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THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

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**SEÁN KEENAN
COMMEMORATION
SUNDAY, MARCH 7**



**THE MEMORIAL,
BOGSIDE, DERRY,
3pm
Speaker: Cáit
Trainor**

British occupation & partition of Ireland the cause of the conflict

Another failed agreement ?

AS we go to press we still await an outcome to the "carnival of reaction" at Hillsborough Castle.

Whatever the outcome from this latest 'crisis' even media commentators have pointed to the inherent fault lines which exist in the Six-County statelet, Stephen Collins in *The Irish Times* of January 30 observed: "The Belfast Agreement enshrined a dysfunctional society's sectarian divisions into governmental institutions." This is no more than Republican Sinn Féin pointed out 12 years ago.

The recent revelations that the three sections of unionism were engaged in discussions with the British Conservative Party about an electoral pact should come as no surprise. The scaly hand

of the Orange order has also emerged in all of this.

The historical forces of unionism and British imperialism remain at work and the return to some form of majority rule cannot be far around the corner as both the DUP and the British Tories have signalled.

Reaching for the 'Orange card' has long been an option of first resort for the British Tories in their quest for political power at Westminster. In his maiden speech to the British House of Lords in the week following the signing of the 'Treaty of Surrender' in 1921 the leader of Unionism Edward Carson lamented his



• Stormont Buildings: The Six-County State is neither normal nor democratic. It is a gerrymandered, artificially-created statelet and its existence is a denial of All-Ireland democracy.

role in the Tory machinations: "What a fool I was. I was only a puppet, and so was Ulster, and so was Ireland, in the political game that was to get the Conservative Party into power".

Moving the furniture around cannot hide the reality that the structure of the house is rotten. No amount of posturing or wordplay can hide the fact that radical democratic change and a viable lasting settlement will never be arrived at within the

parameters of partition. As Tom McGurk points out in the *Sunday Business Post* on January 31: "Stormont may have new seating and the latest technology but, underneath it all, the DUP still stands for what it has always stood for - political supremacy over the nationalist community."

Reality must be faced, the Six-County State is unworkable. It is an artificial entity designed to perpetuate the sectarian forces and politics which we see at work

today. It feeds the siege mentality and insecurity which feeds unionism and will never challenge it.

Even the delivery of a basic Irish language bill is beyond Stormont. There is no

room for recognition of Irish nationality let alone accommodation of it within the Six Counties.

In the 26 Counties a campaign of Anglicisation is ongoing. In recent days it was reported that a return of the 26-County State to the British Commonwealth has been mooted by a former Secretary-General of that body. The very idea of Ireland as a distinct nation is denied in order to prop up the failed partitionist structures of the past.

Removing the British Government's prop of the unionist veto and establishing All-Ireland democracy is the only viable way forward. The proposals set out in ÉIRE NUA enshrine the sovereignty of all of the Irish people, Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter.

ÉIRE NUA which empowers every section of the Irish people is in stark contrast to a status quo which instead uses them as a pawn in the British party political game.



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An Rúnaí, Coiste Cuimhneacháin Náisiúnta
223 Sráid Pharnell, BÁC 1

**ANNUAL CLONMILT
COMMEMORATION**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21
Assembly: Courthouse
Midleton, Co Cork, 2.30pm
Speaker: Tomás Ó Curraoin**

Clinton calls for deeper ties between EU and NATO

COMMENTS by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that the Lisbon Treaty provides a platform for deeper ties between the EU and NATO confirms one of the main arguments against the Lisbon Treaty according to the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton.

"This bears out one of the central arguments of those who called for a rejection of Lisbon. As Republican Sinn Féin argued in both referenda held in the 26 Counties the purpose of the Lisbon Treaty was to bring the EU project to its logical next step in the construction of an undemocratic and militarised superstate

"Hillary Clinton's comments regarding 'energy security' are significant. It would appear the ground is being prepared for NATO to act as the military enforcer of the EU - fighting the resource wars forecast by the then President of the EU Commission Jacques Delors in 1992.

"The world vision set out by Hillary Clinton is one where the political and economic hegemony of the rich northern

hemisphere over the poor south will be enforced by NATO," Des Dalton said.

Hillary Clinton was speaking at the French military academy in Paris on January 29.

Answering a question from her audience, Hillary Clinton said EU's energy policy in particular would benefit from closer co-ordination with NATO. "They are no longer separated. It's hard to say that security is only about what it was when Nato was formed and the EU has no role to play in security issues," she said.

"These, of course, are decisions for the Europeans to make with respect to the EU."

Hillary Clinton said she recognised that national differences must be respected, "even in the time of greater European integration".



• Des Dalton

However, the complexity of today's world was such that the development of common policies would serve the EU and NATO. In this respect the EU would concentrate on economic, development and political issues while NATO would deal mainly with security.

"Take, for example, energy security," she said. "It would be the EU's responsibility to create policies that would provide more independence and protection from intimidations when it comes to energy markets for its member nation. But I can also see how, in

certain cases respecting energy, there may be a role for NATO as well."

While it was important to respect and honour "foundation institutions", she said questions should be asked about how they could function better.

Citing moves to reform NATO, Mrs Clinton said reforms at EU level would make co-operation with the military alliance easier.

"Under the Lisbon Treaty, with more focus and specific leadership attached to foreign policy and development assistance, there will be a way to better co-ordinate," she said.

Although "some questions" had been raised in recent months about the depth of Washington's commitment to Europe, she said European security was "an anchor" of US foreign policy.

US military forces will remain on the European continent to "deter attacks and to respond quickly" if any occur, she said.

Retrial of Colm Murphy opens in Dublin

THE retrial of Co Louth man Colm Murphy opened in the non-jury court in Dublin on January 12. He is charged with conspiring to cause an explosion between August 13 and 16, 1998. He denies the charge.

Colm Murphy was arrested on February 25th, 1999, and charged with "conspiracy to cause an explosion" and with

membership of an illegal organisation. His trial on the conspiracy charge began in October 2001 and concluded in January 2002 when he was convicted.

In January 2005 his conviction was overturned by the Court of Criminal Appeal and a fresh trial ordered, on the basis that the Gardaí tampered with their notes.

George Plant TV documentary

SIXTY-eight years after his trial and execution by a Free State firing party in Portlaoise Prison on March 5, 1942, a TV documentary will help to enlighten people about that censored era, while indirectly commemorating his memory.

The late Dan Keating was on active service with George Plant in the South Tipperary, Kilkenny and Wexford command area.

The documentary is in two parts, the first will be shown on Thursday, January 11, the second on the following Thursday, January 18 on TG4 at 10.15pm (each episode repeated the following Monday nights).

Seán McBride SC defended George Plant and called his trial before a military court and his execution judicial murder.

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Ba mhaith liom bheith i mo bhall de Sinn Féin Poblachtach

Ainm

Seoladh

Tel: Age (if under 21)

Send to:

Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01-872 9747; Facs: 01-872 9757.

or 229 Falls Road, Belfast
e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie
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OUR AIMS
For a full British withdrawal from Ireland . . . The establishment of a true 32-County FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC . . . The establishment of a new all-Ireland parliament, completely outside the present partitionist set-up, to oversee the running of the new neutral non-aligned Ireland . . .

OUR HISTORY
Formed in 1905 . . . We are the oldest political organisation in the country . . . Organised throughout the 32 Counties . . . We have continuously rejected the failed political entities of the Six and 26 Counties in existence since the British partitioned our country . . .

Gearrscéalta

Couple targeted by MI5, RUC Special Branch

A YOUNG nationalist couple in Banbridge have been harassed by British Intelligence agencies over the course of the past twelve months due to their friendship with a member of Republican Sinn Féin in Newry. Most recently an elaborate hoax bomb was left outside their home.

One of the couple was stopped by British spies whilst holidaying. They also tore apart his house and told him that they would have their fellow loyalists intimidate him if he did not co-operate.

Most recently his refusal to collaborate resulted in a bomb being left at his front door in the early hours of January 27. He was forced to evacuate through the back door and was kept out of his home for several hours.

Around the same time his mother also received a phone call to say that her son was going to be burnt out of his home. These incidents show that British Intelligence agencies - including those belonging to Gerry Adams' RUC - remain involved with Loyalist death squads.

GAA team target of bomb attack

TWO devices described as "crude" and "non-viable" were found at Stiles Community Centre in Antrim on January 14. GAA players who were at training were escorted from the building during the alert by the RUC/PSNI and the attack is believed to be sectarian. The GAA is a sporting and cultural organisation which draws its members overwhelmingly from the nationalist community. Its properties and members have often been attacked by loyalist death squads.

Tommy Crilly, chairman of St Comgall's GAA club, said: "We are a patently non-sectarian organisation, whose concerted efforts in encouraging participation from all sections of the Antrim community are well recognised."

2009 Orange marching season 'most difficult'

THE 2009 so-called 'marching season' in the Six Counties was the "most difficult" in recent history, independent security reviewer Robert Whalley claimed.

Robert Whalley monitors the operation of the British Justice and Security Act (NI) 2007. He said that "British Army support 'military assets' based in England with public order training were available as a back-up" if needed in the Occupied Six Counties'.

Robert Whalley said that British Army helicopter flying remained a contentious issue and complaints were up 46% to 124 compared to 85 in 2008. He said that the low-level training was as essential skill for air crew being sent overseas, mainly to Afghanistan, and that they had "avoid" lists.

RUC/PSNI member injured in bomb attack

A MEMBER of the British colonial police was injured in a car bomb attack on January 8 as he drove to work to Woodbourne RUC/PSNI barracks in west Belfast.

The bomb exploded under his car near Randalstown, County Antrim. Peadar Heffron, a member of the RUC for ten years, is an Irish language specialist for the RUC/PSNI and captain of the RUC/PSNI GAA team. He had a leg amputated just days after the bomb exploded and recovered consciousness on January 24.

Crossmaglen RUC barracks attacked again

FOR the second time in less than four weeks Crossmaglen British Colonial police barracks came under gunfire. Two men pulled up in a car at the gates of the barracks at around 9.30pm on January 24 and fired a number of shots. No-one was injured during the attack. Republicans are believed to have been responsible for the previous attack on the barracks on December 30.

Results of Dublin raffle

JANUARY results: 1st.prize ticket no 126; 2nd prize no 173; 3rd prize no 090; 4th prize no 693; 5th prize no 296; 6th prize no 602; 7th prize no 265; 8th prize no 399.

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Gearrscéalta

Cuts to minimum wage must be opposed

IN A statement on January 28 Fergal Moore, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin said that any attempt to cut the minimum wage is an attack on the most vulnerable members of the working class and must be vigorously opposed by all those who wish to live in a just and equitable society.

"The suggestion that some businesses will be exempt from paying the minimum wage in the 26 Counties is an invitation to the business classes to abuse their workers in order to chase profit margins. Mary Coughlan's indication that she will follow a Labour Court proposal on the matter does not bode well for the lower paid.

"The workers, who are the means by which wealth is created in the first place, are already bearing the brunt of the mishandling of the economy by the incompetents in Leinster House.

"Workers from all sections of society and all pay levels must unite on this issue which exposes the rotten core that lies at the heart of the Capitalist system. Only by replacing this system with one that values the workers and does not exploit them will there be true justice in Ireland."

Kevin Coen remembered

REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin held its annual Kevin Coen commemoration in Soovey cemetery, Riverstown, Co Sligo on Sunday January 24.

The commemoration was attended by Republicans from Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Donegal and Westmeath. The ceremony was chaired by Stephen French, Co Roscommon. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Michael McDonagh, Co Leitrim.

In his oration Republican Sinn Féin member of Galway County Council Tomás Ó Curraoin said that Kevin Coen died upholding the right of the people of Ireland to national freedom. "Kevin Coen gave his life facing the the British army of occupation in Ireland. Kevin Coen's sacrifice was for the full freedom of Ireland. He died for a New Ireland not a new Stormont."

Call to keep Údarás na Gaeltachta

THE proposal to abolish Údarás na Gaeltachta in the 26-County administration's 20-year strategy for the Irish language would have hugely damaging repercussions for the survival of Gaeltacht regions, a leading language activist claimed.

Donncha Ó hEallaithe, who conducts independent research into Irish use in the Gaeltacht areas, told a 26-County Assembly committee on January 20 that it would be a grave mistake if the agency was subsumed into a new national Irish language agency called Údarás na Gaeilge. He said that the present agency dealt with economic development in Gaeltacht regions, had created jobs and had created an enterprise culture.

Turning it into a national language agency will mean that it will no longer be in a position to concentrate its efforts in the few remaining Irish-speaking areas that are left, but will have foisted on it the additional burden of promoting Irish around the country," he said.

Unemployment figures soaring in 26 Counties

THE seasonally-adjusted Live register rose by 3,300 to 426,700 in December 2009, the highest level in almost 15 years, new figures from the 26-County state's Central Statistics Office (CSO) showed in early January 2010.

Unemployment rose to 12.5% in December. The CSO said the number of people signing on rose 46.1% in 2009, compared to an increase of 0.2% in 2008. Throughout the year, the number of men signing on to the Live register rose by 88,273, compared with 45,304 women.

End cuts to social welfare, says Poverty Coalition

A COALITION of anti-poverty organisations called on the 26-County Administration to assure vulnerable groups that it will not make any further cuts in social welfare payments or the minimum wage.

"The Poor Can't Pay" campaign said its analysis of the cutbacks announced in the December budget showed they would impact hardest on the poorest in society and push thousands of families into poverty in coming months.

"The cuts will be worst for children, lone parents, unemployed people, those entering the labour market for the first time and those with disabilities," said Dr Mary Murphy, spokeswoman for the anti-poverty campaign.

Urgent steps needed to help native-spoken Irish

THE Dublin administration draft 20-year strategy for the Irish language, 2010-2030, is flawed in its approach to what is the linguistic crisis in Gaeltacht areas of the country: the low number of young native speakers of Irish.

The draft strategy, published in November 2009, is failing the needs of the native speakers by promoting bilingualism, according to two leading sociolinguistic experts.

According to Brian Ó Curnáin and Conchúr Ó Giollagáin this can only erode

the social use of Irish in the minority Gaeltacht community.

The problem is that this bilingualism is 'unidirectional'. Native speakers of Irish are bilingual because learning English is compulsory and unidirectional, ie native

English speakers only become bilingual as a matter of personal choice.

The available evidence in Ireland and internationally is that social bilingualism in minority language contexts correlates with the erosion of minority language.

Writing in the *Irish Times* (December 29, 2009) Ó Curnáin and Ó Giollagáin advise that urgent priority be given to revising and strengthening Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge (SLG, the support

scheme for Irish-speaking families in the Gaeltacht).

"The SLG is the only targeted mechanism the State has to increase the number of young native speakers, which is the starting point of all language planning mechanisms," they stated.

In contrast to this recommendation there is the real threat of the ending of support schemes for the Irish language, recommended by the Dublin administration's Bord Snip Nua in 2009.

The so-called British justice system in action

IN recent weeks a member of the Brendan Watters/Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down appeared in the British courts under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000, for allegedly 'monitoring RUC/PSNI activity on numerous occasions'.

His case was adjourned and referred to the 'youth justice agency' where he will undergo conference meetings with social workers.

His first arrest was late February 2009 when he was walking to the local shop. Three members of the RUC/PSNI followed him for a short distance then circled around him so he could not walk away.

They accused him of leading the recent acts of resistance in Mayobridge. They asked him his name to which he replied "This is harassment, I have not done anything to be stopped or even restrained so either arrest me or let me go".

They grabbed him, put him in the back of their car and took him to Ardmore police barracks in Newry. They said that he was arrested under section 44 of the Terrorism

Act 2000 for "failing to provide details to officers".

After several hours of him refusing to give his details he demanded to either be charged or released. Two plain-clothes officers arrived and asked him about "suspicious activity in the Mayobridge area". They asked questions about a police car being burnt and about numerous other incidents, ie the rioting on Halloween and the British Telecom building being burnt as well.

The youth replied "I was not arrested for any of that so you have no power to question me about them things, and anyway how would I know about that?" They said "we know you do, we have been watching your emails and monitoring your activities".

