

AN
PHOBLACHT
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POLITICAL WEEKLY



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No peace without freedom

IRA VOLUNTEERS Charlie Breslin and brothers Michael and David Devine were brutally executed at around 5am on Saturday, February 23rd, by British soldiers who, it is clear from eye-witness reports, had every opportunity to capture them alive.

The Volunteers had been out setting up an IRA operation which was eventually aborted and were on their way to dump the weapons, three rifles and two rocket-launchers, plus two rockets already dismantled and in a plastic bag.

As they made their way across a field overlooking the Casement Place area of Fountain Street, they were fired on without warning by enemy forces possessing superior firepower, sophisticated surveillance equipment and massive back-up.

Local man Gerard Stevenson, who lives nearby and had been awakened before the shooting began, insists that at no stage did the crown forces call on the Volunteers to halt. He told AP/RN:

"They weren't asked to surrender, the Brits just started shooting right away."

SAS

Both uniformed British soldiers and SAS were involved in the attack and, though the presence of the SAS would suggest a stake-out, it appears from the evidence of local people that the crown forces were engaged in routine activities when they sighted the Volunteers.

According to eye-witnesses, an initial sustained burst of automatic fire was rained on the Volunteers by British soldiers positioned at least 200 yards away on an overlooking hillside. These Brits were in the local cemetery, apparently engaged in routine surveillance work. They presumably had pinpointed the moving figures with the aid of infra-red surveillance equipment.

Another force of British soldiers was, as usual, present in the area as a back-up and within seconds they and the RUC had been alerted and directed to Casement Place.



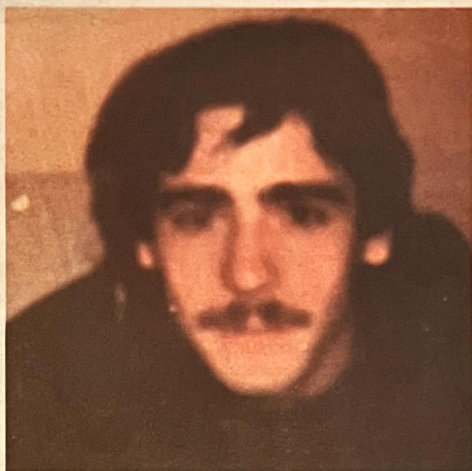
From there, at least two Brits aimed further bursts of automatic fire up towards the hillside. Several local people watching from their bedrooms heard one, or possibly two, Volunteers shouting "don't shoot!"

The RUC later confirmed that at no stage were the crown forces fired on.

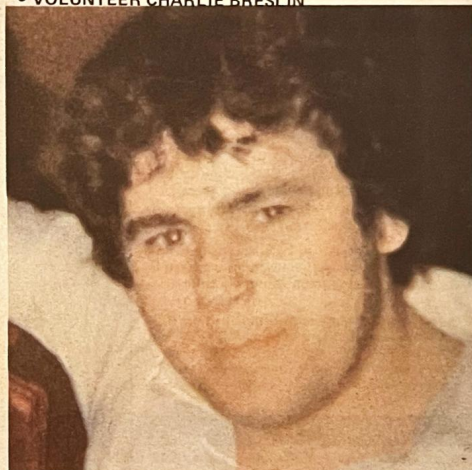
SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

The voices ceased and it appears certain that at this stage all three Volunteers had been seriously, if not fatally, wounded. Not satisfied with that, one or more Brits then climbed up on to the hedgerow bordering the field and, from a distance of less than ten feet, opened up with a further burst of automatic fire. There was a lengthy pause, and then three single shots were heard as each Volunteer in turn was shot in the head at close range.

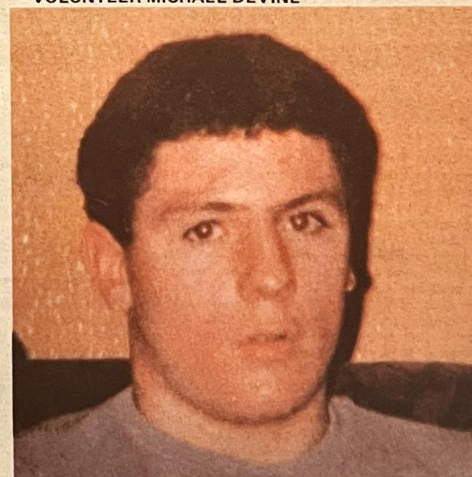
According to local people, the firing had lasted intermittently for approximately 20 minutes. Well over 100 rounds had been fired. A local priest, Fr Andrew McCloskey, who gained access to the scene later



• VOLUNTEER CHARLIE BRESLIN



• VOLUNTEER MICHAEL DEVINE



• VOLUNTEER DAVID DEVINE

that morning, reported that the Volunteers' bodies were "riddled".

For seven hours, the bodies of the three Volunteers were deliberately left lying uncovered on the hillside, in full view of nearby nationalist homes. They were removed only after an angry group of women marched to the field in protest.

Some people who later returned to say a Rosary were physically barred from the

scene by a large force of RUC.

After the RUC at last withdrew from the area, local people placed three wooden crosses and wreaths at the spot where the three Volunteers were summarily executed.

A fhad is atá na huaigh-eanna seo in Éirinn ní bheidh síocháin ann gan saoirse... while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.

The Irish Republican Army and Mr John Hume

LAST WEEKEND, John Hume, leader of the SDLP, got his much-heralded opportunity of telling the IRA where to get off, of calling upon them to lay down their arms, and of persuading IRA leaders that his methods would bring about peace in Ireland and would lead to a state of justice.

For reasons which we will elaborate on, Hume chickened out of that meeting.

Last Saturday morning, three young Volunteers in the Irish Republican Army — Volunteers Charlie Breslin, Micky Devine and David Devine — were cut down within earshot of their own homes by foreign gunmen because they, in the honest rawness of their youth, had a clear understanding of British rule in Ireland and were prepared to tackle it, despite its awesome and, ultimately, murderous nature.

Their beliefs were backed up by the very breath in their bodies. The truth of their convictions was seen in the British response of firepower — overwhelming firepower.

John Hume's policies represent no threat to the British presence. Whilst republicans have consistently and painstakingly struggled to remove the British presence, Hume has persistently attempted to accommodate Britain. He has presented his strategy as being ultimately persuasive.

MONOPOLY

The appeal of the case put forward by the SDLP (which, in comparison to republicans, they have a monopoly in presenting) is that it lulls ordinary people into a position of false security, urges them to do nothing and to leave everything to a select group of comfortable, 'educated', almost 'divine' leaders.

Catholic moral teaching is interpreted by the Irish bishops to be in support of this approach, which also coincides with obedience to British law in Ireland and confining oneself to bringing about change on terms acceptable to, and set by, Britain.

And therein lies the contradiction. History and experience show that peace and progress have to be paid for, and paid for dearly. Britain never gave a damn about the North or what the loyalists at Stormont got up to until the nationalists took to the streets and confronted the Orange state.

All of the small gains won in those few years of the Civil Rights Movement were paid for in the suffering of the pogroms and with the lives of men like Sammy Devenny and John Gallagher, and children such as Gerard McAuley and Paul Rooney. The Civil Rights Movement was not an invention of, or a puppet of, John Hume, Austin Currie or Gerry Fitt.

There were limits to what marches and demonstrations could achieve and republicans, who formed the backbone of the Civil Rights struggle, were aware of this. When it was sufficiently realised that the six-county state was basically irreformable, the demand for national freedom was made, was supported and was struck for by republicans.

'PEACE'

The politicians and individuals who were later to make up the SDLP were also swept along by this tide. However, in their negotiating position since Sunningdale in 1973, the SDLP directly relates IRA activity to nationalist alienation and they offer to loyalists the prospect of 'peace' (which is crudely seen as the undermining and defeat of the IRA) in return for power-sharing and an 'Irish dimension'.

The loyalist rejection of power-sharing, and indeed of any concessions, is unquestionable. Had the SDLP properly analysed loyalism and colonialism they would have come to some fairly unpalatable conclusions: that appeals to loyalist reason and the British sense of fair play fall on deaf ears; that one has to fight for gains; that gains have to be paid for and then defended.



