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An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

Déardaoin, 19 Bealtaine
Thursday, 19 May 1994

SLAUGHTER OF FORGOTTEN VICTIMS

Four Catholics
killed in six days

TWO teenage boys were shot down in a taxi depot by loyalist gunmen in Armagh city on Wednesday afternoon. One was killed and the other was fighting for his life on Wednesday night. The attack came the day after two Catholic workers were murdered in Tiger's Bay in East Belfast and just six days after yet another nationalist was shot dead in Ardoyne in North Belfast.

A UVF member entered the A-to-B taxi depot in Armagh city's Lower English Street, at 11am on Wednesday, 18 May, and tried to assassinate the owner's wife who was working behind the counter.

The attacker's gun jammed, however, and his intended target, the daughter of 'Witness A', the chief witness in the trial of UDR members accused of murdering Adrian Carroll in 1983, escaped injury.

But the loyalist, having cleared his weapon, turned and shot dead 17-year-old student Gavin McShane as he and a friend played the arcade machines in the waiting area of the depot. The dead youth's friend was shot in the head and is in intensive care in a Belfast hospital. An employee of the taxi firm was shot in the arm and is said to be in a stable condition.

An elderly woman, with a young child in her arms, was also in the waiting area of the depot at the time. She told reporters she only survived because the attacker's gun jammed.

Local Sinn Féin Councillor Noel

Sheridan, speaking to AP/RN, said that he arrived at the scene of the shooting about 30 minutes after the killing and spoke to eyewitnesses.

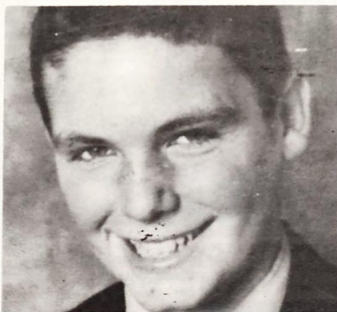
They told him that an RIR (formerly UDR) patrol passed the depot two or three minutes before the attack and was less than a hundred yards away when the shooting occurred.

The witnesses claimed the patrol must have heard the gunshots. Other witnesses said that after walking from the depot, the assailant made his escape down an adjacent alleyway to the Longstone Road, from where he walked past the city's courthouse on the Mall and into a loyalist estate.

Sheridan told AP/RN that residents of Armagh city had been commenting on the increased presence of RIR patrols in the city's nationalist estates in the past couple of weeks.

"People who wouldn't necessarily be republican said they were suspicious about the RIR being here. They recalled the UDR killings of the early '80s when Sinn

(continued on page 2)



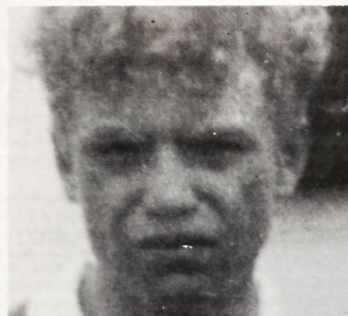
● MARTIN BRADLEY



● GARY CONVIE



● EAMONN FOX



● GAVIN MCSHANE

Clarification move to break deadlock — see page 7

SINN FEIN EU ELECTION
LAUNCH — SEE PAGE 16

Two Catholic workers shot dead in Tiger's Bay

IN A DOUBLE KILLING carried out in the loyalist Tiger's Bay area of North Belfast on Tuesday, 17 May, two Catholic workers lost their lives at the hands of UVF assassins. A third man, a brother-in-law of one of the victims, received facial injuries during the shooting.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing the UVF killer stand in a children's playground and open fire with a machine gun. The men were hit as they began their lunch break. One man died instantly, the other a short time later. The killer ran off up Parkmount Street after the killings.

Summing up the the feelings of Six-County nationalists North Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Joe Austin spoke movingly minutes after the killings. "The killing fields of North Belfast have again witnessed a terrible

slaughter. The purpose behind this attack, as with so many others, is to strike terror into the nationalist community and force it to concede to the demands of unionism."

The dead men were later named as father of six, 44-year-old Eamon Fox and 24-year-old Gary Convie, both from Maghera in County Armagh. Both were GAA members. The men were subcontractors carrying out electrical work on a building site in North Queen Street beside the loyalist Tiger's Bay area. Both

men received the last rites from Father Seán Emerson from the nearby Holy Family Chapel. The two men will be buried today, Thursday, 19 May, after Requiem Mass at Maghera.

The building site is situated less than 500 yards from both York Road and North Queen Street RUC Barracks. This showed the killers confidence that their deed would go unopposed by state forces.

Another nationalist worker who has since left the site where over 50 men work and who will not be returning, said that the murdered men had been stopped at a British army checkpoint several times over the past number of weeks as they drove to and from the job.

In the aftermath of the double killing the RUC press office went into overdrive to show that their officers had captured men and "rifles".

The "weapons" turned out to be replica guns, quite obviously incapable of being fired, yet the RUC continued with their news management up to 12 hours later. Anyone with a basic knowledge of firearms, particularly the edge of firearms and highly-trained RUC, would have known within minutes that the replicas were not the murder weapons.

That the RUC allowed this misinformation to circulate for up to 12 hours after these "weapons" were found is an indication of their strategy of media manipulation and a fur-

ther attempt to inflate their minimal efforts to contain loyalist violence.

RUC Assistant Chief Constable for the greater Belfast area, Ronnie Flanagan, who arrived at the scene, described the murders as "purely sectarian".

Responding to this comment by RUC supremo Flanagan, Craigavon Sinn Féin Councillor Brendan Curran who has himself survived several UVF attempts on his life, called on the RUC to reveal results of forensic tests on guns used in recent loyalist murders and tell the public if they were part of the consignment brought in by Brian Nelson when he was working as a British agent.

(continued from front page)

Féin activist Peter Corrigan was shot dead in 1982 and Adrian Carroll in 1983. Both were shot by serving UDR soldiers," said Sheridan.

"Now our suspicions are confirmed, with two attacks on nationalists in two days," he said, referring to a shotgun attack on two men on Monday night.

The Armagh councillor went on to question how the killer could simply walk away from the scene with the RIR patrol still in the vicinity, and also pass the courthouse, on the Mall, which is under 24-hour guard, and get clean away.

Sinn Féin Councillor Francie Molloy accused unionists of creating an atmosphere of anti-nationalist hatred: "It is quite clear that unionist politicians and loyalist death squads are intent on creating an atmosphere in which no political movement can take place other than on their terms."

Tommy Carroll, brother of Adrian Carroll, has accused the RUC of "being deliberately disingenuous by branding the Armagh shooting as simply sectarian. They know why this depot was targeted, they know this was a planned political assassination".

The Armagh man quoted a legal document in support of his claim. The document relates to the trial and appeals of the 'UDR Four' and showed that the confidentiality of the main witness at the trial of the UDR soldiers, Witness A, was broken when confidential medical files were circulated without authorisation to people including unionist MP Ken Maginnis, John Alderdice of the

Alliance Party, James Hegan, one of the accused, and Jennifer McCusker.

As a result, Witness A and the identity of Witness A's family became known.

The files contained Witness A's name, address, date of birth, educational background and employment.

The file also contained her husband's name and occupation as

well as details of her three children.

Tommy Carroll alleged that the incident was a deliberate attempt to murder Witness A's daughter who works in the taxi firm and

also accused the RUC of setting up the taxi firm for attack.

He said that RUC officers had "openly labelled the firm 'Provie Taxis' and constantly harassed its drivers".



● The sickening reality of loyalist violence — Eamonn Fox lies in the spot where he was brutally gunned down by a loyalist murder gang on Tuesday, 17 May

'Lost' British files detail 200 people

THE DISCOVERY OF British army files containing the personal details of up to 200 nationalists from all over Belfast was largely ignored by most sections of the media with the exception of one Belfast weekly newspaper.

The list was apparently lost by a British soldier and handed in to the West Belfast weekly, *Andersonstown News*. At least six of those named on these lists have been targeted in loyalist attacks in the last three months. Loyalist bombs have exploded at the homes of two men mentioned, while another man was named by the UDA as the intended target of an attack in which a North Belfast man was shot dead.

A number of Belfast Sinn Féin councillors are also included on the lists which provide detailed descriptions of some of those named. Another indication of this detail is that vehicle registration numbers, make of vehicle, colour and distinguishing features, such as 'grill damaged'; 'dent on passenger door'; are all written into the crown forces' sheets. Some people who had changed car since

that list was found had this fact noted on the crown forces' document.

AP/RN made comparisons with another set of files found in a loyalist area of East Belfast shortly before Christmas 1993 and discovered that the information on the recently-found files was accurately updated.

Clearly, such British army and RUC information is being used by loyalist death squads who are continuing to expose the inadequacies of the whitewash inquiry of the Stevens Report,

purportedly set up to "investigate" collusion between the crown forces and loyalist death squads.

That collusion exists has now been recognised, even by anti-republican critics such as Cardinal Cahal Daly. As more and more evidence of British double-dealing comes to light, the ranks of the sceptics look set to grow while nationalists who viewed this week's RUC search and arrest operation against loyalists with suspicion, will have their suspicions vindicated.

ANDERSONSTOWN NEWS

200 MEN ON ARMY LIST

EXCLUSIVE

Child Support Agency shells out £50,000 for office plants

THE LIST CONTAINS THE NAMES OF 200 NATIONALISTS FROM ALL OVER BELFAST WHOSE PERSONAL DETAILS WERE OBTAINED BY THE BRITISH ARMY.

THE LIST WAS APPARENTLY LOST BY A BRITISH SOLDIER AND HANDED IN TO THE WEST BELFAST WEEKLY, *ANDERSONSTOWN NEWS*.

AT LEAST SIX OF THOSE NAMED ON THESE LISTS HAVE BEEN TARGETED IN LOYALIST ATTACKS IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

LOYALIST BOMBS HAVE EXPLODED AT THE HOMES OF TWO MEN MENTIONED, WHILE ANOTHER MAN WAS NAMED BY THE UDA AS THE INTENDED TARGET OF AN ATTACK IN WHICH A NORTH BELFAST MAN WAS SHOT DEAD.

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CLEARLY, SUCH BRITISH ARMY AND RUC INFORMATION IS BEING USED BY LOYALIST DEATH SQUADS WHO ARE CONTINUING TO EXPOSE THE INADEQUACIES OF THE WHITENASH INQUIRY OF THE STEVENS REPORT,

PURPORTEDLY SET UP TO "INVESTIGATE" COLLUSION BETWEEN THE CROWN FORCES AND LOYALIST DEATH SQUADS.

THAT COLLUSION EXISTS HAS NOW BEEN RECOGNISED, EVEN BY ANTI-REPUBLICAN CRITICS SUCH AS CARDINAL CAHAL DALY. AS MORE AND MORE EVIDENCE OF BRITISH DOUBLE-DEALING COMES TO LIGHT, THE RANKS OF THE SCEPTICS LOOK SET TO GROW WHILE NATIONALISTS WHO VIEWED THIS WEEK'S RUC SEARCH AND ARREST OPERATION AGAINST LOYALISTS WITH SUSPICION, WILL HAVE THEIR SUSPICIONS VINDICATED.

'GET BACK IN THERE YOU FENIAN BITCH' — KILLER Nationalist gunned down in Ardoyne

"GET BACK IN THERE YOU FENIAN BITCH" was what a UDA death squad member shouted at 12-year-old Jolene McAllister seconds after shooting dead her uncle, 23-year-old Martin Bradley in Ardoyne, North Belfast last Thursday, 12 May. He also kicked her in the chest as he made his getaway.

Martin Bradley died shortly after 5.30pm after being shot several times by the hooded assassins in his aunt's Crumlin Road home. The UDA assailant had walked in through the open front door and opened fire as Bradley cradled his baby nephew, James.

An uncle of Bradley told reporters how he had found his body lying on the kitchen floor in a pool of blood. The baby was also found lying on the floor covered in his uncle's blood.

The distraught relative described Martin Bradley as "an innocent big fella".

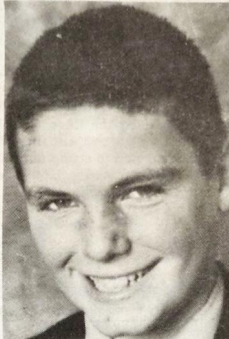
"I was in my own house when we got the phone call from my sister. He was nursing a one-year-old child at the time, and the loyalist just kept shooting into him, even as he fell to the ground with the child still in his arms."

An eyewitness to the shooting described how the assassin walked calmly from the house to the getaway car "as cool as anything". Another relative said that two weeks ago, the crown forces had threatened Martin Bradley's life in Oldpark RUC Barracks after he had gone to sort out a driving matter.

Shortly after Thursday's shooting, a crowd of residents shouted at an identified member of the crown forces whom they maintained had threatened Bradley's life.

Twenty-four hours after the shooting, around 120 neighbours of Bradley joined North Belfast Sinn Féin Councillors Bobby Lavery, Paddy Mc Manus and Joe Austin at Oldpark RUC Barracks to protest at collusion between the RUC and loyalist death squads.

Less than half-a-mile from Thursday's killing, another loyalist gun attack was carried out, this time on a Catholic delivery



● Martin Bradley — another victim of pro-British death squads

man from the Antrim Road area of North Belfast. The man targeted was making a regular weekly

delivery to a shop in Disraeli Street at 11am on Monday, 16 May, when the death squad struck.

Five loyalists had taken over a house in the street the previous night and held a couple and a nine-year-old boy hostage. A shop assistant at Disraeli Street told reporters that she had heard a single shot seconds after the Catholic man had left her shop. It appears from reports from the scene that the would-be killers struck as he went to the back of the van. After shooting the man in the upper thigh, the gang fled the scene in a hijacked van.

The victim's condition was later described as "serious" by a hospital spokesperson. Ironically, an ambulance going to the scene passed mourners leaving the funeral mass for Martin Bradley.