The youth laughed off

these claims and half an hour later gave his name. Before he was released one of the plain clothes officers came back to him with a sheet of paper and said "give us the names of the people that would know about this sort of stuff and we will visit them". To which he replied "catch a grip, I'm not stupid" after which he was released.

He has since been in and out of court over this matter and has been threatened with a custodial sentence if he does not agree to conference meetings with a youth officer. He has been stopped at least seven times in the last couple of weeks.

They stop him on nights out when he's walking about Mayobridge, the most recent was Friday, January 22 when the RUC were raiding homes in Mayobridge. He was stopped and asked for his details and also asked what he was doing and where he was coming from. He replied "I'm coming from up there and I'm going down there" and let go. When he got around the corner another patrol unit that

had been following him pulled him over. He was searched by armed police for at least twenty minutes and made to lie down on the ground (in the pouring rain).

This is another prime example of the harassment the RUC/PSNI force upon Irish Republicans. The purpose of the search was for ammunition, wireless devices and bomb components and 'anything relating to terrorism or useful for terrorism purposes'.

Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is at the top of the discussion at the European Court of Human Rights.

They acknowledge it as unjust and against human rights but of course these Brit thugs continue to use it everyday to degrade the Irish people.

The fact that the stop and search part of the act was deemed illegal just a few weeks ago may perhaps have an impact on the RUC tactics of harassment handed down from the RUC to the current PSNI

Resistance is not terrorism.

British stop and search powers illegal

THE ability of British police to use "arbitrary" 'counter-terror' stop and search powers was declared illegal on January 12 with a landmark ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The Strasbourg court ruled it was unlawful for the British police to use the powers, under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000, to stop and search people without needing any grounds for suspicion.

The ruling said that not only the use of the counter-terror powers, but also the way they were authorised, were "neither sufficiently circumscribed, nor subject to

adequate legal safeguards against abuse".

The judges concerns were compounded by the fact that black and Asian people were four times more likely to be stopped under section 44 and there was a risk that the power could be misused against demonstrators.

As such, section 44 was not in "accordance with the law" and amounted to a violation of article eight – the right to

respect for private and family life.

The case ruled on was brought by Kevin Gillan and Pennie Quinton, who were stopped by police while on their way to a demonstration outside the annual arms fair at the Excel centre, in London's Docklands, in September 2003.

For full ruling of the European Court see:

<http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/t/kp197/view.asp?action=html&documentId=860909&portal=hbkm&source=externalbyd&ocnumber>

On January 21 it was revealed that the number of stop-and-search operations

carried out by the RUC/PSNI in 2009 was almost three times as high as the previous year.

There were 9,548 cases of stop and search or questioning in the year to March 2009, compared to 3,234 in the previous year.

The British colonial police carried out searches more often in the north-west, with 2,600 occurring in the Derry and Strabane policing area.

Section 44 of the Terrorism Act allowed the RUC to act without reasonable suspicion but the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg Section 44 of the Act illegal in January.

For The Record

MON. JANUARY 4: Waterford Crystal's manufacturing plant in Kilbarry, Waterford is to be sold and the remaining 50 workers will lose their jobs. However the company that owns the Waterford Crystal, Wedgwood and Royal Doulton brands is to open a new Waterford Crystal manufacturing facility, retail outlet and visitor centre in the city. WWRD Group Holdings said up to 90 full-time staff would be employed at the Waterford Crystal Prestige Manufacturing Facility, and a further 30-40 temporary staff according to seasonal demand.

Many State papers, due to be made available to the public, will not be accessible because of storage problems at the National Archives.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) docked €2.6 million from its budgetary allocation to Tallaght Hospital, Dublin this year due to inefficiencies. Other hospitals to be penalised in 2010 include Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda, which will have its budget cut by €1.79 million; Tullamore General Hospital, which will have its budget slashed by €1.712 million; Limerick Regional, which will have its budget cut by €1.39 million; Loughlinstown hospital, Dublin, which has had its budget cut by €1.31 million and Sligo General which faces a budget cut of €1.13 million.

WED. JANUARY 6: The 500-strong convoy of trucks carrying aid and supplies due to arrive in Gaza on December 27 was finally allowed into Gaza. The aid was organised by Viva Palestina and ten volunteers from Ireland were among the convoy.

THURS. JANUARY 7: While Italy, the Netherlands and Britain followed the US in the introduction of body scanners at airports, European countries were divided on the need for them. Schiphol airport in Amsterdam already has 15 scanners. In 2008 the European Parliament demanded a more in-depth study of their impact on health and privacy.

Gary Donnelly, Derry, was fined €450 sterling on three charges of assaulting a member of the RUC in Derry in November 2007. Donnelly's arm was broken during the confrontation with the RUC and he claimed it was he who had been assaulted by the RUC.

FRI. JANUARY 8: Three members attached to the Togo national soccer team were murdered and eight players injured when their bus came under fire as they travelled from the Republic of Congo to Cabinda, Angola.

David Jordan, with an address in Donaghmore, Co Tyrone and Belurbet, Co Cavan, appeared at the Special non-jury Court in Dublin charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition and membership of an illegal organisation.

A member of the RUC, Peadar Heffron, was seriously injured in an undercar bomb attack in Randalstown, Co Antrim.

Miep Giles, the woman who hid Anne Frank from the Nazis died aged 100.

Chile inaugurated a Museum of Memory to the tens of thousands of people who were imprisoned, disappeared and murdered by the Pinochet regime.

MON. JANUARY 11: DUP MLA Peter Robinson stepped down as Stormont's First Minister for six weeks to "sort out family business". His wife Iris announced last month that she was standing down from political life as she battled with ill-health. However other issues have arisen, including revelations of irregular financial dealings. He was replaced for that time by DUP Minister for Enterprise Arlene Foster.

A group calling itself Oiglaigh na Éireann claimed responsibility for the undercar bomb that seriously injured a member of the RUC near Randalstown, Co Antrim on January 8.

Water shortages across the country compounded the misery of people as the cold spell continued with temperatures as low as -12 in Carlow.

The Rye Valley Food Company in Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan is to make 36 of its workers redundant.

The *Poor Cant Pay* campaign asked the 26-County Administration to give a guarantee they will be no further cuts in social welfare



• **Special Branch members Kevin Doherty and Joe Higgins harassing members of Republican Sinn Féin at the Bloody Sunday picket at the GPO on January 30.**

payments or the minimum wage.

In the High Court in Dublin, a judge granted ten repossession orders to mortgage lenders.

A family in Ballybrack, Co Dublin are challenging an attempt by Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown Council to evict them from their home allegedly for "anti-social behaviour". The tenant, since 1998, claims that "proceedings against her are incompatible with the European Court of Human Rights" because they allow the Council to proceed against her "without any independent review of a factual dispute over whether tenancy has been terminated". She also claims evictions are "contrary to natural justice".

Provo councillor Killian Forde, North-east Dublin, announced he is to join the 26-County Labour Party after leaving the Provisionals.

Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders began intensive talks in an attempt to reach agreement on reunification of the country, divided since Turkey occupied the north in 1974.

The death took place in the USA of Republican activist Ann Loughman.

A Co Antrim journalist Philip Coburn was injured in an explosion in Afghanistan in which *Sunday Mirror* correspondent Rupert Hammer was killed. They were embedded with the US Marine Corp.

Fourteen people arrested in January 2009 outside the offices of the arms manufacturing company Raytheon in Derry claimed in court (in Derry) that their actions were justified. All 14 pleaded not guilty to a series of charges.

TUES. JANUARY 12: The Caribbean island of Haiti was devastated by an earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter Scale, and dozens of aftershocks followed.

WED. JANUARY 13: The US arms manufacturers Raytheon is to close its offices in Derry where it employs seven people.

THURS. JAN 14: Shots were fired at the back door of a house in Dungannon, Co Tyrone. No one was injured.

The libel case taken by 19 members of the Stevens inquiry and former Metropolitan Police Commissioner John Stevens, has been delayed due to new lawyers being brought in.

A bomb alert at the St Comgall's GAA Club, Antrim was sectarian according to investigators. Two devices were found at the GAA Club.

FRI. JANUARY 15: A British barrister, Louis Blom Cooper QC, apologised to two of the Birmingham Six who sued him over defamation. A pamphlet written by him contained material which inferred the men were "mass murderers".

The British Army carried out three controlled explosions on an object at Thiepval Barracks in Lisburn, Co Antrim.

SAT. JANUARY 16: Mo Mowlam lied to Tony Blair about her illness for nine years before her death and while she was British Secretary of State in the Occupied Six Counties, Mo Mowlam died from a malignant brain tumor in August 2005.

MON. JANUARY 18: The inquest into the murder of Seán Brown, by loyalists in 1997 at the Wolfe Tone GAA Club in Bellaghey, Co Derry, was told the RUC investigation could take two years.

TUES. JANUARY 19: A [first] meeting of the RUC Policing Board was held in Fermanagh

and was addressed by Chief Constable Matt Baggott who appealed to the community to help the RUC "in the fight against 'dissident' Republican activity".

EU Commissioner Charlie McCreevy sharply criticised the 26-County Administration for further postponing the promised reform of the State's health insurer, the VHI.

Four companies were ordered to pay a total of €24,500 to former staff they discriminated against because they were not Irish nationals.

WED. JANUARY 20: A volley of shots was fired over the coffin of Jim Gallagher, from the Bogside, Derry who died at the weekend. Jim Gallagher was interned in the 1970s.

An investment package to the Emerald Fund of \$150m, promised two years ago to Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness on a visit to America, failed to commit to a single project in the Occupied Six Counties as promised. At the time it was hailed as "the largest-ever US public investment in Northern Ireland (sic)" targeting sectors such as energy, waste management, water and ports. Speculation is growing that the American backer may have withdrawn its financial support.

The policing board in the Occupied Six Counties ordered the RUC/PSNI to "ease off on stop and search" after the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg ruled that that part of the Terrorism Act was unconstitutional. There were 9,548 cases of stop and search or questioning in the year up to March 2009 compared to 3,234 the previous year.

The Special non-jury Court sitting in Dublin made history as a live video-link with Belfast's Crown Court allowed lawyers in the 26 Counties to question witnesses in the Belfast court in the trial of Colm Murphy.

THURS. JANUARY 21: A serving member of the RUC/PSNI, William Patterson, was arrested for questioning over allegations that he protected the UVF who carried out the shooting dead of six people in the Heights Bar, Loughinisland in 1994. Patterson is suspected of withholding evidence on a Co Down loyalist who drove the getaway car on the night. No one has been convicted over the murders.

Seven thousand immigrants are currently awaiting to hear if they will get long-term residency while 18,500 are currently awaiting decisions on their citizenship applications.

FRI. JANUARY 22: A Derry man who served five years in prison for hijacking and IRA membership had his convictions quashed by the Court of Appeal who ruled the guilty verdict against Patrick Martin McCourt was unsafe on the basis of no written reasons being given by the trial judge. McCourt was jailed in 1977 for his alleged role in the seizure of a car at Racecourse Road, Derry the previous year.

To date 250 British soldiers have been killed in the imperial war in Afghanistan.

SUN. JANUARY 24: In Haiti more than 150,000 earthquake victims have been buried while yet another aftershock, one of more than 50 since the quake on January 12, shook Port-au-Prince registering 4.7 on the Richter scale. Several thousand people are still missing and an estimated 600,000 are homeless. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that United Nations Development Program's appeal for \$41 million on behalf of Haiti was getting a tepid response.

Irish Aid Agency GOAL completed three major distributions of food and non-food items reaching over 10,000 people in Port-au-Prince. The supplies were accessed from the World Food Programme and from Irish Aid among others.

An Ethiopian Airlines plane carrying 90 people crashed into the Mediterranean just minutes after take-off from Beirut.

Lawyers in the 26 Counties have banked over €77m in fees since 1997 from the Moriarty and Mahon tribunals.

Shots were fired at Crossmaglen RUC Barracks by two men who then drove towards Cullaville. No one was injured in the attack which was the second in recent months.

MON. JANUARY 25: Public sector unions warned that further industrial action will be considered if the work-to-rule campaign now underway does not bring results. B

Taoiseach Brian Cowen and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown held talks in London on the growing crisis as the DUP and the Provisionals seem unable to agree a deal on devolving policing and justice powers from Westminster to the Assembly.

Electronic voting equipment that cost the 26 Counties some €50 million but has never been used, is to be destroyed.

Enniscorthy Town Council approved a proposal to erect a granite stone memorial to honour the 1957 Edentubber Martyrs, two of whom were natives of Co Wexford.

The number of passengers using Shannon airport declined by 372,000 to 2.72 million in 2009 following a fall of 12% or 500,000 in 2008 from 3.6 million the previous year.

Four orders for repossession of homes were granted at the Dublin High Court.

Tens of thousands of members of the trade union Impact and the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation introduced a work-to-rule in protest at pay cuts in the budget.

The families of the victims of Bloody Sunday in Derry fear that the Saville Report into the 1972 murders will be further delayed until after the British general election.

TUES. JANUARY 26: The inquiry into the legality of the war in Iraq being conducted in Britain heard that Jack Straw "brushed aside" warnings from Michael Wood, senior legal advisor at the British Foreign Office, that the invasion of Iraq had no basis in international law.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) in Dublin unearthed a Viking settlement on the north shore of the Liffey at Hammon Lane, off Church Street.

The USA is putting pressure on its European allies to increase their deployments of police trainers to Afghanistan. It also wants European governments to 'significantly increase' financial support to Kabul.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged an additional 500 troops to Afghanistan.

WED. JANUARY 27: Gordon Brown, British Prime Minister and 26-County Taoiseach Brian Cowen arrived in Belfast for talks with parties from Stormont in an effort to reach agreement on the devolution of power on policing and justice from Westminster to Stormont and the future of the Parades Commission.

A Provo councillor in Tipperary, Séamus Morris on North Tipperary County Council and Nenagh Town Council, warned that the Provisionals are 'sliding towards political oblivion' in the 26 Counties because of poor leadership there.

The founder of the *Andersonstown News* Basil McLaughlin died aged 76.

Aaron White, convicted of the sectarian attack on Michael Reid, Ballymena, Co Antrim in October 2003, appealed his 22-year sentence. Michael Reid pretended to be dead in order to survive and heard White ask an accomplice to get a saw so that they could cut up his body.

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties said that proposal to allow lethal force by homeowners on burglars "oversteps the mark".

THURS. JANUARY 28: Two INLA members were jailed for nine years after being convicted of making pipe-bombs in an apartment in Dublin. Cormac Fitzpatrick, 23, from Cathedral Walk in Co Monaghan, and Terry McConnell, 28, from Tullymore Gardens, Andersonstown in Belfast, were convicted in December of unlawfully possessing explosive materials in Clondalkin in September 2008.

FRI. JANUARY 29: Mortgage rates at Permanent TSB rates are to increase by 0.5% from next Monday.

SAT. JANUARY 30: Republican Sinn Féin held a very successful picket at the GPO, Dublin to remember the 14 people who were murdered in Derry by the Parachute Regiment of the British army on Bloody Sunday, January 30, 1972.

SUN. JANUARY 31: The families of those killed on Bloody Sunday in Derry in 1972 called for the immediate publication of the Saville report on the killings. Thousands of people turned out in Derry to remember those murdered and injured and walked the original route of the 1972 march.

Shots were fired at Bessbrook RUC station, Co Armagh when a car pulled up at the gate at 9pm. No one was injured.

Up to 70,000 members of Siptu are set to take part in industrial action in protest at the pay cuts introduced in the budget.

Shell E&P Ireland asked An Bord Pleanála for more time to resolve issues relating to the Corrib gas pipeline.

Fr Séan Healy, co-director and founder of Social Justice Ireland, called on the 26-County Administration to change its approach in tackling poverty.

More than 500 unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the 26 Counties have gone missing from State care in the past 10 years according to new figures released by the HSE.

Picket in support of Republican prisoners in Portlaoise

THE Republican Sinn Féin POW Department held a picket outside Portlaoise prison, Portlaoise, Co Laois on January 23 in protest against the conditions in the jail and in support of the demand of the CIRA POWs to be housed on a landing on their own.