JOHN HUME — CAMERA-SHY?

Up until Bobby Sands' election victory in Fermanagh and South Tyrone in April 1981, the SDLP had a virtual political monopoly inside the nationalist community. The entry of Sinn Féin into electoral politics a year later was the first real competitive pressure experienced by the SDLP.

Prior to 1981, the SDLP had absolutely no problem in meeting with Sinn Féin, whose relationship with the IRA is the same today as it was when SDLP representatives met Sinn Féin representatives for a whole series of talks in the Autumn of 1980. Sinn Féin autonomy and independence from the IRA was not questioned by Seamus Mallon or John McEvoy on those occasions.

ELECTORAL THREAT

It was only when Sinn Féin became an electoral threat to the SDLP that Hume hypocritically declared Sinn Féin's relationship with the IRA to be objectionable.

Only then did he deem the party untouchable. In adopting this stance, he was mimicking London's and Dublin's policy of ostracisation. But not to have done so would have left his party open to influences other than his own dominating personality, would have left his party's vote open to attrition, would have offended the Dublin government (upon whose indulgences he relied for the Forum), and would have offended the British government and the loyalists.

How Hume's calls for talks with the IRA came about is by now a matter of history. However, in the IRA's acceptance statement Sinn Féin was not mentioned at all. The subject was clearly the armed struggle versus SDLP's constitutionalism. Yet, the SDLP leader declared that their acceptance was an admission that Sinn Féin was subservient to the IRA. Not one journalist challenged his outlandish construction.

Within 24 hours he had elevated the talks into a 'peace initiative', the obvious intended outcome would be the IRA appearing as war-mongers when the meeting would result in no change in the armed struggle. The IRA's experience of John Hume's monopoly of television and radio appearances and newspaper inter-

views, that weekend three weeks ago, most certainly had a bearing on how they intended to handle the talks.

VIDEO

Last Saturday night, after some initial difficulty, Hume met three representatives of the leadership of the Irish Republican Army, including a H-Block escapee. Suffice it to say that he was familiar with the other two Volunteers and was quite satisfied with their seniority. He did not doubt their authority and was taken aback by their proposal to video-record the opening and closing statements with both sides being provided with copies at the conclusion. He balked at the suggestion for no reason other than he would have no control over how the video was subsequently used — which applied equally to the IRA.

The reasons for the filming — that a true record of the meeting would guarantee no misrepresentation and would allow the IRA some balance of media coverage — were explained to him, but still he refused. He suggested the issuing of a joint statement which was to be drafted after the meeting, the contents of which, he said, he would not subsequently deviate from in interviews. Quite wisely the IRA rejected this proposal since the meeting could have gone ahead without the video but later agreement on a statement might not have been forthcoming.

Hume would have then been under no obligation and could have gone out and boasted to the media how he had single-handedly snared the IRA in its own den and its representatives hadn't an answer for him. An IRA rebuttal in statement form would have received short shrift against a studio interview with the 'peacemaker' John Hume.

UNDUE MYSTERY

Even a limited agreed statement would, as the IRA said, have shrouded straightforward talks in undue mystery and wild speculation, which could only have been to Hume's advantage.

But John Hume chickened out of the recording because, in truth, he was opposed to some measure of equal opportunity being given to the IRA to present its case.

All Irish political correspondents are fulsome in their praise of Hume's political acumen. He is a 'skilled debater' and an 'articulate' and 'personable' presenter. He is even accredited with being 'the most astute politician in Ireland'.

Had he been genuinely interested in peace, or been on a peace mission, he would have swallowed any humiliation and undergone any ordeal to put his case to the IRA leadership. Instead, he was treated with hospitality and he, the polished speaker, was asked to go on record with IRA representatives who have no debating experience. And he refused.

The IRA Volunteers would have been speaking with the conviction of people who dearly want peace but who understand that peace can only be properly based on British withdrawal and national self-determination. They were confident of rebutting the core of Hume's argument.

John Hume's IRA distraction from meeting with Sinn Féin appears to have been at the expense of the inter-party talks with the loyalists, and this is a plus for the Republican Movement. He has scored an own-goal and he has knocked the image of himself as a shrewd strategist. At the end of it all, the SDLP, after May's local government elections, will be forced to liaise with and join with Sinn Féin to ensure nationalist control of several councils.

The Republican Movement's case, that progress cannot be made other than through a combination of armed and political struggle, remains unassailable.

A look at the headstones shows that young nationalist people of the six counties have borne the main brunt of repression for maintaining the ideal of the Irish republic.

They are entitled not to like the British army and the RUC.

They are entitled to resent and resist such forces. And they are prepared, as last Saturday tragically demonstrated, to give their lives so that the people of this island, including John Hume, can eventually live in peace and prosperity, free from British murder and British interference.

We salute the REAL peacemakers.

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE SEQUEL to the brief encounter between representatives of the IRA and SDLP leader John Hume last weekend showed clearly how important a video-recording of a full meeting would have been.

After failing to turn up for two previously arranged meetings, Hume emerged from the third, melodramatically describing the inevitable logistical delay in getting the meeting underway as "28 hours in the virtual custody of the IRA".

Hume alleged that he had made two pre-conditions before the meeting: that another SDLP member would accompany him, and that a joint statement would be issued afterwards. The first had been refused, the second accepted, he said. This was denied by the IRA.

The IRA spokespersons outlined to Hume the three-part format of the talks, explaining that they wanted the introduction and conclusion filled. Hume said he heard nothing of a three-part format, that he was simply told that if he refused to be video-recorded, the meeting was off.

NOSE-DIVE

No matter how much Hume tried to justify himself, however, his credibility has taken a nose-dive, with the Free State government for meeting the IRA in the twenty-six counties, with the Brits for giving the unionists a pretext for not talking to the SDLP, with unionists who are furious that he actually met the IRA, and most of all with nationalists who wished to see talks between republicans and the SDLP.

Hume refused to go on camera even though he is, in the words of Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, a "seasoned TV performer". Yet he balked at being recorded in a discussion with people who had no such experience in that field.

"The IRA were very scared that I would outsmart them," Hume ludicrously stated. The opposite was obviously the case and Hume was visibly scared that the IRA's sincerity and conviction would appear on the film, to his disadvantage.

Hume's move has been exposed as a "propaganda exercise to avoid the issue of talking to Sinn Féin", said the IRA.

As for talks with Sinn Féin, Hume made it clear that they were "impossible". Since the IRA had demonstrated their belief in the primacy of the armed struggle, there is "no point whatsoever in discussing

BRIEF

ENCOUNTER

Hume chickens out

politics with their political wing," he said.

For all their slogans about 'democracy', the SDLP is now prepared to disenfranchise 100,000 nationalist voters. But the issue will come up again and again, as Sinn Féin councillors start working in the councils after next May.

Quite remarkably, the SDLP did not comment after the event. SDLP members are not going around rubbing their hands and boasting about their leader's latest move. Hume's paper, the *Irish News*, was equally brief on the subject, whining: "If they wanted a public televised debate, they should have said at the beginning."

But for the many nationalists who had welcomed the talks, Hume's sudden cautiousness looked more like suddenness and cowardice.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Media disappointment was palpable. Questioning was unusually rough. After all, a scoop had been lost, not to mention the fact that refusing to go on record would get you a bad mark anyway with the media.

As for unionists, their excuse for cancelling talks with the SDLP was handed to them on a plate. Hume tried to explain that he hadn't even met those with whom he believed he was to talk later but the unionists had a field day deriding him and his five-minute meeting. They too perceived him as having lost in his efforts to score points over the IRA.

"Sordid", "farical", said the OUP. There would be "no dialogue for some time". Hume had "slammed the door on talks", said OUP leader Jim Molyneux,

who accused him of having adopted a "hard green line".

The RUC should interview Hume, said Jim Allister of the DUP, while Paisley accused him of "deliberately and wilfully closing the door" to talks and asked him to repent. Unionists were visibly pleased to be given the opportunity to paint the SDLP as the major obstacle to political progress.

British direct-ruler Douglas Hurd called the talks a "mistake" and urged all constitutional parties to get together. Talking was necessary, he explained, with the back-up of a "robust security policy" — an allusion to the savage triple murder of IRA Volunteers in Strabane last Saturday.