Later on Monday, loyalists in Armagh shot two nationalists as they stood talking outside a house in Drumbreda Park in the Loughall Road area after 11pm. The pair were blasted with shotgun pellets fired by a loyalist travelling past them in a stolen car. Both were taken to a local hospital

where they were treated for their wounds.

A Derryman, the target of a loyalist bomb attack, has told how his life was threatened by the RUC three weeks ago. During an RUC raid on his home, an identified RUC member told Tommy McGlinchey that there were "a lot of angry people in the Waterside who would want to get rid of people like him".

Tommy McGlinchey was speaking only hours after loyalists had blown off the front door of his Chapel Road home in the Waterside. It is believed a pipe bomb, which had been planted in the early hours of Monday morning, was used. Windows and cars belonging to neighbours were also damaged in the blast.

McGlinchey, who had been a member of both the Irish Independence Party and Sinn Féin, lost both legs in a 1975 loyalist no-warning car bomb. He vowed that he and his family would not be forced out of their home, despite a number of loyalist attacks.

Following that first loyalist car bombing, McGlinchey and his family's personal details were found among documents hidden in a loyalist dump and this fact was noted during the Stevens Inquiry into allegations of collusion between loyalist death squads and the crown forces.

In 1986, loyalists made a further attempt on McGlinchey's life. They tried to shoot him as he drove down Fountain Hill, near his home. Mass cards have also been sent to his home. Sinn Féin EU election candidate Dodie McGuinness, speaking to AP/RN shortly after the bomb attack, said that she had issued a statement three weeks ago highlighting the threat made to the family by the RUC member. "This RUC officer is part of an RUC squad that has been targeting nationalists in the city," said McGuinness.



● The scene of the attempted murder of a Catholic delivery man off the Shankill Road.

1974 bombings — stop the cover-up

■ BY ART Mac EOIN

SURVIVORS of the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan bombings and relatives of the 33 people killed in the massacre, commemorated the event which witnessed the greatest loss of life in 25 years of conflict on Tuesday, 17 May, and called for an end to two decades of official secrecy and silence surrounding the events.

British military intelligence worked with loyalist operatives from the Six Counties in carrying out the attacks. The Dublin government has shown a reluctance to properly investigate and reveal the true story behind the massacres. Nobody has ever been arrested or charged in connection with the bombings and gardai received no cooperation from the RUC — to whom the identities of several loyalists suspected of involvement in the bombings is known.

This was the 20th anniversary of the bombings and the first time that any form of official state recognition of the suffering endured by the victims, survivors and relatives has ever been paid. The 26-County president, the lord mayor of Dublin, TDs, senators and Dublin city councillors attended a commemorative Mass at Dublin's Pro-Cathedral.

The official attendance at the Mass comes after 20 years in which the survivors of the bombings and

relatives of the victims were ignored and marginalised. They have also been subjected to Garda Special Branch surveillance when organising commemorative activities.

A memorial stone unveiled a year ago in Parnell Square has been moved and was unveiled on Tuesday in Cathal Brugha Street. The relatives, however, regard this as only a temporary measure and are seeking the erection of a larger monument bearing the names of the victims, preferably in a more prominent location. The government has not said that it will erect such a monument.

Denise O'Neill, whose father Edward was killed and whose brother was disabled for life in the Talbot Street explosion, told a crowd at the unveiling that relatives and survivors had waited

ten months for Minister for Justice Máire Geoghegan Quinn, to complete a promised investigation into the identities of those who planted the bombs in Dublin and Monaghan. Later on Tuesday afternoon, wreaths were laid at the sites of the three Dublin explosions on Parnell

Street, Talbot Street and South Leinster Street, at roughly the same time that the explosions detonated, 20 years ago.

Sinn Féin candidate for Dublin Larry O'Toole, who attended the wreath layings, said that 20 years after the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, the threat of loyalist

violence is still being used to influence public opinion in the 26 Counties.

"The garda inquiry into the bombings initiated by the Minister for Justice Máire Geoghegan Quinn should be speeded up and published. I also call for an international inquiry into the collusion of British intelligence and other British forces with loyalist paramilitaries, right from the start of this conflict."



● The unveiling of the plaque to the victims of the 1974 bombings on Cathal Brugha Street last Tuesday, 17 May. Relatives of the victims are awaiting an end to the two decades of official secrecy surrounding the bombings

News

workers in struggle...workers in struggle...workers in struggle...workers in struggle...

BEAMISH SETS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

■ BY NEIL FORDE

WHATEVER the outcome of the employer-union negotiations at the Beamish and Crawford brewery in Cork one thing is clear, the silence of the Labour/Fianna Fáil coalition on the dispute has set a dangerous precedent.

Beamish is a profitable company with a growing market. Since last year it has been attempting to shed over 100 workers at the plant and contract out their services. These redundancies have largely been achieved. All through the negotiations the company continually threatened to move the production to Britain and shut down

the 200-year-old Cork brewery.

However, last week the company sought to make more workers redundant by introducing contract workers to replace them. The company's action created an immediate strike by all the workers at the plant.

Again the management have threatened to move the plant to

Britain. This is not a unique case and many IDA-funded multinational companies in Ireland use the same threat to manipulate their workforces.

However, in the case of Beamish it is even more damning as the company proposes moving operations to another EU state. Surely in a case like this there is a role for both the government and the EU Commission to stamp out such anti-worker practices. However, surprise, surprise, there hasn't been a peep out of any government minister or spokesperson on the issue.

Finally, anyone with knowledge of warehouses where Beamish has been stockpiled or lorries are being used to transport the product should pass the information on to the workers' picket outside Beamish and Crawford on the South Main Street.

10,000 jobs

That caught your attention. You were just ready for the accompanying feel-good announcement about a major new employer coming to Ireland. You were preparing for the details of how the IDA beat off the competition by offering an attractive package. However, you are never told of how much money, tax relief, free specially built factories, etc, was offered to the benevolent employer.

Publicising IDA successes has long been a tactic of government ministers. The minister gets to make the announcement when the contracts are signed. He or she also gets to turn up and open the factory when operations start, then more photographs, more headlines.

Ruairi Quinn's tenure as Minis-

ter for Employment and Enterprise has been filled with such announcements. Last week it went sour for the people of Kilkenny with the failure of Siegel jeans to agree terms with the IDA. In this case the announcement of the possible 400 jobs had been made before the contracts were signed. The deal fell through. Advance feel good statements seemed in this case to be misleading and ultimately damaging.

It raises two questions. First why do the government seek to create positive publicity for themselves in such an obvious way? Secondly, why is the same input of resources and effort not put into developing local employment projects.

The money and terms proposed for the 400 jobs in Kilkenny should be made public and those resources should be appropriated to local projects in the Kilkenny area.

Bank robbery?

"Unfairly selective" and "simplistic" was how banking representatives reacted to Albert Reynolds' criticisms of the banking sector last week.

Reynolds' criticism came after Bank of Ireland announced a record doubling of its yearly profits to £280 million. His comments concentrated on the difference between deposit rates paid and interest rates charged by the banks.

It was not the first time that Reynolds has publicly criticised the banks. While minister for finance he once told them not to forget which side their bread was buttered on. This too provoked intense criticism from the banking industry.

Reynolds, however, took no action on making the Irish banking industry more palatable to the user friendly. His words have been the only response from the government on the banking industry except for statements bickering on their commitments to a third force state bank.

However, imagine our surprise when papers revealed that Reynolds comments were made in isolation but were not a prospective "lengthy battle" with Quinn, have taken it on themselves to demand better treatment for the business sector from the banking system.

The lack of access to low-cost loans, a subject frequently raised in AP/RN, and the general unhelpfulness of banks to small and medium-sized business has prompted our dynamic duo to act.

Quinn is to establish a policy review committee comprising enterprise and employment department officials and banking representatives. The government might even get involved in subsidising loans to industry.

Their plan is doomed to failure as the problems of the banking sector go much deeper than a problem of loans for industry. How do Quinn and Reynolds propose to deal with the overcharging of customers, or the refusal to offer banking services in economically marginalised areas?

Do they propose to tackle banks speculation in property investment and foreign currency or their use of domestic profits for foreign expansion? The answer is probably no. There is a simple solution to their problem, no battles are needed. Nationalise the banking system.



● Beamish workers take action to prevent the further shedding of jobs and to resist company threats to move production to Britain

If you have a story at your workplace, let us know. Contact AP/RN by phone 8733611 or fax 8733074.

Fishing industry 'being let die'

LUCILITA BHREATNACH, Sinn Féin candidate for Leinster in the EU elections, has highlighted the neglect of the fishing industry in a visit to the port of Clogherhead, County Louth.

Speaking at Clogherhead, Bhreatnach criticised the Dublin government and Louth County Council for allowing "such a magnificent pier with such potential for development of fishing, marine activities and tourism, to deteriorate and crumble, sounding the death knell of the whole fishing community of Clogherhead".

Harbour Master Paddy Hodgins said the present harbour at Clogherhead was built in 1884. Since that time no major repairs or reconstruction was ever carried out. "We had plenty of surveys and promises but nothing was done. Now they say we are getting nothing. Clogherhead will just be let die," he said.

There are 30 boats in Clogherhead with berthing facilities for only nine small boats. Boats are forced to berth at Howth and Drogheda.

Lucilita Bhreatnach went on to criticise the state of the Irish fishing industry, pointing out that Ireland only has 3% of EU Fish quotas despite having 30% of the fishing waters. "Our waters are being exploited by larger European fleets preventing the development of the Irish fishing industry," she said.

Bhreatnach said Sinn Féin would resist the latest decision of the EU Council of Ministers to give the thumbs up to Spain and Portugal's demands for access to Irish waters and added that the party would fight for the develop-

ment of Clogherhead and its adjacent area.

Fighting stand in Munster

Sinn Féin Munster EU election candidate Kieran McCarthy lodged his nomination papers with the Returning Officer at the Cork City courthouse on Friday, 13 May 1994.

Kieran McCarthy said: "I am

standing in these elections to provide solid and hardworking representation for the working-class people of this province in Europe.

"Sinn Féin, through its policies, is the only serious political force capable of providing the sort of fighting voice needed to protect the rights of workers and the unemployed, to give voice to the concerns of the oppressed and marginalised in Irish society and to bring the necessary attention to bear on the national question so that we can achieve a lasting peace.

"We have an unquestionable record of struggle and sacrifice. Our party has been, and will continue to be, a major driving force for progress in our country."

Section 75 should go

Speaking at a meeting in Derry last week on the issue of Irish sovereignty, Dáire McGuinness stated that although, by definition, unionists wish to maintain their link with Britain, they had never suffered any ill effect arising from the Irish claim to sovereignty over the whole island.

"Politicians who believe that by dropping Articles Two and Three they will satisfy loyalism are confusing unionist political desire with the British claim to sovereignty in the North of Ireland," she said.

"Sinn Féin believes that the reason for the conflict here is the existence of two claims to sovereignty on the six north eastern counties of Ireland; one by Britain and one by the people of Ireland."

"If you seek to deny the legitimacy of the Irish claim, only the British claim remains. This would be just as detrimental to the unionist cause as to nationalists. The British should be willing to withdraw the claim in Section 75 of the Government of Ireland Act and start the task of persuading the unionists to look towards a future in an agreed Ireland."



● Sinn Féin EU candidate Lucilita Bhreatnach, with Maeve Healy and Clogherhead Harbour Master Paddy Hodgins, said that Sinn Féin would fight for the development of Ireland's fishing industry

News



● The front of last Sunday's 'Break The Ban' march to Belfast City Hall

Loyalists open fire on City Hall march

REPUBLICANS taking part in a peaceful march to Belfast City Hall, on Sunday, 15 May, came under attack from a loyalist terror gang.

Armed with automatic rifles, the loyalists fired on the 1,000-strong rally as it passed St Comgall's Primary School at the junction of Percy Street and the Falls Road. The loyalist gang fired indiscriminately at the crowd, intent on taking the lives of as many people as possible.

The gang fired across a 'peace wall' from the loyalist Shankill area. Initial RUC claims, made by

Assistant Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan, who said that the shots were fired into the air, were intended to diminish the seriousness and intent of the attack as witnessed by participants, who said that the firing was meant to hit marchers.

Marchers saw the bullets striking the school wall. Eight bullet holes were clearly visible on the walls of St Comgall's school after

the attack, but miraculously no one had been injured.

"They must have fired up to 30 shots," said one eyewitness. "I heard the bullets ping off the railings after they whizzed past me. There is no way the shots were fired in the air. It was a deliberate attack to kill people trying to march peacefully to the City Hall."

The follow-up operation by the RUC was branded "a sick joke" by Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Máirtín O Muilleoir. Speaking after the attack, O Muilleoir stated:

"It is now four hours after the attack and the RUC still hasn't sealed off the scene. There are no scene of crime officers and no



● Marchers run from the scene of the UDA attempted massacre on the march one out collecting the spent bullets.

"Does the Assistant Chief Constable for Belfast, Ronnie Flanagan, still want us to believe that the UDA sent two men out with rifles to the peaceline to fire shots in the air?"

"There were nearly 2,000 members of the crown forces present at the rally, at a cost of what must run into the hundreds of thousands for the British taxpayer, yet they were still unable or unwilling to catch the attackers."

Although chaos reigned for several moments after the attack, stewards were able to restore order and the rally continued peacefully and quietly to the City Hall.

This attack came a week after the RUC banned the original Hunger-Strike Commemoration March on 8 May under the pretext that they feared a counter-demonstration by the DUP.

Despite the shooting, the marchers were in a buoyant mood

as they gathered outside the City Hall and listened to North Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Joe Austin slam the actions of the loyalists. He stated that the guns used in the attack were shipped here with the knowledge of British intelligence, and he slated the RUC for their well-documented collusion in these murderous loyalist activities.

West Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Una Gillespie, who chaired the rally, then introduced the main speaker, EU candidate Tom Hartley. Councillor Hartley was greeted with a rousing reception by the waiting crowd. He welcomed the people to "our City Hall" and vowed that no one "would stop us on our march towards freedom and liberty. And that one day our flag will be flying above the City Hall."