The picket was supported by Republicans from as far away as Roscommon, Dublin, Monaghan, Wexford, Kilkenny and Kildare.

A spokesperson for the Republican Sinn Féin POW Department said:

"Since 1917, 22 Irish Republicans have died in defence of their right to political status. In the 1940s the Republican Prisoners in Portlaoise were among the first 'Blanketmen' in opposition to criminalisation. In the 1970s Republican prisoners endured a 47-day hunger strike.

"The Republican prisoners in Portlaoise today are defending the same right to political status because they are part of the same struggle".

A communication from the POWs to the picket outside was read by Republican Sinn Féin President Des Dalton:

"We have moved into E1, E Block of the jail with all the other groups.

"We have put in place structures to keep discipline and Republican ideals alive and well. Today in conjunction with the picket held by the Republican Sinn Féin POW Department picket we are undertaking a 12-hour fast, from 8am to 8pm.

"We would like to thank all of you for your support. Go raibh maith agaibh.

"Tíocfaidh Ár Lá!"

That evening Josephine Hayden



• The Republican Sinn Féin picket at Portlaoise jail on January 23.

was interviewed on Radio Free Éireann in New York regarding the prison protest.

Also on Saturday members of

Republican Sinn Féin Belfast lined the Falls Road holding posters and handing out leaflets in support of the picket outside Portlaoise prison.

Members of the McKelvey/Steele Cumann, west Belfast Republican Sinn Féin were joined by their comrade from north Belfast for the protest.

'Frenzied' knife attack on teenager

A MAN who was stabbed in the moments after his teenage friend was knifed to death described the attack as "frenzied" and "brutal".

Giving evidence on January 18 at the Belfast Crown Court, Jonathan McKee said of the attack on August 10, 2005: "As it was unprovoked, it was scary how ferociously he was swinging at me and just sort of how brutal it was more than anything."

Nigel Brown (26) from Whitewell Road and Gary

Taylor (23) from Mountcollyer Avenue, both in north Belfast, are accused of the murder of Thomas Devlin (15), and of the attempted murder of Jonathan McKee (22). They are also charged with attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm on Jonathan McKee.

The jury had already been told that the two men who



• Thomas Devlin

walking a dog were Nigel Brown, who was armed with a wooden bat and Gary Taylor who had a knife. They

launched an unprovoked attack on the three friends as they walked along the Somerton Road in north Belfast, close to where the pair then lived in the Mount Vernon estate.

Thomas and Fintan Maguire managed to scale a fence as they attempted to get away but Thomas was pulled down and attacked.

Jonathan McKee said when the attack finished and his assailant ran off, he spotted Thomas lying face-down half

on the kerb and half on the road with blood coming from his eyes.

On January 22, assistant state pathologist Dr Peter Ingram told the court that Thomas Devlin was stabbed at least nine times. He said Thomas stood no chance of survival and would have died rapidly.

On January 26, Ciara McGoldrick, a doctor at the Mater Hospital told the court that Mr McKee had a single

stab wound to his abdomen and a 'boggy lump' on the back of his head.

Senior forensic scientist Andrew Davidson examined the rucksack Jonathan McKee had on his back he found a cut on the bag which had also pierced a tin of pink spray paint inside.

The jury had already heard that on the night he was killed, 15-year-old Thomas had asked his friend to carry the bag.

The case continues.

Come clean on collusion says IAUC

THE Irish American Unity Conference called on the British government "to come clean" about what it calls Britain's "involvement in arming loyalist paramilitary groups", this following the announcement on January 6 that the Ulster Defence Association and its offshoot, the Ulster Freedom Fighters, have completed their arms decommissioning process.

"While we welcome news of the UDA/UFF disarmament, the irony of the fact that these groups were armed by MI5 and RUC Special Branch is not lost

on us. We cannot hail this as any kind of real achievement without an honest discussion of British complicity in arming loyalist paramilitary groups



over the years of the conflict," IAUC National President, Kate

McCabe, said.

"We know that the UDA/UFF were armed with weapons smuggled in from apartheid South Africa through paid British agent Brian Nelson under the watchful eye of Whitehall and Downing Street in 1987 and 1988, and that these very same weapons were then used in hundreds of sectarian murders," said Kate McCabe.

"There continues to be an active interest within Irish

America and Congress in uncovering evidence of the collusion that took place with the blessing of the British government.

"The IAUC submitted evidence to this effect at last October's congressional hearing into collusion between police and paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland (sic). Also at this hearing, Representative Bill Delahunt said he believed a key factor in the developing peace process lies in the

unsolved murders of the conflict," said Kate McCabe.

She said the IAUC would continue to lobby for American political support for an "operationally independent, international truth commission".

Additionally, the IAUC would also seek a congressional hearing into the Brian Nelson affair and the arming of loyalist death-squads by British military intelligence.

British army wanted to open fire on unarmed escapees

THE British army wanted to change the law in the late 1970s to allow their soldiers to open fire on unarmed prisoners trying to escape from Long Kesh.

A confidential memo written by British Army Major Richard Turner to the British government's Northern Ireland Office (NIO) revealed they had concerns that current legislation was preventing their soldiers from being an "efficient deterrent" to attempted prison breakouts.

Another issue of security

which sparked concern for the British in Long Kesh in the late 1970s was the problem of smuggling explosives into the prison. Between July 2, 1977 and August 18, 1977, 43 sticks of gelnite, four detonators and three fuses were found in cells of IRA prisoners.

Secret documents also



• Long Kesh internment camp.

showed that prisoners in Long Kesh used makeshift tools and impersonated priests in bids to escape.

Confidential records show that officials discovered an entrance to a tunnel 18x18ins in the concrete floor of a cubicle in a hut holding IRA prisoners.

During a search an 18ft sectional ladder roughly made from basketball stands was discovered. It was thought prisoners

would have used the tunnel to clear three compound fences and then to use the sectional ladder to scale a 17ft concrete wall.

Meanwhile, the confidential records also showed concern for the safety of priests who visit the prison.

A Father Rainey, who was visiting Long Kesh to conduct Mass, was "illegally detained" by the prisoners while one of them escaped dressed as Fr Rainey.

'Greed is good'

THE crisis of international capitalism and banking was inevitable as it was based on the philosophy that greed is good.

The current malady is particularly acute in the 26-County State because we also have the misfortune to be ruled by people whose motivation is less public service and more self-importance and power. Their hallmark is cronyism and nepotism, which extends into the public service, finance and business. For all of this these politicians also pay themselves the highest salaries in the world.

The people who got us into the mess are now going to be bailed out by levying and penalising the innocent, the old, the young and the unemployed.

The corruption of Free State politics comes as no surprise to Irish Republicans. The contrast between the ideals of the first All-Ireland Dáil Éireann and what we get in Leinster House

could hardly be more striking than it is now.

Commentators talk about nation-building, but no worthwhile Irish nation can be built except on a solid foundation of national freedom for all 32 Counties and integrity in public life. Given their record of subservience to England and their selfish abuse of power it should be obvious to all by now that it is futile to expect any principled leadership from that quarter.

The current financial crisis and scandals cannot be patched up by NAMA or any other such device. To attempt to reconstruct the old system is to risk a repetition of the current crisis.

In keeping with our traditions of democratic Socialism, based in the Irish values of Comhar na

In addition, no bank should be allowed to become so large that any possible difficulties would mean that it would have

of the regions.

All of the banks should operate under a Trust Deed which would govern the basis

for the greedy, self-interested speculators to rob the national treasury, which represents the work and savings of millions of decent people.

We note in passing that none of the criminal elements who lined their pockets by dubious practices have yet been charged in any court for their corruption and national sabotage, perpetuated on a truly grand scale. Given that we have a cosy cartel of greedy bankers, speculators and politicians at the top this may never happen.

Once again, as in the area of national independence, so also in the running of banks and other institutions, the dishonest and shameless approach of unprincipled men and women who feed off the labour of ordinary people, has apparently triumphed for the moment.

The Republican way is completely different and we in RSF need to proclaim and demonstrate it. SAOL NUA is every bit as important and relevant as ÉIRE NUA, our programme for a new democracy in Ireland.



gComharsan we believe and advocate that the banks should be nationalised and then sorted out. Following that we advocate that there should be at least one state commercial bank to serve national interests.

All other banks should be turned into mutuals or cooperatives which would be controlled by their account-holders, with one vote per person rather than per account.

to be rescued at all costs to protect the state from insolvency.

This is a case where "small is beautiful". Each of the big banks should be broken into smaller units, with provincial banks which would doge-tail with our ÉIRE NUA policy of a federal Ireland with four provincial parliaments and these banks should be dedicated to the development

on which they would operate, with security as a primary objective. The Credit Unions would have an important role in such a new system.

All of what SFP advocates is based on sound principles, national, social and economic. It would protect the interests of the common people of both town and country and would make it well-nigh impossible

Billy McKee sets the record straight

RENOWNED IRA commander Billy McKee has revealed what really happened during the Battle of St Matthew's in 1970 and rejected media claims that Denis Donaldson wounded him and killed local defender Henry McIlhone.

Billy McKee, now 88, has been angered by reports that Donaldson – outed as a British agent in 2005 and killed in 2006 – shot him and Henry McIlhone during the famous IRA defence of the Short Strand from loyalist attack in June 1970.

Newspaper reports have alleged that the RUC had been building a case of manslaughter against Denis Donaldson in relation to the shooting dead of Henry

McIlhone. Another claim is that the British Historical Enquiries Team had concluded after an investigation that not only was Donaldson linked to the killing of Henry McIlhone, but that he may also have been responsible for the wounding of Billy McKee.

Henry McIlhone died after a two-day fight for life. Billy McKee said Henry McIlhone was shot by loyalist gunmen, who he [Billy McKee] saw and is able to describe. Billy



• Billy McKee

McKee said that he was revealing what really happened and was clearing Denis Donaldson of the allegations made against him because, while Donaldson "fell by the wayside" in subsequent years, "he has a family".

Billy McKee said he told Henry McIlhone to take up a position around St Matthew's Church, which loyalists were attempting to burn down. He recalls that he was just yards

from the local man when he was mortally wounded and said the loyalists who shot him and Henry were as close as "two or three feet" from him as he leaned wounded against a wall.

The loyalist gunmen opened fire on him again and left him for dead and from their close proximity Billy McKee is able to say that neither bore any resemblance to the physically-diminutive Denis Donaldson.

TEAGMHÁLACHA

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin should contact:

Kerry: O'Sullivan/Enright Cumann, Listowel: 086-1204592
Cork: Mac Curtáin/Mac Swiney Cumann: 086-3352006 or www.rsfcork.com

Limerick city: Brughá/Sabhat, Hurson/Sands Cumainn: www.rsflimerick.com

County Limerick: Smith O'Brien/Colbert Cumann: 086-8153657

Dublin: www.freewebs.com/rsfdublin

Roger Casement/Francis Hughes Cumann, Dún Laoghaire/Ballybrack: 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

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

Wexford: contact Mick at 0876150484
Kildare: desdalton@eircom.net, 086-329 1809, www.rsfkildare.ie

Longford: 087-2240061 or 086-3384017

Enniscorthy: 086-0608382 or 087 6284338

Belfast: rsfbelfast@googlemail.com

Donegal: rsfdonegal@googlemail.com

Roscommon: Kevin Coen Cumann: Joe Murphy, 086 1281 861

Mayo: McNeela/Gaughan/Stagg Cumann: 087 9232 096

Galway: Cumann an hAthair Ó Gríofa: Tomás, 087 2933 782 or Seán at 091 525 977

Leitrim: Micheál at 071 9641 804 or John at 086 4061454

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Dumbarton: John Torley/Seamus McElwaine Cumann dumbartonrsf.live.co.uk

RSF Germany/Austria: www.irish-solidarity.net
irish-solidarity@gmx.net, 0664 170 02 92

RSF Italy: rsf-roma@email.it

IMEACHTAÍ

FUNCTION IN AID OF NA FIANNA ÉIREANN

THE 79ER PUB, BALLYFERMOT, DUBLIN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Doors open at 9pm.

Taille €5

Music/raffle/entertainment

ANNUAL ABBEYFEALE COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 3pm

Assemble at the Monument on the Castleisland Road

Speaker Séamus Ó Suilleabhain.

POLITICAL STATUS PICKET

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Carlow Town, 1pm – 2.30pm

Junction of Tullow St and Potato Market

SHANNON WATCH VIGIL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010

Shannon Airport Roundabout, 2-3pm

REPUBLICAN FUNCTION

TOWN HOUSE, NAAS, CO KILDARE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 8.30PM.

Organised by Kildare Republican Sinn Féin to

congratulate Des Dalton on his election as President.

Admission €5

ANNUAL CLONMILT COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Assembly at the Courthouse, Midleton, 2.30pm

Speaker: Tomás Ó Curraoin

POW PICKET

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 12.45-1.45PM

GPO, DUBLIN

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

PERCY FRENCH HOTEL,

STROKESTOWN, CO ROSCOMMON

DOORS OPEN 9.30PM

THE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS MAGHABERRY

are looking for books and publications about Irish history

and Republicanism. The books may be sent to Head

Office at 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1 or the Ulster office at

229 Falls Road, Belfast or directly to Maghaberry c/o Dúire

McKenna, Roe House, Maghaberry jail, Old Road,

Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn, Co Antrim, BT28 2PT.

NA FIANNA ÉIREANN

Anyone wishing to join Na Fianna Éireann should apply

c/o 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

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REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN IS ACTIVE IN ITALY

and can be contacted at the

rsf-roma@email.it or phone: 0039 349 23 04 936

Republican Sinn Féin è presente in Italia e può essere

contattato al

seguente indirizzo e-mail: rsf-roma@email.it oppure al

numero 0039 349 23 04 936

NO INQUIRY INTO BALLYMURPHY MASSACRE

A Belfast Chronology

Wednesday, January 13, 2010. One of the men charged with murdering journalist Martin O'Hagan secured a ban at Belfast's High Court on press disclosure of his whereabouts.

Thursday, January 15, 2010. The RUC secretly recorded 16 telephone conversations as part of a covert operation against alleged UDA intimidation. They also monitored four meetings involving undercover RUC members and 51 texts, Belfast's High Court was told when Colin Davison, accused of perverting the course of justice, applied for bail, which was refused.

Friday, January 15, 2010. An anti-racism strategy for the Greater Village area of south Belfast was launched by Mayor Naomi Long.

Monday, January 18, 2010. A leading member of the Provisionals, Councillor Brieghe Meehan, Belfast was suspended by the party over claims that she abused a 10-year old child in her care in the 1970s. Other women claimed that they were abused by members of the Provisional IRA and nothing was done by the party and at least one member is facing charges.

The burial took place in Belfast of Antrim GAA legend Seán McGettigan.

Friday, January 22, 2010. Robert Clarke from Co Antrim was charged with the murder of Alfredo Fusco, shot dead at his café on York Road, Belfast in 1973.

A senior member of the 26-County Garda Síochána Superintendent Paul Moran has been seconded to work

with the RUC/PSNI with full powers, including carrying a gun and wear a uniform. He is currently based in the Garda HQ, Phoenix Park, Dublin.

Belfast Crown Court was told by Assistant State pathologist Dr Peter Ingram, that Thomas Devlin (15) was stabbed at least nine times. Thomas and two of his friends were walking home when they were attacked. Two men are charged with his murder.

Two men, arrested in connection with the theft of two legally held guns from homes in west Belfast, were released without charge, having been arrested on January 13.

Monday January 25, 2010: The RUC arrested and questioned two men from north Belfast and also raided a local taxi depot in connection with the car bomb attack on a member of the RUC earlier in the month. Three were later



• The British army carried out three controlled explosions on a suspect device at Thiepval British army barracks, Lisburn, outside Belfast on January 16.

released unconditionally.

Tuesday, January 26, 2010. A European arrest warrant was issued by the RUC/PSNI for the arrest of Liam Adams, brother of Gerry Adams, wanted in connection with the alleged sexual assault of his daughter.

