

AN

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PHOBLACHT

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THE SHOW GOES ON

ON WEDNESDAY, February 20th, Margaret Thatcher addressed the Congress of the American people with such a self-righteous, pompous and well-rehearsed performance as to nauseate any decent person.

However, America and Britain share more than having an actor and an actress as their heads of state.

They share a common past, a colonial relationship, with America ('an integral part of the British empire') enjoying equal status with Britain only because its declaration of independence was backed up by

force of arms, by struggle and by sacrifice.

All of the invective poured on today's IRA is nothing new and was used just as hypocritically against the American Volunteers of 1776. Physical and moral force won the day across the Atlantic just as surely as the IRA and nationally-minded people in Ireland will, against all the odds of British repression and Free State collaboration, see this struggle through to victory.

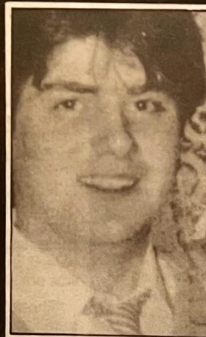
Mrs Thatcher, now down to eight lives, just may be around to see it...



Demolition-

the only answer

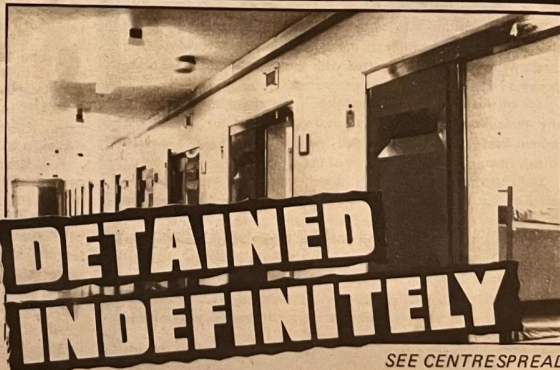
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Shoot-to-kill whitewash

IN the latest cover-up of the RUC's shoot-to-kill policy, the Orange judiciary convicted a Lurgan youth of possessing guns, even though the RUC evidence in the case was totally discredited.

See page five



DETAINED INDEFINITELY

SEE CENTRESPREAD

OPINION

Endurance- our strength

IRISH REPUBLICAN ACTIVISTS have no need to be told of the damage which collaboration between the Dublin and British governments has done to the cause of Irish freedom over the decades.

With the creation of the Free State and with every compromise since then, partition has been strengthened and Northern nationalists have been left to suffer the consequences — discrimination and brutal persecution.

By agreeing, in the Forum discussions and in Anglo/Irish summits, that Ireland can only be united by the consent of the majority in the six counties, the constitutional nationalist parties have given their legitimacy in fact, if not in law, to the Orange state.

Republicans have never, and can never, be intimidated into forgetting that the population of the six counties was, is, and always will be an integral part of the Irish nation and that the Northern state, like the Free State, was imposed and has been maintained by the threat and the use of force, against the wishes of the national majority.

For struggling to end partition, successive generations of republicans have been attacked and abused, both by the British and their puppets in Dublin.

And when a British prime minister, speaking to Americans, announces that she is well-pleased with the performance of her puppet, nationalist Ireland should take note. This is praise not only for the extent of collaboration which exists today, but is a signal that that collaboration will be stepped up in the months and years ahead.

The Dublin government's 'special relationship' with Britain is not, however, the only factor which suggests more collaboration.

Increasingly, we see the Coalition welcoming moves by the US government to silence the support of Irish-Americans for the cause of Irish freedom.

Increasingly, too, we see the Free State using its position as a member of the EEC to solicit the support of its European allies against the Republican Movement.

Using black propaganda, they have drawn a ridiculous parallel between the IRA and the ultra-left and ultra-right armed groups which emerged in European countries during the 1970s. Neither the IRA nor Sinn Féin has ever had any association with these groups.

Ours is a struggle for national liberation being waged against a foreign occupying power. That is clearly a political struggle. But just as last year's extradition of Seamus Shannon and Dominic McGlinchey was an attempt to whittle away the political nature of the struggle, so, too, was the Dublin government's participation in a recent meeting in Italy where European states prepared the groundwork for an exchange of 'expertise between anti-terrorist squads' and for the increased use of extradition.

And last week in a vote in the European parliament, Fine Gael MEPs implicitly agreed that the Free State's own legislative position, in refusing extradition in cases where an offence is political or related to a political offence, should now be abrogated in favour of the European 'Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism' which disallows any offence connected with firearms or explosives being described as political.

All of this points in one direction — the attempted removal of any remaining legal barriers to extradition and the consequent 'criminalisation' of those Irish people who have answered British violence with the violence of the oppressed.

Collaboration will increase, as will repression. We should be aware of that and be equally aware of our own capability to endure the increased sacrifices that that will entail.

Ours is a people which has endured centuries of sacrifice and ours is a Movement which has made continuous sacrifices — life on the run, arrest, imprisonment and death.

However low the Dublin government crawls to Britain and however hard it tries to defeat us, the spirit of freedom which helps us endure will never be crushed.

War News.. War News.. War News



● RUC men at the scene of the IRA's execution of Chief Prison Officer P.J. Kerr (inset)

Senior warder executed

THE IRA DECISION to execute Chief Prison Officer P.J. Kerr in Armagh last Sunday, February 17th, was directly related to his recent role of organising a brutal regime within the H-Blocks and to his past involvement in a whole series of vicious assaults against defenceless prisoners.

In particular, Kerr was responsible for the establishment of an isolation wing in H4 designed to physically and psychologically break republicans. Some of Kerr's associates are chief officers drafted in from Magilligan and, obviously, the death of Kerr is a clear warning to them.

Kerr was shot dead at about 11.20am as he walked towards his car after leaving Armagh Cathedral. Two IRA Volunteers, masked and armed with hand-guns, walked up to Kerr, who always carried his own personal weapon, and fired three shots, hitting him in the head. They then escaped over open ground.

A short time later, the IRA claimed responsibility for Kerr's execution, saying:

Kerr, a former prison officer in H3, Long Kesh, was renowned for his beatings of republican political prisoners down the years. He meted out, and took part in, punishments including the forced bathing and scrubbing of prisoners.

In March 1980 we called a halt to attacks on prison officials but we reserved the right to take action against those specific individuals involved in beatings. Kerr was one such person.

The following day, a more detailed statement exposing Kerr's involvement in brutality within the H-Blocks was released.

The following are more details concerning the activities of Chief Officer P. J. Kerr in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh which led to the decision to execute him.

P.J. Kerr had been a block prison officer in H3-Block during the blanket protest and was instrumental in the introduction of a 'table search' in that block, where prisoners being moved on wing shifts, returning from Mass or for whatever reason crossing the area of the block known as the 'circle'

would be bent naked over a table while warders probed their anal region. On one such search, carried out by Kerr, he punched a prisoner so hard that he broke the man's nose.

At the end of the blanket protest he turned his attention to the work issue and, with the assistance of a riot squad under his direct control, he implemented a policy of forced integration. The riot squad was equipped with dogs, which were used on a number of occasions.

During one incident involving the riot squad, Kerr took a prisoner into a locked room, personally threatened him and said he would shoot the POW if he had the chance. That prisoner later escaped from Long Kesh in September 1983.

The aftermath of the escape was to provide another opportunity for Kerr and his riot squad. In an inexcusable orgy of violence, over 60 POWs were badly beaten by Kerr's riot squad and many were bitten by the Alsatian dogs as Kerr carried out a block move of prisoners from H7 to H8.

The destruction and damage caused in that move was covered up by the Hennessy

Report, which said that the prisoners destroyed their own property, but court actions that are pending on the assault cases may force Hennessy to re-write that section and hold Kerr and Co. responsible.

ACTING CHIEF

Since the escape, Paddy Joe Kerr, who was awarded the British Empire Medal for his loyalty to a foreign oppressor in 1981, has been acting chief of security in the H-Blocks. This job had promoted Kerr from the role of enforcer of jail policy to one of actually making it.

During the period of time in question, two more attempts at integrating republicans and loyalists have ended in republicans being injured; visitors have been subjected to more degrading searches; a bid to introduce a system of closed visits on security grounds was made; a new quick reaction force or riot squad controlled by security was set up and was used against republicans on a number of occasions; prisoners have been constantly moved from block to block on the instructions of security; and a special isolation unit has been established in H4 in which republican POWs are suffering daily harassment and oppression.

In fact, every new restriction introduced over the last 12 months, from the controlled movement to the most petty of restrictions and the total strip-search, have all been attributed to the security department of which Kerr was acting chief. There are others who are equally responsible, chiefs and governors for the most part, who may well at this time be contemplating vengeance for Kerr's death.

It would be in their best interests to take the lesson from what happened to him and to desist in oppressing POWs. The days of torture and repression must end. If not, someone must pay the price.



Crisis averted in Coalition

BY JACK MADDEN

THE COALITION government breathed a sigh of relief on Wednesday this week as their Family Planning Bill, which has provoked widespread controversy, was approved by a small majority in Leinster House. This vote came two days after the same government had successfully deflected attention from the Bill by announcing that an 'emergency' extension to the Offences Against the State Act was being rushed through.

Intense criticism of the Family Planning Bill came from all sides, some like the ICTU women's conference arguing that it did not go far enough in establishing a comprehensive family planning service and others like the Catholic Hierarchy arguing that it went too far.

In the end, however, the debate centred not on the measures contained in the Bill but on the influence which Catholic Church morality has in Free State legislation.

As pressure to oppose the Bill mounted against Coalition members over the weekend, and as the four announced defections from Fine Gael/Labour ranks seemed certain to increase, thus threatening defeat on the measure, a major distraction was needed.

'EMERGENCY'

This came late on Monday evening when the Coalition Cabinet announced that it would be rushing through an 'emergency' measure late on Tuesday.

Media headlines and speculat-

ion shifted from contraceptives to the 'emergency' which turned out to be an extension of powers which the Free State government already had — the power to freeze a bank account which contains the proceeds of an alleged fraud.

A further bonus in introducing the measure was that it was specifically directed against a supposedly IRA bank account — a factor which was certain to win the Coalition a pat on the head from Margaret Thatcher as she began her American tour.

One unforeseen consequence, however, was the rush by businessmen to withdraw fraudulent funds from financial institutions thus causing a sharp decrease in the value of the punt.

SCHEMING

While the Dublin government was busily scheming how to extricate itself from the 'condom' controversy, their colleagues in Europe were joined by T.J. Maher in the European parliament on Thursday, February 14th, in voting to ratify the

Council of Europe's 1977 'Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism'. This calls for the introduction of extradition, between EEC states for persons whose offences involve the use of a bomb, grenade, rocket, automatic firearm or letter-bomb, or an abduction in another member state. It adds that such offences shall not be regarded as political offences, or offences connected with a political offence.

If anyone actually doubted that this vote would mean increased collaboration against republicans between the Free State and the British administration in the six counties, they were under no such illusions the following day when Tom Rafferty MEP, of Fine Gael, boasted on radio that the Free State had shown a 'world lead' in the area of extradition by extraditing Seamus Shannon and Dominic McGlinchey. And on these extraditions which his government has always insisted was a matter for the courts, he added:

"We have nothing to be ashamed of."

DENIED

And in answer to a question about the rising emigration of young people from the twenty-six counties, Garret FitzGerald ridiculously denied in Leinster House on Tuesday this week that there had been any increase.

His statistical 'evidence' that

an average of 6,000 a year had emigrated in the three-year period before April 1st 1984 contradicts the evidence of US Embassy officials who say that visa applications from young Irish people are constantly rising, and the evidence of reputable social and welfare agencies in England who say that immigration from Ireland has spiralled in recent years.

With their annual conference coming soon, Labour's leadership have made an attempt to pre-empt discussion on their participation in Coalition by ruling that, because twelve months will not have elapsed since they last convened, such a debate is unconstitutional. This dishonest attempt by the ruling faction within Labour to stifle free discussion on basic policy will only serve to heighten tension and increase acrimony at this year's gathering.

FACTIONS

Currently, there are three distinct factions within the Labour Party. There is the ruling, basically reactionary clique led by Spring and Desmond which has the support of conservative rural deputies. Then we have the so-called 'Militant Tendency'. This is an organised Trotskyist grouping within the party and has control of the youth section. They also publish their own monthly newspaper, *Militant Irish Monthly*. Incidentally, this

paper is funded from and printed in England. Militant Tendency is openly hostile to party policy and has the avowed aim of destroying the Labour Party as it is presently constituted. Dick Spring failed in his attempts early last year to expel them from Labour.

However, the real threat to Labour's unity does not come from this quarter but from the third and arguably strongest faction within the Labour Party. This grouping is solidly based within the trade union movement and has at its helm leading members of both Labour and the trade unions. A public manifestation of their discontent came recently at a pre-budget demonstration called by the Dublin Council of Trade Unions.

RADICAL

On the platform was ICTU president Matt Merrigan, who was himself expelled from Labour in the early Seventies for his outspoken criticisms and radical positions. He predictably attacked the Coalition and called for a new party to emerge from organised Labour. Whilst this was to be expected from Matt Merrigan, what was not anticipated was that Trades Council president Ben Kearney and council secretary Sam Nolan in their speeches supported this position. Both Kearney and Nolan have long been identified with the Labour Party and their public attack will certainly have caused consternation in Gardiner Place headquarters.