In his speech, Hartley praised the resilience and calm demeanour of the crowd. He looked forward to August when nationalists would again gather at the City Hall to mark the introduction of internment and 25 years of British troops on the streets.



● The RUC at City Hall — these same people are in collusion with the people who fired on the marchers



● Sinn Féin's Joe Austin slams the actions of the loyalist death squads — armed and supplied by British military intelligence

Court quashes NIO decision

THE HIGH COURT in Belfast has quashed the decision of the Northern Ireland Office not to grant money for the protection of his home to North Belfast Councillor Bobby Lavery, whose son was murdered by loyalists last August.

In his reserve judgement, given on Friday, 13 May, Judge Kerr ruled that the British Direct Ruler Sir Patrick Mayhew failed to take account of Bobby Lavery's personal circumstances when deciding to exclude him from the 'key persons protection list'.

Speaking after the outcome of his judicial review application in the High Court, Councillor Lavery said: "I am absolutely surprised

that a British judge has actually come down in a positive fashion against the NIO's bigotry."

"Now my solicitors will be writing to the NIO stating the reasons why my family should receive protection."

"Hopefully, this means that other members of our party who are in a high-risk situation will receive proper security similar to myself."

The decision comes just weeks after the loyalist killing of Theresa Clinton, wife of former local election candidate Jim Clinton in her Lower Ormeau Road home. Members of other political parties in the Six Counties have received up to £60,000 for security measures, while Sinn Féin members have been consistently denied funding even though over 20 people connected with the party have been murdered by loyalists.

The decision by the NIO was a purely political one claimed Bobby Lavery. But in spite of his ruling, this was not supported by Justice

Kerr, who said that reasons for the refusal outlined in a letter to Lavery from the NIO was solely because they were Sinn Féin members and that a personal assessment of each of them played no part in the NIO's decision.

Justice Kerr refused an application for a declaration that the direct ruler had discriminated against him on political grounds. Backing Mayhew's decision, Justice Kelly said that the direct ruler's assertion that Sinn Féin supported violence was "not only justified but unimpeachable".

It remains to be seen whether security will only be provided to members of the party who have lost members of their family in previous loyalist attacks.



● BOBBY LAVERY



An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

19 MAY 1994

THE PURPOSE OF LOYALIST VIOLENCE

ANOTHER WEEK has witnessed the unrestrained savagery of loyalist violence in several areas of the Six Counties. The murder of five nationalist civilians this week has been accompanied by pathetic public relations exercises on behalf of the RUC which adds insult to the death and injury suffered by the nationalist population.

The shooting of a man on Belfast's Antrim Road occurred as the RUC claimed they were involved in a major "search and arrest" operation against loyalist death squads in the Shankill Road area. The RUC claimed to have arrested up to 20 people, including one said to be the "commander of the West Belfast UDA", and seized weapons. The press statements hailed the operation as a success and gave the impression that major arms seizures had been made.

However, as the cool light of day settled on the RUC claims, it emerged that of the weapons captured only one, a sub-machine gun, was in working order, the rest were two sub-machine guns, "with parts missing", a replica AK47 assault rifle, a replica M60 machine gun and a replica AR15 rifle.

Sinn Féin Councillor for North Belfast, Paddy McManus, correctly described the RUC operation as "a damage limitation exercise with the RUC trying to give the impression that they are taking action against loyalist killers". He added that there was clear evidence of continuing collusion between crown forces and loyalist death squads.

"That they could only seize dummy guns sums up the operation. In real terms the killing capacity of the UDA and UVF, who are in possession of RPG 7 rocket launchers and modern assault rifles, has not diminished as a result of the operation," he said.

As Eamon Fox and Gary Convie were gunned down by another loyalist death squad in the Tiger's Bay area of Belfast on Tuesday, 17 May, the RUC issued another statement claiming they had captured men and rifles used by loyalists. Again the guns turned out to be replicas.

The crown forces clearly have no intention of moving against the death squads with whom they are colluding and directing. Loyalist violence is an intrinsic part of an official state counterinsurgency strategy. The real weapons being used by the loyalists, as opposed to the replicas, were brought into this country by British military intelligence.

This week's vicious murders of nationalist civilians and the transparency of the RUC public relations exercise brought into sharp focus the unchanging nature and purpose of loyalist violence in Ireland on the 20th anniversary of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings.

The threat of loyalist violence is still being used to influence public opinion in the 26 Counties. The Dublin bombings were masterminded by British intelligence in order to frighten public opinion and the Dublin government. Two events last year had the same purpose.

First was the staged 'seizure' of an arms shipment from Poland at Teesport in England. This was said to be bound for loyalists but in fact the shipment and the seizure was revealed to have been organised by the British security services as a propaganda exercise. Second was the threatening statements from RUC Chief Hugh Annesley about loyalist intentions to bomb the South.

Killings in the North, carried out with British supplied weapons are designed, like the bombings of 1974, to terrorise nationalist Ireland into dropping its political demands for a just, peaceful, all-Ireland settlement.



An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

12/5/94

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News

British soldier killed in bomb blast



IRA VOLUNTEERS in County Armagh killed a British soldier and seriously injured several others in a bomb attack on an observation post at the permanent checkpoint in Keady on Saturday, 14 May. The soldier was the first regular British soldier that the British authorities have admitted being killed in the Six Counties this year. Three weeks ago, North Armagh Volunteers executed a member of the Royal Irish Regiment.

Avoiding detection while operating in close proximity to an observation post for a considerable period of time and within sight of the permanent checkpoint, an active service unit of IRA Volunteers succeeded in detonating a semtex device with deadly accuracy, destroying the highly-fortified observation post, killing one of the crown forces' occupants and injuring several others.

Claiming responsibility for the attack, the IRA said:

"At approximately 11.40pm on 14 May, a device containing the high-explosive semtex was detonated beside a reinforced observation post containing a number of British soldiers providing cover for their permanent vehicle checkpoint in Davis Street, Keady.

"The post, situated 50 yards from the joint British army/RUC base was badly damaged in the blast, killing one soldier and badly injuring several others. One of those injured was standing inside the post and was blown across the road by the force of the blast.

"This checkpoint was set up in April of last year after we launched a Barracks Buster mortar at the base. As so often before, British attempts to frustrate our operations have proven totally futile."

The dead soldier was later named as David Wilson, a Lance Corporal from 9 Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps who was on attachment to 32 Regiment, Royal Artillery. Although Wilson was a member of the British army for ten years and served in Bosnia, Germany and the Malvinas, this was his first time in occupied Ireland. Last December another British soldier was shot dead by an IRA sniper about 300 yards from last Saturday's attack.

COLLABORATOR EXECUTED

Claiming responsibility

for the execution of British collaborator Fredrick Anthony, North Armagh Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann, refuted RUC claims that he regularly travelled to Lurgan RUC Barracks with his family. The statement came after Anthony's young daughter was seriously wounded when a device exploded in the car in which the family was travelling.

According to the IRA, weeks of close monitoring by Volunteers made it clear that Anthony regularly drove his Skoda car alone to the crown forces' base in Lurgan town centre. Anthony had been employed by the RUC's Police Authority as part of their attempts to "civilianise" sections of the overall staff employed by the Police Authority, allowing for more RUC members to be on 'active' patrol. This was recently confirmed in the first ever report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary when it stated:

"Civilianisation is one of the most cost-effective methods of both securing an increased uniform presence on the streets and enhancing the specialist expertise of many administrative duties."

The North Armagh Brigade statement concluded: "An explosive device was attached to the car and on Friday, 13 May, at 8.15am as the car moved along Hill Street, the device detonated, killing Anthony instantly."

RUC OFFICERS' BLASTED

Confirming that Volunteers of the Derry Brigade had targeted a number of RUC officers' homes in the Richill Park area of the Waterside with bombs, the IRA put the attacks in context in a statement. The attacks took place last Wednesday evening, 11 May.

The statement said that

WAR NEWS

The IRA had chosen the time to target the homes of several RUC members due to the fact that the RUC have been "blanketing nationalist areas and carrying out very hostile searches of nationalist homes."

"Derry Brigade Ogligh na hÉireann accuse the RUC of targeting particularly the young and the elderly, and arresting nationalist women. We should point out that no tactic employed by the RUC has broken the struggle and this one will not work either. The RUC must be aware that they will not be allowed to carry out their search operations and then return to the comfort of their homes."

"The IRA chose this particular street to show that even living under the surveillance of a major RUC base offers no security for members of the RUC."

It has been confirmed this week that a number of RUC personnel have moved out of the Richill Park area.

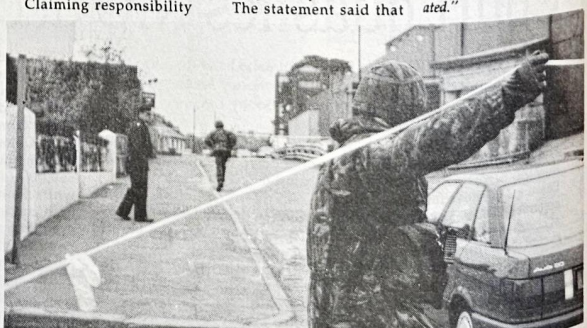
'DRUG DEALING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED'

In a statement issued to the media this week, the IRA in Fermanagh said:

"For a number of weeks, Volunteers from South Fermanagh Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann have been keeping a number of people from Lisnaskea and Roslea under surveillance on suspicion of drug trafficking and drug pushing. We are now satisfied that all of these people are involved and unless they cease their activities immediately we will take action against them."

"We would ask parents also to be aware of the dangers of drug taking to their children. We have no doubt that the RUC will make every attempt to take advantage of this situation and use it for their own ends."

"We are aware also of a number of people who have been using the name of the IRA to support their criminal activities. This situation will not be tolerated."



● Another Brit soldier pays the price of his government's continuing occupation of Ireland — courtesy of the North Armagh Brigade, IRA

Sinn Féin moves to overcome clarification roadblock

PREDICTABLY, as they always do when there is some sign of political movement, unionist politicians objected. "An about-turn" DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson said, as the British government finally decided to accede to Sinn Féin's request for clarification, nearly five months after the Downing Street Declaration was issued.

For five months, the British had consistently refused to grant Sinn Féin the same right to obtain clarification of the document as all the other political parties. Sinn Féin's reasonable request was described by British Prime Minister John Major last January as an "attempt to muddy the peace process" and

a demand for "negotiations by the back door".

The British responded to any letter sent by Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams with curt replies, merely quoting or paraphrasing sections of the declaration. Their public statements were even more hostile, in contrast with the Dublin

government's willingness to elucidate their own position and give their own interpretation of the terms of the declaration.

Sinn Féin's list of 20 questions was transmitted to the British through the Dublin government last week. The British acknowledged receipt of a document "purporting to be from Sinn Féin" and promptly said that they would make the questions public along with their reply — something which Sinn Féin had asked for anyway — and that this did not mean that they were in any way "negotiating or amending the declaration".

Notwithstanding the irritating posturing, the British held a meeting of ministers in Downing Street on Tuesday night to discuss their answer, the detail of which is expected before the end of the week. Dublin premier Albert Reynolds made some encouraging noises, saying he hoped the British response would be forwarded "as quickly as possible" to allow the peace process to get moving again. SDLP leader John Hume said he saw no difficulty in the British prime minister answering the questions put by Sinn Féin "and the answers offer no threat to any section of our people".

That the Downing Street Declaration needed to be clarified specifically by the British government was unanimously accepted within days of its publication. The style of the declaration itself, US academic Pádraig O'Malley wrote last January, was all "convoluted verbiage, contradictions, tortured language, elusive caveats". This, he said, allowed the declaration to be "all things to all people", creating unanimity only in that "no one quite understands what the document says, what procedures will be followed, what structures will be put in place, or even for that matter what was specifically agreed to do". The fact that the two unionist parties, the OUP and the DUP, initially took opposite views of the declaration, has as much to do with the declaration's contradictions as with the electoral rivalry between the two parties.

Each unionist party got a meeting with John Major, as did the SDLP and Alliance. At that meeting, they were able to ask the prime minister for his own interpretation of the text, and how it did or did not square up with their own party policies. As for Sinn Féin, it was bluntly told the declaration "needed no clarification and it would get none."

This intransigent stance by the British created a major diversion from the work of establishing a peace process, into a whole debate on the legitimacy of Sinn Féin as a political party, and indeed the legitimacy of its electoral mandate. This debate was won by Sinn Féin, as shown by those recent developments, but also by the breadth of support for clarification to be given. The British were called on to explain themselves by John Hume, Albert Reynolds, Cardinal Cahal Daly, British Labour Party spokesperson Kevin McNamara and US politicians.

five foreign ambassadors from European and Latin American countries, British minister Patrick Mayhew was subjected to 'hostile questioning' on his government's continued refusal to clarify, with one of the parties in the conflict, a document which they said set out the basic principles of that conflict's resolution.

The declarations ambiguities arise in three main areas.

■ In the text itself — for example, the definition of self-determination "for the people of the island of Ireland alone" but exercised by each part "respectively", or the mention of constitutional change by the Dublin government without mention of the Government of Ireland Act by the British, or the repeated adherence by the British to the partition of Ireland and the maintenance of the union;

■ In the various comments made by British ministers following the publication of the declaration — some of which were so deliberately bellicose as to sound provocative. There would be "no letup and no quarter" if republicans refused to accept the declaration, said Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. John Major referred to the need for a "decontamination process" before allowing Sinn Féin into talks, and suggested that initial, exploratory dialogue between republicans and the British government would be solely for the purpose of "discussing how the IRA would hand over its weapons".

In the Westminster debate that followed the signing of the declaration, Major had interpreted the document, obviously for the unionists' benefit, and assured them that it did not mean a united Ireland, nor the British government joining the ranks of the persuaders, nor joint authority, nor a say for Dublin in the affairs of the Six Counties, nor even a change in the unionist veto. All this does not square up

with the Dublin government's own comments on the same document.

