ár gcumas le troid in aghaidh, agus leoga brú siar, na bhíosaí éagsúla atá in aghaidh an

chomhphobail náisiúntaigh sa Tuaisceart."

Le linn imeachtaí na hoíche beidh múrphictiúr úr a rinne baill óga de Chothromais i mBéal Feirste á léiriú ag Robert Ballagh. Tá an múrphictiúr ollmhór agus daite ar chlaír agus beidh sé crochta suas ag Ard na bhFeá ar Bhóthar na bhFál.

Seo an chéad uair a bhain Cothromais úsáid as múrphictiúr lena teachtaireacht a chur in iúl agus mar a dúirt O Cearnaigh, "tá súil agam go soiléiríonn sé do lucht na hidirdheallaithe go bhfuil an scribhinn

## An todhchaí inár lámha

■ Le HOISIN O MURCHU

**B**EIDH oíche scannán-Baíochta, ealaíona agus díospóireachta á tionóil i Lárionad Oideachais Sheáin Mhic Ghiolla Bríde i mBéal Feirste, Déardaoin 25 Márta, ar an téama "An todhchaí inár lámha". Is é an grúpa frithidirdhealú i bhfoistaiocht, Cothromas, a d'eagraigh an tionól sa chéim is maíle ina dtroid chun deireadh a chur le hidirdhealú sna Sé Chontae.

Cuirfead tús le himeachtaí na hoíche i Halla na Saoirse leis an chéad léiriú de scannán úr fáisnéise ar gheilleagar na Sé Chontae, *Unfinished*



● OILIBHÉAR O CEARNAIGH  
*Business*. Rinne Northern Visions an scannán agus scrúdaíonn sé feachtas

## Cruinniú Cinn Bliana Roinn an Chultúir

**L**EAG Roinn an Chultúir Shinn Féin plean oibre amach don bhliain seo chugainn ag a cruinniú cinn bliana i mBéal Feirste Dé Sathairn seo caite 13 Márta.

Phléigh teachtaí foilseacháin phoblachtacha ar dtús agus gheall baill na roinne go ndéanfaid siad iarracht cur leis an leathanach Gaeilge in AP/RN. D'aontaigh na teachtaí uilig ag an chruinniú go gcaithfí leanúint leis an bhrú le húisid na teanga a spreagadh taobh istigh den pháirtí féin.

Bhí cuid de na teachtaí míshásta

nach raibh níos mó Gaeilge curtha amach ag an pháirtí ar a cuid postaeirí, bileoga agus nuachtlitracha. Dúirt Gearóid O hEara, comhairleoir Shinn Féin as Doire "go raibh sé d'iallach ar bhaill na roinne féachaint chuige go mbeadh áit cheart ag an teanga i litríocht ar bith a chuireann an páirtí amach go háirithe i dtoghcháin áitiúla na Sé Chontae i mí Bealtaine".

Chuir an roinn tús le heagrú Shlogadh bhliantúil rathúil an pháirtí agus leis an dreapadh urraithe ar son oideachais lán-Ghaeilge. Beidh an roinn ag comhoibriú arís i mbliana le Roinn na gCimí Cogaidh in eagrú rás urraithe na gCimí a thóg beagnach £2,000 anuraidh d'oideachas Gaeilge. Leanfaidh an roinn ag tabhairt cibé tacaíocht is féidir an bhliain seo leis na scoileanna Gaeilge agus feachtais áitiúla ar a son.

Bhí an-suim ag na teachtaí i gceist Theilifís na Gaeilge agus d'fháiltigh siad roimh chur chun cinn na bpleananna don stáisiún i mbliana. Dúirt Bairbre de Brún, Cathaoirleach na Roinne, "go mbeimid ag tabhairt ár dtacaíocht iomláine d'fheachtais Theilifís na Gaeilge sa bhliain atá romhainn le cinntiú go dtiocfaidh an tséiríth rithbhachtach seo ar an saoil".

**B**eidh baill na roinne páirteach agus gníomhach i mbliana in imeachtaí comórtha chéad bliain Chonradh na Gaeilge. Chomh maith le sin tá an roinn chun cuid imeachtaí a eagrú don

chomórach, ina measc taispeántas a dhéanamh ar an bhaint idir an Conradh agus an poblachtánachas.

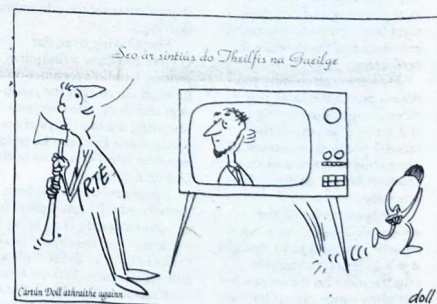
Gheall an roinn go dtroidfidh siad in aghaidh gach idirdhealú frithGhaeilge agus go leanfaidh an páirtí ag tógáil ceist chearta na Gaeilge in achan comhairle áitiúla a bhfuil ionad-aiocht acu air.