A further worry for Spring is this year's ITGWU conference where a motion to disaffiliate from the Labour Party is on the agenda. Some months ago, several leading members resigned from the Communist Party. These individuals are all closely connected with the trade union movement and sources suggest that informal discussions took place between them and high-ranking disaffected members of the Labour Party. The subject on the agenda was the formation of a new party. However, a wait-and-see strategy has been adopted. Whether a new party is formed or the trade union grouping makes a bid for power resulting in O'Leary-like defections to Fine Gael is open to debate. But whatever happens, that Labour is in stormy waters is undeniable.

In all of this there is a very clear lesson for republicans, and this is that Sinn Féin can be the only party that effectively serves the needs of the working class.

As James Connolly said:

"The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland, the cause of Ireland is the cause of labour."

Bigoted loyalist resolution

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE LOYALIST majority on the Belfast City Council has got its sectarian way once again. On Friday, February 15th, they passed, by 13 votes to five, a DUP resolution calling for the British government to bar candidates who would refuse to denounce violence under oath from standing for elections.

Fortunately for the Reverend William McCrea, who last Thursday called on loyalists to "defend themselves", he does

not sit on Belfast Council.

The resolution however was aimed at nationalists, and also called on council officials to ostracise Sinn Féin. It was further proposed by an OUP councillor that councillors be made to take an oath of allegiance to the British queen.

Nationalist councillors left the chamber before the vote. Alliance voted against.

DISENFRANCHISE

This latest bid to disenfranchise nationalist voters comes after the attempted exclusion of PD Councillor John McNulty, and before that British direct-rule Minister

Rhodes Boyson's refusal to meet Sinn Féin councillors in a delegation, and the ensuing row.

It illustrates the extent of loyalist hatred and bigotry — a feature of political life in the six-county state since its formation. It also shows, incidentally, how complacent SDLP councillors have been all these years, when council meetings hardly ever raised an eyebrow, never mind a rumour.

But it also promises a very bumpy ride for council meetings across the North after next May, when many more Sinn Féin councillors will have been elected to them.



Thirst for jobs

BY CHARLIE MCFADDEN

A THREAT to enforce seven redundancies has led to an all-out strike by workers of Irish Distillers Ltd.

The strike, which initially involved 350 FWUI and ITGWU members, began on Friday, February 15th, with Congress sanctioning an all-out picket of the group's plants in Dublin, Cork and Galway on Tuesday, February 19th.

In March 1984 management attempted to lay off the entire transport section consisting of 69 workers but an agreement was eventually reached for the retention of 36 jobs.

However, only 26 voluntary redundancies were secured with seven of the remaining 43 refusing to accept redundancy.

According to Joe Hanway, a shop steward in the Bow Street plant:

"The real problem is that they want to bring in non-unionised outside hauliers to do our work."

The anti-apartheid strike at Dunnes Stores, Henry Street, Dublin, is now entering its 31st week.

The occupation of Dunnes Stores' Wexford branch by 50 employees in pur-



● Irish Distillers workers picket the company's premises at Bow Lane, Dublin, in protest at proposed redundancies

suit of money owed to them by management continues.

Women industrial workers earn over 30% less than their male counterparts, according to the latest figures released by the Central Statistics Office in Dublin. Thus, while female industrial workers earned on average £2.90 per hour in June 1984, the average male earnings was £4.33 per hour for the same period.

A loss of 5,000 jobs is expected as a result of the Dublin government's de-

cision to double the VAT rate on building materials.

The VAT rate is also responsible for the proposed closure of three, and possibly four, cinemas belonging to the Ward-Anderson group in Dublin, Wexford, Kilkenny and Limerick. About 30 jobs will be lost as a result.

The Irish Nurses Organisation, which represents 3,500 nurses in the twenty-six counties, is to go to the Labour Court over the recent decision of the Southern

and other Health Boards to cut the wages of student nurses.

The official strike at Robey Sports (Ireland) Ltd in Waterford, which began when a machinist was laid off, continues.

The sit-in at Cork's Thompsons Bakery, which went into liquidation recently, continues.

An official strike at Ronan's Hide and Wool Industries in Clonmel is to continue indefinitely, according to a local ATGWU official. The dispute arose after supervisory staff attempted to do the work of permanent general operatives who had been laid off.

One hundred and fifty-six temporary workers employed on Dublin Corporation environment schemes face redundancies if the Coalition government goes through with the threat to cease funding environmental projects.

An all-out strike by 350 Dublin workers began on Wednesday, February 20th, with pickets being placed by the Irish National Painters and Decorators Trade Union on a number of sites owned by G. and T. Crampton Ltd. The striking workers are demanding that Crampton employees, and not outside contractors, be employed to carry out the company's painting work. Last year Crampton employed about 40 painters compared with the present eight.

DISCRIMINATION - UNIPORK GUILTY

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

THE UNIPORK factory in Cookstown, County Tyrone, which employs 316 workers in a town evenly divided between Protestants and Catholics, has been found guilty of discrimination against Catholics by the Fair Employment Agency (FEA).

At Unipork's Enniskillen factory, based in an area where the proportion of Catholics to Protestants is again 50:50, Protestants were found to dominate almost two-thirds of staff positions.

The FEA report was initiated after Cookstown Sinn Féin and Mid-Ulster representative Danny Morrison referred to the jobs monitoring agency the case of a Catholic who complained that he had been discriminated against. Twenty-six-year-old Kieran McGrail had been made redundant at the factory in November 1978 and was informed by a union official that, in the event of vacancies arising, those who took voluntary redundancy would be given first preference.

Over the next few years, McGrail applied for three posts for which he was fully qualified. He was never interviewed and, on one occasion, the personnel officer did not even bother to send out a rejection slip. Of seven people who had been made redundant and who were re-employed, only one was a Catholic.

Sinn Féin referred McGrail's individual case to the FEA and applied for an investigation into the religious composition of the workforce. Although McGrail's case was unsuccessful, the application for the investigation was

successful. In their report, published last Monday, the FEA found that the composition of the Cookstown factory (19 Catholic hourly-paid men out of 181, and no Catholic males on the staff of 26) could not have arisen other than through past discrimination. In Enniskillen, Protestants, although a minority on the shop floor (36, or 43%), hold down two-thirds of the senior positions.

TRADE UNIONS

The published report also shows that, of the five trade unions representing workers in both factories, two did not bother to reply to a request for a meeting. These were the ATGWU and APEX. The AUEW wrote back stating that, as far as they were concerned, they were not aware of any discrimination.

An FEA officer met with union officials representing USD, AW and ASTMS but their views are not recorded, presumably because they made no complaint either. Such is the power of trade unions in the North in defending the working class, breaking down discrimination and establishing a better life for all!

The FEA has instructed management that the system of advertising job vacancies by the internal notice-board method is no longer to be solely relied upon and that in future local newspapers, which are read by both sections of the



● Sinn Féin spokesperson Chris Neeson at the Unipork plant, Cookstown, County Tyrone

community, are to be used. This is part of the affirmative action programme which the company has agreed upon, monitoring the religion of applicants and new recruits to ensure they are proportionately drawn from both sides of the community. The FEA will monitor the results on a six-monthly basis for the next three years.

The display of 'partisan flags or political emblems' has also been banned, and this reference to the Union Jack, and the report itself, have infuriated local loyalists who have accused the FEA of collaborating with Sinn Féin.

However, despite the positive

results of the investigation, the FEA did not go far enough. Local Sinn Féin representative in Cookstown, Christopher Neeson, explained:

"In its generous language about the concern of management to rectify discrimination, the FEA allowed them off the hook. For example, the 90% Protestant workforce in Cookstown has been explained away by the practice of advertising jobs through the internal notice-board which, allegedly, perpetuated the discrimination. But if this were the explanation, then one would expect Catholics to dominate staff positions in Enniskillen where they are a maj-

ority on the shop floor.

"The management must be held responsible for the discriminatory practices. It is too simple for them to abdicate their part and blame it on the sectarian enthusiasm of their workers.

"Secondly, the only real way that the imbalance in the workforce can be rectified is by a process of positive discrimination in favour of Catholics in all future recruitment until equal numbers of Catholics and Protestants are employed.

"I consider it an indictment of the weakness of the FEA on this important issue that it is not able to make such a ruling."

BY EAMON TRACY

AN ATTEMPT to whitewash the RUC shoot-to-kill policy emerged in a Belfast court last Friday, February 15th, when Orange judge, Basil Kelly, convicted Lurgan youth, Martin McAuley, for possession of weapons, even though he had to reject the RUC 'evidence' which the prosecution case relied on.

Judge Kelly's formula in producing this conviction is seen as a means of covering the tracks of the RUC who shot and seriously injured McAuley and killed his friend Michael Tighe in a shoot-to-kill operation on November 24th 1982.

In a two-week trial last month, the RUC tried to justify their shoot-to-kill operation, alleging that McAuley and Tighe were carrying weapons when shot in a hayshed on the Ballyneery Road outside Lurgan. As the case progressed, however, their 'evidence' was shown to be a series of lies.

McAuley, who was the only survivor of seven victims of the RUC Mobile Support Unit's shoot-to-kill activities in North Armagh during that period, has consistently stated that he and his friend had been minding the farm of a neighbour, who was away at the time, when they were attacked by the RUC. He said:

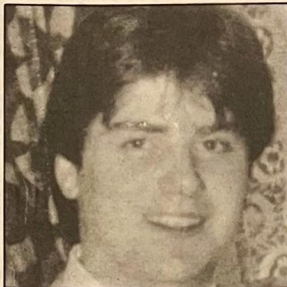
"We had checked the house and were going back to our motorbike when we noticed that the window of the barn was slightly opened."

RIFLES

Looking inside, McAuley spotted metal objects which, on closer examination from the window, he saw were rifles. As he climbed through the window to give Michael Tighe room to look, the shooting started. McAuley explains:

"First of all there were two or three shots and a shout to come out. Then there were bullets flying everywhere. I tried to get up on the hay but as I moved backwards across the door to get cover, I was hit."

Shoot-to-kill whitewash



● MARTIN McAULEY

"The shooting stopped then. There was a call to come out and when I answered it, they just riddled the place again. Once that was over they started breaking down the door with the butts of their rifles, and I was dragged out."

Three rifles, all of them old, in poor condition and with no ammunition were 'discovered' by the RUC who immediately released a statement saying that they had opened fire when "confronted by two armed men".

COVER

In court, however, RUC witnesses said



● MICHAEL TIGHE

that the original statement had been produced as a cover by the Special Branch, and that they now wanted to tell the "truth".

Their case now rested on an allegation that they had seen McAuley holding a rifle, before he was shot, and they were so adamant about this in court that they even demonstrated how the gun was held. But as the RUC described the scene and showed how a right-handed person would hold and point a gun, defence counsel pointed out that McAuley is left-handed.

The RUC then gave a detailed de-

scription of how McAuley had supposedly used both arms to throw the rifle 12 feet away, but the surgeon who had treated him after the shooting stated that McAuley couldn't possibly have moved either arm as they were paralysed.

The only forensic evidence produced was the alleged discovery of a single tiny thread from McAuley's gloves on a rifle. It was admitted, however, that far from testing this thread in laboratory conditions, the forensic expert had used a room in Portadown RUC/UDR Barracks where he was unable to discover even its colour.

Another RUC lie was exposed when their description of where they had fired shots from was proved false. They claimed that they had been positioned right up against the barn and had fired through the window and a gap in the barn door.

CONFIRMED

Two dozen bullet-holes and strike marks on the outside of the barn, and the discovery of spent cartridges some distance away, confirmed McAuley's claim that the building had been sprayed by RUC men who could not have been close to it.

This also weakened RUC claims that Michael Tighe had been shot while standing on top of a five-foot bale of hay, pointing a rifle down at them — a claim which was totally discredited when it was revealed that the exit wound on Tighe's shoulder was an inch lower than the entry wound.

In his summing up of the case, Judge Kelly apologetically rejected the RUC evidence saying:

"I believe the proper course for me is to exclude their evidence and its implications from my consideration and adjudication. This is not to be taken that I disbelieve their evidence completely, or have reservations about it entirely."

Following this calculated move to avoid embarrassing the RUC, Judge Kelly found McAuley guilty and gave him a two-year suspended sentence on the ridiculous grounds that since the two youths were wearing gloves when shot they must have been trying to avoid leaving fingerprints on the rifles.



PRISONER PRESSURISED

BY JANE PLUNKETT

H-BLOCKS PRISONER Charlie Dillon, who in August 1983 retracted false statements he had made incriminating six South Derry men, was recently approached by the RUC in a further attempt to pressurise him into acting as a paid-perjuror.

Dillon, from Kilrea, County Derry, was arrested in mid-1983 in connection with a post office robbery in County Armagh. Following RUC threats that they would charge him in connection with a shooting incident, Dillon

signed the perjured statements. Six weeks later, he withdrew them, with the result that the charges against those accused were dropped.

Dillon was subsequently given a 12-year sentence and transferred to the

H-Blocks on February 4th this year. He was put into a predominantly loyalist wing and immediately requested a transfer to a republican wing. This was refused.