Two men, arrested in Belfast on January 25 for

questioning in connection with the undercar bomb on an RUC man's car on January 8 in Randalstown, Co Antrim, were released unconditionally.

Wednesday, January 27, 2010. The families of 11 people murdered by the British Army in Ballymurphy, west Belfast in 1971, walked out of a meeting with the

Commission for Victims and Survivors after the commission said they would not back the families call for an independent inquiry into the murders.

The inquest into the death of John Hemsforth, west Belfast, in July 1997, heard that John Hemsforth had alleged that he was attacked by the RUC as he walked home along Malcolmson Street off the Springfield Road on July 7, 1997. A US citizen, he claimed he was hit on the face "with a police baton, kicked on the ground and called a Fenian bastard". It is contended that that assault resulted in or contributed to his death six months later from a blood clot.

Friday, January 29, 2010. A 58-year-old ex-RUC inspector Ken McConnell was charged with the murder of Annabella Symington (77) in south Belfast in 1989.

Guth na Mumhan: Inniu is Inné

British money creates political greed culture

THE attempts by both the British Government and the Dublin Administration to secure a deal on devolving policing powers in the face of the current scandals in the Six Counties smacks of desperation, Des Long from Corbally in Limerick, a member of the Ard Chomhairle of Republican Sinn Féin said on January 16.

"The behaviour of leading figures in both the DUP and in the Provisionals falls far below generally accepted standards for those in public life and in leadership positions.

"The political rot and the core of politics in the Six Counties is caused by British money and politicians are being bought off with cash and jobs. That encourages greed and financial corruption.

"In their haste to involve the Provos fully in administering British rule in the Six Counties, the British provided

endless funds and continues to do so in the current climate where political hypocrisy and corruption has been exposed.

"Both the DUP and the Provos have compromised all moral right to govern and their activities now exposed means they should not be trusted to act in the interests of the people.

"But this is not about the ordinary people of Ireland who deserve better from their elected politicians – this so called peace process is aimed at normalising British rule in Ireland. It is a process that must be exposed and opposed by all true Republicans."

Orange card still in play in Six Counties

PLAYING the Orange card seems to be the latest political game in the Six Counties with both the Provisionals and the British Conservative Party engaging the sectarian division, Joe Lynch from Beechgrove Avenue, Ballinacurra Weston in Limerick, the



• Joe Lynch

Republican Sinn Féin chairperson in the south side of the city said on January 25.

He said that it was political hypocrisy for the Provisional leadership of Adams and McGuinness to now use the spectre of the Orange card because their sell-out and surrender has cemented the role of loyalism in the Six Counties.

"An even more drastic Orange move is now on the cards with the unionist unity talks and the links to the British Conservative Party in time for the next general election. Many

people tend to forget that the official name is the Conservative and Unionist Party and this move is simply designed to reinforce the position of those loyal to the Union with Britain.

"The playing the Orange card is simply yet another way for the British to exercise their control of the Six Counties and it should come as no surprise to the discredited Provisional Movement."

Bank probe must be in public

THE current attempts by the 26-County Administration coalition parties to hold any inquiry into the causes of the banking and financial crisis in private must be resisted, Seán O'Neill from Prospect, a spokesperson for Republican Sinn Féin in Limerick said on January 23.

He said that the full reasons for the crisis must be explored in public and those found to be in breach of their responsibilities must face the full rigours of the law.

"To add insult to injury the politicians are now proposing to hold

any inquiry in private and this stance is simply not acceptable," he said.

"This behind closed doors secrecy has caused untold trauma for so many Irish people that even to propose it indicates how this Administration lacks concern for ordinary people.

"It is the ordinary people of Limerick and Ireland who are now paying the price for the reckless banking and property actions of those at the top of these institutions.

"The days of behind closed doors decisions on issues affecting the public good are over. For too long there has been a golden circle in this country, be it in the church, banking or in politics.

"The days of the golden circles should also be ended because it is the ordinary people on modest incomes and those on social welfare who are now paying the price for the greed of the bankers and property speculators.

"Any inquiry must be in public and those responsible must be questioned and called to account for their mismanagement."

James Connolly writings published in German

IRISH Republican James Connolly was not just one of the leaders of the 1916 rising. He was also the most important Irish trade union leader in his time, founder of the Irish Citizen Army, a stirring speaker, socialist as well as an often underestimated theoretician of the relationship between national and social liberation.

For the first time two of James Connolly's writings have been made available in German by the Austrian publisher Promedia. The writings appear in a selection titled 'Nationalism and Socialism' edited and introduced by the German historian Stefan Bollinger. The book also includes writings of political activists and thinkers like Karl Marx, Ho Chi Minh, Mao Zedong or Harry Haywood.

The translation of James Connolly was prepared by Vienna-based historian Dieter Reinisch. Speaking to SAOIRSE he explained: "James Connolly was a political activist in Ireland at a time one could classify it as a Third World country. He was active in the Republican Movement. This is a social movement that is internationally more seen as national liberation than a socialist movement. However, Connolly shows clearly that there is no

contradiction between the national and the social liberation. Far from it, Connolly explains the dialectic between both struggles. According to Connolly neither can be won without the other."

"This is the importance of Connolly's writings for political activists in Ireland and abroad. From a historical point of view Connolly's writings are essential read because he gives a different input to the ongoing discussion on the national question in his time."

"As we can see in this publication the debate on the national question was dominated by thinkers and activists who lived and worked in the highly developed centres of the

Austrian-Hungarian monarchy and present-day Germany. Having said that Connolly was politically active in a British colony he wrote from the perspective of an activist in the colonized periphery. He and his country were multiple oppressed – nationally and socially. Hence he gave a common answer to both evils and this became known as Socialist Republicanism," Reinisch said.

(Stefan Bollinger (Ed.), Linke und Nation. ISBN 978-3-85371-302-0, 192 p., 12.90. The book is available from Promedia-Verlag, Wickenburggasse 5/12, 1080 Vienna, Austria and promedia@mediashop.at)

TEACH DÁITHÍ Ó CONAILL RENOVATION FUND

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

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

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

Campaign to save Newgrange

A CAMPAIGN to save Brú na Bóinne from the Slane Bypass was launched online over the weekend of January 23-24.

It was initiated by members of the National Monuments Forum, which includes Professor George Eogan, Professor Emeritus of Archaeology at University College Dublin.

The National Roads Authority has chosen the most damaging route for archaeology and heritage, and Meath County Council has gone ahead and issued CPO orders for the route, without even waiting for the An Bord Pleanála oral hearing. A petition will be launched shortly, calling on Minister Gormley to deliver on his promise of a new National Monuments Act, and calling on UNESCO to place Brú na Bóinne on their List of World Heritage in Danger.

Struggling to defend the preferred route for the N2 Slane Bypass, which runs 500m from the edge of the Bend of the Boyne UNESCO World Heritage Site, a spokesperson for the NRA said, "we have selected a route with the least impact on archaeology and heritage".

This is incorrect, as there is no doubt that a western bypass would have a much lesser impact, as the proposed dual carriageway will sever the World Heritage Site from the village of Slane, and box it in between the M2 motorway and a dual carriageway.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project acknowledges that "44 archaeological and cultural sites" will be within 500m of the roadway. The potential to uncover much more during work is high. In addition, the EIS identified 21 architectural heritage sites within the study area. The road will impact on the birth-place of Ireland's most famous World War I poet, Francis Ledwidge. The 19th century farm labourer's cottage is now a museum dedicated to him. The EIS also notes, "The wider landscape is judged as being of very high value and the River Boyne valley is deemed as being of 'exceptional' value."

According to the UNESCO web site:

"The Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne is Europe's largest and most important concentration of prehistoric megalithic art. The monuments there had social, economic, religious and funerary functions. The Committee inscribed the site under criteria (i), (iii) and (iv) and invited the Irish authorities to control carefully future developments in and around the site and to involve ICOMOS in conservation and management planning."

(<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/659>)



• The passage grave at Newgrange, Co Meath, the most spectacular monument of the World Heritage Site at Brú na Bóinne which is under threat from the National Roads Authority (NRA).

Criterion (i) is "to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius"; (iii) is "to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared"; and (iv) is "to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history."

(<http://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria>)

archaeological ensemble.

(<http://whc.unesco.org/en/158/>)

Although the Irish authorities claim they have written to UNESCO, they did not await a response before picking the preferred route, and the clock is now ticking for making objections. Meath County Council has already issued notices for compulsory purchase of land, despite the fact that planning permission is far from being granted, and public consultation continues.

Dr Edgar Morgenrath, associate research professor and co-ordinator of the Transport and Infrastructure Research Programme at the Economic and Social Research Institute recently noted in the *Irish Times*:

"It is remarkable that there are plans to facilitate the avoidance of the toll on the M1 by building a bypass around Slane involving the expensive construction of a bridge over the river Boyne when a simple HGV ban would solve the local traffic problems." (Opinion, April 24, 2009)

Meath councillors voted in 2009 "to ban HGVs going through Slane because of the dangerous and steep incline from the bridge on the N2 into the village".

The County Manager has however refused to implement the ban, which would in fact been the solution with the 'least impact'. The next best option would have been a western bypass, but instead the NRA has in fact chosen the route with the most impact.

Derry's Bloody Sunday remembered in Dublin

UP to 50 Republicans and supporters held a two-hour protest on the island in O'Connell Street, Dublin on January 30 to mark the 38th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry in which 13 people were murdered by the British Army at a peaceful civil rights march, another man dying shortly after from his injuries.

After a peaceful Civil Rights march on January 30th, 1972 - from Creggan to Free Derry Corner - units of the British army Parachute Regiment opened fire with automatic rifles and shot dead 13 unarmed civilians and injuring many more. It was later revealed that some days prior to the massacre, the British soldiers involved had been briefed to "...shoot to kill..." at the march.

A total of eight hundred information leaflets were distributed to the public which were well received and the organisation's newspaper SAOIRSE was sold.

RSF President Des Dalton

and John Horan, RSF Dublin PRO, addressed the crowds over the two-hour period. Des Dalton outlined the events on that day in 1972 and the dreadful outcome and the consequences of British occupation right up to the present day. John Horan stressed the very real danger that another Bloody Sunday could happen in the Occupied Six Counties as the Westminster parliament still claims military and political jurisdiction over that area of Ireland. He also said that the war in our country is not just about civil rights, we want our Occupied Six Counties back.

A reporter from a French

radio station interviewed one of the organisers in a ten-minute session, and a photojournalist from Demotix.com was on site for just under an hour. Following the picket the PRO of Comhairle Chúige Laighean, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, in a statement, criticised the actions of the Special Branch.

"Republican Sinn Féin views the actions of the Special Branch at the Bloody Sunday picket in Dublin on January 30 as grossly insulting and slightly sinister.

"After taking the names and addresses of several members and supporters, they proceeded to enter the GPO where they took pictures, through the window, of those on the picket. Comparing notes, they wrote down the names of those 'in the [picture] frame'.

"We object to the paid lackeys of Leinster House



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin at the picket at Dublin's GPO on January 30 remembering Bloody Sunday in Derry.

using a hallowed Republican building, the headquarters of the All-Ireland Republic proclaimed in 1916, to skulk in and gather information on Irish Republicans which they pass on to the British Colonial police and MI5 spymasters.

"Republicans know that such people will use any underhand methods to undermine the Republican struggle.

"We will continue to highlight the activities of the likes of Det Kevin Doherty

and Det Joe Higgins.

"We say to people: do not let their tactics intimidate you but rather strengthen your resolve to highlight the injustice of British occupation in our country."

British rule in Ireland has always been resisted

ON January 10 Republicans from Lurgan, Armagh, Monaghan, Fermanagh, Dublin and Kildare assembled at the Cathedral in Monaghan town and marched behind the Tricolour and Starry Plough to Lathlurcan Cemetery to the graveside of Fearghal Ó hAnluain.

At the graveside proceedings were chaired by Republican Sinn Féin Vice-President Fergal Moore. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Dan Hoban and the local Dáithí Ó Conaill Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin by Séan Moore. A decade of the Rosary was recited as gaeilge by Dara Sloan.

Maoliosa Ó hAnluain, brother of Fearghal, called on true Republicans not to believe the lies being peddled by those who profited from the ending of the campaign against British rule in Ireland but to follow the truth and keep the faith.

The main oration was delivered by the President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton who said:

“Throughout Irish revolutionary history in each phase of the freedom struggle the sacrifice of individual Irish patriots has come to personify the fight for Irish freedom. Following their deaths the names of Séan Sabhat and Fearghal Ó hAnluain would forever more be linked together. They represented in the eyes of people both at home and abroad the historic demand of the Irish people for national independence.

“Thoughtful, well read, deeply convinced and dedicated Irish Republicans”, was how Ruairi Ó Brádaigh described both men on the 50th anniversary of their deaths in 2007.

“Fearghal Ó hAnluain came from a staunchly Republican family imbued with a passionate love for his language – like Séan Sabhat he was a fluent Irish speaker – his games and his culture. A footballer of note he represented Monaghan at minor, junior and senior level.

“Fearghal Ó hAnluain took his part as a member of the Pearse Column in the attack on Brookborough RUC barracks on the evening of January 1 1957. His presence in Brookborough on that fateful evening was for him the natural and practical expression of his deeply held Irish Republicanism. Like Pearse he believed that in the face of continued British rule in Ireland ‘the only honourable attitude for Irishmen and Irishwomen is an attitude of revolt.’

“The sacrifice of Sabhat and Ó hAnluain was acknowledged within months when four Republican Sinn Féin TDs were

elected to an All-Ireland parliament –including Fearghal’s brother Éineachán. Songs and ballads eulogised them and GAA teams were named in their honour.

“While the flame of Irish nationality burns their names will live on in the hearts of the people.

“Sabhat and Ó hAnluain died so that future generations would live in a Free Ireland.

“British rule in Ireland has always been met with resistance by a section of the Irish people. The attacks in recent days and weeks on British Crown forces testify to this iron law of Irish history. There are those who would wish it otherwise but that is the reality, which must be faced if a lasting settlement is to be secured for all of the Irish people.

“Irish history is a cycle of coercion – mixed with pacification – and resistance. It is time to break that cycle and for that to happen the British Government must accept that the only constructive role they have to play in our country is their leaving of it.

“A public declaration of intent by the British Government to withdraw from Ireland would create the dynamic within which all of the Irish people could negotiate the basis for a New Ireland.

“We believe that the ÉIRE NUA proposals can provide the framework for the pluralist, non-sectarian and Democratic Socialist Republic set out in the 1916 proclamation. Such a Republic stands in stark contrast to the present discredited, sectarian scandal and crisis ridden Stormont and Leinster House regimes.

“In Lurgan, Ardoyne and other areas of the Six Counties young people have taken on the forces of British occupation. They have been dismissed as ‘apolitical and anti-social’ by Westminster, Stormont and Leinster House.

“Again those who have signed up to holding Ireland for the British Crown are not prepared to face up to the reality confronting them.

“We salute this new generation of Irish people who have neither been purchased nor intimidated. It is the duty of Sinn Féin to give clear leadership and a political voice to that section of the Irish people who refuse to accept British rule in our country.

“Thomas Davis said: ‘The



• The colour party and a section of the crowd at the Fearghal Ó hAnluain commemoration in Monaghan on January 10 last.



• Dara Sloan (right) recited a decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge at the Fearghal Ó hAnluain commemoration in Monaghan. (left) Fergal Moore, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin, who chaired the ceremony.

people of the country are its wealth’, believing this to be true we must view our struggle to be both political and economic. The struggle for a free Ireland must be about bringing fundamental change.

“In both partitionist states within Ireland today the political establishment is intent on squeezing the most vulnerable and weak in order to protect the vested

interests of the powerful and wealthy. Protecting the discredited political and economic system whatever the cost in human terms is the priority in Lenister House, Stormont and Westminster.

“In a recent collection of essays published by Social Justice Ireland Prof PJ Drudy of Trinity College Dublin points out that the measure of what is a successful

economy needs to be based on meeting the needs of people: ‘Indeed, we need to turn away from good from the obsession with economic growth and the philosophy of the market to focus instead on a philosophy and a set of values and ethics which facilitates and nurtures human development.’