Dúirt Pádraig O Maolchraoibhe, comhairleoir Shinn Féin i gComhairle Lios na gCearrbhach, "gur chruithaigh daonáireamh na Sé Chontae i 1991 nuair a dúirt breis is 140,000 duine go raibh eolas acu ar an Ghaeilge go bhfuil an cás faoi choinne chearta na Gaeilge dóshéanta".

Toghadh Bairbre de Brún ina cathaoirleach don dara bliain agus Pádraig O Maolchraoibhe ina Leas-Chathaoirleach. Ghabh de Brún buíochas ar son na roinne le gach duine a chuidigh leo anuraidh, go háirithe na cinn poblachtacha a bhí páirteach sa rás grinn.



● Bearaíon CRU in Ard an Róis i nDoire





# Letters/News

Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist...

## "Constitutional" path?

**A Chairde,**  
In reply to Sean O Gallchobhair (AP/RN, 4 March), the record shows that any efforts at achieving Irish unity and independence by following a constitutional path have utterly failed and that the constitutionalists themselves long ago recognised this and have abandoned any further attempts at confronting British imperialism.

When one talks of constitutionalism in the Irish context one refers to British constitutionalism. Both states in Ireland were established by the British government as an alternative to a united and independent Irish republic. Both Irish states were designed to stabilise British influence and control in Ireland and this is the reality that those who seek a 32-County republic must recognise.

Fianna Fáil under Eamonn De Valera tinkered with the overt symbols of British imperialism in Ireland but never seriously threatened Britain's entrenched foothold in the Six Counties.

The retention of land annuities, the abolition of the oath, the removal of the British governor general and the adoption of a constitution were the least that could be expected from a party which attained its power of office under the republican banner. Barring an invasion of the 26 Counties there was little the British could have done to prevent such natural, progressive and democratic reforms.

The actual achievement of independence for the 26 Counties however, was brought about by a combination of armed struggle and political action. It was this strategy and not constitutionalism which forced the British to the negotiation table and convinced them to evacuate 26 Irish counties.

The tragedy, in my view, is that the formation of Fianna Fáil was not pre-empted by revolutionary republicans. There was at the time, as there is today, a clear need for an anti-imperialist people's party who would economically empower the people of the 26 Counties while also confronting the British presence in

the Six Counties. Fianna Fáil did neither but managed to gain the support of the ordinary Irish people.

When it has come to challenging British rule in the Six Counties, the efforts of Irish constitutional politicians have been few and far between and even when such efforts were made they have been completely ineffective. The efforts of the Dublin government's anti-partition committee in the 1950s achieved nothing. Publicising the injustice of partition on the world stage is an important and necessary activity, but it is a worthless exercise unless it is coupled by a direct challenge to the British presence. You can't expect others to stand up for your rights if you won't fight for those rights yourself.

Precisely because the activities of Fianna Fáil and Clann na Poblachta were confined within a constitutional framework they never posed a serious threat to British dominance of this island. Those who wish to rid this country of British interference must not confine their activities to a playing field which is controlled by the enemy. This is a recipe for disaster.

The Republican Movement is not averse to working peacefully through political channels for the achievement of national unity. This is exactly what Sinn Féin does North and South. Neither are republicans against making demands on the Dublin government and other elected nationalist politicians to actively pursue the cause of Irish unity and independence. If this strategy was taken up by the SDLP and the current Dublin government the cause of peace and freedom would be improved immensely. But republicans are not naive enough to believe that Britain or any other imperialist power can be convinced by the force of argument alone. Everywhere across the world the facts of history prove the opposite.

Sean O Gallchobhair's proposed "new departure" is in reality a call that republicans take a dreadful step backwards. He recommends abandoning the methods adopted by the Republican Movement in favour of concentrating "fully and completely on the constitutional path".

Sinn Féin is a non-violent political party which engages in political action North and South in the pursuance of national unity, independence and social justice. It has no wish to be called a constitutional party, because it wants to remove the British presence and unite the country and this obviously involves a new constitutional arrangement. Sean O Gallchobhair does not say if or where he disagrees with these Sinn Féin tactics.

Presumably one of the other republican methods O Gallchobhair recommends abandoning is that of the armed struggle pursued by the IRA. To do this would be to throw away that which keeps the issue of the Six Counties on the agenda of the British and which elevates the occupation of Ireland to its position as a live issue on the world stage.

Such an abandonment would see the British consolidate their rule in the Six Counties through the acceleration of the normalisation and Ulsterisation process whereby the RUC becomes the primary force of control in the Six Counties. This would benefit nobody except the British.

By pursuing such a course of action Irish republicans would help the British achieve their dearly-held objective of stabilising their rule in this country. Republicans would have made a vital contribution to the process which the Dublin government and the SDLP are now engaged in. The Brits would have republicans 'on board' along with the rest. None of this would contribute to furthering the cause of Irish unity and independence. This is the mire of disaster, defeat, compromise and betrayal to which all previous adoptions of a purely constitutional path have led.