The following day, he was visited by two RUC men from Coleraine named Arlow and Nicholl, who attempted to intimidate him into incriminating two individuals, a 28-year-old South Derry man and a recently sentenced prisoner.

The RUC men threatened that they could prevent Dillon being transferred to a republican wing. Dillon, who is wanted for questioning about an alleged offence in the twenty-six counties, was told by the RUC that he could be liable for extradition upon his eventual release. They added that, if he agreed to "co-operate", they would "work things" for him regarding extradition.

This blackmail was firmly rejected by Dillon, who subsequently smashed up his cell and was transferred to a republican wing.

But the settlement of £150,000, which was announced on Tuesday this week, will not end the occupation which the GAA counsel described as "a running sore which was allowed to develop and fester".

EFFORTS

In a statement welcoming the compensation, Crossmaglen Rangers chairperson Eugene Duffy said that efforts to remove the British would now be stepped-up since the money was no good if it could not be used to develop the club.

GAA headquarters in Dublin backed this view, saying:

"The club has still not got the freedom to fully use the ground and other social amenities, or even to use the money awarded in compensation."

"The Association is seriously concerned about this and will continue to demand the withdrawal of the British army from all areas of the ground while, at the same time, maintaining the right to further compensation."

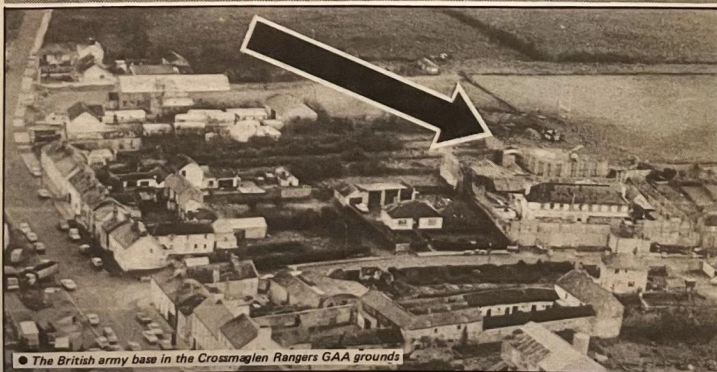
BY JACK MADDEN

THE 14-YEAR campaign to get the British army out of the Crossmaglen Rangers GAA grounds will continue, club officials have announced, following this week's payment of £150,000 by the British government as compensation for their troops' occupation of the grounds since 1971.

Crossmaglen GAA brought a case to court claiming compensation for the British army's continued use of its St Oliver Plunkett grounds and the loss of revenue to the club as a consequence of this.

During the hearing, which ended in an out-of-court settlement, counsel for the GAA pointed out that, besides the financial loss to the club, British army helicopters have landed on the pitch during matches and both spectators and players have suffered regular harassment.

GAA SCORE POINT



● The British army base in the Crossmaglen Rangers GAA grounds

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THOUSANDS of demonstrators protested in Washington today as Margaret Thatcher was urging the US Congress to step up its repression of American supporters of Irish freedom.

The demonstrators poured into Washington from New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pittsburgh and included contingents from Irish Northern Aid, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish-American Unity Conference, and other Irish-American organisations.

The speakers included Michael Flannery, Paul O'Dwyer, Joseph Roche, Marie Howe and Martin Galvin.

Five members of Congress, Biaggi, Gilman, Carney, Dio Guardi and Borski came out to show their solidarity with the demonstration and to condemn the denial of a visa to Gerry Adams. Even Senator Moynihan, who had refused to march in the New York St Patrick's Day parade led by Michael Flannery, asked for a meeting with the organisers and condemned the visa denial.

Meanwhile, inside Congress, Thatcher was applauding Free State collaboration with Britain against Northern nationalists, and again attacking Noraid and pleading with Americans not to support it.

Storm of protest greets Thatcher

However, Thatcher's pleas seem to be falling on deaf ears. Despite, perhaps even because of, repeated British and Free State propaganda campaigns to try and convince Irish-Americans not to contribute to Noraid, the organisation is now raising more money than a few years ago, its publicity director Martin Galvin said on Monday, February 18th.

ADDRESS

And in an address sent to the Ad-Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs and to those protesting outside Congress, Adams thanked them for their support for the cause of Irish freedom, saying:

"Members of Sinn Féin have asked for nothing more than an opportunity to present our case in America. We are confident that if the case against British rule is



heard and scrutinized in open debate, then the right of the Irish

people to national self-determination will clearly manifest itself.

"In contrast to the ban on the entrance of myself, we have the decision by your State Department to allow unionist and British politicians entry visas, thus allowing pro-British elements to project a distorted view of the struggle in Ireland."

"American citizens should seek an answer from their State Department as to why they invoke censorship by visa denial against Irish republicans — is it in order to shield a British prime minister from having her views questioned and debated during this week? The answer can only be that the British have something to hide."

REPRESSIVE

"They are attempting to hide from the US public their massive

armoury of repressive legislation which they find necessary in order to keep their twisted brand of 'law and order' in the six occupied counties.

"We desire peace but recognise that 'peace cannot be achieved until British rule ends and the British state, which is based on religious discrimination, is removed and replaced by national freedom and religious liberty for all the people of Ireland."

"Irish-American moral support, diplomatic pressure and political influence on the British to withdraw would surely hasten the day of peace."

Asking what had he said that "was too dangerous" for him to have said in person, Adams added that the Dublin government had "abandoned" and the British had "dismissed" the aspirations of Irish nationalists.

He concluded by congratulating Peter King who has been elected as New York Grand Marshall at next month's St Patrick's Day parade.



MARGARET THATCHER

STRIP-SEARCH ORDEAL

LAST THURSDAY, February 14th, a young Craigavon woman was strip-searched on her return to Armagh Jail from Craigavon Hospital, still suffering the physical and emotional after-effects of a miscarriage.

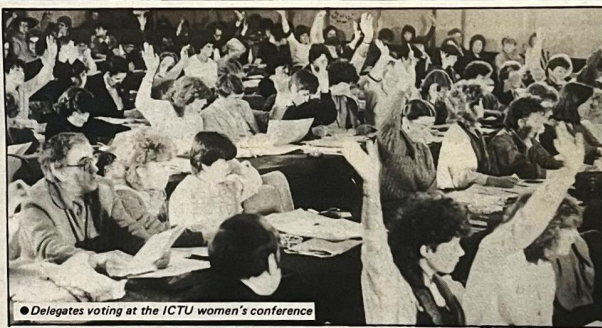
The woman, who is serving a six-week sentence, had been rushed to hospital the previous Sunday. When she returned to Armagh four days later she was still haemorrhaging.

After she was taken to the search area, she requested that she be allowed to keep on her underwear and sanitary protection. However, displaying neither compassion nor sensitivity, prison warders ordered the young woman to strip totally naked.

Two days earlier, on February 12th, republican prisoner Mary McArdle, from Belfast's Turf Lodge area, was strip-searched returning from a brief remand hearing in Armagh courthouse.

HUMILIATING

Going to the court, Mary McArdle had been ordered by a prison warder named Grant to unbutton her trousers to allow the warder to physically probe her



Delegates voting at the ICTU women's conference

body. Mary refused to comply with this humiliating procedure and also ignored repeated demands that she lift her legs.

On this occasion, she was sent to court without being strip-searched — a virtual admission on the part of the prison warders that no valid 'security' reason existed for their demands.

When Mary McArdle was returned to the jail just five minutes later, four warders were waiting. She was again ordered to unbutton her trousers and, when she once more refused, a senior officer, Compton, ordered her to be strip-searched.

Mary McArdle was subsequently put on seven days loss of association, with one

day of solitary confinement for alleged abusive language and 'refusing to obey an order'.

CONDEMNED

The women's conference of the ICTU last weekend added its voice to the growing calls for an end to strip-searching in Armagh Jail.

The 160 delegates, gathered in Belfast last Friday, overwhelmingly voted in favour of a motion from Belfast Trades Council, which also condemned strip-searching as "inhuman and degrading".

An amendment put by the white-collar union ASTMS, which would have condemned only "unnecessary" searches and called on the NIO to introduce "an alternative form of security", gained only a handful of votes.

The amendment was heavily defeated after the critical speeches by a succession of delegates including Belfast Trades Council member, Linda Edgerton, who said that the searches contravened the European Human Rights Convention and were carried out deliberately to "degrade and humiliate women prisoners". She observed also that it was not the trade union movement's task to suggest 'security' measures.

On Monday, February 18th, a delegation from the British-based National Council of Civil Liberties visited Armagh Jail and heard detailed descriptions of strip-searching from a number of prisoners.

SOUTH TYRONE

A delegation from the South Tyrone Stop the Armagh Strip-Searches Committee met Cardinal O'Flaherty at his palace in Armagh on Wednesday, February 20th.

Chairperson of the South Tyrone committee Eilish McCabe was accompanied by Patricia Campbell, former H-Block prisoner Claran O'Donnell, Frances Donaghy and Anita Cavellin.

During the meeting, they told O'Flaherty that they were distressed at the Catholic Church's apparent indifference to what was happening in Armagh Prison. He told them that he had expressed concern and had told Armagh Governor McCartney of his objections to strip-searching. McCartney had told him that the incidence of strip-searching had been considerable reduced.

The committee pointed out that the number of strip-searches carried out had only dropped as the number of remand prisoners were dropped; and that that individual prisoners were being strip-searched as often as before.



Portlaoise meeting

BETWEEN 60 and 70 friends and relatives of prisoners in Portlaoise Prison attended a meeting in 5 Blessington Street on Sunday last, February 17th. This was the second general meeting since the launching of the PPRAC's campaign and was attended by representatives from Kerry, Waterford, Wexford, Dublin, Dundalk, Lurgan, Belfast and Derry.

A report was given by Deirdre Whelan of the Dublin PPRAC of the work done since the last meeting and this was followed by reports from the

other areas represented.

Amongst the most successful activities undertaken so far, there have been protests at the Dublin De-

partment of Justice where three women chained themselves to doors, at the Fine Gael Ard-Fheis, and in Portlaoise outside the jail itself.

Several articles on the demands of the PPRAC have appeared in newspapers along with some radio and television interviews. The meeting was told of the many delegations which had met with groups and individuals interested in conditions in

the jail and hopes were expressed of a possible investigation by Amnesty International in the near future.

A letter was read from the president of the Union of Students in Ireland stating support for the committee's demands.

One of the most significant aspects of the campaign to date was the recent announcement by Dublin's Justice Minister Michael Noonan that the strip-searches conducted in Portlaoise would no longer entail anal probing of the prisoners.

Areas reported extensive leafletting, public meetings, signature-collecting and success with the lobbying of some local representatives — such as the statement issued by the Mayor of Wexford supporting the PPRAC's demands.

Among the activities planned for the future are the holding of a white line picket (organised by Dublin Sinn Féin) throughout Dublin on Thursday, February 28th, and numerous protests throughout the country, some of which will be held on St Patrick's Day. Derry PPRAC will be holding a Prisoners Week in March, when a photographic exhibition on Portlaoise will be shown.

IN A STUDIED ATTACK on the Diplock court system the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) has revealed that in his review of the Diplock courts, in 1983, British judge Sir George Baker ignored "strong criticisms" of the system submitted to him by Amnesty International.

BY JACK MADDEN

Amnesty slams Diplock courts

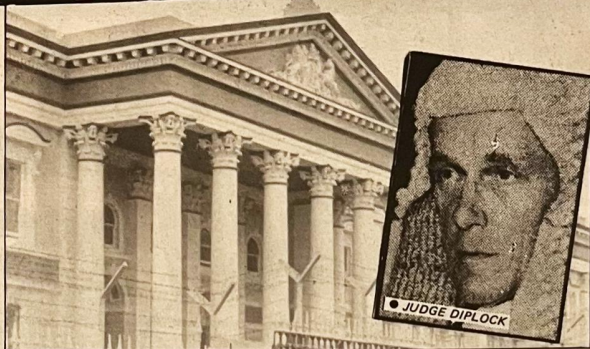
The SIM attack comes in a 116-page study, released on Friday last week, which was specially commissioned by Amnesty International. Their submission to Baker is printed, for the first time, in an appendix to the study.

Arguing that the Diplock courts "appear to contravene international law", SIM argues that Baker "failed to address the crucial issue concerning the fairness of proceedings linked with the 'Diplock' courts: the reliability of confessions obtained as a result of 'forceful', 'decisive' and 'persistent' questioning".

CRITICISMS

In their submission to Baker, Amnesty International had criticised:

- The "wide and, in effect, unchallengeable powers of arrest and detention" in the six counties;
- Forms of interrogation which are "specifically aimed at inducing prisoners to speak who, without them, would have stayed silent";
- The "substantially reduced" opportunities for the defence "to challenge the prosecution case in the pre-trial proceedings";
- Admission of statements "obtained by oppressive methods";
- The "reduced safeguards" for defendants in the no-jury system;
- In most cases "the evidence against the accused consists wholly or mainly" of a written or an alleged verbal confession;
- Confessions, once deemed admissible, "are not in practice tested further on their reliability. No case has been brought to Amnesty International's attention where an accused was acquitted though his confession was ruled admissible. If such cases exist, they are extremely rare";
- The assessment of the reliability of a



confession by the judge "is not tested on appeal" where such an appeal is allowed.