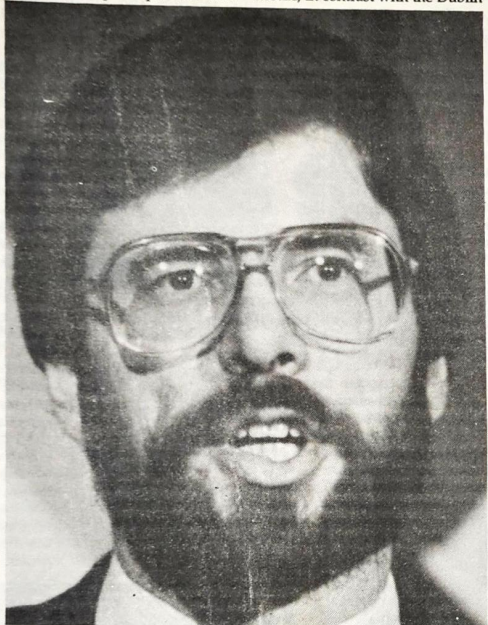
■ In the absence of any outline of a process towards peace — leaving the document open to wildly differing interpretations as to the real intentions of the British government. On that, Sinn Féin are asking the British to clarify what they see as the subsequent steps they would take, and the structures and processes they envisage in order to move on from the declaration.

By transmitting their list of points for clarification through the Dublin government, and not putting themselves on a hook of insisting on direct contacts between the British and themselves, Sinn Féin have shown themselves once again to be flexible. This is one of a number of signs of goodwill offered by republicans over the past several months. Others included Sinn Féin's statement that in a situation of all-inclusive dialogue, republicans would recognise the Dublin government as the main negotiator on constitutional issues. The IRA's three-day cessation at Easter was another signal, once again apparently ignored by the British.

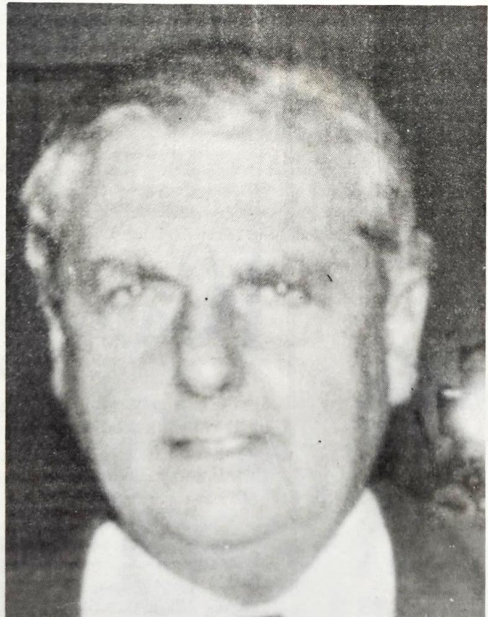
Sinn Féin have time and again explained that they see the declaration, and the debate it created both within and outside republican circles, as part of a process which should lead all parties to a peace process — a process with no deadlines, no unilateral or grand gestures, which would include all parties, and which would include the means of securing a complete demilitarisation of the situation.

As they await British clarifications, Irish nationalists will begin again to hope that all the hard work and efforts of the two northern nationalist leaders, Gerry Adams and John Hume, and the Dublin government, might not be in vain. If, however, the British response to the 20 questions is a mere restatement of the declaration itself, and left so deliberately ambiguous as to provide no clarification at all, this may well confirm their worst fears. That is, that the British stance 'post-declaration', and indeed perhaps even the British government's part of the declaration, are but a stalling device on the road to peace.

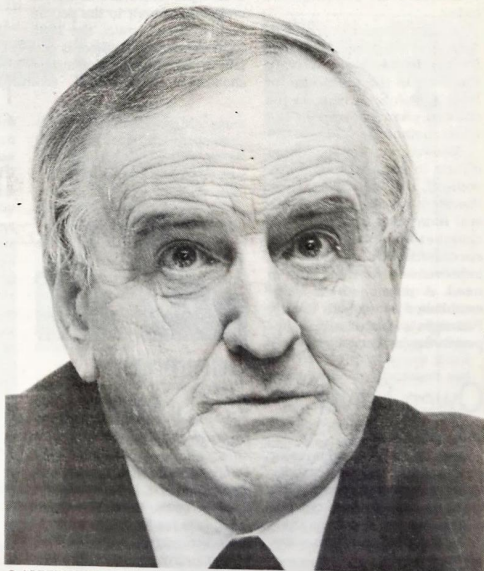
■ BY HILDA
MAC THOMAS



● GERRY ADAMS



● PATRICK MAYHEW



● ALBERT REYNOLDS

At a private meeting last Thursday in Dublin Castle, with

Sinn Féin confident of gains in Cavan/Monaghan

IN 1985, Sinn Féin stood seven candidates for various urban district councils (UDC) in the border counties of Cavan and Monaghan. The election of five of these candidates was secured, while the party narrowly missed the election of a sixth by four votes. Two Sinn Féin members were elected for Clones UDC, two for Monaghan UDC, one for Castleblaney UDC and the party narrowly missed getting a third seat in Clones.

In this election, however, Sinn Féin lost its seat on Cavan UDC. Cavan has been the only border county on either side of the border with no Sinn Féin elected representatives

over the past nine years.

In nine years, all the Sinn Féin councillors in Monaghan have gained vast experience and have a proven record of work and service to the community behind them. Monaghan Sinn Féin County Councillor Caoimhghín O Caoláin said this made the party face the electorate with courage and consequently, Sinn Féin is fielding a longer list of candidates this time around.

There are eight nominees in County Monaghan — three for Clones UDC, three for Monaghan UDC, one in Castleblaney and one for Ballybay Town Commission. The party is also more than hopeful that it will retake its seat on Cavan Urban District Council.



Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha
Monaghan UDC

Since her excellent showing in the 1985 local council elections, Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha has established herself as an experienced and fair-minded representative. As a woman and mother she has reflected ably on the areas that concern women in our communities today.

A keen interest in Irish cultural and language activities, Pádraigín has been actively involved in the promotion of Irish within Sinn Féin, in the council chamber and in the wider community.

Known and respected for her efforts in support of the less well-off, the aged and infirm, Pádraigín has spearheaded several important debates in the chamber of Monaghan UDC, successfully securing real improvements for those most in need. A member of a long-established Monaghan family, Pádraigín is assured strong support in the current contest.

Owen Smyth
Monaghan UDC

An able and forceful member of Monaghan UDC since 1985, Owen Smyth has championed the needs and issues of concern to the people of Monaghan throughout his term as a councillor.

Married to Ann, they have three children. Very supportive



of all efforts to promote the use of Irish in the daily life of the local community, Owen was closely associated with the setting up of the all-Irish stream at St Mary's, which later grew into the highly-acclaimed Gaelscoil Ullain.

A member of Sinn Féin since 1971, Owen has played an important role in the development of republican politics in Monaghan town and county. With a proven record of service and commitment to the people of his native town, the 1985 local election poll-topper is certain to record yet another strong showing on 9 June.



Caoimhghín O Caoláin
Monaghan UDC

A member of Monaghan County Council since 1985, the selection of Caoimhghín O Caoláin as the third Sinn Féin candidate for Monaghan UDC underscores the serious intent of the organisation in Monaghan in their quest for a third urban seat.

Very experienced, Caoimhghín has been a full-time party activist and public elected representative for almost a decade.

Married to Briège, they have four children.

A member of the Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle, Caoimhghín has been prominently identified with the party's international presentation of its peace proposals, most recently on visits to Washington and Brussels.

Faced with a difficult challenge on this occasion, Caoimhghín O Caoláin presents Sinn Féin with its best prospects of securing three seats on Monaghan UDC.



Peter McAleer
Clones UDC

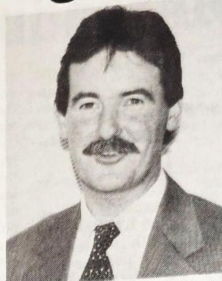
A member of Clones UDC since 1985, Peter resides at Cherry Park with his wife Eileen and their three children.

Secretary of County Monaghan Council of Trade Unions since 1987, Peter has for long been associated with trade union activities and campaigns aimed at securing and improving the pay and conditions of workers. Involved in a number of local and community-based committees, Peter has ably used his council seat to promote the needs and interests of the people of Clones.

An active member of Sinn Féin throughout his adult life, Peter McAleer can confidently face the electorate of Clones on 9 June.

Pat Treanor
Clones UDC

Having served on Monaghan



County Council (1985-1991), Pat Treanor enters the Clones urban contest with a wealth of experience and considerable knowledge of the workings of local government. A member of the former County Committee of Agriculture and of the now abolished Local Health Committee, Pat has continued to serve the interests of the electorate of Clones in a nonelected capacity since 1991.

Married to Maire, they have three children.

Pat has been very supportive of all efforts to develop and promote the town of Clones and has been to the fore in the campaign to secure the reopening of all closed cross-border roads in the area.

His election to Clones UDC will assuredly strengthen that body's ability to strive for and secure the important advances needed for the future of this long-neglected border town.



Debbie Moore
Clones UDC

Popular young Clones woman Debbie Moore is a newcomer to Sinn Féin's line-up of candidates.

Mother of Saoirse, she is very aware of the difficulties faced by young families striving to cope in the Ireland of today.

An able and articulate woman, Debbie's candidature will undoubtedly enhance Sinn Féin's prospects of taking a third seat in Clones.



Jackie Crowe
Castleblaney UDC

Sinn Féin's nominee to the

party's vacant seat on Castleblaney UDC in 1993, Jackie Crowe is a long-established and highly-respected community activist. The refusal by some members of the urban body to support his co-option proposal and the outright opposition of others, angered a cross-section of 'Blayne' opinion. On 9 June, the voters of Castleblaney will have the final say on that injustice.

Married to Bernie, they and their family of eight live in Oliver Plunkett Park at Drumillard.

A member of the Parents' Committee of Ard Scoil Lorgain, Jackie has a keen interest in all youth-related activities in Castleblaney.

An active member of Sinn Féin throughout his adult life, he places the housing needs of young families and single mothers high on his list of priorities if elected.



Gene Duffy
Ballybay TC

The Sinn Féin candidate for Ballybay Town Commission is Gene Duffy of Corrybrennan Park.

A builder, Gene is married to Mary and they have a family of three.

An active member of Sinn Féin for ten years, Gene is very aware of the problems faced by the people of this Mid-Monaghan town.

Highly regarded by all shades of opinion, Gene Duffy can be expected to poll well in the June contest.



Brian McKeown
Cavan UDC

Brian and his wife Briege (nee Greenan) live at Swellan Lower, within the new extended Cavan urban boundary. They have two sons, aged 12 and 13.

A keen sportsman, Brian is a founder member and coach of Cavan's Amateur Boxing Club. He is currently secretary of the Cavan/Monaghan Boxing Board. He represents County Cavan on the Ulster Council of the Irish Amateur Boxing Association and has been coach to both the Ulster Provincial and Irish National Amateur Boxing teams, including the Olympic qualifying tournament at Berck in France in 1992.

A republican throughout his adult life, he joined Sinn Féin in 1972. To the fore in the historic election of Kieran Doherty in the Cavan/Monaghan constituency in 1981, he has been prominent in all Sinn Féin election campaigns in the Cavan area since.

A popular figure in Cavan town, Brian's election would see the re-entry of Sinn Féin to elected politics in the Breffni county after a gap of nine years.

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EU elections in each and, as well as urban district council, Central by-election. put into the election help. If you think you leafletting or in other nn Féin cumann or ctor of Elections, 44 a Cliaith 1 or phone



● A section of the march held against British militarisation in Crossmaglen last Saturday

United stand against Cross siege

OVER 1,000 PEOPLE turned out on the streets of Crossmaglen last Saturday, 14 May, to demand the removal of the British military presence from the South Armagh town. Representatives from various societies and organisations were there to support the local community in their demands, as well as people from Derry, Dublin, Belfast, and throughout Ireland.

The banners brought by the many GAA clubs from the surrounding area, and Crossmaglen itself, showed the strength of feeling created by the British requisition of GAA property. Banners were also brought by other supportive bodies from Louth, Belfast and Dublin. The march proceeded around the town, finishing in the main square, now completely dominated by the British garrison.

Local doctor, Mary Allen, chaired the rally, at which the number of speakers was so great that there was barely room for them on the platform.

Representatives from Sinn Féin, the GAA, Louth County Council, the SDLP and Newry and Mourne Council also spoke at the gathering. Doctor Allen warned against growing immune to the present situation in Crossmaglen, as the community became accustomed to living in a state of siege.

James Savage, chair of Newry and Mourne Council, conveyed the council's "support and sympathy" for the people of Crossmaglen. He also stated that he had been assured by those responsible that the siege of the

town would be lifted, but no date was given for this reduction in the British military presence. However, the mood of the crowd was to take such British assurances with a pinch of salt.

SDLP MP Séamus Mallon paid tribute to the people of Crossmaglen, and the dignity of their protest at what was an intolerable situation. He described this as a violation of people's lives, "every hour of the day and night". The building work which the British claim is responsible for the greatly increased military activity in the town would, he said, not improve the lives of the people of Crossmaglen — in fact, the opposite. Mallon's speech was followed by the local SDLP representative, John Fee.

Bernadette McAllister then addressed the assembled crowd. She asserted the basic right of the people of Crossmaglen to live without militarisation, and pointed out that this right was being violated by the British presence in the town. The failure to recognise this basic right was "the beginning and the end of

the problem" for the people of Crossmaglen.

It is the lack of "respect for us as human beings, as nationalists, and as republicans" which makes this failure possible. She added: "We are told we must stop being what we are if we want peace and dignity, but we cannot do this."