Yes, republicans must strive to win over the hearts and minds of our people and yes the British and their allies use and will continue to use the tragic realities of war to prevent this. But you don't cut off your nose to spite your face. There can be no steps backwards. The task which those, including Sean O Gallchobhair, must take up to achieve a united and independent Ireland is to explain the context in which the war takes

place, to argue unapologetically for British withdrawal and to apply political pressure on the 'constitutionalists' and others to take up their responsibilities in this regard.

**Seán Mac Brádaigh,  
Baile Atha Cliath.**

**A Chairde,**

I wish to congratulate Sean O'Gallchobhair on his letter to AP/RN, 4 March. While I would disagree with some of his terminology, the thrust of his piece is accurate.

The strategy applied by the Republican Movement over the last decade has ensured political oblivion in the 26 Counties and the loss, in the Six Counties, of the heroic gains of the early '80s. Sean O'Gallchobhair's "new departure" is an urgent imperative!

Those still committed to the cause of the Irish Republic deserve and demand better.  
**Bláithín Dowling,  
Dublin.**

## Wide support for Casement Accused

**A Chairde,**

The committee below are seeking to present a petition received from their solidarity group in Australia to Sir Patrick Mayhew. The Melbourne based group has been formed by interested people there, in particular the Australian labour movement. Letters have been sent by very prominent politicians including Jim McKiernan, Labour Senator, Kevin Corr, Senate nominee, Barney Cooney, Senator and Eddie Metcalfe, MP.

In the late summer we expect a visit of senior lawyers and solicitors headed by Bernie Brophy of Australian Peace for Ireland Group, who have expressed grave doubts as to the convictions of all those involved in the notorious Casement Trials.

It is very gratifying that people so far away are taking an ever-growing interest in this case.

We realise that our campaign is only one of the many injustices perpetrated against our people but it is a blatant perversion

demand by the British for their pound of flesh for our audacity in defending ourselves against attack by undercover armed soldiers.

Over 200 arrests were made, 41 people charged and out of that we have Alex Murphy and Harry Maguire sentenced to 25 years recommended (that is they must serve 25 years before being considered for parole).

Pat Kane, Sean Kelly and Michael Timmons, life sentences, Paul Loughran, nine years, Kevin McCaughy, seven and a half years and various other sentences of four years to nine years.

We call on the politicians, the churches and the British government to seek justice for all these people.

**J Neeson,  
Chairperson,  
Casement Accused Relatives Committee,  
5-7 Conway Street,  
Belfast BT13 2DE.**

## Unite against deletion

**A Chairde,**

How many self-respecting nationalists North or South would favour the deletion of Articles Two and Three. The SDLP and the Catholic Church could find themselves in a precarious position if Dick Spring adopts an appeasement policy.

Dick Spring will have a hard job retaining his credibility if he tries to justify the retention of unionism. Most political observers realise that there is no salvation for the Six-County state, it has failed abysmally.

Irish history is littered with politicians who took the appeasement line, each and everyone of those failed to grasp that political agreement will only emerge when Britain declares her intention to disengage from Ireland.

**Tim Jones,  
London.**

## Stormy seas

**A Chairde,**

Having looked out a toilet window and seeing an ad for Seven Seas Evening Primrose

Oil, I have been provoked to ask myself why do women get into bad moods and shout profanities.

Could it be our over-exposure to male egos, their complexes, hypochondria or neuroses? Maybe its the pressures of being an oppressed majority? Maybe we get fed up being a censored minority in our workplaces, or even political parties!

But no this ad has told me that its because we don't get high enough on Evening Primrose Oil, a well known alleviator of the symptoms of PMS. The ad has a quote saying "Okay, I'll try the XIXO! things next month" in bold capital letters, a picture of the supposed cure for women's anxieties and a sub-text saying "Women swear by them". An irate proof-reader I know were to drown in the stuff I would certainly relax.  
**Andrée Murphy,  
Dublin.**

## Abortion

**A Chairde,**

The facts are clear. Before most women abort, the victim is a separate human life with brainwaves, heartbeats, pain-sensory, gender, genetic individuality, even human appearance.

Religion is irrelevant, a red herring in this controversy. Science shows a unique, complete, entirely human life is taken in each operation of the international abortion business. Millions are killed for billions in profit. The masses are moved to acquiesce by those few driven by a deadly sociopolitical agenda. Yet, real revolution is averted by the system's use of legal abortion as a safety valve.

The lessons are clear. (1) Abortion cannot be legal in any society based on liberty, on the rights of the individual. "The Right to Abortion" is a contradiction in terms. That right means no right to life, which equals no rights, ergo no right to abortion.

(2) An intrusive operation intended to produce disorders in two healthy bodies cannot be made safe — not by doctors, not by lawyers.

**Michael Keane,  
3249 Perry Avenue,**

**Letters to: The Editor, AP/RN, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.  
PLEASE KEEP LETTERS SHORT**

## Relatives rally in North Belfast

**A RALLY ORGANISED** under the auspices of the North Belfast Relatives Action Committee paraded from Ardoyne to the New Lodge Road area of Belfast on Sunday 14 March.