Hurd is keen to get inter-party talks going as it appears now that no Anglo-Irish summit will take place before the Summer. OUP maverick Robert McCartney and Alliance leader John Cushman also called for talks to start.

NON-EVENT

Dublin government sources talked of a "non-event", and this was reiterated by Free State minister Ruairi Quinn: "There has been no meeting, so I will not comment". As for Haughey, he simply said he would "accept Hume's judgement" on the matter.

Press reactions ranged from relief to regret, with shades of cynicism. The *Irish Independent* called the meeting breakdown "very good news", while the *Irish Press* called it "a great pity" — "a fine opportunity for dialogue has been lost".

The Press implied some veiled criticism of Hume, writing that "the smallest pretext" was seized upon to end the meeting.

The *Belfast Telegraph* called the whole episode a "farce" and made some perceptive comments about Hume's failure to score points against the IRA, calling the result "inconclusive".

On the whole it seems that from Hume's and the SDLP's point of view, the whole thing was a fiasco. Hume appeared to prefer secrecy to accountability, and the meeting did not take place as a result. Any gains in popularity made a month ago will have been lost.

But the aborted talks

will, nevertheless, have produced two positive results. The first is that they have hindered Hurd's attempts to promote an internal solution, by making the unionists renege on their offers of talks and 'conciliation'.

The second is that they have dissipated the smokescreen raised by Hume to hide the SDLP's refusal to talk to Sinn Féin. Some form of agreement is inevitable at council level, if nationalists want to keep control of some councils. In the meantime, the SDLP has finally shown itself for the hypocritical, collaborationist party that they are.

NEUTRALITY

This collaboration would be extended internationally if SDLP deputy leader, Seamus Mallon, got his way. Speaking in Washington on February 22nd, Mallon emphasised a willingness to see Ireland as part of NATO. "I will swap neutrality for unity," he said, adding "if that's one of the prices I'll have to pay, I'll pay."

The long flight must have affected Mallon, however, as he went on to describe the Republican Movement as conservatives because they are "using the same methods that have failed in Ireland for 800 years — violence".

Another so-called opponent of violence is British direct-ruler, Douglas Hurd. Asked about the British army's killing of three IRA Volunteers in Strabane, he said:

"I am not going to comment on a particular incident, but if you're asking me if I'm pleased, if you're asking me if I'm concerned that instead of innocent people being blown up because a rocket launcher has been successfully detonated — that in place of that there are dead terrorists — well, I frankly say 'no, I am not concerned'."

"Provided I am satisfied that the security forces are operating under the rule of law, I am delighted when the result of their operations is that innocent people are alive even if it means murderers or attempted murderers are dead."

RUC sergeant killed

WAR NEWS

IRA VOLUNTEERS successfully ambushed and killed an RUC sergeant on Thursday, February 21st. The sergeant was a member of the counter-insurgency orientated, so-called 'community relations' branch of the RUC.

This section of the RUC was established early in the Seventies as part of a cosmetic reform of the force. It was part of the cynical exercise known as "winning the hearts and minds of the nationalist population," but its main purpose was, and is, assisting in the gathering of intelligence information.

In spite of the obvious danger posed by the presence of these RUC men and their inevitable support units, and grave concern expressed by many parents, some nationalist schools have been prepared to avail of the transport and holiday facilities the 'community relations' branch provides. However, during the past week some schools have stopped using the facilities.

In this instance IRA Volunteers had carefully collected intelligence information and were mindful of the presence of schoolchildren. The night before the ambush four armed Volunteers took

over a house close to Drumsallen Primary School near Armagh city. They waited throughout the night and the following day.

BACK-UP

Eventually, the sergeant arrived in his minibus followed closely by an unmarked, heavily-armoured Cortina containing three RUC men. His back-up watched him drop the children off and then left. A few minutes later as he drove away, two Volunteers stepped out of the house and fired into the van, killing the RUC man instantly.

The RUC and UDR, using helicopters to drop off patrols, immediately sealed off the surrounding area, and began a widespread search. However, the ASU successfully withdrew from the area.

INFORMER EXECUTED

On Saturday night, February 23rd, Derry Brigade IRA executed



● RUC men examine the minibus in which their colleague was killed by the IRA's North Armagh Brigade

24-year-old Kevin Coyle from the Brandywell area. Coyle was taken to Corporation Street in the Bogside, where he was shot twice.

In a statement following his execution, the IRA explained that they had arrested Coyle and questioned him about his activities. He had been, they said, "recruited by the RUC Special Branch during the hunger-strikes of 1981. Since

then he has worked for them on a regular basis, supplying them with information for which he received sums of money ranging from £20 to £100. He was responsible for the arrests of local people and was involved in British army and RUC operations against republicans."

"After his arrest on Thursday

evening, February 21st, he fully admitted his treachery and his family has been given proof of his guilt.

"We have stated on numerous occasions that people who admit their involvement with the RUC would be helped. Those who refuse to come forward can expect no mercy."

From Margaret to Garret

with love...

BY JACK MADDEN

THE POLITICAL COURTSHIP between the Dublin and Westminster governments reached new depths in the past week with Margaret Thatcher telling America how happy she was with Garret Fitzgerald and Coalition minister Ruairi Quinn assuring the British that he accepted that there was no shoot-to-kill policy being operated by crown forces in the six counties.

Thatcher's pronouncement that "Garret Fitzgerald and I, and our respective governments, are united in condemning terrorism," disgusted most people on this side of the Atlantic, but surprised nobody. Editorial writers in the establishment media cringed at the inevitable conclusion that Fitzgerald is viewed as an accommodating plaything by the British.

So confident are the Tories of getting Coalition agreement to their 'security' proposals that Thatcher confided to US President Ronald Reagan that 'a major initiative' in Anglo-Irish relations was close at hand. This story was leaked, as Thatcher undoubtedly planned, and the Coalition, who don't even know when they will be allowed to meet Thatcher for the next summit, issued a confused denial that any new 'initiative' was likely.

Any doubts that the Coalition would respond approvingly to

Thatcher's praise were dispelled by Foreign Minister Peter Barry who, on a visit to England, repeated his view that the IRA were responsible for British repressive legislation such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA).

Barry delivered a speech which he read at a luncheon in Manchester in front of more prosperous Irish emigrants, in which he said:

"The close affinity and the essential goodwill between our people... cannot but be of help in the effort which our two governments must now make to resolve this difficult problem (the operation of the PTA)."

REJECTED

Back in the real world, however, the British government had already rejected the timid advice of the Dublin government and voted to keep the PTA in its

present form.

One Tory, Sir John Biggs-Davison, said during a debate on the measure that "it is necessary sometimes for some Irish people to be troubled" while another Tory added that

they should consider adding to the Act a provision for the freezing of funds as the Dublin government had done a week earlier.

Back in Ireland, Coalition deputy-leader Dick Spring was busily trying to end — for the time being at least — the anti-Coalition dispute which he says "has produced a certain sterility" in the Labour Party. Calling for a truce on the issue, Spring, speaking to party members in Cork, moaned:

"It (the row) has led to a situation... where at times we find it impossible to talk to one another and, more importantly, to listen to one another."

Adding that "the days when this party could be regarded by anyone as a flag of convenience stop now," Spring was obviously not heard by party colleague and Coalition Labour Minister, Ruairi Quinn, when he played his part as a 'flag of convenience' for British terror in the six counties.

ACCEPTED

Speaking at the East Belfast Rotary Club on Tuesday this week, and clearly expressing Coalition opinion, Quinn said that he accepted assurances from British direct-ruler in the North Douglas



• MARGARET THATCHER



• GARRET FITZGERALD

Hurd that there is no shoot-to-kill policy.

Quinn naively added that he believed the British government would hold an inquiry into the killing of three Strabane youths on Saturday last. Republicans have no illusions about the white-wash job which such an inquiry — if it were held — would end in. In a statement commenting on Quinn's stupidity, Sinn Féin said:

"Had Ruairi Quinn been alive when his uncle Padraig Quinn was shot and wounded by the Black and Tans or when his other uncle Commandant General Sean Quinn was summarily executed by Free State troops during the Civil War, we ask whether he would have been so easily placated by official assurances of inquiries."