McAllister pointed out that the first movement towards peace must come from the aggressor, that peace is "not in the gift of the oppressed". The first step towards peace in Crossmaglen would come with the dismantling of the sangar opposite the platform. The suggestion that the offending installation be sold for scrap was greeted by cheers from the assembled crowd.

Sinn Féin Euro candidate Francie Molloy congratulated the people of Crossmaglen on the stand they were taking against the British crown forces. He especially mentioned parents, children and teachers who had taken part in the demonstration the previous day. The dignity with which they had marched, armed only with their desire for the removal of the installations which now dominated their schools, typified the resilience of the community. Molloy said this resistance to the heavily-armed occupation of Crossmaglen, reminded him of the sole protester in Tiananmen Square faced with the armed might of tanks.

"The entire area is a massive concentration camp" and the community is being used as "human shields", Sinn Féin, Molloy concluded, wanted to see an "end to militarisation" but this "can only come with an end to British occupation".

Two GAA representatives, Gene Duffy and Eddie Hughes, then spoke of their hopes of an "end to the siege of Crossmaglen". Fianna Fáil TDs Doctor Rory O'Hanlon and Séamus Kirk said they hoped there would soon be a "reduction in the level of security" in the area.

Father Piaras O'Duill said he came to Crossmaglen as "a fellow-countryman" and said those who wanted peace should

remember, "peace does not come before freedom".

The representative of the Rosemount Watchtower Committee in Derry, said he had never been to Crossmaglen, but he could understand the anger of the community. The people of Rosemount were continuing to fight back against the intrusive watchtower in their midst. "We will get our human rights... We are not the ones who need watching. We are not animals, we do not break down doors in the middle of the night, it is the British who need watching."

The final speaker was greeted with cheers of recognition by the assembled crowd. Sinn Féin Councillor Jim McAllister said there were terrorists in Crossmaglen, and "every one of them wears the uniform of the British state". He added that "not one man, woman or child in the area wants them here... they are not here to keep the peace", but in an attempt to claim that Britain rules Ireland. "Britain does not, we do".

McAllister then called for a minute's silence in memory of those killed in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, which occurred 20 years ago.

"We are the oppressed, and we want to put an end to it. Your presence here is very powerful... This is an Irish town with Irish people, fighting back. We want the GAA property back and our gardens back. We want all-inclusive meetings and democracy... We will come back and back, and we will do it."

McAllister concluded by telling the representatives present from Louth, Dublin and elsewhere, to go back and "tell them we don't want the Irish army on the border" supporting the British in what they are doing in Crossmaglen.

Doctor Allen then read out the faxes that had been received from those who were not able to be present in Crossmaglen, including Brendan McGahon TD for Louth, and US Senator, Peter King.

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams sent solidarity greetings to the people of Crossmaglen.

Students protest at martial law

AS A PRELUDE to Saturday's demonstration, protests were organised by the Crossmaglen Concerned Parents Committee outside St Joseph's and St Patrick's schools. Beginning at 10am, students and parents alike gathered outside St Joseph's High School

and, stating that the British are using the pupils as human shields, the protesters marched to the emplacement. They heard a message from the concerned parents group, read by

group spokesperson Margaret O'Callaghan. In the statement, O'Callaghan said they were "marching to highlight the continued danger to their children by these checkpoints being so close to the schools, and demand their removal".

O'Callaghan pointed out that pupils doing their GCSE exams and their teachers were under enough pressure and didn't need the pressure from the crown forces.

"We will continue to highlight, in any way we can, this situation and emphasise to the younger children to stay away from these British army bunkers. British soldiers are giving them sweets to entice them into the bunkers. We don't want any child to get hurt or worse."

The crowd, consisting of children, their parents and teachers from the school, then marched through the town to St Patrick's Primary School on the Carron



● MARGARET O'CALLAGHAN

Road. There, the pupils and teachers walked out to join the protest which had swollen to hundreds of people. Again they marched to the Carron Road crown forces' emplacement and made their protest.

Before departing, O'Callaghan thanked everyone who came along for their support and also those parents who did not send their children to school as a mark of solidarity. Also, she mentioned the governors and staff of St Joseph's High School who put an advertisement in the local paper to express their support for the concerned parents' action.



● Crossmaglen's school children make their feelings known on the British occupation of their town

News

Sinn Féin leader in US visit

A SECOND VISIT to the United States by a senior Sinn Féin representative this year has underscored the mood of optimism surrounding the Irish Peace Initiative and the centrality of Sinn Féin to the efforts to move the peace process in Ireland along.

Chairperson of the party's Six-County Comhairle, Mitchel McLaughlin, was granted a visa by the US State Department at the beginning of May. This allowed him to take up an invitation, sent to Sinn Féin, from the influential and prestigious City Club of Cleveland, Ohio.

"The granting of this visit is a

victory for commonsense," said McLaughlin "as it allows Americans to hear the views of republicans at first hand and removes another barrier of censorship from Sinn Féin."

"Every US president of the last 40 years has been invited to the City Club, allowing them to set out their political stall. And

actually the last Sinn Féin leader to be invited there was Eamon De Valera."

During his tour, the Sinn Féin councillor met with senators and congress members whose interest in Ireland has been consistent and who have the power and ability to influence US policy makers.

"These expressed concern about the British refusal to clarify the Downing Street Declaration for Sinn Féin. These politicians found it difficult to understand why the British would refuse to give clarification of the declaration, especially if doing so would move the peace process on.

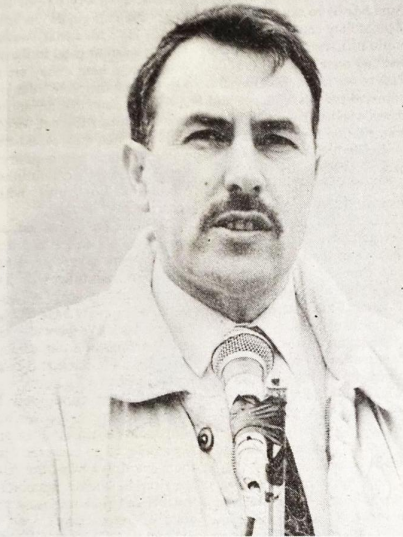
"The senators and congressmen assured me they would lobby the Clinton administration to have the clarification issue resolved."

McLaughlin also visited Washington DC, where he attended meetings with other Irish-Americans. He briefed some of the most powerful US political lobbyists.

Describing these briefings as "very useful exchanges" the Sinn Féin spokesperson said the US politicians were "very interested in what I had to say and by their interjections showed a high degree of awareness of the situation in the Six Counties".

There was also a press conference held in the office of New York Congress member Peter King, which was attended by journalists from the syndicated press. McLaughlin told AP/RN that he was very impressed by the coverage he received at this conference.

"The fact that the *Wall Street Journal*, one of the most influential and prestigious newspapers in the world, gave a Sinn Féin spokesperson front-page coverage is an indication that the Sinn Féin message is getting through."



● Mitchel McLaughlin — in America to advance the peace process

RUC pressure Cookstown woman to inform

A YOUNG COOKSTOWN WOMAN is close to a breakdown after she and her young family were targeted by the RUC in a concerted attempt by the RUC to force her to work for them.

The first of a series of approaches took place at the beginning of 1994 when RUC Special Branch detectives called at the woman's door and tried to pressurise her into becoming an informer.

They told her that they were "interested in the past, and that she knows how to get in contact with him anytime". They promised the woman that if she cooperated she and her family "would be set up for life". The woman refused to work for them.

Since the woman's refusal, RUC harassment has become so bad that she has considered leaving her home. The woman who is receiving treatment for her nerves, told AP/RN:

"The RUC are attempting to take advantage of my vulnerable nervous state. Every time that I was stopped they would play the good guy/bad guy routine, it has left my nerves in tatters but they still continue to harass me and my family, and its gradually getting worse."

The woman is so frightened that she now only goes into Cookstown town centre once a week to shop for fear that she will be harassed further. The woman has to pass a permanent army checkpoint on her way into the town and faces constant abuse from the members of the crown forces who guard it.

The young woman broke down in tears several times during the interview with AP/RN. As she spoke about her ordeal the woman said:

"They know I am a single parent and they are trying to exploit what they see as a weakness. I can hardly walk to the shops without being stopped. I've been called a slag and a whore everytime I am stopped by, or pass these people."

In a further crude attempt at intimidating the woman, the crown forces targeted the woman's 13-year-old daughter.

Several weeks ago the young

girl was told by a British army footpatrol that her father had been shot at Silverbridge. The British soldiers were referring to a failed shoot-to-kill incident where the RUC fired on a car at the Silverbridge crossroads near Crossmaglen.

The young girl ran home in a state of distress and told her mother what happened. The mother, upset at the state of her daughter and what she had told her, began to phone around the local and regional hospitals in an attempt to find out about her estranged husband. It was only the next day that she found out that the story was a lie.

In the most recent incident the woman had gone to Belfast and stayed with a friend in an attempt to recover from the pressure she was under. But when she arrived in Belfast she was stopped by members of the RUC Special Branch one of whom was called Montieith. He again asked her to work for the RUC and said that she would be "looked after" by them. Again she refused and was subjected to verbal abuse from the officers.

The woman has since gone to her solicitor and is in the process of making a formal complaint against the crown forces.

IN BRIEF...

Unionists oppose security wall

THE CALLS by residents of Springfield Park to have a security wall built to protect them from loyalist death squads have been opposed by unionist politicians. Presently, the nationalists of Springfield Park and the loyalists of Springfield Estate are separated only by palisade fencing.

Unionists are threatening to block the proposed wall unless they are consulted about any changes in the 'peace line'.

Despite the fact that in recent years the loyalist death squads have mounted ten sectarian attacks on nationalists in Springfield Park, the most recent being the shooting dead of Liam Thompson last month, the NIO has refused to take seriously residents' demands for increased security.

Fred Cobain of the Ulster Unionist Party showed his complete disregard for the lives of nationalists when he said his reason for opposing the wall was because "many people living in Springfield could find themselves looking at a 20-foot wall all day".

Residents angry at Hendron

SPRINGFIELD RESIDENTS are also angry at the actions of SDLP MP Joe Hendron, who attended a meeting with NIO Minister John Wheeler on the issue of the wall "with no mandate" according to local people.

In a statement on 17 May, the Springfield Park Residents Association (SPRA) said that even after Hendron had been made aware that the NIO had vetted the SPRA delegation and attempted to limit it to one person, the SDLP man persisted in meeting the minister. The residents went on:

"Despite his high hopes of gaining political kudos, Hendron only succeeded in undermining his position and this was borne out by Councillor Attwood's admission that nothing was gained from the meeting, but continued empty promises given by the minister."

The group said that Hendron had been "consistently duped" by the NIO, RUC and government ministers. "He should now throw his weight four square behind the residents' continuing campaign for proper safety measures for our families."

Councillor's intervention penalised by court

A DERRY SINN FÉIN councillor has been bound over to keep the peace for 12 months after being convicted last week at a court in the city of disorderly behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace after a raid on a West End Park house in the city on 9 December 1992, in which six people were arrested by the RUC.

Councillor Mary Nelis, who was not a councillor at the time of the incident, stated she had gone to the West End Park house, which houses the offices of the Bloody Sunday Justice Campaign and the Pat Finucane Centre, after learning that several men had broken in.

She declared that she was very concerned at "banging and hammering" noises coming from the house where the search was taking place.

The RUC accused her of saying she was leaving to "get a crowd together to block the area", however, Nelis denied trying to incite a crowd. She said she left to phone St Eugene's Cathedral parochial house and the SDLP offices.

She added that a priest from the cathedral had later arrived on the scene. Nelis also denied trying to prevent RUC vehicles leaving the area, saying that RUC vehicles "were leaving the scene at great speed and it would have been 'foolhardy' to try to obstruct them".

Councillor Nelis, from Westland Avenue in the city, has lodged an appeal against the judgment.

Charges dropped in sectarian murder case

TWO BELFAST women accused of the murder of Ann Marie Smyth on 24 February 1992, have had the murder charges dropped in return for pleading guilty to lesser offences. This development comes despite evidence from the main prosecution witness, Cheryl Kelly, that the two, Michelle Thompson and Hazel Colligan, had been present in the East Belfast house where Smyth was killed, and that Colligan had told her the Armagh woman was to be murdered "because she was a Catholic".

The two were released on bail after they had both pleaded guilty to conspiring to assault Smyth, and to "attempting to pervert the course of public justice" by making a false statement to the RUC and destroying "vital evidence". Thompson alone admitted helping to clean the house after the murder.

Five of the six people still on trial in connection with the killing of Ann Marie Smyth are accused of her murder.



● Gerry Adams — in Euskadi to explain the peace process

Adams in Euskadi

SINN FÉIN President Gerry Adams last week visited the Basque Country, Euskadi, at the invitation of Herri Batasuna. He received a tremendous welcome at Sondica Airport on Monday, 9 May, when he touched down in Bilbao.

As well as the expected large press corps, Basque dancers greeted him at the airport and presented him with a makila, a staff traditionally used by Basque cattleherders and shepherds, which symbolises dignity and authority. During his short but busy visit, Adams did numerous interviews with Basque, Spanish and international media organisations. On his first evening he addressed a meeting in a Bilbao cinema attended by over a thousand people, anxious to hear about the Irish Peace Initiative.

Adams attended two press conferences with Herri Batasuna, one in Bilbao, the other in Madrid, accompanied by Karmelo Landa, the party's European MEP. Adams also spoke at a public meeting in Madrid, which was attended by several hundred people. At these public appearances and in interviews, Adams repeatedly referred to the triumph of the African

National Congress in South Africa and the swearing in of Nelson Mandela as the first democratically-elected president. He said that these events, almost unimaginable only a few short years ago, have fanned the hope that true and lasting peace will be reached in the near future, in Ireland as well as in Euskadi.