CONCLUSION

The SIM study examines all these points in depth and concludes:

"The institutionalized use in Northern Ireland of strong psychological pressure on suspects in order to induce them to confess appears to be in breach of at least Article 14 (3) (G) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"Convictions based solely on contested

confessions obtained under such duress furthermore raise serious doubts about the adherence by the 'Diplock' court system to the presumption of innocence in all cases.

"These aspects of the 'Diplock' court system, therefore, raise questions about the extent to which trials in the 'Diplock' courts accord with international norms for a fair trial, contained in such international instruments as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights."

Armed RUC in Monaghan

BY JACK MADDEN

TWO uniformed RUC men were spotted in Monaghan town on Monday this week, within days of a number of similar 'incursions' elsewhere in the county.

Eye-witness reports state that the RUC men were driving an armour-plated red Mark 4 Cortina car at speed along North Road in the town at 4.20pm on February 18th. These cars are easily distinguished because of the metal partition which runs down the middle of the windscreen.

Subsequent investigations have confirmed that two RUC men, both from Dungannon, were, in fact, visiting the local Garda barracks shortly before this.

It is believed, however, that the car, which almost knocked down one pedestrian, had a false number plate.

CONDEMNING

In a statement condemning this latest incursion by "the representatives of the British murder machine in Ireland", Caoimhín O Caolain of Monaghan Sinn Féin said:

"The ease with which the RUC made their way through Monaghan town and county indicates the level of collaboration that the twenty-six county government is prepared to engage in." And he added:

"Monaghan people must not only protest at this incursion but must insist on firm action being taken to prevent a recurrence."

Motorist fired on

BY JANE PLUNKETT

BRITISH SOLDIERS opened fire on a motorist at a road-block in South Armagh last Thursday morning, February 14th.

Crossmaglen man Michael Lenaghan (27) was travelling home from a farewell party in Dundalk when, at 5am, he was stopped at a road-block by around six members of the Parachute Regiment.

In an aggressive manner, the British soldiers demanded personal details, inspected Lenaghan's driving licence and the boot of the car.

He told AP/RN:

"After five minutes they told

me to go. I had driven about five yards when there were two shots fired but the car wasn't hit. I stopped the car and asked why they had shot at me. They told me to spreadeagle against the car and body-searched me.

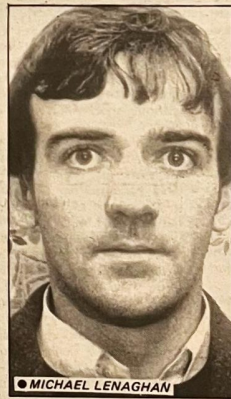
"One put his gun to my head and said 'I'll blow your brains out'. It was very scary, there were no other cars about. They kept making abusive remarks and told me not to speak."

After a quarter of an hour

he was told he could go, the paras having claimed that they had shot at him after they came under sniper attack. A contradictory explanation was proffered the following Monday by an RUC officer at Crossmaglen Barracks, who claimed that Lenaghan had driven at a British soldier.

HARASSMENT

Lenaghan himself was severely shaken by the incident which he and his widowed mother, Lillian, believes could be a continuation of the persistent harassment, including death threats, to which he was being subjected in recent years by the British army.



● MICHAEL LENAGHAN

Following one incident in 1980 in which he and his mother were

badly beaten at her farm by Royal Marines, Lenaghan was awarded substantial compensation in a civil court action against the British Ministry of Defence. Last Thursday's events, Lenaghan says, "were maybe meant to scare me, or else they just missed or panicked. Now I feel that maybe the same thing is going to happen again and maybe next time they won't miss".

The British soldiers' actions were strongly condemned by local Sinn Féin elected representative Jim McAllister who said:

"The crown forces' total disregard for the civilian population in South Armagh is well-known and, over the years, has been displayed in brutal beatings and in a number of tragic deaths.

"The British army's present policy of constructing a series of observation posts on hills along the border adds a further sinister dimension to their operations in the area."

FOUR Strabane youths were subjected to a vicious assault by members of an RUC mobile patrol on Friday, February 8th.

At around 10pm, local Sinn Féin member Tony Conwell was stopped by an RUC man, who became very abusive. When Conwell complained, he was thrown over the bonnet of an RUC car. Two RUC men then kicked and struck him with rifle butts as he lay on the ground.

Seeing this, 16-year-old James McPhilomey, who had also been stopped by the patrol, protested. When he attempted to intervene, he was punched

in the face by an RUC man named Beaucannon.

Two other youths, Declan Crossan and James Earley, who attempted to aid McPhilomey, were also kicked and assaulted by the RUC. All four were taken to Strabane RUC Barracks where they were beaten again. Tony Conwell began vomiting uncontrollably and shortly before midnight was allowed to see a doctor who, after giving Conwell an injection to stop

the vomiting, insisted that he be released immediately.

James McPhilomey, who suffered a broken nose and bruises, and the other two youths, who received extensive bruising to the legs and back, were released at around 1am. All four were charged with assault and disorderly behaviour, charges which, as in so many previous incidents, will provide the RUC with a pretext for their blatantly sectarian actions.



● Tony Conwell (left) and James McPhilomey (right)

Assaults in Strabane

LAST MONTH, the British government announced a number of measures supposedly designed to give new hope of release to prisoners serving 'life' or 'Secretary of State's Pleasure' (SOSP) sentences in the North's jails. However, as Jane Plunkett reports, these changes were both trivial and irrelevant. The NIO's review procedure remains a sham, designed to obscure the fact that large numbers of republican prisoners are subject to continued and indefinite detention.

DETAINED INDEFINITELY

Britain's political hostages

BRITAIN'S JAILS in the six counties contain nearly 500 prisoners who are serving indeterminate sentences. The vast majority are 'life' prisoners, while around 60, jailed for offences which took place when they were aged 17 or younger, are held under sentences of detention 'at the Secretary of State's Pleasure' (SOSP).

Of this total, around one third are republicans, most of whom are life-term prisoners. In the H-Blocks alone, opened to coincide with the withdrawal of political status by the British government in March 1976, there are now over 100 republicans serving indeterminate sentences. There are also two life sentence prisoners in Armagh Jail.

Of 63 republicans with political status held in the Cages of Long Kesh, 30 are lifers and some 17 others are SOSPs, most of whom have been held there since their teens. Three men, imprisoned since 1972, this year begin their 14th year of incarceration, with no release date and with no prospect of release by the British government.

Of all SOSPs, over half have been held for at least eight years, according to the reformist Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO).

The relatives of many of these 'indeterminate sentence' republicans have suffered more than a decade of anxiety, hardship and unremitting uncertainty. Parents fear that children arrested when 16 or 17 could spend their entire adult lives in jail.

STRESSES

Inhumanely denied a release date to aim for, the stresses common to all prisoners and their families are intensified, especially in the case of married prisoners whose children are rapidly growing up. Inevitably, marriages are placed under considerable strain.

The families' plight is in no way lessened by their awareness, reinforced over the years, that successive British governments' policy on 'life' and SOSP sentences is yet another example of the special treatment meted out generally to republicans held in British jails.

In English jails, ordinary life prisoners would expect to undergo, say, nine years detention,

Section 73(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1968, the British government has not hesitated to subvert its own laws in order to subject teenagers to indefinite detention. According to a critical submission made by NIACRO last November to the NIO: "a sentence under Section 73(1) is now identical in almost every respect with a life sentence". Last month, the NIO in a statement unapologetically agreed.

Yet, NIACRO maintains, the Act "appears to have been intended to ensure that young people are not sentenced to life imprisonment". But that law was enacted prior to the current phase of nationalist resistance in the six counties.

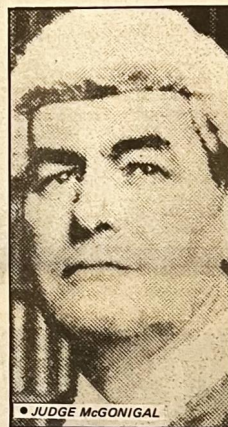
Passed in the days of hanging, the Act also ruled out judicial execution for those under 18, another implicit recognition of the special situation of young prisoners.

Of 20 republican and loyalist SOSPs sentenced between 1972 and 1975, only three have been subsequently released on licence. One of the few freed was Derry woman Pauline McLaughlin whom the NIO released in January 1981 only to avoid the embarrassment of her expected imminent death in prison.

RAILROADED

A large proportion of the 'indeterminate sentence' prisoners were victims of the notorious 'conveyor-belt system' developed in the mid-Seventies to railroad nationalists into jail.

By December 1975, the last of the internees were released by Labour director Merlyn Rees. But the British authorities had already prepared an alternative to internment, based on the re-



• JUDGE MCGONIGAL

commendations of the 1972 Diplock report.

The Diplock no-jury courts, presided over by a single loyalist judge, came into operation in 1973. Lord Diplock's other crucial recommendation, that the safeguards which in British courts governed the admissibility of statements should be abolished in the six counties, was implemented in the 1973 Emergency Provisions Act (EPA).

Hitherto, defendants had some protection under the common law principle that statements should be 'voluntary' i.e. made of the detainee's free will. In addition, the Judges Rules specified that a statement or verbal answer would only be admissible as evidence for the prosecution provided it was "voluntary in the sense that

it has not been obtained from him by fear of prejudice or hope of advantage, exercised or held out by a person in authority or by oppression".

Both these safeguards were abolished by Section 6 of the 1973 Act (Section 8 of the consolidated 1978 Act) which said only that statements made by the accused were admissible in court provided they had not been obtained by means of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Coupled with seven-day detention authorised under the PTA, Section 6 of the EPA gave the green light to Castlereagh.

CHARTER

On May 19th 1977, a notorious judgement, known in some legal circles as the 'Torturers Charter', was given in Belfast by Lord Justice McGonigal, a former British army commando and founder member of the SAS. McGonigal concluded that Section 6 "leaves it open to an interviewer to use a moderate degree of physical ill-treatment for the purposes of inducing a person to make a statement".

Adhering to a recent European Commission of Human Rights judgement, McGonigal based his judgement on notably extreme definitions of 'torture' and 'inhuman treatment' (defining the latter, for example, as treatment which causes 'severe suffering' — a broad hint to the RUC that the Diplock judges' OK to moderate 'ill-treatment' would place minimal restrictions on the interrogation centres).

From 1976, the numbers of nationalists beaten into signing statements grew rapidly. Such statements were readily accepted by the colonial judiciary. Early in 1977, a new special interrogation centre opened at Castlereagh, followed that November by a similar unit at Gough Barracks, Armagh. Architecturally, both centres were designed to increase the sense of isolation of detainees.

Teenagers were particularly vulnerable to RUC brutality. Significantly, of 65 SOSPs sentenced in the 15 years from 1968 to 1982, over 75 per cent were convicted between 1975 and 1978.

In 1978, the beatings were

Adrian Callan

ADRIAN CALLAN, now in the H-Blocks, was 17 when the family's Derry home was raided on August 23rd 1976. Two hand-guns were found in the house and the youth was arrested and taken to Strand Road Barracks. Subsequently he was charged

in relation to an IRA operation several months earlier in which one of the weapons had been used, and in which an RUC woman had been killed.

However, the only 'evidence' linking Callan himself to the incident, which had taken place when he was 16, was a statement he signed after brutal beatings by the RUC in Strand Road.

At his subsequent trial, Diplock judge McGonigal predictably rejected defence arguments that the statement was inadmissible. On May 23rd 1977, McGonigal imposed on Callan, for his alleged role as lookout in the operation, both an SOSP sentence and, in addition, a savage life term for a related conspiracy charge. It was just five days before Adrian Callan's 18th birthday.



John Burke

HELD under an SOSP sentence, John Joseph Burke (26) has spent the past eight years in jail, almost half of that time on the blanket and no-wash protests.

In January 1977, Burke was arrested, aged 17, in a dawn raid on his Creggan home and taken to Strand Road Barracks. Many other homes in nationalist areas of Derry were raided that morning and Burke and others arrested. Regional Crime Squad, a number of whom had arrived that day from Castlereagh with the express intention of obtaining signed confessions as soon as possible. Burke had been employed as an apprentice joiner during the previous year in a firm which subcontracted from the former naval base at Ebrington and, in July 1976, the IRA had successfully penetrated the Brit base in the camp, killing an SAS officer. On the pretext of this tenuous connection, the RUC Special Branch decided that John Burke would be forced to confess to the killings of the British soldier.

"Apart from the statements that I'd signed there was no other evidence against me. During the trial I was informed that if I would make an unsworn statement in court, apologising for my alleged 'crimes' and stating that I didn't mean to hurt anyone, I could get the murder charge reduced and secure a shorter sentence. I declined.

"Since my imprisonment, I have been refused parole to attend my father's funeral, and I've found it really difficult to talk to my wife and children on the visits with a Screw hanging on to every word. Although I am the prisoner, my wife and family are also serving my sentence. Their lives are incomplete while I remain in prison and without a release date. They deserve credit for the solid support they give me and to each other."

STRATEGY

More recently, paid-perjurors have replaced beatings in the interrogation centres as the latest RUC strategy for railroading nationalists into jail and, wherever possible, indefinite detention.

In August 1983, four nationalists were sentenced by former unionist MP Basil Kelly to life imprisonment on the uncorroborated word of Christopher Black, who had been given immunity from prosecution, money and resettlement outside Ireland in exchange for his perjured evidence.