Quinn's Belfast speech came in response to an admission by Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey, two days earlier, that there was a shoot-to-kill policy. In the course of a radio interview, Haughey said:

"I don't think any policy of

that sort could be implemented by the 'security forces' without political approval."

VERBALISING

This latest bout of verbalising by Haughey, reflects his growing confidence that his party will succeed the Coalition government in office, a confidence which was demonstrated by the expulsion of his arch-rival, Limerick deputy Dessie O'Malley, from the Fianna Fail party, despite an intervention on O'Malley's behalf from Haughey's predecessor, Jack Lynch.

One political stick which neither Fianna Fail nor the Coalition want to wave is the issue of the Offences Against the State Act, which has been retained by successive Dublin governments since 1939.

On Tuesday this week, it was revealed in Leinster House that of the 2,216 people arrested under Section 30 of this Act last year, only 374 were charged. No figure was given of the number actually convicted.

BY CHARLIE McFADDEN

TWO HUNDRED workers in the Dundalk electronics company, Ecco Ltd, have been put on a three-day week since Monday, February 25th.

Last December, local trade unionists informed AP/RN that Ecco is simply using Dundalk to develop its new products. Once developed, they then cynically transferred production to the 'slave market' in places like Singapore.

This explains both the reduced working hours and the reduction of the workforce from a peak of 1,900 to the present level of 450.

It has been revealed that Coalition Minister for State in the Department of Industry, Edward Collins, must have known about the proposed closure of the Clarks factory in Dundalk a year ago.

In answer to a question in Leinster House on January 31st, the Department Minister, John Bruton said that Collins had been "involved in discussions with a view to maintaining the Dundalk plant..."

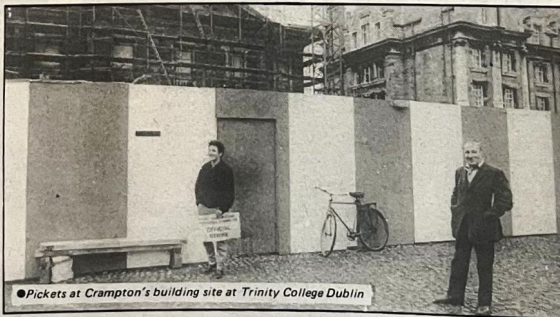
But if Collins knew that Clarks were likely to close he said nothing to the workers who, if they had had warning, could have accepted a redundancy package which they have now lost.

Unemployment, it appears, is the only field in which the Dublin government can claim to be EEC leaders. Once again the twenty-six counties tops the EEC's unemployment table with 234,100 people, or just over 18% of the total workforce, out of work in the month of January.

The all-out strike by employees of Irish Distillers Ltd in Dublin, Cork and Galway is now in its second week following the breakdown of Labour Court talks.

The dispute stems from an attempt by management to enforce seven redundancies.

Ecco-further shock-waves



• Pickets at Crampton's building site at Trinity College Dublin

ancies. The workers question the necessity for such drastic action and point out that last year the company's sales increased by 47% with trading profits rising by 11% to £16.8 million.

Eighty workers were laid off following the recent liquidation of Maid Sinks Ltd, Dublin. The company was involved in the manufacture of stainless steel sinks, mainly for the export market.

About 500 workers at G. and T. Crampton sites around Dublin are still

refusing to pass the all-out picket placed by members of the Irish National Painters and Decorators Trade Union. The dispute stems from the continued use of outside contractors, which has led to a reduction in the company's own painting staff.

The Brick and Stonelayers Union has placed an official picket on two A. McDonald and Sons Ltd building sites in Lucan and Henry Street, Dublin, last week. The dispute arose after two bricklayers were sacked.

Sixty Waterford workers are to lose

their jobs on Friday, March 1st, in the multinational toy-manufacturing company, Milton Bradley Ltd. The company originally employed between 450 and 500 workers, but this number has now been reduced to 230.

At a meeting on Tuesday, February 26th, in Dublin's Rutland Street School, the Inner City Street-Traders Association was set up.

The meeting was attended by about 30 of the street-traders as well as Sinn Féin's Christy Burke, and local Leinster House deputy Tony Gregory. The association is an attempt by the street-traders of Dublin's Henry Street, North Earl Street and Talbot Street to organise themselves to fight against the heavy Garda harassment they have been subjected to.

Despite the financial and physical hardships of a lengthy dispute, the anti-apartheid strikers at Dunnes Stores, Henry Street, Dublin, are sticking to their principles until a just settlement is agreed. The strike is now in its 32nd week.

Support for the mass pickets at the store every Saturday from 2pm to 6pm is still vital and donations can be sent to the strikers' union, IDATU, at 6 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1.

RUC strategy condemned

BY ROBERT CARLIN

THE RUC'S RECENT DRIVE to recruit informers within the nationalist community continues unabated with their attempts to pressurise three young men in Newry and Derry.

Don Harte (17), from Barcroft Park in Newry, was arrested by the RUC on January 11th. At Gough Barracks he was interviewed three times by two detectives. During the first interview he was slapped on the face and kicked repeatedly on the legs. The detectives questioned him about alleged hijacking, possession of petrol-bombs and membership of the Fianna.

During the third interview, Harte was asked to work for the RUC. He says:

"They asked me would I like to earn myself a bit of money. They offered me between £25 and £100 per month. They said if I did as they asked they would forget about the hijacking, petrol-bombs and membership charges."



● DON HARTE

Two young Derry men told of their experiences at the hands of the RUC in Castlereagh, during a press conference on Wednesday, January 20th. One of the men, 21-year-old Terence Meenan of Little Diamond, said he was offered £80,000 to implicate members of Derry Sinn Féin in IRA activity. Among others mentioned were Mitchel McLaughlin and Martin McGuinness. Meenan said:

"I refused to co-operate, but they kept telling me I would be well looked after and that a cousin of mine would have a murder charge against him dropped if I co-operated."

MORGUE

He was offered £200 per week for giving advance information about shootings and hijacking, and a further £10,000 to set up two people. One detective told him if he made anything



● Martin McGuinness displays the St Patrick's Day card and the £20-note sent to Terence Meenan (right); also in the photograph is Sean Ball

public he would end up in the city morgue.

Meenan recently received a St Patrick's Day card containing £20 with the message "Happy St Patrick's Day. Hope to see you before then". A further message said: "You're no angel, or are you? The card had a Limavady postmark and the back of the card bore the message — "From a late Valentine". Meenan was released from Castlereagh around 6pm on St Valentine's Day.

CASTLEREAGH

Another Derry man, 27-year-old Sean Ball from Brandywell, was arrested on Tuesday, February 12th, at 6.30am and taken to Castlereagh. He

was released on Thursday at 7pm.

He contacted Sinn Féin in Derry and told them that he had been asked to work for the RUC. Ball had, in fact, been passing information since October 1984.

He admitted that he had been gathering low-level intelligence and that he would have been prepared to pass it to the RUC. He also said he had invented information to pass on, and claimed he had never received any money.

STATEMENT

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin elected representative for Derry, said in a statement:

"The recruitment by the RUC of informers from nationalist areas has

reached unprecedented levels, with recruitment attempts now statutory for almost everyone arrested under Sections 11 and 12 of Britain's emergency legislation.

"It was inevitable that the RUC's strategy of pushing civilians into the front line of intelligence gathering would lead to tragedy for those willing to allow themselves to be used.

"I am now renewing Sinn Féin's appeal to anyone involved in passing information to the RUC. I am asking them to refuse to be coerced or enticed through offers of monetary gain into becoming informers and to immediately contact elected representatives, journalists or clergymen for assistance."

Perjurer case collapses

BY EAMON TRACY

SEVENTEEN LOYALIST prisoners walked free following the collapse on Thursday, February 21st, of the latest paid-perjurer show-trial.

In all, 29 people had been accused of an assortment of offences on the world of loyalist paid-perjurer and self-confessed UVF murderer, James Crockard, who is presently serving life for two sectarian assassinations. Eight of the 29 were convicted because, unlike the others, they had made written or verbal statements to the RUC, while the remaining four went back to prison because they either face other charges or are already serving sentences.