Representatives of the numerous prison and human rights campaigns were in attendance. The rally wound its way through narrow streets that back on to the notorious Belfast Crumlin Road prison where the present regime for republican prisoners entails forced integration

and the constant threat of violence from loyalist inmates.

Approximately 200 people took part in the march which passed off without incident, despite a number of loyalist attacks in the past. Before the march began the three sitting Sinn

Féin councillors for North Belfast, Joe Austin, Paddy McManus and Gerard McGuigan together with party colleague Bobby Lavery, pledged their full support for the various human rights groups represented.

With the rally point reached the New Lodge Commemoration Garden, participants gathered to hear the main speaker of the day, an ex-woman POW first read out a statement from republican woman prisoners in Maghaberry Prison.

The former POW described the horrendous events of last year when 22 republican women prisoners were forcibly strip-searched. With this odious practice still continuing today the speaker asked all present

to continue their much valued support for the women POWs and all the other republican prisoners.

Among the crowd were several former POWs from both the Ardoyne and New Lodge Road areas who have once again joined with their friends and neighbours to reactivate the Relatives Action Committees in North Belfast.

It was largely due to the network of RAC groups across the Six Counties that vital pressure was kept on the British government during the blanket and no-wash prison protests. With the ever-increasing numbers of young nationalists being lifted off the streets and flung into prisons their role has sadly once again become just as vital.

# Border Buster

**DOOARD CROSSING  
SUNDAY,  
21 MARCH**

■ Bus from Dublin

Bray 10.00am Killiney 10.15am

GPO 10.30am Finglas 10.45am



# Notices

## The Irish Republican Brotherhood

■ BY PETER O'ROURKE

THE Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), founded in 1858, which played a major role in Irish politics for almost 70 years, greatly influenced all the Irish revolutionary organisations founded during the early decades of the present century.

Formed at a meeting on St Patrick's Day 1858 with the aid of funds from America, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) was originally called the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood. Present at the meeting in Langan's Timber Yard in Ardee Street, near Cork Street in Dublin, were James Stephens, a civil engineer and French tutor, Thomas Clarke Luby, son of a Protestant minister and graduate of Trinity College, Garrett O'Shaughnessy, a metal worker, Joseph Denieffe, a tailor's cutter and Peter Langan, a timber merchant.

At the same time John O'Mahony founded the Fenians, the name given to the republican organisation in New York. Although the American and Irish organisations were separate, the entire Republican Movement was popularly known as the Fenians.

With the aim of overthrowing British rule in Ireland and of establishing an Irish republic by force of arms, Stephens as 'Head Centre', organised the society in secret cells or circles of seven members each, to ensure secrecy. Despite these

precautions, the organisation during the following years, because of the huge membership of tens of thousands, became riddled with informers.

During the early 1860s the organisation in America supplied arms, money, training and volunteers for the forthcoming rising. In Ireland the arrangements for a rising spread rapidly. Through the efforts of John Devoy and others, thousands of soldiers in Irish regiments of the British army were sworn into the IRB. This resulted in many of these regiments having to be removed from Ireland.

Originally planned for 1865 and then 1866, the Fenian rising did not take place until 5 March 1867. This delay was due to internal difficulties as Stephens was deposed by O'Mahony in America in December of the previous year and replaced as 'Head Centre', by Colonel Thomas J Kelly. The failure of the Rising and the imprisonment and forced exile of many Fenians convinced them that a new organisation was needed and Clan na Gael was founded in June 1867 in America to organise the Fenians.



● JAMES STEPHENS

The IRB was reorganised in Ireland in 1873 and for a number of years, with the consent of its Supreme Council, (governing body), it permitted its members to become involved in the Home Rule Party and other movements designed to further the cause of Irish nationalism and independence. This experiment eventually led to the 'New Departure', in 1879,



● JOHN O'MAHONEY

the name given to the alliance between the IRB, the Home Rule Party, led by Charles Stuart Parnell and the Land League led by Michael Davitt.

The IRB played a major role in the formation of the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884, and the Gaelic League in 1893. The organisation increased its support in 1898, and took a leading role in the '98 Celebrations to commemorate

the rising of the United Irishmen.

Following the founding of Sinn Féin by Arthur Griffith, a member of the IRB, in November 1905, the IRB withdrew from the public eye and again became a secret society. It worked with great effect behind the scenes to organise and influence all republican, political, military and cultural organisations during the next two decades.

It played a leading role in the formation of the Irish Volunteers in November 1913 (which was to become the IRA in 1919 during the Tan War, and it was the IRB who were responsible for organising and planning the Easter Rising of 1916).

With 350 circles and a membership of 3,000, the IRB virtually controlled the Irish Volunteers during 1917/18 and the IRA during the early days of the Tan War 1919/21.

Following the establishment of the First Dáil Éireann in January 1919, the IRB's influence declined, with many believing its aims had now been achieved with the establishment of the Irish Republic.