In May 1984, the Quigley show-trial resulted in two men between them receiving 19 life sentences, one for an alleged killing, another for an alleged

attempted killing and 17 on conspiracy charges which are, in any case, notoriously difficult to disprove. Quigley, like Black, had been granted immunity, in violation of internationally accepted legal standards.

Over the years, Diplock judges have consistently imposed indeterminate sentences on people whose alleged role was subsidiary or peripheral, or on the basis of grossly circumstantial or RUC-manufactured 'evidence', another example of the special treatment the courts mete out to nationalists.

HYPOCRITICAL

Remembering the 'conveyor-belt system', few Northern nationalists were impressed by the NIO's claim last month that when deciding whether to release a life or SOSP prisoner "the overriding consideration is the need to protect the public from the risk of a repetition of the offence or some other crime of violence."

No mention there of RUC violence in Gough or Castlereagh. In fact, the NIO's procedures for reviewing life and SOSP cases is explicitly political, virtually ruling out releases for anyone identifying with republican organisational structures in the jails and, indeed, for anyone who retains their republican political views.

In the word of NIACRO, the decision is made "purely on the performance of the prisoner in adjusting to the prison regime and conforming with prison rules", a criterion which, they point out, is irrelevant to the de-

During the next three days, Burke and the other men were repeatedly beaten by the RUC interrogators and, at one stage, his head was smashed through a glass panel. By the end of the three days, the RUC had forced a 'confession' from Burke who, covered in cuts and bruises, was transferred to Crumlin Road Jail.

After 13 months on remand, Burke and two other men were finally brought before a Diplock court. Their defence — that the sole evidence against them, the signed statements, had been made under duress of the extreme brutality of the RUC — was swiftly dismissed by trial judge MacDermott.

Thus, all three were found guilty. Two were sentenced to 'life' terms, while John Burke was ordered to be detained during the 'pleasure' of the Secretary of State.

Since then, Burke has been held in the H-Blocks. At home in Derry, his mother and father and seven brothers and sisters, like so many other families, wait in hope of his release.

Yet hopes of him being freed are slim: during Christmas 1984 he was told that his father was seriously ill in hospital and applied for compassionate parole to visit him. This application was refused and it seems highly improbable that the NIO would release John Burke permanently when they will not even grant a short visit with his father.

The same state violence which beat this young man in an RUC barracks in 1977, which beat him on the blanket in 1978, and scalded him in 1980, is now holding him, along with so many others, indefinitely in Long Kesh.

tainee's possible actions should he or she be released.

The review procedure for all 'indeterminate sentence' prisoners has two components. Reports on prisoners are compiled annually by the loyalist staff. Topics covered, the NIO states, include the individual's "relationship with others" and "attitude to his crime and sentence".

According to the authorities' scheme, after three years and then six years an individual's case is 'reviewed' by the NIO. After ten years detention (eight years for SOSP) a case is referred to the Life Sentence Review Board of the NIO, with further reviews at intervals after that.

Prior to such a review, any prisoner co-operating with the sham procedure is called before an assistant governor and questioned extensively on their political beliefs, attitudes to prison rules and staff, etc.

POLITICAL

The Life Sentence Review Board is, without doubt, a political body, and is chaired by the permanent undersecretary of the NIO. In addition to a token 'welfare' representation (a senior DHSS medical officer, a consultant psychiatrist and the chief probation officer) the board is made up of a number of senior NIO officials.

At these review hearings, prisoners are denied the right both to be present and to legal representation. Afterwards, they are denied any adequate explanations for being refused a release date.

A further barrier to life sen-

tence republicans being freed is that, prior to any release date being set, the colonial judiciary and, if available, the trial judge responsible for incarcerating the prisoner in the first place must, by law, be consulted.

In the context of this procedure as a whole, the so-called reforms announced last month by the British government are insignificant. These specify that, in future, prisoners will be able to send a written representation to the Review Board (in theory, they already had the right to petition the British direct-ruler). When turned down, they will be told the date of their next review — "so that they would have something to aim for" was the cynical explanation offered by prisons minister Nicholas Scott.

Such blackmail is scarcely likely to intimidate republican prisoners into conforming and, in reality, this particular measure will serve only to exacerbate the uncertainty and distress suffered by relatives.

BARRED

According to NIACRO, before releasing any prisoner "the Northern Ireland Office requires that person to renounce completely any links with proscribed organisations". In the case of the Cages, the NIO claims that the review procedure cannot take place at all, because prison warders have virtually no contact with the political status prisoners, who are thus unjustly barred from release because of an arrangement introduced by a British government.

It is worth noting that loyalist prisoner Gusto Spence served over 18 years before being released last December on medical grounds. Spence, who in October 1966 was sentenced to life imprisonment (with a 20-year recommended sentence) for the 'Malvern Street' sectarian killing, became ill in prison. His application for release was supported, over a considerable period of time, by church leaders of several denominations and such 'respectable' bodies as the Peace People. Yet Spence had to resign from the UVF, call upon them to stop their activities and, over at least eight years, made repeated statements of repentance before he was eventually released, nearly 20 years on!

For their part, the republican POWs, recognising the political nature of their detention, have declined to place trust in the review procedure, preferring to direct their energies to escapes, the most successful being the mass breakout of September 1983 by 38 republicans, 21 of whom were lifers or SOSP.

However, even if individual prisoners were to renounce their republican views — and the POWs view the release issue as a calculated tool in Brit efforts to undermine both republican organisation in the jails and nationalist morale outside — their prospects would be extremely uncertain, since to date the NIO has ruled out any guarantees of release.

Short of a full amnesty to all prisoners of war, republicans maintain that 'indeterminate sentence' prisoners have the right to a release date, in view of their particularly unjust and callous victimisation.

Realistically, in the context of the most sustained period ever of IRA resistance to British occupation forces, few Northern nationalists expect that the British state would abandon easily what they conceive to be the 'deterrent' value of indefinite detention — short, that is, of a British withdrawal from Ireland.

EEC directive

A Chara,
I would appreciate it if you could publish the following letter which was sent to Barry Desmond, Coalition Minister for Health, from the Carrick-on-Suir Council of Trade Unions:

The Council is concerned at your department's definition of the EEC directive on discrimination between men and women in social welfare.

Because of the massive unemployment in this country at the moment, many women find it necessary to supplement any state benefit to which they may be entitled by taking any work they can find. But, we now find that — if the EEC directive is implemented as it is written — depending on family circumstances, if a woman works she will lose between £20 and £40 per week in social welfare benefits.

We find it repugnant that such legislation as that envisaged could be introduced and effectively diminish the living standards of those trying so desperately to cope, and call on the minister to introduce an amendment to eliminate the possibility of this happening.

Edward O'Doherty,
Carrick-on-Suir Council of Trade Unions.

mála poist



PRISON CONDITIONS

A Chara,

While conditions in the various prisons in the six counties remain subject to the whims of prison governors and NIO officials committed to a policy of demoralising POWs, there cannot be any hope attached to the recently publicised 'reforms' of the life* and SOSP review procedures.

For more than 16 months now, prisoners in the H-Blocks have been deprived of all the facilities normally associated with a prison; the facilities which provide a distraction

from the monotonous and soul-destroying regime which accompanies any loss of liberty. Facilities such as handicrafts, sport or education are the three which spring to mind as priorities, and we have asked repeatedly that some or all of these distractions be reinstated.

All our requests have met with a totally negative response. In fact, it is noticeable that, rather than making an effort to provide some form of mental outlet, the authorities in this prison and the NIO seem determined to impose an even stricter regime and thus intensify friction and tension. This is noticeable in various

areas: the harassment of our visitors, both within the prison by hostile screws, and on leaving the prison by needless checkpoint delays, is one example. Interference with parcels is another — despite a clearly-defined list of articles of clothing permitted to prisoners being available, the chiefs and governors continue to leave an arbitrary power of refusal with the parcels office screws.

Even apart from the 'public' part of the jail in visits and parcels, harassment of prisoners within the wings is a regular event. Controlled movement, continual moves from cell to cell or block to

block and confiscation of personal property during searches is widespread.

Attempts to protest at this behaviour are summarily dealt with by periods of up to 60 days in solitary confinement, and prison governors are pointedly refusing to listen to any complaints or requests for a reasonable discussion of conditions.

It would be fair to say that the governors in Long Kesh are actively involved with the NIO in cutting off any remaining form of 'luxury' (in a prison sense) and to making living conditions so grim that men will despair of any progress and begin to isolate themselves from any activities, thereby losing all sense of independence of spirit.

The long-term aim is to break republicanism within the prisons and to thus divide families from republicanism outside the jails. It is important, we believe, that the gradual decline of living conditions over the past 16 months be highlighted and that an exposé be carried out on conditions at present.

If this is not done, a deliberate move by the British to once more use POWs as pawns to blackmail our families will remain in progress. Those responsible for this blackmail, the governors and the NIO, are after all the same people who sit on the Review Boards.

Families expecting early releases for imprisoned sons or daughters through the reports of these official torturers are in for a disappointment. The 'reviews' are simply a cosmetic exercise to hide the ugly side of what these people are really doing.

CCP/PRO,
H-Blocks,
Ceis Fada.

(Britain), a British Desk is now in operation.

The Desk is geared to providing the ard chomhairle with a picture of present political trends in Britain and where the activity of the Irish struggle fits into such political trends.

Any relevant information, queries, delegations or requests for speakers concerning Britain should be dealt with through the British Desk. Contact the undersigned at the British Desk, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, telephone (01) 726932.

Aine Connolly,
Maeva Foreman.

Dundalk dole-queue

A Chara,
It is interesting to note the way in which the closure of Dundalk's Clarks footwear factory was announced just hours before the Labour/Fine Gael budget imposed a 10% VAT rate on adults' shoes.

The loss of this factory will leave a mere 200 people employed in an industry which once employed 2,000 in this town of Dundalk.

In County Louth there are two Coalition deputies. The Labour deputy uses the premises of the former Irish Shoe and Leather Workers Union, of which he was once general secretary, as a political clinic. He now seems to be more interested in starting his own public-house business in Drogheda rather than lifting a finger to help the town of Dundalk.

The other Coalition deputy is trying to blame the lack of investment and the decline of the business community in Dundalk on the war in the North. But this does not explain the business boom in Newry, nor the fact that unemployment is growing in places like 'Waterford', far away from the border.

While the politicians are giving us their excuses for the troubles of Dundalk, the IDA are saying that it is practically impossible to attract any sizeable industry here because of the lack of adequate water. Another reason given in the High Court in Dublin just a couple of months ago was that there were travellers parked on the Finnibair Industrial Estate when some fictitious company was about to view a new £1-million factory which has been lying idle since it was built in 1982. The travellers moved off but where did the sightseers go?

The truth of the matter is that successive governments are prepared to let Dundalk become an unemployment black-spot or, as it was described after an election in 1981, a 'backwater'.

This was proved correct only a few weeks ago, when it was proudly announced by the powers-that-be that a new factory to manufacture electronic wafers was to be set up in Greystones, County Wicklow, which would eventually employ 1,200 people. As Greystones only has a population of 1,100 this means that the unemployment rate would be nil, while in North Louth it is now soaring near 30%.

'Is the government telling us hard luck, but you are living in the wrong constituency and while you are there do not expect any help from us?'

Mary Duffy,
Muirhevamoor Sinn Féin, Dundalk.

Political ambush

A Chara,
The SDLP chief, John Hume, was caught in a political ambush sprung by Gerry Adams when Adams opened fire with talks in the interests of nationalists on the BBC programme *Behind the Headlines*. Hume, hit by the element of surprise, panicked, abandoned his disposable democratic principles and beat a hasty retreat, shouting that he wanted talks with the decision makers, the 'IRA Army Council', who had their finger on the political trigger.

By such a public declaration, Hume thought he had made good his escape through republican lines.

Hume said at a Westminster election 'that he could see no reason for the Brits not talking to Sinn Féin'. Now, he could see a reason — the May council elections! Harried and hurried with a political time-bomb armed by Gerry Adams ticking in his mind, he ran into the bold IRA, who returned the fire with talks. Talks which will riddle the SDLP positions, exposing their hypocrisy in continuing to prolong, condone

Racism

Dear Editor,

We are writing on behalf of the London-based Irish Campaign Against Racism in the Media (ICARM) with regard to the by now well-known but outstanding issue of John Junor's anti-Irish racism.

Junor's latest message is that to be 'civilised' is to be much the same as himself — anglicised and powerful. The British status quo has always justified their own barbaric behaviour abroad in this way. As has often been said, violence in Ireland is a symptom, not a cause, of the trouble; the cause of the trouble, in this case, is partition.

Junor's 'pig' comparison was merely the icing on a well-baked anti-Irish cake. The Irish have a dignity he cannot, as yet, comprehend. We have the right to expect a full and public apology and will continue to campaign until such time as one is forthcoming.

ICARM,
Neighbourhood Centre,
Greenland Road,
London.

Cultural freedom

A Chara,

From Colm O'Reilly's letter (AP/RN, February 7th) I got the impression that he was suggesting that we should give place to the fight for cultural freedom, behind the fight for economic and political freedom.