“This is the philosophy which underpins SAOL NUA Sinn Féin’s proposals for economic democracy. As Irish Republicans we must always return to Wolfe Tone: ‘Our strength shall come from that great and respectable class, the men of no property’. Political and Economic democracy must be the twin pillars of the New Ireland for which we strive.

“On the 1st anniversary of Operation Harvest on December 12 1957 the Republican Movement issued a manifesto setting out the task that remained to be completed: ‘We must win for the Irish people democracy, unity and sovereignty. To achieve these objectives we must end forever interference in our affairs by an outside power. We must drive from our shores the forces of this outside power. We must establish national independence.’

“It is a task which remains for us to complete.

“We believe like Pearse that: ‘our patriotism is measured, not by the formula in which we declare it, but by the service which we render’. We must live up to the legacy of Sabhat and Ó hAnluain by rendering that service.”

Fergal Moore thanked all those who attended and the ceremony ended with the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

How US set out to destroy Iraq's national identity

THE United States set out to destroy Iraq's national identity and create a dependent state in the post-war 'cultural cleaning' of the country, according to a newly-published book.

The objectives of the 2003 invasion of Iraq were to demonstrate US global dominance and remake "the strategic [ie oil-rich] Middle East" to suit the Bush administration in Washington.

The book, *Cultural Cleansing in Iraq* (Pluto Press, eds Raymond W Baleer, Shereen T Ismael and Tareq Y Ismael) deals with two major aspects of the of this experiment in "state ending":

- the destination of Iraq's state structures beginning with the looting of museums, libraries, schools and universities.
- the assassination of Iraqi intellectuals and professionals.

According to Barbara Bodine, the first US ambassador to Iraq after the war, orders were issued to troops to allow looting to proceed unchecked at cultural centres and historic sites. In some instances, US troops broke open the doors of institutions to allow looters inside.

Important archaeological sites such as ancient Babylon and Ur were used as military bases, causing massive destruction. The authors call this an attack on Iraq's "collective memory". This sense of history had made the Iraqis the most prolific poets and writers in the Arab world.

Two days after the fall of Baghdad on April 9, 2003 a group of university professors and scientists warned that the occupation forces had compiled lists of people to be arrested, harassed and assassinated. In July 2003 Dr Muhammed Rawi, a medical doctor and chancellor of Baghdad University, was murdered, serving as a warning to others. Since then hundreds of university professors, doctors and scientists have been assassinated, kidnapped, killed or driven into exile.

The book's authors produce hard evidence that the US and Britain fostered the massacre of Iraqi intellectuals because they would oppose foreign domination through Shia and Kurd exiles who rode into Baghdad on the backs of UD trucks. The model for the US was the "Salvador option" which was the strategy used to create US-backed regimes in Central America.

The editors maintain that the invasion of Iraq was intended "to display America's crushing military power to a world reduced to the status of spectators in a spectacle of a state's destruction, marked by massive civilian casualties, cultural devastation and the pauperisation of its people".

What the US and Britain began has been continued with the targeting by various Shia-led administration of secular nationalist thinkers of every religious persuasion.

Aid convoy arrives in Gaza

THE Viva Palestina aid convoy that set out on December 7 to reach Gaza by December 27, finally crossed the border at Rafah and arrived in Gaza shortly after 7pm (Irish time) on January 7 — exactly one month after the convoy set off on its journey.

Freda Hughes, spokesperson for the IPSC, sent congratulations to all those who participated in the convoy and said it was a brave effort "but they finally got there."

Freda continued: "Some of them were physically attacked by the Egyptian police along the way (Dave Carroll, Ireland required stitches after the attack). The obstruction of the convoy by the Egyptian authorities was shameful and the attack on members of the convoy last night was an absolute disgrace, but we are glad to see that most of the humanitarian aid has finally reached its destination, where it is badly needed."

There were 10 Irish participants on the convoy and three vehicles from Ireland. Two of the Irish peace activists began a hunger strike on Sunday, December 27 to protest against Egypt's refusal to allow the convoy of humanitarian aid to enter Gaza, which remains under a strict Israeli blockade.

Caoimhe Butterly and John Hurson began a hunger strike on Sunday, December 27 to protest against Egypt's refusal to allow the convoy of humanitarian aid to enter Gaza.

There were 500 people from 20 countries on the convoy, which contained 250 vehicles loaded with food, medical supplies and educational equipment for the people living in Gaza. In all 1,300 people from 42 countries were to enter Gaza. The convoy, led by British MP George Galloway, had been stranded in the city of Aqaba, Jordan, having been refused permission to enter Egypt on its way to Gaza.

In Dublin a protest was held on January 6 at the Israeli Embassy to remember the children of Gaza who were killed and injured. The names of the 318 child casualties were read out.

Freedom for imprisoned Palestinian writer

THE Popular Campaign to Free Writer and Journalist Ali Jaradat issued an urgent call on January 20, 2010, to protect his life. Jaradat, 57 years old, has been held repeatedly in administrative detention, with the most recent detention stretching from the time he was kidnapped from his home in Ramallah on April 22, 2008.

Despite the passage of nearly two years in administrative detention, said the Popular Campaign, he has not been charged or

WORLD NEWS



• Mumia Abu-Jamal.

tried, and his detention has been extended repeatedly under the pretext of a "closed security file." Ali Jaradat is a writer and journalist, and a member of the Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Writers.

During this detention, he has been subjected to interrogation, cruelty and abuse, including medical mistreatment and neglect, particularly of his heart disease and coronary artery disease after the heart attack he suffered in the Ofer detention camp, during a prior period of administrative detention, in March 2004. Since that time, he must take medication on a daily basis.

He has developed chronic heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure, which together have become life-threatening, particularly in conditions of imprisonment and detention. In mid-2008, his diabetes worsened and he must now take daily medication. The popular campaign noted that he has on multiple occasions, like many prisoners, been denied adequate medical care. In fact, he has not received a comprehensive medical examination in nearly two years.

Instead, he has been transferred to Ofer, Naqab, Eshel, Nafha, and Kedar prisons, all while under administrative detention, in extremely harsh conditions of transport, without charge or trial.

During his detention, he has been denied family visits with his wife and children, adding to his suffering.

His administrative detention has been extended once again, until March 1, 2010.

New threat to Mumia's life

IN a statement on January 17 the Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal said:

"Mumia Abu-Jamal, an innocent man on death row and the world's best-known political prisoner, now faces an immediate new threat to his life from the US Supreme Court. The Court ruled last year on Mumia's appeal, by summarily refusing to even consider a reversal of his unjust 1982 murder conviction in a blatantly racist court. And last week, the Supreme Court discussed a cross-appeal by the State of Pennsylvania to reinstate Mumia's death sentence, which had been put on hold by a federal court in 2001.

"In making it's flat-out rejection of Mumia's appeal (which it did without making any statement) the Supreme Court had to knowingly violate its own precedent in the 1986 Batson v Kentucky decision. This ruling famously said that purging a jury on the basis of race was unconstitutional. In Mumia's case, at least 10 black jurors were excluded for reasons not applied to their white counterparts.

"Evidence of his innocence has always been available, along with evidence of the corruption of the cops who framed him.

"The 2001 federal district court decision (besides upholding Mumia's conviction) said that Mumia's death sentence resulted from improper instructions to the jury.

"As an award-winning radical journalist, former Black Panther, and critic of police brutality and malfeasance, Mumia Abu-Jamal is considered an enemy of the state. As such, legal decisions have systematically gone against him, regardless of the law.

"Manufacturing false confessions, planting evidence, corrupting 'witnesses' — these were 'illegal' tricks were used against Mumia. The real evidence points to Mumia's innocence,

including another man who confessed, witnesses who said Mumia didn't shoot anybody but who were never called to testify, and photos of the crime scene that show that police lied. But very little of this has ever been heard in court.

"Mumia is a class-war prisoner, and it will take a class struggle to free him... working-class action, combined with mass mobilisations, can defeat a determined frame-up by cops, courts and politicians. Mumia Abu-Jamal is now in imminent danger of a new execution order, so the need for action is urgent. www.laboractionmumia.org."

Basque political prisoners start hunger strike

THE Basque Political Prisoners Association announced on January 25 that from that day the 746 prisoners will embark on a hunger strike.

Previously they have been engaged in other protests such as refusing to leave their cells, refusing to take visits, make phone calls or receive letters, and forming picket lines in the recreation yards.

On January 18 they protested and demanded information concerning the disappearance of former political prisoner Jon Anza who went missing on the April 18 last year. They will continue organising such protests every month until the disappearance is resolved.

With the protests they also wanted to demand the end of isolation and to show solidarity to the comrades who are kept alone in different jails. The association sent their full support to Lorentxa Gimon who started a hunger strike on January 2 to demand her transfer to another French prison where more of her comrades are kept. She has lost 10 kilos so far. They announced the hunger strike's main demand is political status. More details are expected to be released in coming days.

Meanwhile on the outside, a press conference took place on Saturday organised by former prisoners and members of the prisoner's solidarity movement. A speaker at the event told journalists of the hard living conditions the Basque political prisoners have to endure and stressed they are part and consequence of the conflict, and in that way they are crucial in the resolution of it. They encouraged social and political forces to commit themselves to bringing about a new political scenario in the Basque Country based on democracy.

The Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said the Basque prisoners won't get their objectives and highlighted the Spanish prison regime is the hardest in Europe with maximum sentences of 40 years to be fulfilled to the end.

Attempt to rebrand

immoral Afghan war

THE Irish Anti-War Movement (IAWM) held a demonstration on January 29 outside the British Embassy in Ballsbridge, Dublin. The protest coincided with the appearance of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair before the Chilcott inquiry, where he answered questions about his role in launching the war on Iraq in 2003.

The protest also coincided with a series of protests taking place in Britain at the Chilcott inquiry and on the previous day at the international conference on Afghanistan, hosted by current British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

In a statement the IAWM, like its British counter-part, the Stop the War Coalition, said it believed any serious inquiry into Tony Blair's role in the Iraq war could only conclude that he told multiple and deliberate lies to justify an aggressive and illegal war.

"Similarly, the British and Irish anti-war movements believe that the international conference on Afghanistan being hosted by Gordon Brown, the day before Mr Blair's appearance at the inquiry, is a cynical attempt to re-brand the hugely unpopular war in Afghanistan as the 'good war', when it is one equally as immoral as that fought in Iraq.

"The IAWM will be calling for Mr Blair to be prosecuted for war crimes, the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan, and end to the use of Shannon Airport by US troops travelling to participate in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq".

Calls to remove Union Jack from Australian flag

AS Australians prepared to celebrate their national day on January 26, there have been renewed calls to remove Britain's Union Jack from the country's official flag.

The subject was raised again with Ray Martin, a popular national television broadcaster and member of Ausflag, voicing anger of the country's reluctance to remove the Union Jack from the Australian flag, which also includes the Commonwealth star and the Southern Cross constellation on a blue background. He described the existing flag — which was designed following Federation in 1901 — as "colonial".

Ray Martin told the *Herald Sun* newspaper: "We have well and truly reached the point where we should have our own flag."

There were also renewed calls to change the date of Australia's national holiday because it commemorates the arrival of British settlers — a day of "pain and bewilderment" for Aboriginal people.

WHAT THEY SAID

[Killian] Forde is the third [Provisional] Sinn Féin councillor to resign from Dublin City Council, cutting the party's representation from seven to four councillors since last June's elections.

— Sunday Tribune, January 10, 2010.

Isn't the real story here about the neglect of a mentally-ill person, whose husband had left her in a distressed state at home, urgently in need of medical attention, while he went into the Stormont chamber to trade jokes with other Assembly members, and while others stood by as this ill woman engaged in self-destructive conduct.

There is more to this.

— Sunday Business Post, January 10, 2010, "Between the Lines" by Vincent Browne.

The real issue at stake here is the abuse of political power by his wife [Iris] and to what extent he was complicit in the knowledge of her financial dealings which he kept to himself since December 2008

— Irish News, January 13, 2010, Brian Feeney column headed Abuse of political power the real issue in Robinsongate.

All of this messing about misses the essential questions which the DUP's tormentor Jim Allister has correctly asked. How was it so easy for Iris Robinson to go to a property developer and get a £25,000 cheque made out to someone he'd never met? Had she done anything like this before and if so, how often and over what period of time? What was her relationship with the late Fred Fraser and indeed other developers?

— Brian Feeney.

All these questions require a full-blown judicial inquiry by a high court judge who can examine the financial Dealings of the Robinsons, both of them...

— Brian Feeney.

The last electoral test in the North, last year's European Parliament elections, made it plain that unionism had split into three almost-equal warring factions.

The breakdown of the unionist figures then was: DUP (18%), Official Unionist Party (17%) and TUV (14%).

— Sunday Business Post, January 17, 2010, Tom McGurk column.

Is there anyone who believes that, given the current state of unionism, any of its elements would accept an alleged former IRA commander, Martin McGuinness, as First

Minister?

— Tom McGurk, January 17.

In the Island of Saints and Scholars 2010, the working citizens suffer while the coterie of bankers, developers and compliant politicians who created the problems, still occupy the big houses and drive the big cars.

— Maurice Neligan, leading heart surgeon, Irish Times, January 19, 2010.

We have the added insult of being told that this is not the time to institute an inquiry into what happened. Strangely I agree with that. The time was a year ago and those responsible should have been dealt with in appropriate fashion. This is not about vengeance. It is about basic justice.

— Maurice Neligan.

The lack of beds is strangling our hospitals. It means elective patients cannot be admitted as they are caught in a vice between emergency cases and those presenting from A&E on the one hand, and those patients who cannot be discharged, owing to lack of long-term care beds.

— Maurice Neligan.

On Wednesday, the 20th of January, there were 500 patients on trolleys in our hospitals. This is a new and shameful record.

— Maurice Neligan.

This Government and this minister have no legitimate mandate to impose this inequitable course [privatising the health service] upon the rest of us.

— Maurice Neligan.

[Mary Wilson] had a discussion with a representative of the architects of Ireland who said that this recession has made about 60% of architects here unemployed. But they hope to have some architects employed in the next 18 months for a couple of upcoming projects, one of which will be resettling the Abbey Theatre into the GPO.

— Drive Time, RTÉ Radio 1 with Mary Wilson, Friday, January 22, 2010.

Failure to agree on policing in the coming days would mean that there is little chance of completing devolution before the election [to Westminster in May].

It would also mean a sterling £800 million package promised by the British government to support the devolution of policing powers would expire.

— Sunday Business Post, January 24, 2010, Pat Leahy, Political Editor.

Nelson's statue has no place in the centre of Dublin overshadowing our principal national monument, the GPO.

— Noel Lemass on Scannal, Monday, January 25, 2010 on RTÉ 1. Documentary on the blowing up of Nelson's Pillar on O'Connell Street, Dublin in 1966.

There seems to be a lack of



• Sir Shridath 'Sonny' Ramphal, former secretary-general of the British Commonwealth, telling Ireland (sic) it was time to 'come home' in typical British fashion! (See quote on right.)

vision. If Stormont crashes, nationalism will blame him [Robinson]. There will be a political vacuum. The dissidents will be further emboldened.

The argument of a failed political state will be reawakened. Robinson has responsibilities and questions to answer here. This isn't just about the DUP and unionism.

— Irish Times, January 25, 2010, "Opinion" column by Gerry Moriarty (Northern Editor).

"What a fool I was. I was only a puppet, and so was Ulster, and so was Ireland in the political game that was to get the Conservative Party into power."

That is part of Carson's maiden speech in the House of Lords, a week after the Anglo-Irish treaty was signed in 1922.

...he was so furious about the Treaty and the wee Home Rule toy shop in the north, he said, 'What do I care?'

— Brian Feeney, Irish News, January 27, 2010.

Is it so long since 1985 that unionists forget Lady Hacksaw, the most pro-union prime minister since Bonar Law, signed the Anglo-Irish agreement enshrining a role for the Republic in the north's affairs?

Do they forget that after keeping John Major in office in the 1990s Major developed an ever-growing relationship with the Taoiseach Albert Reynolds and pushed on with the Downing Street Declaration and the Framework document that laid the foundations for the Good Friday Agreement?