Although the Supreme Council of the IRB supported the Treaty of December 1921, by a majority of eleven to four, the organisation split and virtually disintegrated during the Civil War 1922/23, with many of its members supporting the Free State. The IRB formally dissolved itself in late 1924.

The Irish Republican Brotherhood was founded in Ireland and America on 17 March 1858, 135 years ago this week.

## Imeachtaí

WE'VE MOVED! ANTI-EXTRADITION MEETING: meets 6.30pm every Tuesday, Anti-Extradition Office, 29 Mountjoy Square, DUBLIN

BEECHMOUNT FIVE PICKET: 2.30-4pm, every Saturday, Grafton Street, DUBLIN

FUNDRAISER FUNCTION: Featuring Justice. Saturday, 20 March. Emerald Bar, DUNDALK. Taitle £1.50

BEECHMOUNT FIVE BENEFIT GIG: 8.30pm, Wednesday, 24 March. Featuring Andy Irvine and Cormac Breathnach. Mother Redcaps, DUBLIN. Taitle £4

ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET FOR

JUSTICE: As John Bruton speaks on the North. 1pm, Thursday, 25 March. The Mansion House, DUBLIN. Support the extradition victims

EASTER COMMEMORATION: Areas are requested to send details of forthcoming Easter commemorations to AP/RN as soon as possible

REPUBLICAN BAND: The Crossma-

glen Patriots Republican Flute Band, Wishaw, Scotland, resume band practice on Tuesday nights as per usual. Any person wishing to join the band should contact any band member or contact Tommy at: c/o TAL, PO Box 266, Glasgow, 5RX

FOR SALE: Eight Diamond White marching drums. Contact New Lodge Sinn Féin

## DRAW RESULTS

Dundalk PDF Raffle Saturday, 13 March  
1st Prize Ladies Handbag: Town Glass, County Dundalk. Card no 12, line no 70; 2nd Prize Wallet or Purse: Gerald Fearon, c/o A/Cab, Card no 6, line no 60; 3rd Prize Belt & Key Ring: Eamonn Murphy, c/o Brady's Bar, Card no 8, line no 70.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## InDíl Chuimhne

Mac BRADAIGH, Caoimhín; McDONALD, Patrick; MURRAY, Kevin; SMITH, Thomas. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Caoimhín Mac Brádaigh (died 16 March 1988), Patrick McDonald (died 15 March 1974), Kevin Murray (died 15 March 1974), Thomas Smith (died 17 March 1975). "We believe in constitutional action in normal times; armed action in exceptional times. These are exceptional times." — James Connolly. Always remembered with love and pride by their friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.  
FARRELL, Máiréad; McCANN, Dan; SAVAGE, Seán; McCracken, N.; Kevin; Mac BRADAIGH, Caoimhín; MURRAY, John; McERLEAN, Thomas. Mary, Queen of Ireland pray for them. Masses offered. Remembered always by Pól, Patricia and family, Belfast.  
Mac BRADAIGH, Caoimhín (5th Ann). In proud and loving memory of my friend and comrade Volunteer Caoimhín Mac Brádaigh, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, killed while defending his people. RIP. "To carry on no matter what torments are inflicted on you. The road to freedom is paved with suffering, hardships and torture, carry on my gallant and brave comrades until that certain day."

— Tom Williams. Proudly remembered and never forgotten by Christy.

Mac BRADAIGH, Caoimhín (5th Ann). In memory of Caoimhín Mac Brádaigh. Your company, Caoimhín, was priceless. Honoured to have known you as a friend, a confidante and a comrade. Always remembered by Danny Morrison.

Mac BRADAIGH, Caoimhín (5th Ann). In proud and loving memory of my friend and comrade Volunteer Caoimhín Mac Brádaigh, killed by pro-British elements on 16 March 1988. In death thou art noble, valiant and brave, your pure bright halo gleams from your grave, pointing so clearly the road we must tread, deriving our strength from the blood you have shed, for your rights you died in anguish and pain. For an Irish Republic, a nation once again. Proudly remembered by Ned, Ceis Fada.

Mac BRADAIGH, Caoimhín (5th Ann). In proud and loving memory of my friend and comrade Volunteer Caoimhín Mac Brádaigh, killed on Breatnaithe, 16ú Márta 1988. D'éag tu mar a mhair tú, ag coidéil le daoine éile. Ag smaoinseamh ort, do chara. Kevin.

McCRACKEN, Kevin (5th Ann). In memory of Volunteer Kevin McCracken who died on the 14 March 1988. Fuair sé bás ar son

saoirse na hÉireann. Always remembered, never forgotten by Deirdre Lennon.

McCRACKEN, Kevin (5th Ann). In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin Kevin McCracken, who was killed on active service on 14 March 1988. St Anthony pray for him. "If you strike us down now, we shall rise again and renew the fight. You cannot conquer the Irish passion for freedom." — PH Pearse. Remembered always by his aunt and uncle Alice and Arthur, cousins Arleen and husband Pat and children Patrick, Leanne and Michael. Also cousin Patricia, boyfriend Martin and son Christopher.