The most emotive part of his visit for Adams came when he visited Gernika, the cradle of Basque culture and resistance, which was almost totally destroyed by Nazi bombers in 1937, as Hitler supported Franco's forces with airpower. Mothers of Basque political prisoners presented Adams with a copy of Pablo Picasso's famous painting, Gernika. While in Madrid, Adams took time to visit the Madrid museum where Picasso's original is displayed.

Adams flew home from Madrid on Wednesday, 11 May, after a very successful solidarity visit.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO...

Change of masters

IN MAY 1969 the volcano which was the Six-County state was still boiling after the eruptions of the previous months. There was no visible sign yet of the catastrophic explosion which was to come later in the summer, but the rumblings which presaged it could be heard clearly.

At the start of the month Major James Chichester Clarke had taken over as unionist prime minister from Terence O'Neill.

Chichester Clarke had resigned from the government in protest at O'Neill's attempts at reforms in response to the Civil Rights Movement. The removal of O'Neill and the election of Chichester-Clarke to the leadership of the Unionist Party had been a victory for the increasingly angry and vocal right wing of unionism. But lest it be thought that O'Neill was any less condescending in his attitude to Catholics than the more extreme unionists, his remarks on 10 May, within three weeks of his resignation, should not be forgotten. In an

interview with the *Belfast Telegraph* he said:

"It is frightfully hard to explain to Protestants that if you give Roman Catholics a good job and a good house, they will live like Protestants, because they will see neighbours with cars and television sets. They will refuse to have 18 children, but if a Roman Catholic is jobless and lives in a most ghastly hovel, he will rear 18 children on National Assistance. If you treat Roman Catholics with due consideration and kindness, they will live like Protestants in spite of the authoritative nature of their church."

The pattern that was to emerge throughout the year was the



● A NICRA protest during the early days of the Civil Rights Movement

irreformability of unionism and of the unionist state. That the man who made such remarks could be seen as too radical by most of his own party, and as a traitor by the growing forces of loyalism led by Ian Paisley, said much about the

deeply reactionary nature of unionism. It was this stone wall of sectarianism that the Civil Rights Movement was to confront over the next few months.

The man who had taken over the reins of power at Stormont was, like O'Neill, from a unionist landlord background. Chichester Clarke had been educated at Eton, one of the foremost English public schools, became an officer in the Irish Guards and inherited his grandmother's Stormont seat in South Derry in 1960. He was a leading figure in the unionist party throughout the 1960s.

Proposals to introduce even the most basic reforms to end the most blatant forms of gerrymandering in local government had caused a crisis in unionism which was still developing when Chichester Clarke took over. On 18 May 1969, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) said that the failure of the government to stick to a timetable of reforms meant that there was no alternative but to continue their civil disobedience campaign. In April they had announced a moratorium on marches and street demonstra-

tions, but they now gave the government six weeks, up to the end of the Stormont parliament term, to issue a public timetable of reforms or else demonstrations would start again.

NICRA repeated their demands which were designed to break the unionist sectarian stranglehold on all levels of government. These demands included 'one man, one vote' (an end to the system whereby only people of property could vote in local elections and where companies had multiple votes) the lowering of the voting age to 18, an independent boundary commission to change the rigged constituencies, a points system for housing, machinery to remedy local government abuses, legislation against discrimination in jobs, a review of the Special Powers Act and the disbandment of the B Specials.

By the end of the month Chichester Clarke had produced no timetable and on 1 June NICRA announced that street demonstrations would resume. The stage was set for one of the most momentous summers in Irish history.

£1,000 Sinn Féin Election Draw Results

1ST PRIZE £1,000: MARGARET O'CONNELL, CAVAN;

2ND PRIZE CREST MIRROR: BERNIE BOYLE, MONAGHAN;

3RD PRIZE FRAMED PROCLAMATION: JOE CULLEN, GOREY, COUNTY WEXFORD.

PUBLIC MEETING

"Miscarriages of Justice & The Reasons Why"

Mansion House, Dublin

Speakers:

MARY BECK (Ballymurphy 7 Relatives Committee)

JEREMY CORBYN, M.P.

ANGELO FUSCO

NICKY KELLY

TOM MCGURK

JOHNNY WALKER

JUDITH WARD

Wed., 1 June, '94 8p.m.

Nuacht

Clár an Oireachtais seolta

AG OCAID ar an Deardaoin seo caite, 12 Bealtaine fógraíodh clár sealadach Oireachtas na Gaeilge. Beidh sé á reachtáil i mbliana thar deich lá ó Aoine 28 Deireadh Fómhair go Domhnach 6 Samhain sna Déise.

Is í seo an chéad uair riamh a mbeidh an tOireachtas ar siúl sna Déise agus tá an-obair déanta chun a chinntiú gur Oireachtas den scoth a bheidh ann. I mBaile Dhún Garbhán agus i nGaelocht na Rinne a bheidh imeachtaí na féile ar siúl.

Tá cáil ar na Déise de bharr saibhreas an cheoil agus na teanga agus de bharr áilleacht an cheantair féin. Tá cáil ar leith ar thraidisiún sean-nóis an cheantair.

Is é an tOireachtas féile náisiúnta Chonradh na Gaeilge agus príomhféile na Gaeilge. Is é an

teacht le chéile is mó sa bhliain é do phobal na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge.

Bíonn an tOireachtas ag plé le beagnach gach gné de shaothair agus de chultúr na Éireann — an teanga, an ceol, an amhránaíocht, an rince, an díospóireacht, an spórt, an ealaín, agus ar ndóigh, an dea-chomhlúadair.

Freastalóinn an fhéile ar gach cineál duine idir óg is aosta. Beidh imeachtaí speisialta do dhaoine óga ar siúl le linn na chéad deireadh seachtaine ach beidh cuid mhór imeachtaí eile le linn na

féile a bheidh oiriúnach do dhaoine óga chomh maith.

Seoladh Clár na gComórtais Liteartha ag an ócáid i gClub an Chonradh. I mbliana tá luach £25,000 de dhuisceanna á thairiscint do shaothair úrnuas san réimís seo a leanas — próis, filíocht, drámaíocht, iriseoireacht, teilifís, aistriúcháin, físeán agus cumadóiríocht ceoil. Tá Bord na Gaeilge ag déanamh arraíochta ar chomórtais nua san iriseoireacht chloíthe agus chraolta agus ar chomórtais do script teilifíse.

Roghnaíodh an craoltóir agus an bailitheoir ceoil cáiliúil Ciarán Mac Mathúan ina earlamh ar na Oireachtais. Tá cáil air as a clár The Humours of Donnybrook agus Mo Cheoil Thú.



Saoirse gluaiseachta éilithe sa Chorr Chríochach



● Náisiúnaíthe ag éileamh cearta taistil

TA MORSHIUL go dtí Halla na Cathrach sa Chorr Chríochach beartaíthe ag an Choiste Thír Eoghain do Chearta Náisiúntóirí tráthnóna Dé Domhnaigh, 5 Meitheamh.

Beidh an mórshuíl ag dul ó Chabhra McGovern sa bhaile go dtí Halla na Cathrach. Dúirt an coiste nach bhfuil an bealach a roghnaigh siad don mhórshuíl conspóideach ar bith.

Dúirt an coiste go mbeadh sé fóirneach dá gcuirfeadh an RUC cosc ar an mhórshuíl de thairbhe gur "Saoirse Gluaiseachta" an téama atá ar an imeacht. Arsa an coiste:

"Tá sé soiléir i gceantar a bhfuil an líon céanna náisiúntóirí agus aontachtóirí ann gur leis an phobal

ar fad Halla na Cathrach sa Chorr Chríochach nach mbeidh an RUC díltach don iarratas réasúnach seo le máirseáil i sráideanna ár mbaile féin.

"Tá súil againn go mbeadh dearcadh ní ba réasúnta ag an RUC maidir leis an mhórshuíl seo ná mar a bhí acu i mBéal Feirste Dé Domhnaigh, 8 Bealtaine.

"Thaispeáin an réiteach scanálach sin de chuid an RUC gur beag an t-athrú a tháinig ar an stát seo ó bhí 1969 ann."

Cháin an coiste an clipeadh gan stad gan stornadh de náisiúnaíthe áitiúla an bhliain seo ag lámha an RUC agus arm na Breataine. Rinne siad comparáid idir na gníomhacha seo agus na hiarrachtaí atá ag dul ar aghaidh le buan síocháin a thabhairt don tír.

"Ag an am seo," arsa an coiste "nuair atá iarrachtaí á ndéanamh le próiseas síochána a fhorbairt agus a thógáil sliodmíd go bhfuil an cur isteach seo neodrach agus mílteach. In ionad sin tá náisiúnaíthe ag dúil le céimeanna chun tosaigh. Bheadh cead don mhórshuíl seo go Halla na Cathrach na chéim bheag áitiúla sa treo seo."

Parúl diúltaithe do chime Feirsteach

D'éiligh urlabhraí Shinn Féin ar na príosúin, Francie Molloy, athruithe móra don phróiseas do pharúl trócaireach do chímí.

Bhí Molloy ag caint i ndiaidh gur diúltaiodh parúl trócaireach do Peter Corbett, cime poblachtach as Ard Eoin, i dTuaisceart Bhéal Feirste, a chaithe breis is sé bliana de dhaoiradh 17 bliana sa Cheis Fhada.

Leanann an réiteach seo diúltú an Roinn Ghnóthaí Baile sa Bhreatain lígean don chime poblachtach Hugh Doherty freastal ar adhlacadh a mháthair coicís ó shin. Tá 19 mbliana caite ag Doherty i bpríosúin Shasanaíche.

Dé Luain seo, 16 Bealtaine, bhí

taom croí ollmhór ag Arthur Corbett, athair Peter, agus tógadh é chuig an aonad dian aire den Oispidéal Ríoga i mBéal Feirste. Tá stair de thrioblóid dháiríre croí ag Arthur Corbett le 10 mbliana anuas.

Mar sin chuir Peter iarratas ar místeach go dfeach faoi choinne parúl trócaireach lena athair a fheiceáil. Dhiúltaigh an Oifig Thuaisceart Éireann. Dúirt siad nach raibh an t-athair "i mbaol báis". Arsa Francie Molloy:

"Soiléiríonn cás Peter Corbett

an easpa daonnachta laistigh den OTÉ ag diúltú do mhac cuairt a thabhairt ar a athair atá ina luí go dáiríre tinn.

"Ba chóir go mbeadh sé de cheart ag achan cime parúl trócaireach a fháil do thréimhse 72 uaire ar a laghad.

"Níor chóir go mbeadh sé ina phribhléid ar féidir le gobharnóir príosún nó oifigeach de chuid an OTÉ a choinneáil siar.

"Ba chóir parúl trócaireach a thabhairt do Peter Corbett láithreach baill le bheith lena chlann ag an am seo."



● Geataí na Ceise Fada

Gníomhachaithe Dhoire feargach as réiteach BBC

TÁ gníomhachaithe Gaeilge i nDoire feargach as moltaí chun aonad Gaeilge an BBC a bhogadh ó stiúideoanna Raidió Feabhail sa chathair go Béal Feirste.

Dúirt urlabhraí de chuid an BBC an tseachtain seo caite go mbeidh fógra go luath ar an atheagrú den aonad a dhéanann clár Gaeilge sa BBC sna Sé Chontae.

Ach dúirt Ivor Ferris de Chumann Gaelach Chnoc na Ros i nDoire gur chreid sé go raibh pleananna ag an BBC chun an t-

aonad Gaeilge a bhogadh amach as an chathair go Béal Feirste.

Dúirt Ferris de réir mar a thuig sé an scéal go raibh an BBC ag athlonnú an aonaid sa Roinn do Chláir ar Leith i mBéal Feirste. Ach dúirt sé go raibh an sórt seo smaoinimh ag dul in aghaidh polasaithe reatha de dhílárú agus

athscaipeadh de sheirbhísí agus obair.

Dúirt Ferris go raibh ról ag an Aonad Gaeilge ar an Fheabhaill i bhforbairt an chomhphobail máguaird agus go mbeadh sé ina chailliúint mhór don dúiche dá mbogfaí go Béal Feirste é. Arsa sé:

"Cuireann an t-aonad obair ar fáil do roinnt daoine áitiúla a chruthaigh go raibh siad cumasach i ndéanamh cláir den chéad scoth.

"Cuireann obair an aonaid a dúiche ar fad ar an learscáil chraolta in Éirinn agus mar sin tá tionchar mór aige ar an fhorbairt chultúrtha, shóisialta agus eacnamaíúil den cheantar."

Dúirt Ferris nár chóir don BBC bheith beag beann ar éifeacht na réitithe seo ar an chomhphobal áitiúil.

"Ba chóir do mhórchorparáid stáit mar an BBC smaoineamh ar a

freagracht don chomhphobal a fheastalann sé air.

"Mar sin níor chóir dó réitithe móra mar seo a ghlacadh gan aird a thabhairt ar an tionchar a bheidh ag na réitithe sin ar an chomhphobal ina bhfuil an t-aonad bunaithe."

Mhol Ferris an obair atá déanta ag an aonad Gaeilge ar an Fheabhail go dtí seo agus dúirt sé go raibh súil aige go mfiníodh an BBC an réiteach leis an aonad a bhogadh go luath.

VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH LECTURE 1994...VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH LECTURE 1994...

Peace strategy debated in Portlaoise

■ PRO Republican POWs, Portlaoise Prison

THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY of the death on active service of Volunteer Jim Lynagh and his seven comrades was commemorated this week by the republican POWs in Portlaoise Prison.

As a comrade who spent time with us here, Jim Lynagh was an inspirational figure who was to the fore in all aspects of the struggle. Jim was a highly respected and fearless Volunteer on the outside who took the fight directly to the British forces whenever the opportunity arose. In Portlaoise we also remember him as a highly-politicised Volunteer who recognised the importance of immersion in the politics of the struggle and the political awareness this entailed. Well read in history and politics, Jim was convinced of the need to learn from the lessons of the past so that they may guide us in the politics we develop to carry us into the future.