Loyalist judge McDermott decided to reject Crockard's evidence because he believed that the UVF man was "street wise and vicious" and was a man who was prepared to lie in order to save himself.

According to McDermott, Crockard's sole reason for "turning informer" was "the understandable one that he hopes

to secure an early release from prison. That is his motive and wrapping it up with other propositions only emphasises that he is a man prepared to seek to deceive the court. Thus Crockard in my judgement is a man of bad character whose motive in giving evidence is personal gain — his freedom."

TACTIC

Chairperson of Belfast Sinn Féin, Joe Austin, immediately attacked both the paid-perjurer tactic and the loyalist judiciary. He said:

"Crockard's bad character and selfish motivation were the basis for the rejection of his evidence and yet such descriptions could equally apply to Christopher Black, Quigley and McGrady. Why was their evidence accepted while similarly dubious evidence from a loyalist perjurer was rejected?"

It is obvious, however, that the paid-perjurer tactic is not one which the British colonial authorities in the North are



willing to give up. At present, 28 nationalists are being tried on the evidence of Harry Kirkpatrick. And, in a recent move designed to overcome one criticism of the show-trial tactic, that of the numbers on trial on the evidence of one perjurer, the Director of Public Prosecutions announced that the 47 people charged on the sole evidence of UVF perjurer William 'Budgie' Allen have been divided into three groups and three separate trials will now be held.

Target of harassment

BY ROBERT CARLIN

A 24-YEAR-OLD Belfast man has been the target of a concerted harassment campaign by the RUC.

Since his release from the H-Blocks a few months ago, Damien Lennon of Binnigan Drive, in Andersonstown, has been stopped regularly. However, in the last three weeks this has escalated, with Lennon's car being stopped almost every day.

On Thursday, January 21st, the RUC stopped Lennon, who didn't have an insurance certificate with him. He was told to produce it at Andersonstown Barracks. The same patrol stopped him two days later in the Lenadown estate and again told him to produce his insurance at the barracks. This time they told him he was to be prosecuted for having insufficient thread on a spare tyre, failing to wear a seat-belt and speeding.

Later that same day, he was stopped again, this time on the Glen Road, by three plainclothes RUC men in an unmarked car. After questioning him for some time, they told him that the RUC had him marked and he was to be stopped every time they spotted him.

On previous occasions, threats have been made on Lennon's life by the RUC who asked him:

"Do you want to end up the same way as your brother?"

This is a reference to IRA Volunteer Danny Lennon, who was shot dead by the British army in 1976.

Lennon has contacted a solicitor and has made a formal complaint to the RUC at Andersonstown Barracks.

BY JACK MADDEN

Extradition betrayal condemned

FOUR HUNDRED people, most from the border counties of Louth, Armagh and Monaghan, joined a march and rally against extradition in Dundalk last Saturday, February 23rd.

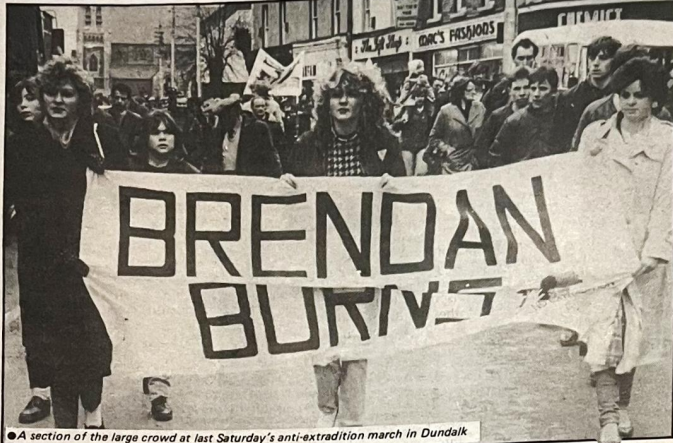
Led by bands from Dundalk and Cullyhanna, the marchers wended their way through the streets of the town before assembling at the courthouse square to hear speeches from Sinn Féin's national organiser, Caoimhghin O Caolain and Sinn Féin elected representative for Armagh, Jim McAllister.

SILENCE

Before the rally began, a two-minute silence was observed for the three IRA Volunteers who had died earlier that day in Strabane.

Reminding the crowd that it had been in Dundalk that the first major anti-extradition protest was held over a year ago, O Caolain said:

"Since then we have witnessed the continuous betrayal of the Irish people by the forces of collaboration in the Free State. They have already handed over Dominic Mc-



● A section of the large crowd at last Saturday's anti-extradition march in Dundalk

Glinchey and he was followed by Seamus Shannon. Today we are here once again to reiterate our commitment to involve ourselves in mass protest on the streets of this country to ensure that the process of extradition

will not go unchallenged."

Referring to the proposed extradition of South Armagh man Brendan Burns, who is being sought by the British for alleged involvement in attacks against

their forces in Armagh, O Caolain pointed out that Burns deserved "the wholehearted support of the Irish people". He added:

"Although we are not vast in

numbers here today, from small numbers such as this will grow a movement of protest the length and breadth of this state.

"The decision of the Free State government, and not the judiciary as is often claimed, to embark on the tortuous path of extradition was taken by a few men on the eve of St Patrick's Day last year. Dick Spring, Paddy Cooney and Peter Sutherland should be remembered as the three men who conspired in this shameful betrayal of Ireland and her people and who cemented Free State subservience to British rule in all Ireland."

GLOSS

O'Caolain's call for a massive mobilisation at Portlaoise Prison on March 30th was repeated by Jim McAllister who, in a short address, said that the gloss which had been used to excuse the extradition of McGlinchey and Shannon, could not be used in the case of Brendan Burns. He said:

"Here we have the case of a man imprisoned on an extradition warrant because the British say that he dared to fight for his country's freedom, dared to do what the government of this twenty-six county state will not do. If this extradition goes ahead, the way will be open for the extradition of hundreds, if not thousands, of Irish men and women."

KERRY ASSAULTS EXPOSED

BY TIM O'SULLIVAN

CALLS for a public inquiry into the abuse of powers by gardai in County Kerry were made at a press conference in Tralee on Friday, February 22nd.

According to Liam Hutchinson, who organised the ad-hoc group which called the press conference, many complaints of garda brutality have been made by individuals throughout the county. Amongst these allegations are included:

- Mental and physical torture of people in garda custody;

- Denial of the right to consult a solicitor or other persons while in a garda barracks;

- The distortion of suspects' answers to questions, particularly if a case is brought to court;

- Cell and detention room conditions which are so bad that they are apparently deemed necessary by the gardai to create a hostile and uncomfortable environment for detainees.

RIGHTS

These grounds for complaint "seriously impair" a suspect's legal rights and could lead to a serious miscarriage of justice, Hutchinson argued. He himself had experienced such 'justice' in 1979 after returning to Tralee from England.

While standing looking into a shop window he was apprehended by a garda who engaged him in conversation and requested that he accompany him to the garda barracks. Puzzled, but unsuspecting, Hutchinson agreed to the request, but on entering the garda barracks he was immediately attacked.

A further three assaults followed in the course of the night and, having been refused permission to leave the barracks, Hutchinson was charged next morning with being drunk and disorderly, even though he had been neither. Unlike many others who might have suffered similar injustice, Hutchinson fought his case repeatedly over the next two years, despite further charges of assault being made against him by vindictive gardai. Eventually he was acquitted and fully



● (Left to right) Pauline and Liam Hutchinson and Joe Costello of the PRO

vindicated, but no action was taken against the gardai involved in the case.

Other victims of garda assaults came forward at the press conference. These included:

- Michael Walsh, a fisherman from Cahirciveen, who was arrested off the town's Main Street. A garda approached him, aggressively 'requesting' that he go to the barracks. Although Walsh and a number of onlookers asked the reason for the arrest, no reason was given.

In the barracks, he was assaulted and subsequently charged with being 'drunk and disorderly'. In protest at this trum-

ped-up charge, Walsh refused to pay the fine imposed on him and was sent to jail for a fortnight. Since then he has suffered repeated garda harassment.