The fight for economic freedom is a fight against the capitalist system, backed up by the big farmers and big businessmen; the fight for political freedom is against one of the main upholders of the capitalist system — the Brits, backed up by NATO. The fight for cultural freedom is also an aspect of the fight against the capitalist system, because cultural domination is another of the evils of capitalism.

I agree with Colm when he points out that the revival of our culture would not be the answer to all our problems, but it is and must be part of our struggle for a democratic socialist republic. Those who are only willing to fight for economic freedom are not true republicans because the revival of our culture and our language is part of the republican ideology.

The Irish language is the language of the working class, and should be put across as such. Its main upholders and supporters during the 19th

century, when it was endangered, were of the labouring class (rural proletariat).

To fully overcome the Anglo-American pop culture and our oppressors' language, we must fight for cultural and linguistic rights as well as economic and political freedom. The reference to Pearse in Marc O Laochain's letter to which Colm referred reminded me of a quote of his:

"Ireland, not free merely but Gaelic as well, not Gaelic merely but free as well."

Both struggles go hand in hand and as long as part of the capitalist system still has a foothold in Ireland, Ireland will not be a thirty-two county democratic socialist republic.

Aengus Ó Snodaigh,
Oifigeach Cultúr,
B.A.C.

Irish classes

A Chara,

Ba mhaith liom a chur in iúl do mhuintir Bhaile Átha Cliath go mbeadh rang Gaeilge á reachtáil in Uimhir 5, Sráid Bhaile Chóimín, 6n Márta 20 ar aghaidh, idir 5pm agus 8pm agus gach Satharn ó shin ar aghaidh.

Tá léamh do ranganna Gaeilge i gceantar eile timpeall ar Bhaile Átha Cliath, go háirithe i mBaile Blaináir, Cluain Dolcáin agus Inse Chór

agus chun an léamh seo a shámsú tá gá le múintoirí atá sásta uair a chloig ar a laghad sa tsraith a chaitheamh ag múineadh labhairt na Gaeilge.

Freisin tá cabhair ag teastáil chun díolacháin Saoirse a chathair a ardú. Má shíleann tú gur féidir leat rang a mhúineadh nó díolacháin Saoirse a ardú, cuir litir chugam.

I would like to inform the Dublin people that an Irish Class is being organised in No. 5 Blessington Street, from March 2nd between 5pm and 8pm and every subsequent Saturday.

There is a demand for Irish classes in other areas in Dublin, especially Blanchardstown, Clondalkin and Inchicore, and to satisfy this demand, teachers are required who are willing to give at least an hour a week to teaching Irish.

Help is also needed to increase Saoirse sales in the Dublin area.

Anyone interested in helping contact:

Aengus Ó Snodaigh,
Oifigeach Cultúr,
Baile Átha Cliath,
5 Sráid Bhaile Chóimín,
Baile Átha Cliath.

British Desk

A Chara,

Since the 1984 Ard-Fheis decision to disband Sinn Féin

Demolition - the only answer

BY ROBERT CARLIN

THERE HAVE been widespread calls for the total demolition of Derry's controversial Rossville flats. Sinn Fein elected representative Martin McGuinness has rejected the Housing Executive's proposal to knock down only one block and described as futile the refurbishment of the remaining two.

A Sinn Fein survey of the flats, carried out at the end of 1982, revealed that 93% of tenants had expressed a desire for rehousing.

Rossville flats have produced a long list of complaints since their construction 18 years ago. Tenants have been plagued at various times with faulty lifts, damp, and bad wiring. Being of a similar design to that of Divis flats in Belfast, there is the danger of asbestos dust.

Martin McGuinness has claimed that knocking down one section of the flats would greatly increase the dangers from asbestos and would expose the extent of asbestos usage in the construction of the complex.

FIRE HAZARD

Kevin and Bridie O'Brien have lived in a flat in Muir Place, with their young child for the past 2½ years. They have no idea what will happen when the flats come down, but they say they'll be glad to get out. Kevin said:

"I'm in favour of the flats being knocked down. This place is one big fire hazard. Our fire escape door leads into the flat next door, but that's boarded up. There's

always the danger of fires here because there's wires hanging out of everywhere, especially near the chute."

Nor are any of the O'Brien's neighbours keen to remain in the complex. When interviewed recently by the Housing Executive, only six residents from the whole block said they would be willing to move into accommodation in one of the remaining two blocks, and all of these were young and single.

Housing Executive chief John Gor-

man's suggestion that there would be a demand for accommodation such as the Rossville flats, with the expansion of Magee College, as a university campus, was rejected by Derry Sinn Fein spokesperson Seamus Keenan:

"The students union issued a statement some time ago saying that if the Housing Executive didn't consider the flats suitable accommodation for local people then it wouldn't be acceptable to

students either."

Keenan points out that there was an extensive refurbishment carried out two years ago which cost in the region of £2½ million. He says:

"The flats are as bad as ever. The only solution is to pull the whole complex down and give these people some decent accommodation."



● Derry's Rossville flats - only one of the three blocks is due for demolition



Ballymun cutbacks

A DUBLIN Corporation plan to further cut back on essential maintenance work in the huge Ballymun flats complex will cause hardship to the many families living there.

An internal Corporation document outlines proposals to axe 60 of the 160 caretaker jobs in Ballymun. These caretakers are responsible for maintenance, repair, cleaning and refuse removal and are already overstretched, as conditions in the 2,866 flats show.

Dublin Corporation also want to pay the remaining 100 workers at a lower rate and increase the supervisory staff from 10 to 16.

As well as this attack on living standards in Ballymun, residents who are on the transfer list for houses in other areas have been informed that transfers will not be granted until outstanding water rates demands are paid.

The majority of the people in Ballymun have refused to pay these unjust charges and many participated in the public burning of bills organised by Sinn Fein.

A Sinn Fein spokesperson in Ballymun likened this tactic of Dublin Corporation to blackmail and urged people to stand firm and refuse to pay water rates demands.



● Ragoon flats, Galway

Ghetto in Galway



● Sinn Fein member Tommy Ferry, a resident of Ragoon, points to some uncollected rubbish at the flats

RAHOON FLATS in Galway city were built in the Sixties. Like Belfast's Divis and Dublin's Ballymun, Ragoon was thrown up to clear Galway Corporation's housing list. These flats, like other high-rise complexes, are now associated with poverty, deprivation and neglect.

Situated in the west of the city, Ragoon is only a mile from the tourist centre of Salthill with its exclusive blocks of luxurious flats, like Ocean Towers Apartments, a different name for very different accommodation.

Ragoon residents' complaints are many, but the most common ones are about the heating system and the accumulation of rubbish. From December 24th to 27th, 17 families in Ragoon were without heat or hot water when the communal heating

system broke down. In contrast, heating is often on in the height of summer.

Broken refuse chutes have not been repaired, and rubbish has piled up on landings and stairways, as residents try to avoid leaving it in the open to be scattered around. Rats, attracted by the refuse, are now commonplace in the flats.

CAMPED

Fifty-four travelling families, forced off their traditional camp-sites to make way for a multinational supermarket and private housing, are camped around Ragoon. They have no sanitary or refuse collection services, which adds to the problems of all the families in and around the flats.

The Seamus Quirke Sinn Fein cumann in Galway city has called on Galway Corporation to demolish Ragoon and house all the families in proper conditions.

film

REVIEWS

Life and death in Year Zero

BY EDDIE STACK

JUST when Ronald Reagan has made Vietnam fashionable in the eyes of the apple pie-loving, Stars and Stripes-waving Americans, we are presented with a film, presumably made with American money, that reminds us that it's not only American GIs who spend their time gazing up at the Stars and Stripes Pepsi Cola commercials.

The Killing Fields, while pointing the finger at America for bombing Cambodia into the Vietnam War (hence paving the way for its annihilation) makes sure those nasty Khmer Rouge commies get the nasty portrayal they deserve.

While, by and large, *The Killing Fields* is an excellent film, this apparent attempt at even-handedness is purely for Western buck-passing consumption. You could probably come out of *The Killing Fields* and blame American imperialism all on Richard Nixon, yet we know American imperialism can manage quite well without the hero of Watergate.

The Killing Fields is also brought to us by David Puttnam, the film producer who brought the world *Cal*, a film that gave me the same sensation as watching on helplessly as £3.50 of my money slipped down a drain.

FAULT

This time, never having been in Cambodia, it's harder to point out the inaccuracies in the film, though no doubt a dyed-in-the-wool Cambodian would find much to fault. And it still must be said that, despite all its flaws,

particularly the portrayal of the main relationship between the film's two central characters, an American journalist and his Cambodian guide, *The Killing Fields* is gripping stuff.

It is also, on the surface at least, a true story. Sydney Schanberg was a workaholic for the *New York Times* whose sole aim in life was to get his Vietnamese war stories on the cover of his newspaper in New York. Helping him around the chaos of the war was his guide and interpreter Pran. We meet them first when they are sitting around a cafe waiting for the next news story to break.

When a cluster of bombs goes off in a village in neighbouring Cambodia they are given the stonewall treatment by the military press office: sorry guys, a B-52 dropped a stick of bombs on Cambodia by accident. Hey, what's a few peasants in this war, you know what I mean, Mack?

RAIDS

Unperturbed by this, Pran helps Schanberg thumb a boat ride upriver to see the damage for himself; he thus discovers that the US had carried out huge and indiscriminate bombing raids on Cambodia and the American public were not being told.

● Dith Pran and Schanberg (Sam Waterston)

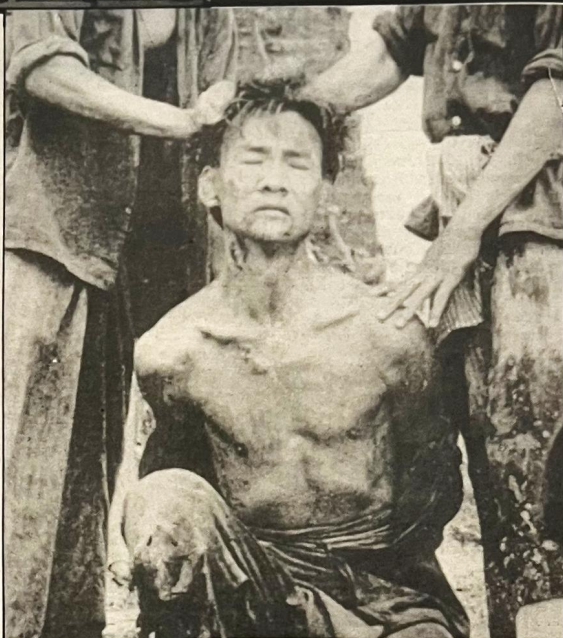
The film covers the ground up until the Khmer Rouge, taking advantage of the chaos the Yanks had plunged normally sleepy Cambodia into, had taken over the country and all the lives of the nasty imperialist American press were in doubt.

In a tense and exciting moment the film shows Schanberg in the French embassy trying to rustle up a false passport for Pran lest he be turfed out and sent to the countryside with all the other poor unfortunate Cambodians. They can't pull it off however, Pran is marched away and all Schanberg can do is try and orchestrate his release from the United States while condemning American policy in Vietnam. (He won the Pulitzer prize, by the way.)

GENOCIDE

The rest of the film shows Pran trying to survive amidst the genocide of the Khmer Rouge and their attempts to turn the world into one big classless farmyard. Here anyone who wore glasses or had any pretence of an education was automatically executed in an absurd attempt at bringing the population to the same cultural level. It's a world where Pran needs more intelligence than ever; it's just that he could never dare show it in the world of Year Zero i.e. the year where everything began all over again.

The Killing Fields is graphic in its treatment of the Khmer Rouge atrocities while also pointing the finger at



● Dith Pran (Haing Ngor) is interrogated by Khmer Rouge forces



● A helicopter hovers over the shattered Phnom Penh

Tricky Dickie. The narrative of this true story of course supports this, but I wouldn't

be surprised if they showed this film in some places as proof of a country now reduced to a few cows and pigs by a war it should never have been dragged into in the first place.

I was also a bit let down by the lack of time the film gave to the relationship between Pran and his big white boss Schanberg. As a film about an undying friendship, we are only given a skimpy picture of the bonds between the two; as far as I could see, all Schanberg did was to treat Pran as a runner and then feel guilty when he couldn't get him out of Cambodia.

GRIPPING

Still, for the era it por-

trays, *The Killing Fields* is worth going to see and is both gripping and sad in its portrayal of a country now reduced to a few cows and pigs by a war it should never have been dragged into in the first place.

In fact, just see it for the live footage of Trickle Dick Nixon assuring the world that bombing Cambodia never entered his tiny little head.

It's worth remembering that the genocidal barbarians of the Khmer Rouge are still being supported as the legitimate government of Cambodia at the UN by the Free State and the US, among others.

leabhar

Fleá gan áthas

LE DÓNALL Ó NÉILL

TÁ ATHRÚ tagtha ar an ghearscál gan aon amhras agus má ghearr tú do chuid fiadla ar scáilte Mháire agus Uí Chonaire (Pádraig atá i gceist agam), nó, mó dhála féin, má chuir tú an-spéis i ngearscálta Uí Fhlaithearta, caithfidh tú adhnáil nach bhfuil a macasamhail le fáil aonís.