McCRACKEN, Kevin (5th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Kevin. He died as he lived an active and committed republican. Always remembered and loved by Lily Fitzsimmons and family.

McCRACKEN, Kevin (5th Ann). In loving memory of my dear friend Volunteer Kevin McCracken, killed on active service by British forces on 14 March 1988. You will always be loved and held in the highest esteem by your friends and comrades. Always remembered by Big Mano, Tina and family, Poleglass.

McCRACKEN, Kevin (5th Ann). In loving memory of Volunteer Kevin McCracken, killed on active

service by British forces on 14 March 1988. Mary Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Your memory lives on forever. Remembered by Jimmy and Eileen McElwee and family.

McCRACKEN, Kevin (5th Ann). In loving memory of Volunteer Kevin McCracken, killed on active service by British forces on 14 March 1988. Mary Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Your memory lives on forever. Remembered by his comrades Mackers and Fra Parker.

McCRACKEN, Kevin (5th Ann). Always remembered, never forgotten. From the Countess Markievitz Sinn Féin Cumann, Turf Lodge; From Kevin Barry Republican flute band, Glasgow.

McDONALD, Patrick (19th Ann). In proud and loving memory of my dear son Volunteer Patrick McDonald, who died on 15 March 1974 while on active service. RIP. This day comes with sad regret, the time, the hour I will never forget, but I will remember my whole life through, the last few words I said to you. Loved and remembered every day and sadly missed, your loving mother.

McDONALD, Patrick (19th Ann). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Volunteer Patrick McDonald, who died on 15 March 1974 while on active service. He died the way he wanted to, in

action against the British foe, he lived and died to serve the IRA. Always remembered by his loving sister Bernadette, brother-in-law Seán and family.

McDONALD, Patrick (19th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Patrick McDonald, East Tyrone Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died on 15 March 1974. Always remembered by JJ, West Cork.

McDONALD, Patrick; MURRAY, Kevin (19th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Patrick McDonald and Kevin Murray who died on active service on 15 March 1974. Always remembered with love and pride by Dunganon Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; Coalisland Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; Clonoe Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; Jim Lynagh Sinn Féin Cumann; Clogher; Colm Keenan/Martin Hurson Sinn Féin Cumann, Cookstown; South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin.

## Comhbhrón

MINTO. Deepest sympathy is extended to Lee and the Minto family on the death of her mother. From Pamela Kane.  
MINTO. Sincere sympathy is extended to the Minto family on their recent bereavement. From Albert Kane and family.  
MINTO. Sincere sympathy is

extended to the Minto family on their recent bereavement. From Angus and Aisling.

MINTO. Deepest sympathy is extended to Lee on the death of her mother. From POW Department, Dublin.

## Chuimhne Breithlae

KELLY. Birthday memories of our dear son and brother Volunteer Patrick, whose 36th birthday would have occurred on Friday, 19 March. Always remembered by your mother and father and your sisters Máire, Máiréad and Roisin. Always remembered and missed by your sister Paula.

## Beannachtaí

BAZ. To Baz, Cumann Linn Gaol, happy birthday from Tara.  
CARMODY. To John Carmody, Portlaoise. Happy birthday and best wishes. From Richard and Jenny. From Clancy/O'Callaghan Sinn Féin Cumann, Limerick.  
O'NEILL. To Marty, H—Blocks. Have as nice a birthday as possible. I'll be thinking of you as usual, le grá mór taim XXX. From Pam.  
McKEE. To Beaky, happy birthday, from Seán and Margaret O'Farrell and family, Tallaght; From Countess Markievitz Sinn Féin Cumann, Tallaght.





**THE PROFESSIONAL** bigots of the orange order have complained about the media in the Six Counties being biased against them, claiming at a weekend conference that Irish music and Gaelic games are preferred to loyalist culture.

Over 200 orangemen and ten women attended, speaker after speaker griping that Irish music positively bellows from the airwaves while few orange tunes or gospel songs are played. Clifford Smyth, from the order's education committee, and not a man normally given to irony, complained that presenting loyalists as irrational and non-intellectual played right into the hands of "Irish nationalism and the Church of Rome". Others lamented the lack of live coverage of the "Twelfth", that quaint celebration of sectarian triumphalism.

Twelfth devotees may be shocked to learn that many of their favourite marching tunes actually originated from the despised Gaelic tradition. The tune of *The Bright Orange Heroes of Comber* is the same as a traditional Gaelic marching tune, to which the republican ballad *Come Out Ye Black and Tans* is also sung.

The *Green Grassly Slopes of the Boyne* also sounds very like the traditional *Rosc Catha na Mumhan* (*Battle Song of Munster*).

Which just proves the point that Irish culture is all-embracing and non-exclusive, just as it should be.

**FORMER** journalist Tom Davies also addressed the conference, literally ranting and raving about the coverage given to the IRA in the news. According to Tom there are "more Buddhists than Provisionals" in the Six Counties yet "the mad dogs of terrorism and their destructive

antics" receive more coverage.