- Noel Houlihan, also from Cahirciveen, described his experience in garda custody as "terrifying". Arrested under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act in December 1980, he was interrogated about his alleged involvement in offences in the South Kerry area and was brutally assaulted.

The interrogation continued when the gardai brought Houlihan to his own house where they carried out a search. Fearing

their threats that he would suffer further assault if the search proved fruitless, he escaped from his garda captors.

Pursued by the gardai, he made his way to the local docks and jumped into the sea, where he remained until neighbours arrived to rescue him. He was taken to hospital and detained for treatment to his injuries.

INJURIES

- Michael Day was arrested in the Cahirciveen area in the Summer of 1981 and was transferred to Kilkenny Garda Barracks where he was viciously assaulted during an interrogation which lasted two days.

No charges were made against him, but injuries to his head, arms, chest, back and legs are recorded in a series of photographs taken after his release from garda custody. Witnesses who had been in Cahirciveen hospital when Day was moved there following these assaults gave an account of the condition he was in to the press conference.

- James Sheehan from the Tralee area was arrested under Section 30 in the Summer of 1982. His interrogators told him that they wanted 'yes' answers and began to beat him. During this beating his hand was cut badly.

Handcuffed, he was dragged by the hair to another room where the interrogation continued until a senior garda decided that Sheehan needed medical attention in hospital. Even then the gardai refused to remove the handcuffs while hospital doctors stitched his hand. After 24 hours in garda custody, Sheehan was released without charge.

STATISTICS

Over 500 arrests have been made under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act in County Kerry in the last five years and, the press conference was told, only in six cases were charges preferred.

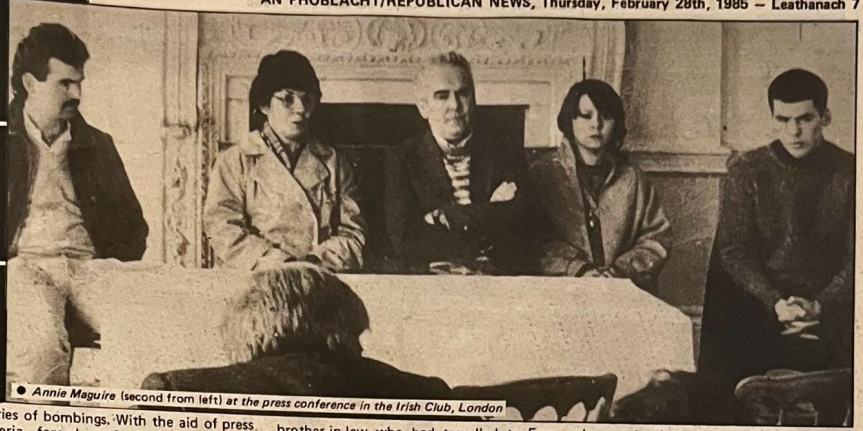
According to Joe Costello of the Prisoners' Rights Organisation, these statistics are even worse than in other parts of the country, but the same discriminatory nature of the arrests was reflected in what was happening in places like Dublin.

Pointing out that the Act had been introduced to deal with alleged political offences, Costello said that Section 30 is now used to arrest a wide range of people including republicans, trade unionists and other political activists and individuals like Robert Trimble and inner-city handbag snatchers. The blame for this situation belongs to successive Dublin governments who have failed to implement any of the safeguards for people in custody contained in the Barra O'Brien Report, he added.



● This photograph illustrates some of the bruises received by Michael Day during interrogation in Kilkenny Garda Barracks

Innocent victim of injustice



● Annie Maguire (second from left) at the press conference in the Irish Club, London

BY ANNE IACKENZIE

ANNIE MAGUIRE was released from prison in England last Friday, February 22nd, after serving nine years and four months as an innocent victim of so-called British justice.

On Saturday she gave a press conference in London's Irish Club alongside her husband Patrick and her sons Vincent and Patrick — all of whom were also imprisoned on the same trumped-up charge — and her daughter Anne-Marie, who was just nine years old when her mother was taken away.

The Irish Club is a genteel establishment in the smart Belgrave district and the committee panicked when they discovered they had hired a room to the woman described in the British press as 'evil Aunt Annie'. It wasn't until the entrance hall was packed with reporters that they allowed the event to go ahead.

Catastrophe struck the Maguire family in 1974 when the British police swooped, almost at random, on Britain's Irish community, determined to exact revenge for

a series of bombings. With the aid of press hysteria, forced confessions and dubious forensic evidence, the police succeeded in getting 17 innocent people convicted. Ten of them remain in prison: four people wrongly convicted of the Guildford and Woolwich bombings, and six framed for the Birmingham bombings.

ARRESTED

Annie Maguire came to London from Belfast, after her wedding in 1957, to join her husband Patrick who had settled in Britain after serving three years in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He qualified as a gas fitter, while she did four part-time cleaning jobs in order to fit in with the needs of her four children. She joined the local Conservative Club.

The police arrived at the Maguire house after Annie's nephew Gerry Conlon had been arrested and, during heavy interrogation, had given just about every name he could think of. In a statement he later retracted under oath, he said she had taught him to make bombs.

The police arrested Annie Maguire, her husband Patrick, her sons Vincent and Patrick, who were then 16 and 13, her brother Sean Smyth, Giuseppe Conlon, a

brother-in-law who had travelled to England to arrange the defence of his son Gerry, and a family friend, Pat O'Neill, who had come to the house to arrange for Annie to look after his three children while his wife was in labour.

At first all were charged with murder. Then the murder charge was dropped and they were charged with possession of explosives, though no explosives were ever found, on the basis of a forensic test that was later discredited by H.J. Yallop, the scientist who developed it.

INNOCENCE

They were so sure that the verdict would be 'not guilty' that they had a home-coming party arranged for the end of the trial. But in March 1976, all were jailed and Annie Maguire, sentenced to 14 years, was carried from the courtroom crying out her innocence.

Giuseppe Conlon died of tuberculosis in 1980, while in prison in Wormwood Scrubs, still protesting his innocence. Annie Maguire, who is now 49 years old, is the last to be released. She spent eight years as a 'Category A' prisoner in Durham Prison, which she describes as 'very

claustrophobic, a living hell' which 'ought to be closed down'. She was then moved to a semi-open prison at Cookham Wood, which was not as bad.

Now she and her family are trying to pick up the pieces and forget the nightmare of the past. After visiting her father, who is seriously ill in Belfast, she will return to London.

HOPING

She says she is 'very, very hurt and very disillusioned by British justice', but she keeps on hoping that one day the truth will come out.

Among those who have called for the cases to be reopened are right-wingers such as Tory MP John Biggs-Davison and Gerry Fitt. The British authorities are undoubtedly well aware that the Maguires, like the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four, are innocent but the British establishment has a lot to lose by owning up — appeals would flood in, the reputations of important people, such as Attorney General Michael Havers who prosecuted the Maguires, would be shaken, and the carefully-cultivated image of 'British justice' confronting 'evil terrorism' would be undermined.

STRIP-SEARCHING of women prisoners in Armagh is one of the main issues to be highlighted during International Women's Day celebrations next week.

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

North and South, meetings, demonstrations and pickets are planned, culminating in the annual picket outside Armagh Prison on Sunday, March 10th.

A meeting organised by the Women's Rights Action Committee of the Union of Students in Ireland was held in Trinity College Dublin on Tuesday, February 26th, during Trinity Women's Week.

Mary McAleese, lecturer in law at TCD, outlined her reasons for being opposed to strip-searching, saying that there was absolutely no security reason for the searches. "They are clearly an attempt to humiliate the women," she stated.

The head psychiatrist at the Eastern Health Board, Professor Ivor Browne, took up Mary McAleese's point that the strip-searches served no security purpose and compared the searches to rape. He likened the situation in the North to totalitarian regimes in South Africa and South America, saying:

"You are talking about a state in Northern Ireland based on injustice, where the indignity perpetrated goes way beyond nationality. Strip-searching is quite inexcusable, it is part of the breaking down — the degradation of the people — which is characteristic of corrupt states."