Tá an gearscál Gaelach aonós níos cóngaraí do ghearscál nua-aimseartha na hEorpa agus is ceart agus is cóir sin. Sílím i gcónaí go dtí leat

comparáid a dhéanamh idir ar scríobh na filí fadó agus na dánta a chumtar sa lá atá inniu ann. Sa tseanaim scríobh an file go díreach macánta

faoin domhan a chonaic sé agus a raibh ann.

Sa chéad seo níl na dánta chomh rialta agus a bhí, ó thaobh na rime sri, de, agus tá na smaoine níos tábhachtaí ná na gníomhartha iontu. Tá an scoilt chéanna ann idir an seanchaí sa tseanaim agus údar na ngearscálta inniu agus má ghlaicann tú an comparáid, is ball é *An Fete* agus scáilte eile le Beairtíle O



Conaire den scoil nua.

Deich scéal ar fad atá sa chnuasach seo agus ghnóthaigh

ceann acu, *An Leitis Mharfach*, duais Oireachtais cheana. I ndiaidh dom na scáilte a léamh, áfach, shíl mé gur fearr *An Leitis Mharfach* ná *An Fete* mar theideal ar an leabhar.

Uaireanta bíonn snaithe le sonrú i gcnusach gearscálta a cheanglaíonn iad go léir ach is é an t-aon snaithe a thug mise faoi deara sa leabharín seo an easpa éithis agus sceoldair atá i mórchuid na scáilte.

I ndiaidh dom gach scéal a chriochnú chaith mé tamall ag smaoineamh ar a raibh le rí ag an Conaireach ach níor spreag aon cheann acu mé

chun an dara ceann a léamh. B'fhéidir gur maith an rud é gur thug na scáilte orm smaoineamh orthu. Níor chaith mé tamall fada ariamh ag déanamh machnaimh ar scáilte de chuid Mháire (cé gur tháinig siad go mór lóim).

Sin an difear atá idir an dá chineál agus déan do rogha féin agatsa is fearr a fhios. Ghnóthaigh ceann ag na scáilte seo duais Oireachtis ceart go leor ach níor ghnóthaigh an cnusach duais ar bith lóim.

● *An Fete* agus scáilte eile le Beairtíle O Conaire - foilsitheoir: Clóidrí Lurgan Teo.

Nursing the language

BY CIÁN Mac AOIDH

A JOINT COMMITTEE to co-ordinate the work of the North's six Irish language nursery schools was set up at a convention of six-county Irish language enthusiasts in Dungannon on Saturday, February 16th.

An ad-hoc executive committee, based in Belfast, was appointed and authorised to establish formal links not only with existing nursery schools but also with Irish speakers throughout the North who are interested in setting up 'naonraí' in their own areas.



There are six nursery schools in operation at present, four in Belfast and two in Derry. However, a Saturday play-group has begun in Downpatrick and plans are afoot to start an Irish nursery

school in Newry in September.

In a statement issued after the Dungannon meeting, a spokesperson for the new committee said everyone involved in Irish language education would benefit

from increased contact with one another. He continued:

"We propose to hold regular meetings with representatives from every nursery school in the six counties."

"A one-day seminar where teachers and parents involved in naonraí could meet and swap experiences and ideas will be held in April and all language enthusiasts interested in this aspect of the cultural revival will be welcome."

The new group has already declared its intention to lobby the Department of Education for funding for the Irish nursery schemes. At present, no money whatsoever is available from the Department for naonraí.

Groups represented at the Dungannon meeting included Sinn Féin, Conradh na Gaeilge, the daily newspaper *LÁ*, Glór na nGael and the media pressure group, Meán.

REVIEWS

Defending the indefensible

BY AINE MARTIN

IRELAND really does seem to put a jinx on British politicians who come over her to 'rule' over us. Adam Butler (ex-Stormont Industry Minister) has now seemingly joined Carrington, Humphrey Whatsname and other ex-ministers of the NIO to reside on the scrapheap of history, having come to grief during or after their period of strutting around their last colony.

BBC's *Panorama* programme last Monday night dealt with the British Ministry of Defence's plans to modernise its airborne early warning system against a possible Russian attack. Their present airborne system is made up of planes that are at least 40 years old. One of them is, in fact, in the museum - but it is liable to be called up to service at any time. These old crones, Shackletons, are named after characters in kiddies' programmes: *Dougal* is in the museum, but *Mr Ruffy* and the others are still flying.

As if it wasn't criminal enough spending millions on their nuclear war games, the British government waste further millions through their incompetence.

The Brits could have bought US-made AWACS planes for a 'reasonable' price but national chauvinism got the better of them, as it often does, and they insisted on giving the job of designing their own system to two British companies.

Between the politicians, the civil servants and the industrialists, the price has ended

ed up three times greater than expected - at £1.1 billion of the taxpayers' money - and the British-designed radar systems installed in the new Nimrod planes still don't work!

Panorama interviewed various people involved in this scandal and cleverly juxtaposed an RAF representative with representatives of the companies involved. On almost every function of the system, the RAF officer contradicted the businessmen's assertions - generally coming to the conclusion that the system was a very expensive failure.

And Adam Butler? Well, poor old Adam was trying to defend the indefensible regarding matters of defence. You'd think he'd had enough practice with his Stormont experience. But British journalists aren't as willing to accept British politicians' lies on other matters as they are on Ireland.

Mike Murphy, having tired of life as a computer salesman on his *Quiz-M* show, seems to have found a new vehicle for his grossly-inflated ego. Called *Screen Test*, it's inflicted on RTE1 viewers

● The Nimrod - an expensive failure

every Saturday night for the next few weeks.

The programme is run on the old familiar *Opportunity Knocks* lines, except that instead of the audience deciding who has won, RTE - who are much more familiar with 'democracy' in the fine tradition of the Free State - have brought in a panel of 'experts' to decide what people will like.

As for the talent on show, it wasn't really all that hot. A dreadful cabaret singer, a trio of *Bugsy Malone* extras doing ragtime tunes - shades of child exploitation - and a Dublin band aping The Pretenders were among the acts.

Hopefully things will improve over the coming weeks. After all, there's bound to be loads of undiscovered talent in the country. But how much of it will manage to escape through the RTE screening process to get onto our TV screens?

On past performance, we shouldn't build our hopes up about the likelihood of that.

Dirty Harry (BBC1, Monday night) is one of a crop of right-wing pulp movies that gets a cult following on the

other side of the Atlantic - and not a few followers here either.

Starting from the premise that the law is totally on the side of the criminal, *Dirty Harry* is a malicious film that is very well made and puts its point across forcefully.

Clint Eastwood is Detective Harry Callaghan in the title role - a hard-working ruthless cop on the trail of a murderous psychopath. When he finally tracks his hoodlum down, the goddamn criminal starts whining about his constitutional rights. And whaddya know, the sonofabitch bleed-

ing-heart liberal District Attorney lets him go scot-free. Harry knows the psycho will kill again "because he likes it". And sure enough, in no time at all he's back terrorising the populace.

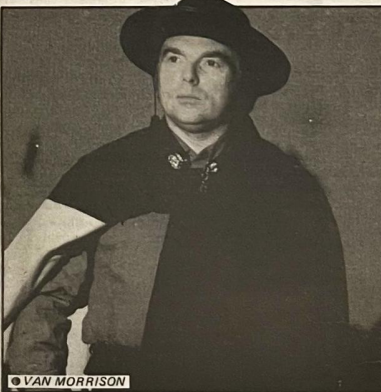
What films like these don't show is the way police regularly abuse the powers they have. Not many films are made about the frame-ups that land innocent people in jail for crimes they didn't commit. The supporters of the Nicky Kellys and Martin Meehans of this world don't have access to the budgets necessary to make feature films.

bination and it's an awful pity that they haven't done more work together. And now that the Hearts have broken up, we can only dream of a possible alliance in the future.

MYSTICAL

The only other highlight on this album is Morrison's rendition of a poem by William Blake - *The Price of Experience*. In this we hear Van the Man at his mystical best, reciting the poem over a suitably atmospheric musical backdrop.

But the rest is patchy, to say the least. *Evening Meditation* is an instrumental that should never have seen the light of day on vinyl. Mose Allison's *If You Only Know* is just filling up space - Morrison could have sung *Hush* we go 'round the Mulberry Bush with more passion. And his



● VAN MORRISON

rendering of Ray Charles' *Whyn't I Do* is hardly inspiring stuff either.

Of the new songs, besides *A Sense of Wonder* only *A New Kind of Man* has any real merit. This is an optimistic song which ends the album with a hopeful note that Morrison might recapture the inspiration which is lacking elsewhere.

All in all then, *A Sense of Wonder* is very much an album for the converted. If you're a Morrison fan, you'll probably like it anyway. But if you're not acquainted with Morrison then don't waste your shillings on this LP. You'd be far better off checking out his earlier work and the sublime *Astral Weeks* would be a good place

to start. That was Morrison at his best.

POGUES

On the gig scene, Kilburn's answer to the Cruise missile comes to this country next week. I am, of course, referring to The Pogues, whose manic blend of cello music and rockabilly is really catching on at the minute.

They will be playing four gigs in Ireland: Queen's University Belfast on Tuesday, February 26th; Letterkenny on Wednesday 27th; Carlow on Thursday 28th and Trinity College Dublin on Friday, March 1st. Their concerts are certain to be great crack and I would strongly advise anybody to go and see them if they are anywhere near you.

music

Lacking in inspiration

BY PHIL TONER

VAN MORRISON's new LP *A Sense of Wonder* shows a lack of inspiration from its terrible cover sleeve right through to much of the music itself.

Dressed in a ridiculous Gaucho outfit, Morrison peers from the cover through a hideous hole of orange and green leaves.

But the real problem begins with the music where it appears that Morrison is having real difficulty writing new songs. In fact this album includes no less than two instrumentals and three cover versions.

Perhaps Morrison is unconsciously telling us of his difficulty in the first track *Tore Down a la Rimbaud* where he sings:

"I wish my writing would come
Tore Down a la Rimbaud
You know it's hard some-
times
You know it's hard some-
times."

FINE

The title track and the instrumental *Boffyflow* and *Spike* are most interesting as they feature the music of Moving Hearts. Their playing complements Morrison in *A Sense of Wonder*, which is a fine

song, complete with a Belfast cowboy rap on gravings and barnbracks.

Moving Hearts are even better in *Boffyflow* and *Spike* where Keith Donald's sax and Davey Spillane's pipes sound particularly fine.

Van Morrison and Moving Hearts are a fascinating com-



A SENSE OF WONDER

Imeachtaí

DANCE

Featuring Sundance
10pm to 2am
Friday 22nd February
Jackson's Hotel
BALLYBOFEY
County Donegal
Taillie £2.50 (Supper optional)
Guest speaker: Danny Morrison

HOGAN/MARTIN

MEMORIAL FUND
FOLK NIGHT
Featuring the Irish Brigade
Friday 22nd February
Thornlea Hotel
CUSHENDALL
County Antrim

HENRY HOGAN/DECLAN
MARTIN COMMEMORATION
2.30pm Sunday 24th February
DUNLOY

North Antrim
Prominent speaker to attend
All bands welcome

MID-LEINSTER
SINN FEIN COMHAIRLE
LEIMISTEAT MEETING
Leinster Arms Hotel
ATHY

County Kildare
2.30pm Sunday 24th February
Each cumann in the Laois/Offaly/
Kildare areas to send two delegates

EDUCATION SEMINAR

(Speakers & video)
2.30pm to 6pm
Sunday 24th February
Hibernian Hotel

CLONES

County Monaghan
(Armagh strip-searching video
to be shown at 7.30pm at the
Hibernian Hotel on the same day)

SPOKEN IRISH CLASSES
8.30pm Monday 25th February
and every subsequent Monday

Sinn Fein Centre
Dublin Street
MUNAGHAN
Everybody welcome

STOP ARMAGH

STRIP-SEARCHING

PUBLIC MEETING
(Speakers: Fr Murray,
Prof Ivor Browne,
Mary McAleese)

8pm Tuesday 26th February
Edmund Burke Theatre
Trinity College

DUBLIN

Organised by TCD students
as part of Women's Week

MEETING

7.30pm Wednesday 27th February
St Barnaby's School
Brooke Road
St Paul's

BRISTOL

England
Speakers: Mary Doyle
(ex-Armagh prisoner)
Margaret Johnson
(Greenham protest woman)

INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN'S DAY

ARMAGH JAIL PICKET
Sunday 10th March
Armagh Jail
Dublin buses leave Municipal
Gallery at 12 noon
Fare £5 return
Bookings from Sila/Lita at
726932/531749

BALLAD SESSION

Featuring Eoin Mac Aindriú &
guest artists
8pm Thursday 28th February
Fiddler's Green
Harold's Cross Bridge

DUBLIN

Taillie £1.50 (£1 unemployed)
Organised by Rathmines
Sinn Fein

IRISH NIGHT

Music by John & Josephine Byrne
9pm Thursday 28th February
Dundalk Bar
Church Street

DUNDALK

Taillie £1
Organised by
An Cumann Cairnach
Dun Dealgan PDF

EAST CAVAN SINN FEIN

SPECIAL COMHAIRLE

CEANTAIR MEETING

9pm Monday 4th March
Town Hall

CAVAN

All cumann in Ballyjamesduff
Ballieboro & Cavan electoral areas
to attend



Star wars—stark words

STARK WORDS have been exchanged in the past week over US President Reagan's intention to plough ahead with the US 'Strategic Defence Initiative' (SDI), also known as 'Star Wars', no matter what developments occur.