While in Portlaoise, Jim was as active as he was outside. Taking part in debates and lectures on a regular basis, he liked nothing better than a good political argument. In his view this was putting one's time to good and productive use while in prison. Developing and deepening our understanding of republican politics will leave us better equipped to contribute to the struggle when eventually released. In recognition of Jim Lynagh's contribution to the struggle both inside and outside the prison we pay tribute to his memory by dedicating a series of political lectures to him every year.

The annual Jim Lynagh series of lectures are an important feature of the political life in Portlaoise. It provides the prisoners with an opportunity to develop our politics and engage in fruitful discussion and debate around relevant social, political, cultural and economic issues in Ireland today. Each year the series of lectures focus broadly around a particular theme. This year's well attended lectures had as their theme the current peace process, how it can be developed and the possible directions this could take.

The first of three lectures was given by Martin Ferris (Kerry). Outlining the genesis and the development of the attempt to build a peace process, Ferris presented a comprehensive run down

on the Irish Peace Initiative. He argued that after many painful years of struggle there now exists an unprecedented effort by Irish nationalists to find a solution and end the conflict in Ireland. He traced how the Republican Movement and other nationalist-minded individuals and parties have arrived to where we are now: A form of nationalist alliance encouraging and generating support for a real peace process. Significant developments in republican politics were highlighted as propelling the process forward. These included the ending of abstentionism by Sinn Féin in the 26 Counties in 1986, which was seen as a major and first step in ending the marginalisation of the Republican Movement. Another important step was the 1987 discussion paper *A Scenario for Peace*, which focused on the right of the Irish people as a whole to self-determination. This envisaged an inclusive role for those currently in the unionist community alongside the rest of the Irish people.

The Sinn Féin/SDLP talks were identified as another crucial step forward. These developments, combined with the 1992 document *Towards a Lasting Peace in Ireland*, were cited as major contributory factors in ending years of enforced political marginalisation and isolation of Sinn Féin. As a consequence they have also been instrumental and of enormous importance in the formulation of the attempts to build an Irish peace process. As a result the British occupation of the Six Counties has come under the world's media microscope. It remains for all the parties involved to take the next steps together if there is to be a continuation of the peace process and a lasting peace, Ferris pointed out.

Mark Farrell (Dublin) gave the second lecture. He presented a critical analysis of a proposal by Bernadette McAliskey for an independent nine-county Ulster as a way of bringing the conflict to a peaceful resolution. While accepting McAliskey's sincerity, Mark ques-

tioned the acceptability of such a proposal to any of the parties involved in the conflict.

It lacked the necessary ingredients to resolve the conflict and was unlikely to be accepted by either nationalists or unionists, he maintained. The proposal was also questioned in terms of the economic viability of the entity in question. Farrell stressed his belief that the only real chance of Ireland moving forward politically or economically would be in the context of a united 32-County socialist republic. Anything less would delay, rather than encourage, a peaceful outcome, he argued.

The third and final lecture was delivered by Brian Kenna (Dublin). His talk focused on the need for clarification. If the Downing Street Declaration was the 'first step', as the British maintained, then they have a responsibility to outline and clarify what the next steps are and, more importantly, where they are leading. On the face of it the declaration appears to rule out the Irish people's right to self-determination. If this is not the case then the British should have no problem clarifying this and other relevant points and ambiguities in the document. As representatives of a substantial section of the nationalist electorate in the Six Counties, Sinn Féin should be entitled to the same consideration with regard to clarification as were all the other parties. Sinn Féin involvement is central to any prospect of a resolution to the conflict, he pointed out. Without inclusive dialogue, and a recognition of the legitimacy of the Sinn Féin mandate, no initiative can succeed.

The British have a responsibility to involve all parties. If Dublin could clarify aspects of the declaration for Sinn Féin then the British should have no problem in doing likewise, if they are sincere about bringing about a lasting peace. It was hypocritical of the British not to engage in dialogue given their prolonged secret contact with the Republican Movement over a three-year period from 1990, Kenna pointed out.

Debate after each lecture was enthusiastic and lively. The contributions and questions from the floor were wide ranging and detailed. Those delivering the lectures were given no easy ride and were pressed to elaborate on and defend their arguments. The response from the floor reflected



● Volunteer Jim Lynagh — remembered by the republican POWs in Portlaoise Jail

the intense interest by the prisoners in the current political situation.

Many speakers emphasised the need for, and the importance of, the prisoners having an input into the republican strategy. It was agreed that in light of the constantly changing and evolving political situation it was imperative that the issues raised at the lectures should not end there. There was a need to continually debate and update the issues and arguments over the coming months.

This week's series of lectures and the contributions made by those in attendance reflect the prisoners' viewpoint that our participation in the struggle does not end at the prison gate. On the contrary, the well-established tradition here, as in other prisons containing republican POWs, encourages involvement in continuous analysis and debating the issues relevant to the overall struggle.

This year's lectures were a fitting tribute to Volunteer Jim Lynagh's memory. It was a deep political understanding of the root causes of the conflict in this



● BRIAN KENNA

country that motivated Jim Lynagh and his comrades. We can pay them no better tribute while in prison ourselves than to deepen our own political awareness. By using our time constructively we can equip ourselves to play an even greater role in the freedom struggle and help achieve the objectives for which Jim and his comrades fought and died.

1994 Bodensteinown 1994

Assemble 2pm Sunday, 19 June

Sallins, County Kildare

SPEAKER: Lucilita Bhreatnach

(Ard Rúnaí Sinn Féin)

All bands taking part in this year's parade are asked to inform the National Commemoration Committee in advance. Areas should encourage a large attendance and buses should be booked now!

An Cumann Cabhrach
TESTIMONIAL DINNER AND
REPUBLICAN REUNION

Friday 17th June

in the

Regency Hotel

Swords Road

Dinner served 8pm

Admission £16

Bar Extension

Dancing
12 - 2am

Ballads



Book tickets early to avoid disappointment

News/Notices

Mac Diarmada honoured in Leitrim

AMONG THOSE who laid wreaths at the annual Seán Mac Diarmada Commemoration in Kiltyclogher, County Leitrim, the place of his birth, was Moira Grant, a grand niece of the executed leader of 1916.

This year's ceremony attracted a crowd of over 200, led by two bands. The upcoming local and EU elections were represented by the presence of two Sinn Féin candidates and senior party members. The commemoration was chaired by Sligo Corporation candidate and Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member Seán MacManus, who, in a short address, recalled Mac Diarmada's famous line: "Damn your

concessions, England. We want our country."

The main speech was delivered by Sinn Féin Vice President Pat Doherty, who is standing for the European elections in Connacht/ Ulster. He spoke of Mac Diarmada's hard work and vision, adding that "there must have been times when it seemed to him that the monolith of colonialism would never shift, that his efforts were



● PAT DOHERTY

not bearing fruit". Addressing himself to today's peace process, Doherty said that he felt that at last there is light at the end of the tunnel.

"We republicans of today have had to struggle through times when it seemed that nothing is changing," he said. "But our endurance and resilience carries us forward and will have the desired result. We have come through years of censorship, repression, imprisonment, assassination and more. There is light at the end of the tunnel at last and hope that the peace process that we have worked so hard to establish may be achieved. We take heart from the unfolding events in other countries where justice and peace are at last becoming a reality for people who have struggled for so long against oppression."

Doherty then used the South African example as a beacon of hope. "The solution here, as in South Africa, is that inclusive dialogue and negotiation are essential to resolve our problems," he said. "For Sinn Féin, our political priority for years now is to instigate and encourage the construction of a peace process which will make steady progress to a settlement by addressing the core political issues and the causes of conflict."



● SEÁN Mac DIARMADA

"We are committed to the establishment of a real peace process," he reaffirmed.

Doherty then talked about the role of the European Union in helping resolve the conflict. "The concept of European union and open borders," he said, "is at odds with a divided Ireland. Sinn Féin believes that the EU can have a constructive role to play in facilitating a peace process in Ireland."

"Within Europe," he concluded, "there is a popular consensus, reflected even by some governments, that Irish reunification is not only inevitable but a prerequisite on the road to a durable peace. It is essential that the Dublin government galvanise that opinion and translate it through the political mechanisms of the EU into practical proposals."

Imeachtaí

ANTI-EXTRADITION MEETINGS: 7.30pm, first Tuesday of every month, Anti-Extradition Office, 29 Mountjoy Square, DUBLIN

BALLYMURPHY SEVEN PICKET: Every Saturday, 2-4pm, O'Connell Bridge, DUBLIN

COMMEMORATION: Gortaglan-na Commemoration. Assemble in village at 7.30pm, Friday, 20 May, KNOCKANURE, County Kerry. Followed by march to memorial. Speaker: Pat Hackett

FUNCTION: In remembrance of Volunteer Raymond McCreesh. 9pm, Friday, 20 May, Village Inn, CAMLOUGH, County Armagh. Music by Village Folk

IRISH NIGHT: In aid of European election fund, Friday night, 20 May, KILDRESS, County Tyrone. Cead isteach £2.50

FUNCTION: In aid of Dundalk Transport Committee. 8pm, Saturday, 21 May, Emerald Bar, DUNDALK. Music by Justice. Táille: £1

FUNCTION: In aid of the POW Department. 8.30pm, Saturday,

21 May, Widow Scallan's, Pearse Street, DUBLIN. Music by The Irish Brigade. Táille: £2.50

PUBLIC MEETING: *Peace in Ireland: A European Issue*. 8pm, Thursday, 26 May, Powers Hotel, Kildare Street, DUBLIN. Speakers: Gerry Adams and Dublin Sinn Féin candidate Larry O'Toole

FUNCTION: Election fundraiser for South Central by-election, 8pm, Saturday, 28 May, Conways, Parnell Square, DUBLIN. Ceol, ól agus craic. Táille £2

COMMEMORATION: Neil O'Boyle Plunkett Commemoration. 3.30pm, Sunday, 29 May, Knockadruice, VALLEYMOUNT, County Wicklow. Prominent speaker

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT MARCH: Assemble 2.30pm, Sunday, 5 June, McGovern Drive, COOKSTOWN, County Tyrone. Organised by the Tyrone Nationalist Rights Committee

COMMEMORATION: 20th Annual Michael Gaughan Commemoration and picket. 1.30pm-3.30pm, Sunday, 5 June, Whitmoor Prison, Loughill Road, CAMBRIDGE PE15 0PR

I nDíl Chuimhne

GALLAGHER, Jim; MCCREESH, Raymond; McKEE, Seán; O'DONNELL, Thomas; O'HARA, Patsy; RICE, Francis.

In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Jim Gallagher (died 17 May 1967), Raymond McCreesh (died 21 May 1973), Seán McKee (died 18 May 1973), Thomas O'Donnell (died 17 May 1973), Patsy O'Hara (INLA, died 21 May 1981) and Francis Rice (died 18 May 1973). "To hold back and pretend it doesn't affect you is to take the easy way out. To take up arms and fight back is hard and dangerous. It takes courage, dedication and a devotion to your people to take the hard road to freedom." — Séamus Twomey. Proudly remembered by their friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

DEVINE, Mickey; DOHERTY, Kieran; HUGHES, Francis; HURSON, Martin; LYNCH, Kevin; MCCREESH, Raymond; McDONNELL, Joe; MELWEE, Thomas; O'HARA, Patsy; SANDS, Bobby (13th Ann). In

proud and loving memory of the ten Volunteers who made the ultimate sacrifice for Irish freedom. Always remembered by the Billy Reid Republican Filte Band, Glasgow.

KILPATRICK, Kevin (21st Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Kevin Kilpatrick, who died on active service on 13 May 1973. Always remembered with love and pride by the Dungannon Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Coalisland Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Clonoe Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Jim Lynagh Sinn Féin Cumann, Clogher; By the Colm Keenan/Martin Hurson Sinn Féin Cumann, Cookstown; By the Martin Hurson/Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Féin Cumann, Galbally; By the Eoin McNamee Sinn Féin Cumann, Kildress; By the Martin Hurson/Séamus Woods Sinn Féin Cumann, Pomeroy; By the South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin; By the Tyrone National Graves Association.

LEONARD, Freddie (20th Ann). In proud memory of our

comrade Freddie, murdered by loyalists on 7 May 1974. Always remembered by his comrades and friends in the Republican Movement, Short Strand and Markets.

MARTIN, Eugene; McKEARNEY, Seán (20th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Eugene Martin and Seán McKearney, who died on active service on 13 May 1974. Always remembered with love and pride by the Dungannon Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Coalisland Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Clonoe Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Jim Lynagh Sinn Féin Cumann, Clogher; By the Colm Keenan/Martin Hurson Sinn Féin Cumann, Cookstown; By the Martin Hurson/Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Féin Cumann, Galbally; By the Eoin McNamee Sinn Féin Cumann, Kildress; By the Martin Hurson/Séamus Woods Sinn Féin Cumann, Pomeroy; By the South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin; By the Tyrone National Graves Association.

McCLENAGHAN, Séamus (1st

Ann). Cherished memories today, 18 May, of a loving husband, devoted father and caring grandpa. This day will dawn with sorrow and regret for the loss of our loved one whom we will never forget. Always remembered by his loving wife Lily, sons, daughters and large family circle.

MCCREESH, Raymond (13th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Raymond McCreesh. Always remembered by his father, mother, brother and sisters in Camlough and abroad.

MCCREESH, Raymond (13th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Raymond McCreesh. Always remembered by the Séamus Steele Sinn Féin Cumann, Camlough.

is extended to the Doherty family on the death of your mother, Madge. From Fullerton/McLaughlin/O'Hagan Sinn Féin Cumann, Buncrana, County Donegal.

FLOOD. Deepest sympathy is extended to Jimmy Flood on the death of his sister Lily. From the Lynch family, Limerick.

FLOOD. Deepest sympathy is extended to Jimmy Flood on the death of his sister Lily. From the staff of AP/RN.

Cuimhní Breithlae

BOYLE. Birthday remembrance of Sandra Boyle, whose birthday would have occurred on 22 May. Always remembered by Tommy Eccles (Portlaoise).