— Brian Feeney, Irish News.

What's most entertaining is that unionists are so cheap to buy. They're prepared to jettison any pretence at being a modern political phenomenon and reveal their essential sectarianism for what? If Cameron wins an overall majority it's all for nothing.

— Brian Feeney.

A Sinn Féin (sic) councillor has warned that the party is "sliding" towards political oblivion because of poor leadership in the Republic.

— Irish News, January 28, 2010. Séamus Morris, Provisional councillor on North Tipperary County Council and Nenagh Town Council in an interview with Valerie Robinson, Southern Correspondent.

Councillor Séamus Morris warned he was not willing to "stay in a party that's willing to commit hari kari" because its leadership has lost touch with its grassroots members.

— Séamus Morris claiming that the party was "haemorrhaging" votes and people by ignoring ordinary people.

After the Good Friday Agreement and decommissioning we lost members at every step.

— Séamus Morris.

The whole CAPT (Communities and Policing in Transition) program was put together because policing is one of the last pieces of the jigsaw to be put in place to normalise Northern Irish society...Our organisation exists to try and assist the transition of community policing into our civil society.

— Liam Maskey, Executive Director of Intercomm Ireland, a conflict resolution group, IrishCentral.com, January 29, 2010.

The Belfast Agreement enshrined a dysfunctional society's sectarian divisions into governmental institutions.

Instead (of developing some basis of trust in each other), however, the opposite happened as suspicions grew and festered in the years after 1998.

— Irish Times, January 30, 2010, Inside Politics column by Stephen Collins.

At this stage, though, questions must be asked about whether an unworkable political structure can be kept in place indefinitely.

The D'Hondt model of enforced power-sharing – with everybody in government and nobody in opposition pp is inherently unhealthy.

— Stephen Collins, Irish Times, January 30.

A former secretary-general of the Commonwealth of Nations – formerly the British Commonwealth – has called for Ireland (sic) to rejoin the organisation.

— Sunday Tribune, January 31, 2010, Shane Coleman, Political Editor.

In a speech at the roundtable dinner at the Commonwealth summit in Trinidad, Sir Shridath 'Sonny' Ramphal said it was time to tell Ireland (sic) that "nothing but welcome awaits her in the Commonwealth when she feels ready to come home."

— Shane Coleman. Ramphal was former foreign minister of Guyana, a British colony in South America.

But in the south [26 Counties], and particularly in Dublin, [Provisional] Sinn Féin is a party in crisis, riven by recriminations, lacking in funds and shorn of once personnel.

— Sunday Tribune, January 31, Shane Coleman reports.

Adams' handling of the hugely serious allegations surrounding his brother Liam has caused considerable unease among party members and only added to the perception that his time as party leader is drawing to a close.

— Sunday Tribune, Shane Coleman.

However, the failure to develop new TDs – most particularly [Mary Lou] McDonald and Pearse Doherty – mean that his successor will not be from the south as originally planned.

— Shane Coleman.

In return for hosting the meeting [secret – of Grand Master of Orange Order, Robinson DUP and Reg Empey of UUP] Sauters, on behalf of the Orange Order insisted that any deal on the devolution of justice and policing would have to throw open the whole question of parades.

— Sunday Business Post, January 31, 2010, Tom McGurk column.

For unionists in general, the [British] Labour era is ending and, under a Conservative government they sense there would be the potential to rally a unified unionists power bloc and the possibility of reshaping the Good Friday political settlement to their requirements.

— Sunday Business Post, Tom McGurk.

Quite simply, the argument of some in the DUP – for example Nigel Dodds and Gregory Campbell – has been that they have no intention of facing the unionist electorate with Jim Allister's charge

that "they have handed over control of the police to [Provisional] Sinn Féin-IRA hanging around their necks."

— Tom McGurk.

With the advent of a new Tory administration [in Westminster], unionist political antennae are twitching at the prospect of changed times and a sympathetic administration in London to help put manners on the political growth of [Provisional] Sinn Féin.

Equally, there must be growing gloom on Merrion Street [Dublin] at the prospect of the old Orange card being played again in the 21st century.

— Tom McGurk.

Post-Paisley, there is now increasing evidence that the DUP see power-sharing merely as a device for political containment, not for political consensus.

Their attitude to an Irish Language Bill, for example, cannot be explained by anything other than deep-rooted prejudice and cultural insecurity.

— Tom McGurk.

Adams and McGuinness hitched their wagon to that star [power-sharing and constitutional politics], and they have no plan B. And how real is the threat of London and Dublin running the North if devolution should fail and if a Cameron administration were in power in London?

— Tom McGurk.

Against the spectre of increasing indifference south of the Border, the North may be slipping back into the worst of its old habits.

— Tom McGurk.

We've had delay after delay waiting for the report of the Bloody Sunday inquiry.

For the past few years we've hoped that the report would be released only to have hopes dashed.

— John Kelly, brother of Michael shot dead on Bloody Sunday, Irish News, February 1, 2010.

As for the whole story of Liam Adams and how it was handled generally I have to say there certainly was no glory in that for Sinn Féin.

I'm not proud of how it was handled at all. I think it was handled poorly.

— Arthur Morgan, Provo TD for Louth speaking on Louth radio station LMFM and quoted in Irish News, February 1, 2010 by Diana Rusk political correspondent under the heading Sinn Féin TD criticises how Adams handled abuse case.

The president of SIPTU, Jack O'Connor, said 69,700 members of his union in the public service would be joining in the industrial action from today.

He said that the industrial action was "not designed to start a war but rather to leverage negotiations".

— Irish Times, February 1, 2010.

Haiti — Most Oppressed Country In region

A chara

Over the last weeks, the world's eyes are riveted on scenes of horror in Haiti. People everywhere were trying to support the Haitian people in any way they could. Meanwhile, as the clock ticked urgently, people literally die beneath the rubble and perish on the streets as well for lack of medical care, water, food, and shelter.

The means existed to rescue and aid the Haitian people. While some governments have sent doctors and other forms of aid, the United States has focused on sending paratroopers and militarily securing the area. While the US government promised \$100 million, it was above all concerned with ensuring the continuation of the repressive government order and controlling and suppressing the initiative and efforts of masses to deal with this horrible situation. The US government should have immediately focus its resources on getting aid directly to the Haitian people, putting supplies on the ground and marshalling the many

doctors, engineers, construction workers, etc. who work for the government, as well as the many people who would volunteer to help any way that they could. This was a humanitarian emergency, and should have been dealt with as such.

The western world was told



• The destruction wrought by the earthquake in Haiti was compounded by the poverty of the people and country due mainly to outside colonial forces.

that the reason the earthquake was such a disaster was because of the poor construction and the poverty that exists in the island. Governments refused to state that Haiti lives in poverty, because it is the most oppressed country in the region. The media did not



shanty towns and children now orphaned. Not because the people of Haiti are lazy or backward, they live in poverty because of greed.

MICHAEL ROONEY
Mayo

Education Of women Must be a Priority

A chara

Much belatedly, governments have opened up and taken on board the reports that people have been aware of for years; the facts that girls' education is linked to improved health for themselves and their children, better opportunities for earning an income, and prevention against HIV and AIDS, therefore breaking the cycle of poverty that is generated against the female population. However, just because governments have received this report, it does not mean

that they will act on it.

Despite the known benefits of education, UNICEF found that 101 million children of primary school age were not in school in 2007; of these, 58 million were girls. Reasons include poverty, social class and caste, and early marriage. Other reasons are related to the overall quality and accessibility of the education provided. Simple things like buildings by education departments today lack a girl's bathroom that will prevent girls from attending school.

Throughout the world, discrimination continues to be a major part of the education system. The female population is doubled discriminated against by reason of their gender. Even in 'developed' countries including Ireland,

women are classed as second-class in line of education; thereby continuing the cycle of poverty within the family circle.

This circle of poverty within family life is confined to, by government policies, certain area, leading to the areas becoming deprived and prime centers for the criminal elements to ply their crimes. The lack of education in these areas ensures that the vicious circles continue through generations.

If more girls are to receive the education they need and ending the circle of poverty, more investment must go into keeping girls in school, thereby educating the family to end poverty.

CONNACHT READER

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

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

Paddy Ryan

REPUBLICANS all over Ireland and abroad were greatly grieved by the death in Dublin of lifelong Republican activist and soldier Paddy Ryan. He died in hospital after a short illness on November 21, 2009.

He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him, soldiered with him, admired and appreciated his dedication to the cause of Irish freedom and the Irish Republic.

Paddy was buried in Bodinstown Church Yard, where Wolfe Tone is buried. His funeral was attended by his family, Republicans, neighbours, and friends who came not just from Dublin, but from all parts of Ireland.

All his life Paddy followed the teachings of Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet, Pádraig Pearse and James Connolly. He believed in and fought for a 32-County free and united Ireland having joined the Republican Movement at a young age.

He was a Republican, proud and true to his beliefs, and a man who respected his comrades in arms. He was never afraid to state his beliefs and Republican policy and

principles.

He was a true Soldier of the Republic, a man all true Republicans can be proud of.

Paddy, who was from Hospital, Co Limerick, was born into a strong Republican tradition, his family members having fought in the Black and Tan War and on the Republican side in the Civil War. Paddy himself joined the Republican Movement in 1956 and was inducted into the IRA by Limerick Republican Paddy Mulcahy.

After a period of military training he went on active service, and was to spend most of the active service in the North Louth/South Armagh area where he spent considerable time training his men. He was training officer along with Don Donehy in a specially organised camp held in Co Mayo in 1960.

This camp was to train

Volunteers in the use of Bazoorkas for an attack on Forkhill Barracks, south Armagh. That attack was called off because the Bazoorkas, which had only recently been acquired by the IRA, did not work properly.

The calling off of this operation did not deter Paddy and he and his unit, which included Larry McDonnell of Patrick's Well, Co Limerick, set up an ambush in the Jonesboro area of South Armagh. They expected that a unit of B-Specials and RUC would be in the area spying on those attending the Edentubber Commemoration. As expected the enemy arrived in an armoured vehicle. When a number of them left the vehicle armed with sub-machine guns to further observe and intimidate the people in the area they were attacked by the Volunteers even though they were covered by the Bren Gun on the vehicle. One RUC man was killed and four others wounded. The unit then safely withdrew and returned to base.

Shortly after that successful attack, the Free State Minister for Justice Charles Haughey introduced the Special Military

Courts in a further crackdown on Republicans. In December, Paddy was arrested and received a six-month prison sentence from that same Military Court. During his time in jail he attempted to escape with four other prisoners but they were recaptured. On February 26, 1962 the campaign of resistance was halted, and on April 20, 1962 all Republican prisoners in the Free State, including Paddy Ryan, were released.

On his release Paddy went to live in Dublin and in the 1980s he married Betty Lawlor from Gata Bawn in Kilkenny and they had three children, Eibhlís, Mícheál and Páirc. He remained an active Republican and when the Occupied Six Counties erupted in 1969 he was again to the forefront of the fight. When the then leadership of the Movement Cathal Goulding, Tomás Mac Giolla and others attempted to subvert the Movement he was once again to the forefront.

"When the split came in Sinn Féin at the Ard-Fheis later that year we adjourned to the Kevin Barry Hall. All of us inside felt safe when they saw

Paddy standing guard at the door and we knew that the bulge under his coat was not his wallet!" said Tom O'Sullivan of Doon.

When the Provisional Army Council was established Paddy Ryan gave his full allegiance. He again took a leadership role and was for a time Director of Training. He also served as a member of the IRA's Ruling Army Council. He was again arrested in May 1973 and was sentenced to one year in jail for failing to account for his movements. On his release from prison he returned to duty with the Dublin Battalion. In 1977 he elected to serve on the IRA Executive and he served with distinction while a member. In that capacity during 1983, '84, '85 and '86 he was very critical and outspoken of the path and trends the leadership that Adams and McGuinness was taking the Movement. Because of this criticism he was unjustly removed from his position on the Army Executive, which happened just before the Army Convention in 1986 which again split the Movement because of acceptance by the

leadership of Adams and McGuinness of the policy of abstention.

Despite his unjust treatment Paddy remained an active and committed Republican giving all his loyalty and help to the Continuity Army Council. He was also a very active member of the National Graves Association.

His contribution, help and advice to those interested and working for the cause of Irish freedom will be sadly missed.

The Republican Movement extends its sympathy to his wife Betty, to Eibhlís, sons Páirc and Mícheál, two grandchildren, sister and brother, and extended family, comrades and friends.

Speaking at his funeral in Bodinstown Churchyard Paddy Lennon of the National Graves Association said that Paddy Ryan lived his life devoted and dedicated to Ireland. "He was part of the great tradition of people who were willing to make the great sacrifices for Ireland and through his sacrifice Ireland will never be lost."

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Ann Loughman

ANN Connolly Loughman, died January 14, 2010 at Calvary Hospital, in the Bronx, NY at the age of 73.

Born in 1936, in County Galway, Ireland, Ann is survived by her husband of 44 years, Robert and children Brendan, Éamonn, and Patricia Wilson (Nicholas) and

grandchildren Shannon, Samantha, and Sabrina Loughman; also Ava and Rory Wilson.

She is survived in Ireland by her brothers Patrick and John

and her sister Margaret Kelly (Vincent).

Ann graduated, after receiving the Georgina Wade Memorial gold medal for best nurse, from Meath Hospital, Dublin as a Senior Registered Nurse in 1959, and Duke Street Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland in 1960 as a certified mid-wife. She arrived in NY in 1960 and worked at Lenox Hill Hospital for four years. Later Ann

worked at Good Samaritan Hospital, Suffern for 21 years.

It is with the deepest regret the Irish Republican Community says good bye to Ann Loughman. She was dedicated to the cause of Irish freedom and justice and was a regular visitor to Ireland. Ann was well known for her support and generosity toward Irish Republican political

prisoners and their families. She gave of herself, opening her heart and home to political prisoners and their families, she visited and wrote to prisoners, organised and encouraged others to do so. Her unflinching honesty, integrity and hope for human rights for all people will be sorely missed by all who knew her and the communities of oppressed people she supported.

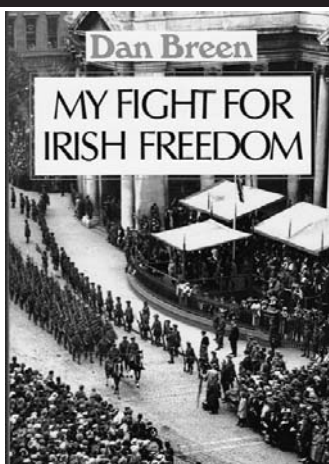
The Requiem Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, January 19 at Sacred Heart Church and her funeral took place following it to St. Anthony's Cemetery, 36 West Nyack Rd. Nanuet.

The staff of SAOIRSE extend deepest sympathy to her family and friends. Go raibh suaimhneas síoraí dá hanam uasail.

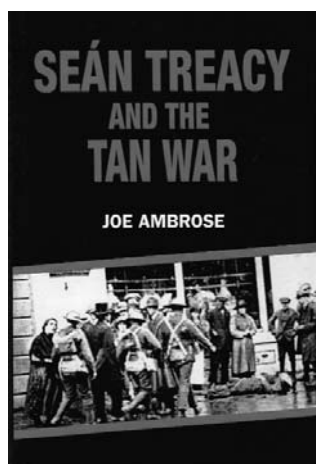
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• *Dan Breen and the IRA*, Joe Ambrose. €12.99.



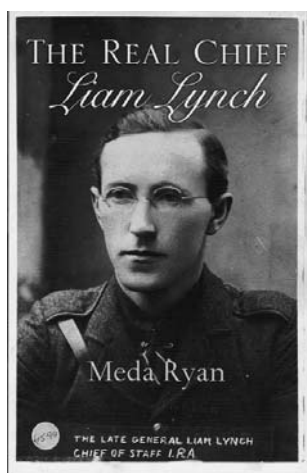
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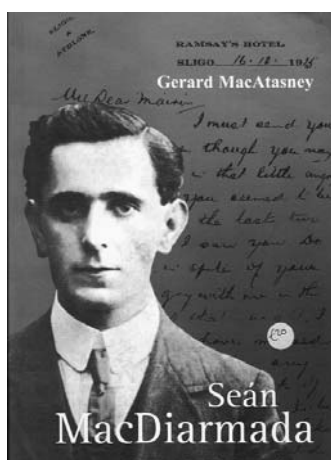
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UNIONIST GERRYMANDER IN ACTION

50 Years Ago

ON February 19, 1960, “three youths and a 16-year-old juvenile” were returned for trial by Belfast Police Court, according to the *Irish Press* of February 20.