PUNISHMENTS

Catherine Moore, a former remand prisoner in Armagh, described her own experience of strip-searching and the punishments and beatings meted out to her if she protested against it. She read a statement from the women

prisoners, dated Friday, February 22nd, refuting the claim by the prison authorities that the incidences of strip-searching had been reduced. The statement listed 33 strip-searches that had been carried out this month.

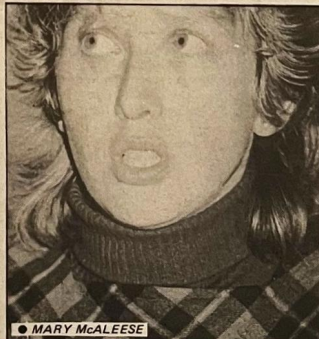
Other speakers included Raymond Murray, Catholic chaplain at the prison, and the meeting was chaired by Annie Campbell of the USI, who said that opposition to strip-searching had been prioritised by the Women's Rights Action Committee.

TALLAGHT

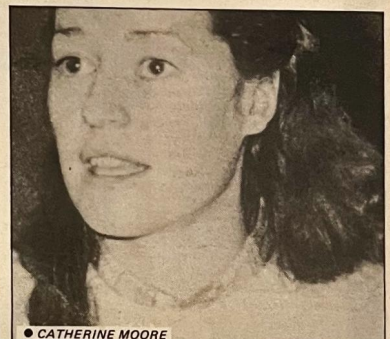
The Tallaght Stop the Strip-Searches Action Group hold a regular picket in Tallaght village every Saturday afternoon, where leaflets are handed out. On Wednesday, February 20th, a meeting was organised in the Jobstown Resource Centre, where the Armagh video was shown and former prisoner Breige-Ann McCaughy spoke to an audience of 50 people from the area.

SHANNON

The Shannon Action Group has been raising the issue of strip-searching over the last few months. Shannon Town Commissioners have called for an end



● MARY MCALEESE



● CATHERINE MOORE

to "the degrading practice of strip-searching", followed by Clare County Council who have also agreed to write to the European Court of Human Rights and to Thatcher protesting against strip-searching.

At a meeting of the Mid-Western Health Board, strip-searching was again condemned and the Shannon group intend to continue to lobby all local bodies on the issue.

MOORETOWN

A strip-search seminar organised by Pearse McAleer, a former

Long Kesh prisoner, took place in Mooretown Hall, Mooretown, County Tyrone, on Sunday, February 24th.

The meeting was chaired by Patricia Campbell and the guest speakers were Fr Joe McVeigh and former Armagh prisoner Breige Brownlee. A video was shown and Breige gave a moving account of her experiences in Armagh. She pointed out that strip-searches were an exercise to break the morale and spirit of the

prisoners and were not in the interests of security as the British government claimed.

Fr Joe McVeigh told the 100-strong crowd that the British government, the local government and the Catholic Church would have to be challenged publicly on the matter. Pearse McAleer urged the crowd to unite and work to end the degrading inhumane practice in Armagh and promised that there would be an escalation of protests in the Tyrone area.

USI SLAMS STRIP-SEARCHING

BY JANE PLUNKETT

DEEP SORROW IN STRABANE

LAST SATURDAY'S brutal execution by British soldiers of three IRA Volunteers in Strabane had an undeniably deep and visible impact in the small, predominantly nationalist town.

From Saturday on, black flags were flown from virtually every house in the Head of the Town area. A steady stream of mourners visited the Devine and Breslin homes (being photographed by the RUC as they did so) and then walked up the nearby hillside to stand in silence.

In anticipation of the long-delayed return of the remains from Derry's Altnagelvin Hospital, over 1,500 people had waited into the early hours of Monday morning in the town square to escort the Volunteers to their homes, where the coffins remained until Tuesday morning.

Following discussion within the Devine family, it was clear that their wish was that Michael and David would have a purely family funeral, a decision that the Republican Movement respected.

On Monday night, however, the IRA made it clear that they were honouring equally all three dead Volunteers. At around 7.30pm, four Volunteers, two of them women, all masked and bearing hand-guns, appeared in the back garden of the Breslin home and, on the orders of a fifth Volunteer, fired two volleys of shots in honour of their fallen comrades.

FORCE

Tuesday's funerals were the pretext for another massive show of British military force. This time the RUC evidently intended, unsuccessfully as it turned out, both to intimidate nationalists from attending and, if possible, to engineer an armed attack on mourners.

Seventy RUC landrovers, drafted in from as far away as Belfast, were positioned in the immediate vicinity of the half-mile funeral route, which passed solely through a solid nationalist area. At least 40 more vehicles saturated the small estate and three British army helicopters hovered overhead throughout.

Scores of RUC men lined the route, most of them wearing riot helmets and shields, and carrying plastic-bullet guns. The RUC operation was organised by Assistant Chief Constable James Crutchley (the RUC man who personally ordered the killing of plastic-bullet victim Nora McCabe and who is now in line for chief constable).

Shortly before 10am, a large crowd of mourners escorted the coffins of Volunteers Michael and David Devine the short distance from the family home in Courtrai Park to the nearby Church of the Immaculate Conception.

PUBLIC STATEMENT

A massed force of RUC had surrounded the Breslin home before dawn. Remembering recent RUC attacks on republican funerals, the family issued a public statement at 9am that the cortege would not proceed unless they were allowed to bury their son in dignity and without the risk of mourners being killed or seriously injured.

Eventually, 40 minutes behind schedule, the coffin was carried from the house, after assurances from the RUC — witnessed by Fr Oliver Crilly of the Commission for Peace and Justice — that it would not be attacked under any circumstances. The RUC looked on as Volunteer Charlie Breslin's beret

and gloves were placed on the Tricolour-draped coffin.

Within seconds, tension again increased as the RUC attempted to hem in mourners, and one member of the family rushed back into the house distraught. However, the large crowd, numbering several thousands, remained disciplined. Men and women, elderly and young, proceeded down Fountain Street, shielding the coffin with their bodies. Within a short distance, the cortege was halted by the RUC, who had blocked the road with landrovers and now, contradicting their earlier agreement, pettily insisted that the dead Volunteer's gloves and beret be removed.

A matter of feet above nearby rooftops, a helicopter hovered deafeningly. During the 45-minute delay, the dead Volunteer's father Joe Breslin collapsed and had to be carried into a house. Under this additional stress, the family reluctantly complied with the RUC's demands.

RUTHLESS EXECUTION

Over 85 minutes late, the cortege reached the church, where funeral Mass was said for the three fallen Volunteers. In a homily, local priest Fr Andrew McCloskey described their killings as "ruthless execution", but avoided making any clear pronouncement on the morality of British force in Ireland.



● The Devine family outside the church after Mass

And, in common with other local priests subsequently, McCloskey remained silent on the RUC's actions that morning in disrupting, by their massive armed presence, the right of those tragically bereaved to bury their dead with dignity.

After the Mass, the sombre crowd followed the coffins of Volunteers Michael and David Devine to the Hillside Cemetery, overlooking the field where they had been killed. After brief graveside prayers led by a local priest, also drowned out by helicopters, the brothers were laid to rest in the same grave.

Shortly afterwards, the Tri-

colour-draped coffin of Vol Charlie Breslin, now once again bearing beret and gloves, was carried through the cemetery, preceded by three young drummers and women bearing numerous wreaths.

Young and old gathered close around the graveside, silently ignoring the lines of riot-clad RUC men already assembled a short distance away behind a low wall.

After the laying of wreaths, and a decade of the Rosary led by Michael O Cerrullain, Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams delivered an oration in tribute to the three fallen Volunteers.



● Part of the huge crowd of mourners at Vol Charles Breslin's funeral

● Gerry Adams gives

Adams
orator

E IN or around on Saturday, February 23rd, men, one a man sixteen, all Irish and natives of town, made the the sloping field ing Inisfree Ga were carrying rifles and two grenade-launchers with two gren carrier bag.

Strange men, rorist SAS gang from their conce protected position volley rang out a ing field overle Gardens. Between bullets thudded

Vol Michael Devine

VOL Michael 'Bunty' Devine (22), from the Courta Park area of Strabane, joined the IRA early in 1984 and rapidly proved himself to be a dedicated, highly active and able Volunteer.