Beannachtaí

HUGHES. Happy 23rd birthday son, Seán (Crumlin Road Jail). From your mum and dad; Happy birthday on your 23rd, Seán. Hope your next is spent

in freedom. From your friends McCaff, Martine, Patrick and Stephen; Have a great day, see you soon big lad. All the best from the lads at Thorndale.

MAHON. Wedding anniversary greetings to my husband Bobby (H5, Long Kesh) on our 4th anniversary. Still waiting to be taken out for that meal you promised me in 1992! Ha Ha. Love you always, Moya XXXX.

O'CONNELL. Happy birthday, love and best wishes always Joe (Full Sutton). From Eibhlin and Caoimhe.

O'DWYER. Birthday greetings are extended to Kieran (Portlaoise). From the Republican Movement, Limerick.

Buíochas

THE VOLUNTEERS Tom Smith/Christy Harford Memorial Band, Dublin would like to thank the republicans of Shannon, County Clare for all their hospitality during last Sunday's Volunteer Hugh Hehir Commemoration. Go raibh maith agaibh.

Join Sinn Féin

SINN FÉIN is dedicated to forcing a British withdrawal from the occupied Six Counties, the reunification of our country and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic.

If you would like to join Sinn Féin fill in the form below and send it to Sinn Féin, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Tel.....

THE SAN FRANCISCO district attorney's office has decided to press ahead with charges against the 26-County Consul-General, Declan Kelly (See last week's AP/RN). San Francisco District Attorney Arlo Smith announced on Thursday, 12 May, that our friend Kelly would be charged with drunk driving and causing injury.

The decision to press charges follows initial attempts by Kelly's attorney to claim that he should have diplomatic immunity on the grounds that he was on official business. To refresh readers' memories, Kelly was arrested in the early hours of 5 May when he is alleged to have run a red light and ploughed into two cars, starting a chain of accidents that injured five people.

When brought to hospital with two others injured in the crash, staff complained that Kelly was surly and tried to spit blood on them. He refused all alcohol tests and declined to give police a statement. A hospital blood sample later revealed that his blood alcohol level was 18, twice the legal limit.

But Kelly can thank his lucky stars that the DA's office is treating his case as a misdemeanour rather than a felony. This means that he was not arrested but a citation ordering him to appear in court was hand-delivered to his house on Monday. He is expected to make an initial plea this week.

TOURISTS in Dublin on Saturday last had to look out for themselves if they were depending on the gardai's high-tech spy van (known by its wits in Dublin as Wanderly Wagon) to look out for their safety.

The snooper van, with expensive video camera on top, may have been on the

streets, but its occupants had other more pressing international concerns than city centre crime fighting.

Three uniformed gardai were spotted in the back of the van watching, in full colour and with rapt attention, the English FA Cup Final between Manchester United and Chelsea.



THE SINN FÉIN election campaign in Donegal, where the party is gearing up to fight local and European elections, has secured a fine big headquarters in Letterkenny.

The party has tenure of the old garda barracks in the town, a building which has played host to many an

unwilling Sinn Féin election worker in the past. A couple of years ago, the guards vacated the ageing barracks for new premises.

Journalists or election workers ringing the Sinn Féin HQ (074-24430) will find the new occupants considerably more talkative than on any of their previous visits.

ARGENTINA's president, Carlos Menem, has indicated that his country may seek the extradition of Baroness Thatcher on war crimes charges over the sinking of the General Belgrano in 1982.

Three hundred and twenty-three people were killed when the Belgrano was sunk as it sailed outside of and away from the exclusion zone declared around the disputed Malvinas/Falklands.

Menem pointed out that if a Nazi SS officer could be extradited to Italy from Argentina, then Margaret Thatcher should stand trial for the sinking of the warship.

POOL RE, THE CITY OF LONDON British government-backed reinsurance company set up after the 1992 IRA blitz on the financial heart of the capital, has slashed its premium insurance against IRA attacks to ensure that the money mar-

ket is protected against the IRA's "Big Bang".

The British government obviously does not share its more tight-fisted City of London residents' confidence that an IRA office blockbuster will not occur again.

THE BRITISH ARMY has confessed that it is sending armed soldiers into action with inadequate training in the deadly weapons they carry. The admission came during the court martial in Croatia of a soldier accused of paralysing a fellow sentry by the negligent discharge of a pistol.

Lance Corporal Jason Faulkner, of the Royal Logistic Corps, was second-in-command of a guardroom detachment in Split last year. He was let loose with a handgun even though he had only been trained in how to handle a rifle. His commanding officer described Faulkner as "a professional soldier with a previously exemplary service record", but the Brit did not bother to tell anyone he did not know how to handle the weapon. He then shot his comrade, shattering his spine.

Faulkner was sentenced to military detention for nine months, fined £2,000 compensation and reduced to the rank of private. He will remain in the British army and a threat to Irish civilians.

A MEMBER OF THE Royal Scots Regiment who exploded home-made bombs in an attempt to harden himself up for future tours of occupation in the Six Counties, has escaped prison.

The High Court in Edinburgh heard that in 1992, rifleman Leonard Smith had been unfortunate enough to witness a fellow soldier sitting on a bomb. This left him in a state of shock which was not relieved when he came under mortar fire while occupying the barracks in Crossmaglen. After this inhospitable welcome from the natives, Smith suffered post traumatic stress disorder. When he returned home to Scotland the shell-shocked squaddie set about making

and discharging home-made bomb-bombs in the vicinity of his Midlothian home. His aim was to toughen himself up. He managed to blow up a golfer's trolley with one device, but no one was injured.

The judge in the High Court told Smith that "persons who indulge in the use of explosives are normally liable for substantial periods of imprisonment".

"However, in view of the unusual circumstances in this case it does not appear to me that imprisonment is necessary."

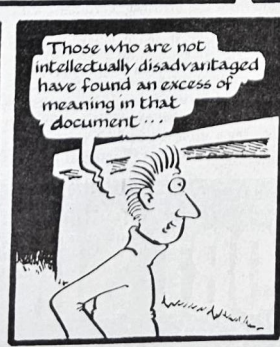
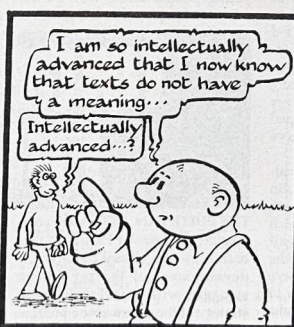
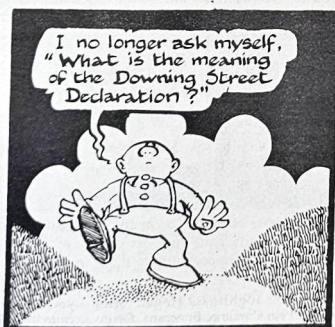
Smith, of Lauder Road, Dalkeith, who also admitted recklessly discharging an air rifle, injuring a 55-year-old man, is to be discharged from the army.

Dúirt Siad

Now, without proving anything like as much brouhaha as some might have expected, London has agreed to clarify. Quite right too. The question had become a stumbling block to progress and the British government was right to change its stance. Sadly, it seems to feel that opponents of the process require to be reassured that this is a "one-off" exercise. That is foolish. It merely moves the roadblock further down the lane. — Guardian editorial, Wednesday, 18 May 1994.

The declaration would never have come into existence had not the London and Dublin governments been forced together to try to wrest the initiative back from the nationalists. That the peace process, agonisingly tortuous though it is, has come this far is the achievement of Hume and Adams, not of Major and Mayhew. Adams is serious about peace. — Miscarriage of justice victim, now novelist and screenwriter Ronan Bennett in the Guardian, Wednesday, 18 May 1994.

There is a perception that the marginalisation of the ideas of the 1916 leaders was a consequence of the outbreak of violence in the North of Ireland: the activities of the Provisional IRA serving to make republicanism untenable in respectable quarters. I believe this to be only partly true. The Troubles simply made easier something that would have happened anyway. Because the state we had created had manifestly fallen so short of the ideals of 1916, it would have been necessary to jettison further discussion of those ideals whether the North had erupted or not. The discrediting of the 1916 leaders was therefore inevitable. If we did not discredit them, we would have no way of avoiding the truth with which their words accused us. — John Waters in the Irish Times, Tuesday, 17 May 1994.



News



Sinn Féin launches European campaign

■ BY LIAM
O COILEAIN

"This election comes at a crucial time in terms of the peace process and the future relationships between Ireland and the European Union," said Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams in Dublin on Wednesday, 18 May.

Adams was accompanied at the launch by all seven Sinn Féin candidates for the elections. Sinn Féin is the only party contesting all five constituencies in the 32 Counties. Party vice president Pat Doherty is contesting Connacht/Ulster. Community activist Larry O'Toole is standing in Dublin while party general secretary Lucilita Bhearnach is contesting Leinster. Kieran McCarthy is the Munster candidate. In the Six Counties, party chairperson Tom Hartley and fellow Ard Chomhairle members Dódie McGuinness and Francie Molloy are standing.

The main theme of the Sinn Féin campaign is Peace in Ireland — A European Issue. Adams addressed himself to this theme in his introduction of the manifesto and the candidates. "The opening of borders across Europe highlights Britain's strengthening of the border in Ireland and is at odds with the concept of a united Europe," he said. "Sinn Féin is committed to achieving a peace process in Ireland." Adams then repeated his belief that "we are moving into a final phase of the conflict and the British government should create the space necessary to allow the Irish people to negotiate a settlement which will bring a new and agreed Ireland". He spoke of the need for the British government to approach the clarification issue "positively and clearly" and of the need for any settlement "that reflects the needs of the Irish people" before putting the elections and the peace process into their international context.

"The international climate is conducive to resolution of conflicts and this will assist the search for peace in Ireland," he concluded. "Sinn Féin will be urging, in this election campaign, that that goodwill is tapped in furthering a peace process."

Pat Doherty spoke of the lack of democratic control over EU funding. He questioned the build-

ing of massive new highways while "regional roads have been allowed to get into a desperate state".

"Seventy per cent of small farmers live below the ESRI-determined poverty line," he pointed out, adding that the Irish fishing industry has been similarly devastated by 21 years of EU membership. "The stewardship of the major political parties in Europe has been disgraceful," he said. "Sinn Féin offers a democratic alternative, with real control for local communities as another way of dealing with problems in what is a peripheral region of the EU."

Leinster candidate Lucilita Bhearnach addressed herself to women and the EU. She conceded that EU membership had produced positive changes for women in social and economic legislation, citing a number of key directives on areas such as equal pay, equal treatment and maternity leave provision.

"But against this must be balanced both the role of the Dublin and London governments in these areas and the process by which issues affecting women are dealt with within an EU context," she said. "This legislation should have been dealt with democratically in Ireland." The failure to do so, she said, reflected the failure of both states to deliver on social reform.

She then cited instances where, "over the past 21 years of EU membership, the Dublin and London governments have consistently frustrated the implementation of EU directives on equality issues concerning women".

Dublin candidate Larry O'Toole said that the two issues which came up more than any others on the doorsteps in Dublin were neutrality and the way the EU funds are used. "There is a great worry and concern among people that the neutrality of this state is being taken away behind their backs," he said. "At the time of the Maastricht refer-

endum two years ago the government told us that this was not an issue. I campaigned with members of the Labour Party against the Maastricht Treaty. At that time Labour was calling for neutrality to be written into the Constitution. Now in government, Labour seems to be preparing the ground for the final abandonment of neutrality."

O'Toole also spoke of concern about the "lack of democracy and accountability in the decision-making process about EU funds".

"The bulk of the money so far has gone on building major roads and on training schemes," he said. "But without an industrial policy to create jobs, the new roads just become a faster way of importing foreign goods." He also condemned the lack of an integrated transport policy for Dublin and the waste of young people being trained on schemes for jobs that don't exist,

allowing the Dublin government to disguise the true levels of unemployment.

Kieran McCarthy, standing in Munster, spoke of how environmental policy in the EU has been "overridden in favour of an economic policy that sees constant growth in production as the only future".

He spoke of his area in Munster "which has the largest concentration of chemical industries in this country" citing evidence of serious health problems in the Cobh area. He pointed out that, "though the policy aspiration of the EU is towards clean air and water and the coexistence of industry and the environment, it has remained just that, an aspiration".

Dódie McGuinness, one of the three EU candidates contesting the

Six-County constituency, spoke of EU proposals for a Social Europe, which is supposed to improve living and working conditions, social conditions, and improved employer-labour relations.

She said that the Six-County state hadn't benefitted directly from EU funding in this area because the British government "have secured a protocol guaranteeing them an opt-out from the Social Charter in the Maastricht Treaty". She called for the "immediate implementation of an EU-wide minimum hourly wage and a maximum working week". McGuinness also proposed a legally binding and properly-enforced Social Charter to guarantee social rights for Irish citizens, adding that "the proposed EU legislation on social policy should get as wide a hearing as possible".

URGENT ELECTION FUND APPEAL

THE EUROPEAN, UDC/town commission and Leinster House by-elections come at a historic phase in the development of the republican struggle, with Sinn Féin's peace strategy at the centre of the political stage. It is essential that the party's vote is sustained and built upon throughout Ireland on 9 June.

In the 26 Counties, the European election is the first election Sinn Féin has fought without the handicap of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. For the first time, the people have the opportunity to hear the full

range of views offered to them and Sinn Féin needs your support in order to use this opportunity to the full.

In the Six Counties, a strong vote for Sinn Féin will once again confront the British government with the republican mandate and show that the nationalist people are determined to uphold their civil and national rights and move forward to freedom, justice and lasting peace.

Make your contribution to ensuring a strong all-Ireland vote for Sinn Féin on 9 June. Financial help is

urgently needed NOW to fight the campaign. Send your contributions to: Sinn Féin Election Fund, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Name

Address

Telephone:

Tick if receipt required ☐

SUPPORT SINN FÉIN