They were Robert Edward Patrick Murray (18), Anthony Edward Cosgrove (18), James Campbell (17-and-a-half), all of Belfast. They were charged with breaking into the armoury of a British Air Force depot at Edenmore, Whiteabbey, Co Antrim and taking weapons on December 20.

These consisted of 15 rifles and two Bren light machine guns as well as ammunition. The weapons were listed as “drill purpose”, in that their firing pins had been removed, but, of course, they could be activated by simply replacing the pins.

A month later the arms were recovered by the RUC from a house in Belfast. The following week the three youths and three juveniles were arrested and charged.

It was stated that the weapons were brought to Belfast there they were “handed over to the Republican Army”. The car originally due to take the equipment did not wait long enough and the guns were hidden in the garden of a big house.

One of the boys said it was “Lord Justice” Curran’s house where a murder had occurred. (Curran’s daughter had been murdered there in 1953.)

A solicitor for Campbell said that a statement was taken from him “under duress or inducement”. The Resident Magistrate allowed the statement.

A month later at Belfast City Commission the same Lord Justice Curran sentenced two of the youths, one aged 17 and the other 18, to 10 years imprisonment for their part in the raid on the RAF station. They were Bob Murray (18) and Anthony Cosgrove (17).

Campbell, a 17-year-old schoolboy, and the three Belfast juveniles, two aged 16, the other 15-and-a-half, pleaded guilty and each was bound over “to keep the peace” for three years. The *Irish Times* of March 29 reported that “Murray and Cosgrove refused to recognise the court, give evidence or call witnesses.

“But they told the jury that statements... were signed only after the police had threatened that some of their relatives would be interned.” Detective Head Constable Weir denied this.

The *Irish Times* report continued: “Before he was sentenced, Murray said: ‘I merely did my duty as an Irishman, and I intend to continue to do my duty as an Irishman to stop British occupation of this country.’

“Lord Justice Curran said: ‘I am sorry for you.’ Cosgrove did not speak, and Lord Justice Curran told him: ‘You, at least, had the wit not to make a speech about it.’

“Lord Justice Curran said that Murray and Cosgrove seemed to be that hard core of the movement. They thought that they were national heroes, but he would describe them as mugs.” (End of *Irish Times* report.)

Bob Murray and Tony Cosgrove went on to A-Wing, Crumlin Road Prison where they reported to the OC Republican Prisoners, Tom Mitchell and “did their time”.

This episode is important because at a time when the IRA in Belfast appeared to be dormant with over 50 interned and a dozen serving sentences, a new generation of unattached youth had stepped forward and, with all the right ideas, had taken action.

Bob Murray did “continue to do his duty as an Irishman” for decades after his release in 1963. In 1969-70 and again in 1986 he stood firmly by the All-Ireland Republic and served it without stint. Despite opposition in his native Belfast he followed not the man – or the woman – but the Cause.

Life under British-Stormont rule in the Six Occupied Counties in February 50 years ago continued in its dreary way. One ray of light was the unconditional release from internment in Armagh jail of Bridie O’Neill of Belfast.

She had spent three months as the only woman internee in what was practically solitary confinement. According to the *Sunday Independent*



• An example of the slum conditions in Derry city 50 years ago.

of February 21 she was in a cell near the convicted women prisoners but never spoke to them or mixed with them.

The only people she spoke to during the three months were the wardresses, one of whom accompanied her as she went for her morning and afternoon exercises.

“Actually, we had little conversation,” said Bridie at her home last night, “I usually took my portable radio with me and listened to it.

“I used to walk round and round what I called the cabbage patch – a small vegetable garden that was my exercise ground.

“When it rained I went into a little greenhouse where there were seats for the wardress and myself. I was in my cell from 4pm to 8am. Then I read a lot and later when some friends sent me a TV set I watched it for hours on end.”

“One of the first things Bridie did on her release – which was unconditional – was to visit her brother [Liam O’Neill] who is interned in Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast.” (End of *Sunday Independent* report.)

But when Bridie (28) of Norfolk Street went back to the textile factory where she had worked for eight years until she was interned, she was told there was no job for her. She had to sign on at the Labour Exchange.

The radio and television sets she had in prison were bought by subscriptions of neighbours in the Falls Road area of Belfast, the *Irish Independent* of February 17 reported.

It continued: “A number of women from the area had planned to picket the prison on the following Sunday.” (It is presumed that Bridie’s conversation with wardresses was solely to do with business matters.)

In Stormont on February 18, Harry Diamond (Republican Labour *(sic)*) raised the question of the use of the Irish language in visits to Belfast jail. He cited a visit on January 25 by the Chairman and Secretary of the Belfast League to an interned member of that organisation to discuss Gaelic League affairs.

When the men exchanged words in Irish the visit was terminated. Was the cancellation ordered or approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs?

Brian Faulkner, Minister for Home Affairs said the visit was terminated when the visitors refused to speak in English. The prison officer’s decision had his full support.

Harry Diamond pointed out that in prisons in Wales, Welsh-speaking staffs were provided to cater for visitors. Similar facilities should be provided in the Six Counties.

Cahir Healy (Nationalist) said that Irish was still spoken in Belfast.

Brian Faulkner said he had “no intention of appointing prison staff with a knowledge of a foreign language”.

Harry Diamond said that the BBC provided programmes in Gaelic to cater for people in Scotland and in the Six Counties. Far from Gaelic being a foreign language, it happened to be the national language of this country.

The *Irish Press* of January 26 noted that a teacher with the Tyrone Education Committee had resigned after six days in office. He was a Dublin man who accepted a teaching post at Omagh technical school.

“Mr A Gibson, chief education officer said the man ‘did not feel inclined to sign the declaration of allegiance [to the British Crown].’

The *Irish Press* of January 27 reported on “Uproar at Derry housing debate”. Four families – 20 people – living in an “unlighted sepulchre”. A

two-room home where a six-week-old baby was attacked and bitten by a rat.

Those were examples of housing conditions in Derry City given by Councillor S Deeney at yesterday’s meeting of Derry Corporation.

When women who live in the poorer parts of the city protested from the gallery, the Unionist Mayor called for the meeting to go into committee. Also in the gallery were the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Robin Kinahan and his secretary.

The uproar continued as the Unionist motion to go into committee was carried amid protests from Nationalist members. Councillor Deeney said that in 9 Bridge Street – “the unlighted sepulchre” – one of the families had been on the Corporation housing list for eleven years.

In the lower part of Bridge Street he had been in another house where a young married couple, with three children, occupied two very small rooms, one of which was six feet by nine.

“Not fit for animals to live in. it was the home where the rat bit the child,” he said. “At the present time the Sanitary Services Dept have a rat box in the room, filled with rat poison.”

The *Irish Press* of February 3 reported another case of housing discrimination, this time in Enniskillen. “The Town Improvement Committee which had Council powers for house lettings, gave the tenancy of a Borough Council house, 10 Forthill Street, to Alfred Spratt of Shankill, Enniskillen, who is a Protestant, and rejected a Catholic British ex-serviceman, George Roche of Forthill Street, who has been seeking a house for years.

“The house, which had been tenanted by Catholics since it was built, became vacant recently. The letting was made by four Unionist votes to two Nationalist...”

The fact that Mr Roche’s father and grandfather had also served in the British forces made no difference. Of course the Unionist gerrymander of Derry City and Co Fermanagh made all of this possible. Such was the case since 1921 and the British Act of Parliament which divided Ireland into Six and 26 Counties.

Then the *Irish Independent* of March 16 reported that the new Minister for Home Affairs at Stormont Brian Faulkner (Topping had been made a judge, Recorder of Belfast, an impartial one that!) rejected a call from Eddie McAteer (Nationalist).

McAteer asked what steps Faulkner proposed to remove anti-Catholic slogans on gable walls at the junction of Ivan Street and York Road, Belfast. He handed over a photograph of the slogans and asked Faulkner to add it to his collection.

Faulkner said the painting of religious and political slogans was not confined to one political party or religious denomination. Joe Connellan (Nationalist) denied his party every said anything offensive about religion.

Faulkner replied that removing the cause would remove the slogans. He had seen a photo of Mr McAteer sitting down during the National Anthem [of England, of course], and also arms “not produced from this side of the House”.

These snippets and scraps give some idea of the atmosphere in the Six Counties 50 years ago: a teacher forced to resign, housing discrimination, no recognition of the Irish language, anti-Catholic slogans to be maintained and then judges jeering at helpless prisoners just sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

There was laughter from the bench at the dignified stand of the young Dáithí Ó Conaill, just recovering from six bullet wounds. Bob Murray and Tony Cosgrove called “mugs” even as 10-year sentences were imposed on an 18-year-old and a 17-year-old.

All three maintained an honourable stance in contrast to the corner-boy attitude of the exponents of British justice in Ireland. The sense of opposition to English rule must surely have been growing year by year and generation after generation. We have seen the outcome, yet the root cause remains.

A dribble of unconditional releases of internees continued, yet the *Sunday Independent* of February 28 could report: “Two young men who were taken from their homes and brought to Belfast Police Office for questioning, are to be interned in Crumlin Road Prison, it is understood.

On February 6, the *Irish Independent* noted a call by the Belfast Council for Civil Liberties on “the Government in Dublin to exercise its rights as a signatory State to the Convention of Human Rights in Strasbourg by bringing the British government (and indirectly the Belfast

government) before the Commission of Human Rights and to challenge them to justify their action in imprisoning the Belfast and Armagh internees without charge or trial in violation of the Convention.”

Meanwhile, the “official text” of the communication issued by the Secretariat of the European Commission on Human Rights re the application by Gerard Lawless against the Dublin administration for damages due to his internment for five months in 1957. (*Irish Times*, February 26.)

The text stated: “In accordance with Article 32 of the Convention, if the case is not referred for decision to the Court of Human Rights by the Irish Government [or] by the Commission within a period of three months, it will be for the Committee of Ministers to decide whether or not there has been a violation of the Convention.”

A noted figure on the Republican scene in the Six Counties died in the last week of January 1960. He was Pat McCormack of Tigh Aird a’ Cuain, Glendun, Co Antrim.

He was a life-long friend of the President of Sinn Féin, Pádraig Mac Lógáin who used to stay with him for a holiday each August until internment came back in 1956. Pádraig had been OC North Antrim in the early 1920s.

Pat Mac McCormack was in his late seventies the *Irish Press* of January 29 reported. He was the representative for Scotland on the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood before and after the 1916 Rising, a member of the Irish Volunteers 1917-21 and was wounded in 1920.

He was arrested in 1922 and imprisoned on the *Argentina* prison ship and in Lame Workhouse. While still interned he was the Republican candidate for North Antrim in 1924.

He was the main inspiration of Feis na nGleann, and had been a member of the committee since its inception. Chairman of the National Graves Association for North Antrim, he also organised the annual pilgrimage to Shane O’Neill’s cairn at Cushendun.

Requiem Mass was celebrated by Very Rev Fr McGuckian, PP, who preached in Irish. His coffin was draped in the Irish Tricolour and the funeral took place at Glendun, Co Antrim.

Ar an 5ú Feabhra seoladh go poiblí scannán san bPictiúrlann Regal i mBaile Átha Cliath ag a raibh i láthair go leór a bhi pairteach sa nGluaiseacht Náisiúnta.

Scriobh Seán Ó hUanacháin san *Sunday Independent*, Feabhra 7: “Gan amhras bhíodar morálach as an scannán ‘Mise Éire’ arna léiriú ag Gael-Linn mar taispeánann sé eachtraí agus imeachtaí aimsir an Éirí Amach go lán-éifeachtach, agus go deimhin is éachtach an gníomh é na cúrsaí stairiúla sin go léir do chur ós ár gcomhair amach comh h-inniúil. Cuimhníodh buan dílis é den mhúscailt Náisiúnta.

“Dar ndóigh tá an scannán seo níos suimiúla don aos mian-aosta ná don aos óg, ach taispeánann sé do dhream óg an lae inniu na constaic a bhí le sárú i ngluaiseacht na saoirse.”

While “Mise Éire” covered the period from the founding of Conradh na Gaeilge in 1893 to the South Armagh by-election in 1918, Donnál Ó Móráin announced that a further film on Irish history post-1918 would be produced. It came out in 1961 entitled “Saoirse?” and dealt with 1918 to 1922.

Of course those who favoured the Free State omitted the question-mark following then word “Saoirse”. These were documentary films, based on actual footage of the period. Commentary was in Irish but cutting from contemporary newspapers enabled English speakers to follow the sequence.

Wonderful music was by Seán Ó Riada while George Morrison did a very competent job as producer. Both films are a “must” for Republican-minded people, as is “The Wind that Shakes the Barley”.

Seán Cronin wrote of “Saoirse?” in the *United Irishman* of October/November 1961 that it showed clearly the means that were necessary to a national liberation struggle. The *Irish Times* of January 27 mentioned in “An Irishman’s Diary” that February 5 would mark the 50th Anniversary of “Mise Éire”.

(More next month. Refs. *Irish Press*, January 26, 27, 29, February 3 and 20; *Irish Times*, February 26, March 29; *Irish Independent*, February 6, 17 and 19, March 16; *Sunday Independent* February 7, 21 and 28 and *An tÉireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, October/November 1961.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent

THE names of hundreds of more people have been added to the United States government's terrorist watch list and no-fly list after a failed terrorist attack on Christmas Day prompted US officials to closely scrutinise a large data base of suspected terrorists, according to intelligence officials.

This watch list will have consequences for Irish Republicans trying to enter the US because the British government works as a partner with the United States in the so-called war against terrorism.

The British want the Irish branded as terrorists if they are opposed to the peace process and what is ironic is that the British have included former Republicans who have sold out their ideals for power-sharing on the list. Sell-outs are not trusted by the British because it shows a lack of character.

The Irish have been on US lists since they were started and the one responsible for the lists was the late Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), J Edgar Hoover.

Hoover did not trust the Irish who he knew hated the British and he saw them as a threat to the British and therefore as a threat to the US. It was Hoover who started that concept.

The United States has a right to protect itself from threats foreign and domestic, but the Irish are no threat, but he partnered with Scotland Yard to create this impression.

Hoover idealised the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) ideals who he credited to America's founders and all those who did not come in that category were considered inferior.

WATCH LISTS

One of the first major Watch Lists created by Hoover that combined foreign and domestic groups were the Irish Republican Movement and its US supporters. This happened during the late 1960s when civil rights movements were active in both the US and later in Ireland.

Hoover declared it all a communist conspiracy which he used to justify legal and illegal monitoring of foreign people and American citizens. It is worth reviewing in light of the latest

developments.

When the civil rights campaign began in the North of Ireland, Scotland Yard send officers to the United States to confer with the FBI because they had dealt with a civil rights movement in the US and had valuable experience the British wanted. FBI Director Hoover personally met with his British counterparts to form a partnership which lasts to this day.

Hoover stated at the outset that activists in both the United States and Ireland were under the influence of international communism, which it was necessary to combat in both countries. He said the Irish have been at it since WWI.

He said that local police had initial charge of maintaining order in US civil rights protests. They could be more aggressive and were in dealing with the mostly black demonstrators.

The whites who joined them had a greater agenda and were left-wing "commies". They were a threat to the US and there were many Irish men who were involved and they were out to destabilise America as he is sure the same will happen in Britain.

The British reiterated that they too were concerned about the destabilisation of northern society and the effect it might have on the society of the entire "United Kingdom". They stated that they also believed that the extreme left had infiltrated the civil rights movement in the Six Counties. They felt that there were communists in the IRA and they were going to move in and take over demonstrations.