A former newspaper journalist in the Six Counties himself, he was particularly scathing of broadcasters. "For every terrorist running around the streets, there is a lettered fool running a department of the BBC," he fumed.



**AND SO** the British government has renewed the Prevention of Terrorism Act for another year, another victory for bluster over common sense — and more power to them.

The idiocy of the act which legalises the harassment of the Irish community in Britain was revealed by a story in the *Mail on Sunday* last week, written by our old friend Chester Stern.

He revealed that the eldest daughter of Stella Rimington, MI5's un-security conscious head, is herself on MI5 files following recent arrests of Irish people under the PTA.

An armed police raid on a flat in Hornsey, North London, resulted in five Irish people being arrested just over a fortnight ago.

One of the five was the Irish boyfriend of one Sophie Rimington, 22, an anthropology student at Swansea University who often stays at the flat at weekends.

Her particulars now have to be kept on file for future reference because she has been connected to people detained under the PTA.

The five people arrested were held for nine hours before being released without charge. They were not even questioned. Long live the PTA.

**DUN LAOGHAIRE** Sinn Féin representative Kevin Fitzpatrick is a man who will go to any lengths to secure justice for his constituents.

Take the man who came to him recently giving out about his fridge freezer. The irate constituent had paid £385 for it less than a year previously from a

well-known major Dublin electrical retailer.

The appliance had just broken down for the third time, terminally on this occasion, spoiling a load of food.

The man had tried to claim a refund from the management but received nothing. He then sensibly resorted to his local Sinn Féin rep.

Fitzpatrick wasted no time in loading the fridge freezer

into his van. He drove straight to the store, wheeled it inside, stood up on a box and started to tell the customers just how badly the management had treated this customer.

Whereupon a gaggle of suits converged on the scene and before you could say Vote for Kevin the customer was clutching his full refund. So, you see, it does pay to support Sinn Féin.

**NORWEGIAN** traffic police have warned stingy British army top brass that tyres suitable for desert use are not particularly suited to arctic conditions.

One marine has already been killed in a spate of road accidents attributed to the British having the wrong tyres during NATO exercises in the Scandinavian country.

**A SOLDIER** from the Gibraltar Regiment didn't survive to be court martialed. Roger Morrison was killed when Moroccan coastguards opened fire on his high speed boat and it exploded.

Police suspected that he was smuggling cigarettes from Gibraltar to Morocco when his boat was intercepted.

An unfortunate case of dying for a gag.

## Dúirt Siad

*It is a monster. If it connects properly, it could bring a building down. — Senior British army bomb expert to UTV on the IRA's new 'barracks buster' mortar.*

*It's not an invasion of privacy. It's so high in relation to the surrounding buildings that it's utterly impossible to see into the houses. — RUC spokesperson on the Rosemount spyopt in Derry, the Guardian, Monday, 15 March.*

*What is wrong with Greater Serbia? There is a Great Britain, isn't there? — Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic, the Guardian, Saturday, 13 March.*

*You cannot expect people to sit down and talk with those who from time to time reinforce their arguments with bombs and bullets. — Patrick Mayhew's response to Martin McGuinness' call for talks, on the same day (Monday, 15 March) as the inquest into the shoot-to-kill operation in which three IRA Volunteers were gunned down opened in Dungannon.*

*They say there'd be a bloodbath. I think that's the old 'divide and rule' fear. I don't believe it for one moment. Who has an interest in mass murder? — British Labour MP Tony Benn on a British withdrawal, the Irish Times, Tuesday 16 March.*

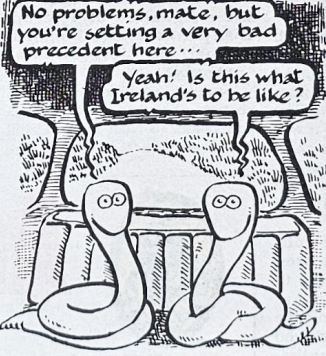
*Clinton is clearly beginning to take a different view. There's a big Irish-American vote. He doesn't particularly like British imperialism. He certainly doesn't like the Tory government, after what they tried to do to him in the election. And Clinton's modest intervention, sending the Speaker of the House or whatever, to come and look at it, is the beginning of a change. — Tony Benn.*

*We are incapable of growing up. We have so contaminated our view of our own past with prejudice and bogus ideology that we are unable to see any merit in anything that is not alien to us. For 30 years we have, as Dr Tom Collins points out, conducted in our heads a war against our past. This war has left hardly a sensible thought standing on the ideological landscape of modern Ireland. We have thrown out not merely the bath water and the baby, but the bath, the plumbing and the rubber duck as well. — John Waters, the Irish Times, Tuesday, 16 March.*

*Whatever flags represent, they have a symbolic value which needs to be authentic. Our flag has the British flag in it and it was a flag which was designed and created and used in the context of the British Empire. We were an adjunct of another country. And I think at the end of the 20th Century, that's no longer historically or culturally or nationally or in any other way true. — Peter Garrett, lead singer with Australian rock band Midnight Oil whose latest video, for their song, *Truganini* (the last of the Tasmanian Aborigines, who died in 1876) features the burning of the Butcher's Apron, to the lyrics: "I see the Union Jack in flames, let it burn."*



WHAT DID SAINT PATRICK SAY AS HE DROVE THE SNAKES OUT OF IRELAND?