Reagan has declared that even if nuclear weapons are all banned at the new talks with the Soviet Union, the US will still develop the 'Star Wars' system — just in case. The USSR has replied by threatening to abandon the talks — due on March 12th — if Reagan insists on developing SDI.

The USSR disarmament negotiator Viktor Israelyan states: "If the United States

spends 26 billion dollars on such a programme, how can it continue negotiations which are aimed at preventing an arms race?"

Reagan replied in typical style: "We're not cancelling weapons systems without getting anything in return. The Russians do not have enough margin — I think — to tempt them into a first strike."

Meanwhile, the US's allies in Europe have been falling

out over the deployment of 'Star Wars'. The West Germans have urged all the West European countries to support SDI, and participate in its programme (Reagan has not yet invited anyone), but the French have issued a strong condemnation of SDI declaring that it will "contribute to a new and dangerous offensive arms race".

Casper Weinberger, the US Secretary of Defence, has called on the West European countries to unite in support of SDI, but Weinberger, faced with outright opposition from most of the European countries, says that the US will carry on with the project regardless. "Even an imperfect Star Wars system using larger beams and other advance technology will be used... it would make the enemy unsure how many of his missiles would be able to get through."

A 'top-secret' US defence document was leaked recently, which reveals that the Reagan administration had earmarked Canada, Ireland, Bermuda and Puerto Rico for the deployment of nuclear weapons. None of these countries' governments had been informed of this particular honour!

US Stock Market. 'Contra bonds' are to be issued enabling "sophisticated investors" to buy shares in the Contras. A spokesperson for the Contras stated that this idea is similar to 'Israel bonds' which are sold in the US through the Chase Manhattan bank.

The first issue is for 50 million dollars to enable the Contras to expand their numbers from 15,000 to 25,000. Even more bizarre is the fact that investors will be able to claim 'capital loss' on their US taxes if the Contras go bust.

by Sri Lankan forces. In a frank interview this year, Sri Lankan president Junius Jayewardene declared: "There have been excesses by the armed forces. We don't deny them. These things happen in Vietnam, in Derry."

The Sri Lankan government's latest move in this war of attrition will escalate the conflict. It has decided to settle (plant) 30,000 Sinhalese families — up to 200,000 people — in the predominantly Tamil north-east. Minister of National Security Lalith Athulthumudali stated that "ethnic Sinhalese families would be selected, and provided with arms and assistance to settle on government land in the northern Jaffna Peninsula". The minister compared this with the British system of controlling "secessionist rebellion" as in Ireland.

endra Patil, said "a final decision on whether the government will also sue Union Carbide" rests on the results of talks that India's Attorney General has been having in the USA. There are, at the moment, a number of multi-billion dollar suits being filed against Union Carbide.

In the US, the Environmental Protection Agency has revealed that there have been 61 leaks of methyl isocyanate (MIC) from the Union Carbide plant in West Virginia in the past four years. Only 28 of these leaks were deemed 'reportable' by Union Carbide, as in their estimation the leaks are "not a threat to life or the environment".

Death of Pat Shivers

PAT SHIVERS, who was one of the 12 'hooded men' tortured by the British in August 1971, died at his home in Toome, County Antrim, on February 3rd.

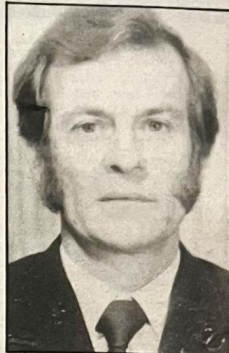
He was arrested and interned, along with thousands of other people, on August 8th 1971 and was subjected to techniques of torture aimed at causing severe mental and physical suffering. For almost a week he was hooded, forced to stand spread-eagled against a wall and bombarded with 'white noise', a high-pitched hissing sound. He and the other men selected for this treatment were also viciously and repeatedly beaten.

Pat Shivers' case was one of those used by the Free State government in its action against the British at the European Commission of Human Rights. The British government were found guilty of torture in 1976. He suffered from the effects of that torture till he died.

RIGHTS

A life-long republican, Pat Shivers was an ardent upholder of human and civil rights. His treatment at the hands of his British torturers did not deter him from that. He was active in the Civil Rights campaign of the late Sixties and early Seventies, fighting always for the oppressed. He also worked tirelessly for the Republican Movement and was an active worker for Sinn Féin during the 1983 elections.

During his last long illness, Pat Shivers never complained and his



● PAT SHIVERS

cheerful response to enquiries about his health was always "I'm fine".

His funeral, with his coffin draped in the Tricolour, from his Bannside home to Newbridge Chapel and from there to Moneyglass Cemetery was the biggest seen in the area, a tribute to his standing in the community.

His integrity and endurance will be remembered by his many friends and comrades.

Nicaragua

THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION has been preparing the United States for 'direct intervention' in Nicaragua.

In a radio address to the US nation, last weekend, Reagan described the Nicaraguan government as a "brutal dictatorship". In a hysterical outburst he went on to describe the Nicaraguan 'Contras' (counter-revolutionaries) as heroes, comparable with Sim-

on Bolivar, or Lafayette, and that the American people should give the Contras every assistance needed.

The Contras, for their part, are not without ideas for soliciting 'assistance'. In a bizarre move, they have decided to launch themselves on the

Sri Lanka

THERE HAS BEEN a number of armed clashes between Sri Lankan government forces and guerrillas of the two main Tamil liberation movements, TELO (Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation) and the Tamil Tigers.

In the past few months, Tamil guerrillas have launched attacks against Sri Lankan security force bases in the north and north-east of the island. In one attack near the northern capital of Jaffna, 40 armed policemen were killed, and a train bound for the island's capital, Colombo, was ambushed, resulting in the deaths of 28 soldiers.

The Tamils, who populate the north and north-east of Sri Lanka (the former British colony of Ceylon), have been campaigning for a separate

state in that area since the independence of Sri Lanka in 1948. The British, when they left Ceylon (Sri Lanka), typically made no provision for historical, ethnic, political or religious differences, creating a legacy of unrest that has rocked the island to this date.

Sri Lanka has answered the Tamils' demands by stepping up repression. This repression culminated in the July 1983 massacre of over 1,000 Tamils and continuing subsequent acts of atrocity

India

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT has released a report on the Bhopal Union Carbide tragedy which, to date, has claimed the lives of 2,500 people and seriously injured 19,700.

The report shows that 45 tons of toxic methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the US-owned Union Carbide pesticide plant and 170,000 people had to have hospital treatment. The number of dead has not been finalised, as many of the seriously injured will die and many bodies were burnt because of the threat of disease in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. The Indian government

has ordered a house-to-house survey in order to produce a final list.

The Indian government has distributed the very small sum of \$840,000 compensation to the victims, admitting that nothing much had been done to effect a recovery or obtain compensation from Union Carbide. The Indian government minister in charge of the investigations, Vir-

REMEMBERING THE PAST MAUD GONNE

BY PETER O'ROURKE

IN A LIFETIME of service to the Republican Movement, Maud Gonne MacBride was one of the most active, dedicated and tireless workers in the cause of Irish freedom.

The daughter of a British army officer, Maud Gonne was born in Aldershot, England, in 1866. Her early life was divided between Dublin, London and Paris, where she became acquainted with the Fenian, John O'Leary.

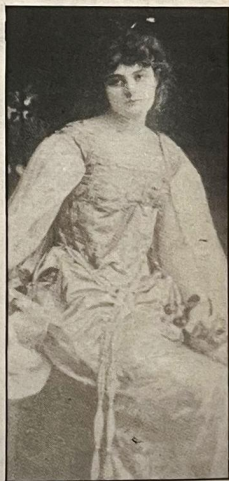
She returned to Ireland in 1882 where she worked tirelessly as a member of the Ladies Land League. During the famine of the 1890s in Donegal and Mayo, she organised and led peasant agitation for land reform. A prominent member of the Amnesty Association, she played a leading role in the association, campaigning vigorously to secure the release of Fenians imprisoned in English jails for their part in the Dynamite Campaign of the 1880s.

Greatly influenced by James Connolly and Arthur Griffith, she joined Cumann na nGaedhli (later merged with Sinn Féin) in 1900. The same year, with the assistance of Countess Markievicz, she founded the revolutionary women's separatist organisation, Inghinidhe na hÉireann. With Connolly, she organised protests against the visit of Queen Victoria to Ireland and was instrumental in preventing Dublin Corporation from presenting a loyal address during the visit.

MARRIAGE

On February 21st 1903, she married John MacBride in Paris. Within a few years, however, the marriage broke up. MacBride returned to Dublin while she remained in Paris where she edited a news-sheet, *L'Irlande Libre*, in which she advocated physical force as the only means of achieving Irish freedom.

Following MacBride's execution for his part in the 1916 Rising, Maud Gonne and her family returned to Ireland in 1917. A year later she was arrested during the 'German Plot' arrests, deported and imprisoned in Holloway Jail, England. Within six



● MAUD GONNE

months she escaped and returned to Dublin.

During the Tan War she worked for the White Cross, an organisation founded to assist victims of British atrocities and families of prisoners and in 1920 became a justice in the republican parish courts.

Having opposed the Treaty, she was imprisoned during the Civil War. On her release she founded the Women's Prisoners Defence League to help republican prisoners and their families, a cause in which she worked to the end of her days.

Aged 87, Maud Gonne MacBride died in Dublin in 1953.

...the last word

A week is a long time

EVEN THOUGH IT is often claimed that a week is a long time in politics, little if anything has changed in Britain's perception of its 'Irish problem'.

Take for example the abuse which poor Garret Fitzgerald's da and his 'terrorist associates' had to take from one of Margaret Thatcher's predecessors, Lloyd George, speaking in Westminster in 1920. And I quote:

"There are murders in Ireland, there are assassinations of the most cowardly and despicable character, and there cannot be more contemptible crimes than those perpetrated there. Are we to withdraw our troops and leave the assassins in charge?"

Funnily enough, an arrangement was soon reached, after which at least some of the 'assassins' were put in charge. But then a week is a long time in politics.

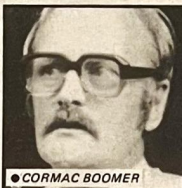
Paschal O'Hare's recent statement that he doesn't intend standing in the next council elections in Belfast came as no great surprise given that he has had a number of unfortunate run-ins with his party colleagues in recent months.

O'Hare has fought a running battle with Brian Feeney for some time and this has resulted in an embarrassing split in the North Belfast branch of the party.

Though this has been wearing on Paschal, a more bitter blow was the treatment he received at the hands of John Hume and Eddie McGrady after he walked out of a meeting with Stormont Industry Minister Rhodes



● PASCHAL O'HARE



● CORMAC BOOMER

Boyson when the latter refused to meet Sinn Féin. Hume and McGrady publicly rebuked O'Hare over the incident — a course of action that grievously offended the long-serving councillor, and which was taken as a wounding personal slight.

That O'Hare had lost any clout he may have had within the party was obvious when he failed in his efforts to have the upstart Cormac Boomer expelled from the party, after Boomer had punched Paschal in the face in the council chamber. Paschal, fed-up with keeping one eye on Hume and McGrady and the other on Boomer, has now decided to call it a day.

The statement that his withdrawal from the council will give him more time for more effective constituency representation is something of a contradiction in that the bulk of the SDLP's constituency work is carried out at council level because of their non-participation in the Stormont talking-shop.

Kieran McGowan, executive director of the Free State Industrial Development Authority,



● DESMOND FITZGERALD

recently discovered that "the nature and quality of a people of a country are coming to be regarded as more important for the foreign investor".

In their blurb for foreign consumption entitled *Ireland: Home of the Irish*, the IDA incorporate the brilliant slogan: "People are to Ireland what oil is to Texas".

Multinationals will be tripping over themselves to set up shop in Ireland, with visions of a cheap labour force who are thick, greasy and live underground.

That tweed hat worn by Robert Trimbole during his court appearances in Dublin has inspired a new fashion craze in Australia.

Sales of the hand-made Irish tweed hat are reported to have soared in Victoria. The headgear worn by the alleged Mafia drug baron is being sold for a mere \$29.50.

An offer you can't refuse.

Two weeks ago, backed up by a large force of gardai, Dublin County Council forcibly removed two temporary changing-rooms from the Fettercairn Schoolboy Football Club pitch in Tallaght.

Quite a few local people were injured when they protested at this piece of heavy-handed bureaucratic interference. Last Saturday, February 16th, the two temporary structures, ex-CIE containers costing £600, were returned to the site by the council.

The cost of the whole operation was in the region of £2,000, a sum which would have been better spent boosting the residents' fund-raising efforts to provide permanent changing-rooms for their young people.

The people of the Falklands/Malvinas are now enjoying the benefits of British 'liberation'. A wave of violence, drug-taking and theft have followed in the wake of the British invasion.

"People used to come here to get away from the rat-race but now it's followed them here," lamented police chief Bill Rogers, in an obvious reference to Maggie's Task Force.

NOTES
© CORMAC