They said that the IRA sought an opportunity and this presented them with such an opportunity. They said their local police used heavy-handed methods like the American police did to contain the demonstrators.

HOOVER saw the irony of white police stopping blacks in the States and in the Six Counties you had Protestant police up against Catholics and in both cases prejudices overcame good police work which also had to be controlled.

The common denominator here was destabilisation of the two societies and the FBI and Scotland



Yard believed they needed to work very closely. Hoover mentioned that both countries were founded on WASP principles and they must be maintained. He believed the blacks and Catholics in both countries needed guidance from the WASP elite and held in check.

Hoover brought up Bernadette Devin who he said was a communist. He said there is evidence that she is trying to link up with left-wing groups and Irish activists in the US and the left and the IRA in Ireland. He saw a conspiracy against the WASP element.

Hoover said that there is also the anti-war demonstrators contributing to the threat on society. These people according to his informants were all in contact. The British said there was an anti-US anti-war movement in Britain.

The British requested Hoover to contain the support in the US for civil rights which they believed would escalate into support for the IRA. They think that has started.

The British had intelligence that Irish radicals were going to try to recruit Senator Ted Kennedy to lead the efforts on both sides of the Atlantic. This suggestion amused Hoover who had a very personal hatred of the Kennedys and was not worried that Kennedy would be any type of symbolic leader of the Irish.

Hoover assured the British that he had agents and informers in Irish groups in the States who will monitor them closely. His Irish Catholic agents are out to prove themselves and their loyalty to him and the FBI, and they will turn in any names in their community to him that are suspect.

He said Kennedy is not a problem. He might make some public statements to appease his constituents, but he will do nothing to help the IRA or their supporters. He said the Kennedys fear him.

He has kept secret files on all the Kennedys and has very compromising

information on them and they know it. He could have ruined any of them, but he would rather control them.

Hoover said he had a plant in Kennedy's office who reported all activity and Kennedy knows who he is. He has another he is not aware of. The British were taken aback by this revelation, but very pleasantly surprised and relieved.

The FBI and Scotland Yard set up a liaison group which still exists. They monitor all activity of Irish activists in both nations. They started lists of those to be traced in their travels and those to be prevented in coming into the United States. Those lists include American citizens as well as others.

Hoover opened up files on Irish American leaders and Irish people and other supplied by Scotland Yard. Hoover authorised mail openings, wiretaps, and other forms of spying on people.

Airlines were given passport numbers of those travelling to Ireland so the British could be ready to monitor their activities. There was also help from the Irish Special Branch. FBI agents worked in Ireland and the "UK" with the British.

The lists kept expanding through the 1970s and included Irish group leaders, Irish civil servants in the US government and members of Congress who sympathised with the civil rights movement and later the Republican Movement.

Hoover died in 1972, but his work was continued and when rumours started that Irish Republicans had linked up with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and Basque separatists and others, a vast conspiracy was envisioned by the FBI and the Brits.

The lists expanded and we had the groundwork laid out for today's terrorist lists. With the rise of activity in the Six Counties and Al Qaeda striking around the world, the campaign of spying has escalated.

ALL the names on the lists from Hoover are still viable plus names are added every day. There are over half a million and growing. Once your name is on the list, it stays on, even those in the "peace process".

Recently, examples have shown that close monitoring of Irish is back in vogue. A well-respected doctor was stopped and delaying coming back into the US. He had done nothing wrong, but his name is on the list of Irish social functions and that is enough.

A lawyer for the United States government was just questioned about people he might know in Ireland and asked to suggest names of those who might be suspicious. He had been involved in some Irish issues years back. The late Senator Kennedy himself was flagged on the terrorists list because the FBI wanted him to know he was still on file.

The British have requested the FBI to increase monitoring of Irish Americans no matter whether they support the "peace process" or not, because they fear escalation, if and when the "peace process" fails.

The Brits are not optimistic it seems. With the Robinson crisis, they think the Irish Republicans might have some success sabotaging the process, which is already weak.

The activity by the FBI and the Brits should be encouraging to real Republicans because they are in panic mode, a good time to make a move. There is a general review of all those on file.

This review of the National Counterterrorism Centre's massive Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment or TIDE, database was prompted by the attempt to bring down the Detroit-bound jet on Christmas Day.

Irish Republicans and their supporters at any time are out in categories but never removed from the database. There are active, semi-active, active peace process, and those who no longer fit any category, but remain on the list. The FBI believe there is always potential that any supporter of radical activism may come back to it. The FBI and the Brits believe there has been Republican infiltration into the "peace process" to destroy it.

Again they are back to the Hoover time when there was the concern over the destabilisation of US and "UK" societies. Now there is the main thrust of radical Islam and they fear a connection with radical Republicanism.

US intelligence has never separated what they consider terrorist groups, but tend to lump them together. The British are responsible for that input into US intelligence.

Even though Provos like Adams and McGuinness have sold out the Republican cause, they are still monitored. They are not trusted. I guess true Republicans should not feel bad.

— Peadar Mac Fhínní

Comhbhróin

FEE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Joe Fee and family, Monaghan on the recent death of his stepfather. From Cathleen Knowles McGuirk.

KISSANE, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of John Kissane, Ballybunion, Co Kerry who died recently. From Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Republican Sinn Féin.

KISSANE, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of John Kissane, Ballybunion, Co Kerry who died recently. From the O'Sullivan/Enright Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry.

LAWLESS, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Lawless and Fee families on the recent death of Joe Lawless. From the Thomas Harte Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Lurgan and Paddy McKenna.

MARTIN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Benny Martin who died on January 16. From the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Féin Poblachtach; Thomas Harte Cumann, Lurgan, and Paddy McKenna.

LOUGHMAN, The Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin

extends deepest sympathy to the Loughman family, New York on the death of Ann.

LOUGHMAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Bob Loughman and family, New York on the death of Ann. From Cathleen Knowles McGuirk.

MURRAY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Liam Murray, Belfast who died recently. From the Thomas Harte Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Lurgan; Brendan and Francis McGill, Lurgan, Paddy McKenna and Cathleen Knowles McGuirk.

O BRÁDAIGH, Deepest sympathy is extended to the Mait and Máire Ó Brádaigh, Galway on the death of their daughter. From Cathleen Knowles McGuirk.

RYAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Paddy Ryan, Dublin and Limerick who died recently. From Cathleen Knowles McGuirk.

SHEEHY, Deepest sympathy to Betty Sheehy and the Sheehy family on the death of Catherine Sheehy, Listowel, Co Kerry, grandmother of John. From Sinn Féin Poblachtach; Limerick; Joe and Nora Lynch, Limerick; Kiley family, Mick Ryan, Eddy Carmody, Mick Hanley, Bromell family all from Limerick; Ken

O'Reilly POW Portlaoise jail; Comhairle na Mumhan; Limerick Comhairle Ceantair; Colbert/Smith O'Brien Cumann, West Limerick; Josephine and Róisín; Lita Ni Chathmhaoil.

WATTERS, Deepest sympathy is extended to Paddy White on the death of his brother, Eddie Watters, Newry, Co Down, who died in January. He was father of Vol Brendan Watters, Newry Brigade IRA. From Malachy, Colly, and Jap.

WATTERS, Deepest sympathy is extended to Paddy White on the death of his brother, Eddie Watters, Newry, Co Down, who died in January. He was father of Vol Brendan Watters, Newry Brigade IRA. From the Republican Movement, Newry/South Down.

WATTERS, Deepest sympathy is extended to Paddy White on the death of his brother, Eddie Watters, Newry, Co Down, who died in January. He was father of Vol Brendan Watters, Newry Brigade IRA. From all your friends and comrades in the Joe Conway/Brendan Watters Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down.

WATTERS, Deepest sympathy is extended to Paddy White on the death of his brother, Eddie Watters,

Newry, Co Down, who died in January. He was father of Vol Brendan Watters, Newry Brigade IRA. From Eddie, Marty, Terry, Nicola, Pat and Ann; Josephine and Róisín; Lita Ni Chathmhaoil.

I gCuimhne

BARNES – 70th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Captain Peter Barnes, IRA, executed in Winson Green prison, Birmingham, England on February 7, 1940. Always remembered by the Seán Costello/Martin Hurson Cumann, Athlone and the James Daly Cumann, Kibbeggan, Republican Sinn Féin, Co Westmeath.

DOYLE – 1st Anniversary. In proud memory of our comrade Jimmy Doyle, Knockdowney, Moate. Remembered by his Republican comrades in Westmeath, Offaly and Roscommon. From the Seán Costello/Martin Hurson Cumann, Athlone and the James Daly Cumann, Kibbeggan, Republican Sinn Féin, Co Westmeath.

MCCORMACK – 70th Anniversary. In proud and loving

memory of Staff Captain James McCormack, IRA, executed in Winson Green prison, Birmingham, England on February 7, 1940. Always remembered by

the Seán Costello/Martin Hurson Cumann, Athlone and the James Daly Cumann, Kibbeggan, Republican Sinn Féin, Co Westmeath.

Tommy Toomey

THE death occurred on January 16 of Tommy Toomey, of Dover, England and formerly of Dawson's Villas, Tipperary Town, at the age of 82.

Tommy came from a staunch Republican family. His father Thomas was on several hunger strikes in Mountjoy jail. His brother Billy was interred in the Curragh Concentration Camp in the 1930s and 1940s.

Tommy himself held very staunch Republican beliefs. He was a great follower of his local GAA club Arravale Rovers and his beloved county Tipperary. He often made the return journey

home to watch both club and county in action.

Tommy was a very proud grandfather to his grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by those who knew him and loved him, especially his wife Betty, daughter Jane, son Terry, his brother Denis in Mitchelstown, Co Cork and a very large circle of friends and family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

And on the seventh day He rested

It may just be coincidence but like the 'other' God Gerry Adams rested on Sunday after creating his new world up in the talks at Stormont.

Now we know that the DUP fundamentalists insisted he take the day off as they needed to dress in sackcloth and repent for their sins but even so Gerry and his sidekicks seemed willing enough.

The deal is done. Whatever the public utterance, the LIGS, Gordon Brown and Cowen have demonstrated that deadlines only apply to the nationalist side. When the Unionists stand firm, the Unionist Veto still stands.

And so the game has come full circle. With the return of

the B-Specials, RUC or whatever you may call them back into the fold of direct Unionist control from Stormont Gerry and his Limited Intelligence Group (LIGS) have brought their train back to the station from whence it departed huffing and puffing, its illusionary head of steam fired by the tepid British tabloid papers.

It was an interesting journey, sometimes serious as it was just had to laugh. On other occasions we had to baulk at the sheer duplicity of the players - when Paisley and the son were found with their fingers in the collection plate. There was a time when Martin McGuinness called his peace rally in Derry and claimed his

life had been threatened. The only people to turn up were his paid party officials, even his would-be 'assassins' it appears were too bored to bother attending.

Remember when Gerry Adams and the LIGS claimed they would get 15 seats in Leinster House? Instead poor old Mary Lou ended up losing out in Europe and Leinster House and the wise ones took the opportunity to disembark at the first available stop.

Now that the train has arrived back at the station, steam depleted huffing and puffing but obviously going nowhere, brass balls exposed in the stark light of reality it is possible to reminisce about the 'good old days'.

There was the time Gerry and the LIGS decided to dismantle the border outposts. Then they were going to put an end to the drug problem; then there was the prediction that their detractors in Republican communities had no support and could not sustain themselves...ah, well.

THEN recently there was the time when mucker Martin McGuinness (or Martin the *ucker) decided that anyone who did not support British Rule "On the whole island of Ireland is a traitor!" Poor suffering Jaysus what a script, Father Ted eat your heart out!

But of course now it is nearly all over. The character assassins of British

intelligence have waited and waited and now they have set their sights on the Irish upstarts. First the two 'Micks,' big Ian Paisley and the wee son were discredited and forced to resign. Then just like old "Paddy" Albert Reynolds and the Father Brendan Smith affair "Paddy" Gerry Adams and those who have sworn undying (or temporary?) loyalty to their Fuhrer found themselves at the heart of a scandal that suddenly became newsworthy after 23 years.

Finally and not least the "Mick" Peter Robinson found that his own personal problems were suddenly worthy of media attention, a poke in the eye as they say.

Charles Stewart Parnell,

Roger Casement and the famous Black Diaries, Mick Collins and Lady Lavery. The British end game has always been the same. Despite all of those real or supposed indiscretions Republicanism survived.

Did the LIGS really believe their fate would be any different? Did they think craft and cunning could undermine true Republican ideals? Did they not suspect that they would be discarded? It appears they will have lots of time to ponder what they could have done different. As the wise Dr Spock of the Starship Enterprise would have said "Live long, impostor."

— Mac Cool

Welcome home for Republican POW

A VERY successful function was held in McDonalds bar in Wexford town on January 22 to welcome home Billy Phillips who spent almost three years as a POW in Portlaoise prison.

Republicans turned out from Wexford, Kilkenny, Waterford, Kildare and Dublin to wish him well. Also in attendance were veteran Republicans Séamus Mac Suain and Tom Malone. Mrs Kavanagh missed the function due to flu but sent her regards.

Frank McManus was MC for the night. He introduced Nicky Barnes who spoke on behalf of the Pádraig Parle Cumann, Wexford, and indeed for Sinn Féin Poblachtach in general, in congratulating Billy on his release having served his time:

"Billy, like all his other comrades, was imprisoned for the exact same reason Pearse and Connolly were executed, the same reason as Seán Sabhat and Pádraig Ó Parle gave their lives, they were willing to stand up and defend the 32-

County Republic, declared by the leaders of the 1916 Rising in the Proclamation of Independence.

"This is a homecoming party for Billy but we must remember the self-sacrifice of all the Continuity Óglaigh na hÉireann volunteers in and out of prison that keep the flame of Irish freedom burning strongly.

"Some people will not lie down and accept any for of British rule in Ireland no matter what it may be disguised as. The Brits can leave peacefully or leave at the point of a Republican gun, as long as they stay the will be met with resistance."

Nicky went on to remind the crowd that there are still men in jail in Portlaoise and Maghaberry jails without political status.

"Sinn Féin Poblachtach is at



• Jimmy Kavanagh (left) made a presentation to released POW Billy Phillips at his welcome home function on January 22.

the forefront of the campaign for political status for these prisoners," he said, and concluded by sending them, and the many political prisoners in jails around the world, solidarity greetings and pledging them our support, "Continuity not compromise, Tíochfáidh ár lá."

Frank introduced Des Dalton, newly elected President of Sinn Féin Poblachtach, who also welcomed Billy home and spoke of his dedication and loyalty to the Republican Movement over the past 30 years.

He reminded everyone present (to loud cheers) that as long as the British occupy Ireland it is the duty of Republicans to oppose such occupation. Des reminded people that a picket for POW status was to be held the following day in Portlaoise where Republican POWs are moved about at the whim of the governor.

Frank then called on Jimmy Kavanagh, an ex-POW who has served time in the H-Blocks and Portlaoise jails, who made a presentation to Billy on behalf of Wexford Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Jimmy spoke of the commitment of men like Billy who would never surrender their principles while the British are on our soil, men who are willing to surrender only their freedom in the continuing war against British occupation in our country.

Billy thanked all those who supported him while he was inside and those who turned up on the night. He said that we must never forget those on the inside in Portlaoise and Maghaberry and all those involved in the continuing struggle.

Legendary rebel band Celtic Warrior, (fronted by Dáithí Kavanagh, brother of Jimmy) made the night a resounding success and everyone went home happy!

REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN CO DONEGAL

Special Appeal for Funds - to pay off our loan of €2,000

The committee and trustees of the Republican Garden in Bundoran, Co Donegal are pleased to announce that plans are being drawn up for the next stage of development at the garden.

It is proposed that six commemorative plaques will be erected in the coming year. To date, the garden has had visitors from all over Ireland, America, Europe and beyond, and the response has been positive.

In the weeks running up to Easter, the gates and railings, seats and flagpoles were all painted. New flags were erected and additional flowers and shrubs were added. This in keeping with the continued development and is only fitting considering the Republicans who are remembered there.

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



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