# News



● The appointment of Bernie Cahill, centre, as executive chairperson of Aer Lingus has been greeted with silence by the Labour Party, his most vocal critics during the Greencore scandal

## SPRING'S GOLDEN CIRCLE

■ BY NEIL FORDE

THE MOULD was set for Aer Lingus workers last week. Cathal Mullan was sacked and Bernie Cahill, Fianna Fáil's favoured public-sector general, was installed as executive chairperson. Cahill had been the chairperson of Aer Lingus. Along with this news we were told that there would be no government equity injection for Aer Lingus.

Instead there would be hundreds of redundancies, a ten per cent wage cut and a sell-off of the airline's lucrative assets. Cahill would have a free hand in restructuring Aer Lingus. This was a far cry from September 1991 when he sat, stooped in a car, hiding his face from journalists while leaving the back door of Greencore's corporate headquarters.

It was September 1991 when the Irish public first learned of the Greencore debacle. Four directors on the board of the recently privatised company, including the chief executive Chris Comerford, stood accused of using their position to make £8 million in hidden profits. There was huge public outcry. Bernie Cahill was the chair of the Greencore board.

The Greencore story became headline news on 4 September 1991. Within two weeks a second scandal at Telecom, another public sector corporation, took up the column inches. This was followed by Celtic Helicopters, trouble at the prestigious Financial Services Centre on the docks and questions in Leinster House over the rezoning of land owned by Charles Haughey.

The Progressive Democrats,

then in coalition with Fianna Fáil, used the political crisis and scandals generated as a bargaining tool to negotiate concessions from a beleaguered Haughey. Fine Gael were vocal in criticism, but it was Dick Spring who took the challenge to Fianna Fáil and Haughey. After all, Labour alone had come out of the scandals relatively untainted.

More vocal than the split Workers' Party, Labour used their published opposition to privatisation of state resources as a platform to attack, not only the government, but Fine Gael who had first advocated the privatisation of Greencore.

In their Economic Programme for the 1990s we can read of Labour's opposition to privatisation. "Labour is opposed to the privatisation of state companies in the traded sector... Labour's policy is to enable state companies to grow — not to sell them off to native or foreign individuals, institutional investors or speculators."

The haste with which Greencore was privatised, the profiteering it created and the prospect of a similar fate for Telecom galvanised public

opposition. Spring reached for this golden opportunity. On 12 September 1991, Spring called for the resignation of the entire board of Greencore. On 20 September Spring called for the resignation of Telecom chairperson Michael Smurfit saying his position was "untenable".

Smurfit resigned, only small changes were made in the Greencore board. Its chair Bernie Cahill survived intact. It was in the

Greencore-Telecom crisis that Dick Spring became a "statesman". It was he who harried and attacked Haughey at question time in Leinster House.

Spring took the moral high ground and questioned Haughey relentlessly about his relationship with Cahill. Why did Cahill have to hire Haughey's son's helicopter to fly to Haughey's mansion for secret meetings on the Greencore privatisation? Spring was given the airtime and the column inches

to champion the cause against the golden circle.

The circle has reformed since the election. Labour led us to believe with the partnership government that the golden circle had been broken. Spring told the Labour conference endorsing the coalition that the partnership was built on the programme for government itself plus "an agreement to ensure that both Labour and Fianna Fáil both have a strong partnership role in government and arrangements to ensure a basis of trust".

These cornerstones crumbled with the disclosure that Bertie Ahern was planning to sell the remaining state share in Greencore to a foreign multinational. We waited for the Labour outrage. We waited for the Spring of just 18 months ago to rise and criticise. The sum of Labour's actions were that Greencore would not be sold to foreign investors but instead to Irish institutions.

Spring has forgotten the partnership government principles. He has forgotten the Labour Party's own policies which precluded selling any state resource. But most of all he forgot about Bernie Cahill. There has been a remarkable silence from the 33 Labour deputies on Cahill's appointment.

Were they contemplating the part of their Economic Programme for the 1990s that tells us "Policy development in the Labour Party does not take place in an ideological vacuum. A belief in the basic values of liberty, equality and fraternity underlies Labour's vision of society"?

We have heard little of Albert Reynolds and Fianna Fáil since their coalition agreement. Only on budget day did Bertie step forth. However it has been an unchanged Fianna Fáil policy driving the government. The appointment of Cahill reaffirms that Fianna Fáil are in the driving seat and Labour are taking the flak. Spring has joined the golden circle and nothing has changed.



## An Phoblacht

### REPUBLICAN NEWS

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