A former Irish junior snooker champion, and a member of the local St Patrick's Club, Michael was well-known in Strabane and well-liked by all who knew him. Extremely security conscious, he discussed his deeply-held political

beliefs only with his comrades.

Thus to local people his tragic death on Saturday, and the consequent revelation of his republican involvement, came as a total surprise. Though it was widely believed locally that Michael was still contemplating playing snooker professionally, he had in fact decided against this.

Michael was a fully committed IRA Volunteer for whom no task was too great, or too small,

He rapidly won the respect of his comrades as a careful planner who always did his utmost to ensure the safety of other Volunteers. As well as actively participating in operations against crown forces, he never missed an opportunity for intelligence work.

According to his comrades, Michael Devine, like his brother David and like Charlie Breslin, had shown great potential for leadership. He will be missed by the Republican Movement, and indeed by all who knew him.

Vol David Devine

VOL David Devine (16), although six years younger than his brother Michael, was the first to become involved in republican activities.

A pupil at St Colman's High School, David was regarded as a quiet and clever student. He was politically aware from an early age and missed no opportunity to explain and argue his republican viewpoint. A tall and well-built youth who looked older than his years, he was popular with other pupils.

At the age of 14, David joined Fianna Eireann and worked energetically with local IRA units who developed great trust in his scouting ability and in his intelligence-gathering.

About six months ago, he became an IRA Volunteer and from then on took an active part in IRA operations, displaying a mature dedication and capability to organise actions and gather intelligence, which was valued highly by his comrades. There

was general surprise in local republican circles when, upon his death, his youthfulness became known.

David Devine was one of six children, three of them boys. His eldest brother, Hugh, spent a lengthy period detained in the Cages of Long Kesh as a republican prisoner. Released in late 1983, Hugh Devine died several months later while playing football.

Members of the family believe that a severe beating he had suffered several days earlier at the hands of British soldiers was at least a contributory factor in Hugh Devine's unexpected death.

Vol Charlie Breslin

VOL Charlie Breslin (20), from Strabane's Head of the Town area, was a highly politicised IRA Volunteer who worked tirelessly in many aspects of the republican struggle.

The youngest boy in a family of eight children, at the early age of 12 Charlie began to develop his political views, both through reading and by observing the realities of British-enforced repression and deprivation in nationalist Strabane.

He joined Fianna Eireann when he was 15 years old.

For some 2½ years prior to his tragic death Charlie was an active IRA Volunteer and took

part in numerous attacks on crown forces.

With his easy-going nature, quiet wit and ready smile, Charlie carried these attitudes into his work for the IRA. Even under pressure, he remained exceptionally calm and collected, supporting, and providing an example to, other Volunteers.

Totally committed, he was always eager to mount operations and worked continually to perfect his own technical knowledge and to pass it on to his comrades.

Unemployed since leaving school at the age of 16, he firmly believed in using his time productively.

He developed a deep knowledge of Irish history and politics which impressed all who knew him. Whenever possible, he loved to go fishing.

Over the years, Charlie was subjected to continual harassment and death threats by crown forces on the streets of his native Strabane. He experienced Strand Road and Castlebar where, in June 1984, he was badly beaten by RUC interrogators who held a plastic bag over his head until he lost consciousness. Afterwards, to spare his family anxiety, he said little about the experience.

Always uncomplaining and without any trace of personal bitterness towards the enemy, Charlie Breslin never wavered in his total republican commitment.

British terrorist decreed that it be so. It was in the interests of the British government that these young men be killed.

And we who are left must live and struggle with that reality. Perhaps you and we at this time of immense grief can take some succour from the words of Bobby Sands:

There's an inner thing in every man,
Do you know this thing, my friend?

It has withstood the blows of a million years.

And will do so to the end.

It screamed aloud by Kerry Lakes,

As it was knelt upon the ground,

And it died in great defiance,

As they coldly shot it down.

It lies in the hearts of heroes dead,

It screams in tyrants' eyes,

It has reached the peak of mountain high,

It comes searing through the skies.

It lights the dark of this prison cell,

It thunders forth its might,

It is the undaunted thought, my friends,

That thought that says 'I'm right!'

It was that inner thing which motivated Michael Devine, his brother David and their comrade Charlie Breslin.

Go ndéana Dia trocraire a n-anamacha díle.

To mourn them is to

organise. Let us go, my

friends, from this sacred

spot and mourn them.



● The massive RUC presence failed to intimidate the mourners

of the three young patriots.

There was a brief lull.

One of the strangers from the British terrorist SAS gang approached the fallen bodies. Protected by his cohorts he fired one shot into the heads of each of the young men lying in the sloping field overlooking Inisfree Gardens.

Dúnmharaidh Charlie Breslin, dúnmharaidh David Devine agus a dhearthair Michael fosta. Tá ar gcroíthe cráite agus tá croíthe a gclainn cráite inniu.

Tírghrádhóirí iad. Fir óga ag dul i bhfolach faoin chráíóg. Agus mé ag caint ag an uair seo, tá a fhios agam go bhfuil clann Breslin agus clann Devine an-bhrónach inniu.

Dhúnmharaidh Arm na Sasana na trídír fir óga seo agus tá péas na Sasanaigh anseo inniu. Cad chuige? Tá na fir óga marbh. An bhfuil eagla ar rialtas na Sasana roimh tírghrádhóirí marbh?

We are told by local clergymen that any moral comment of any kind from the IRA or their supporters will have a hollow ring to it. We are also told by the same people that "those who are authorised to carry arms have a serious responsibility to exercise moral restraint at all times".

What Irish citizen authorised the men of the British terrorist SAS gang to carry arms or to conduct their killing operation in the sloping field overlooking Inisfree gardens?

Who authorises the presence of British troops in this part of our country?

Who in Ireland has authorised the partition of this island?

Who has authorised the presence of British crown forces around this graveside?

If we are to have talk of morality then let those who wish to moralise to us explain by what moral code is the British presence in Ireland justified. As an Irish republican I believe, as did the three young men we bury today, that the British presence and the methods used to sustain that presence are immoral.

When those who reserve their moral denunciations for the freedom fighters of the IRA face up to that moral issue, then and only then will they have the authority required to make their other moral denunciations meaningful and moral.

Charlie Breslin, David Devine and Michael Devine did not go out blindly to die for Ireland. They wished only to live for Ireland, but were robbed of that right by forces with superior firepower, whose moral and political code is based totally on the maxim that might is right.

Those who murdered the Devine brothers and Charlie Breslin were merely doing, coldly and efficiently, precisely what they were brought to Ireland to do. To kill, to exterminate, to terrorise.

Those who sanctioned their actions bear the moral responsibility for their actions. These actions were carried out with the political approval of Douglas Hurd, the senior representative of the British army's political wing in Ireland.

Mr Hurd, a well-paid, well-protected career politician is the semi-respectable face of British terrorism. He is part of the criminal conspiracy against the Irish people which has so often led to the deaths of Irish and British



● Vol Charles Breslin's coffin is carried into the Hillside Cemetery

citizens, republican soldiers and British mercenaries. Mr Hurd stands indicted for the murders of these young men.

"Tír ghra" is the Irish expression for the English word patriotism. "Tír ghra" means 'love of country, love of one's people. It was this love, this wish to be free, this unkillable desire to strive for freedom and to resist foreign occupation which motivated those whom we honour by our presence here today.

The IRA paid their own honours last night. Today in prison yards throughout Ireland and Britain, as at this graveside, republicans are gathered in silent tribute to fallen comrades.

On their behalf and on your behalf, I extend our condolences to the families of Michael and David Devine and Charlie Breslin. Your grief is more personal than ours, your loss more permanent. Your sons died because a

Adams' oration

IN or around 5 o'clock on Saturday morning, February 23rd, three young men, one a mere boy of sixteen, all Irish citizens and natives of Strabane town, made their way across the sloping field overlooking Inisfree Gardens. They were carrying small-arms, rifles and two homemade grenade-launchers, together with two grenades inside a carrier bag.

Strange men, a British terrorist SAS gang, opened fire from their concealed and well-protected positions. Volley after volley rang out across the sloping field overlooking Inisfree Gardens. Between 60 and 100 bullets thudded into the bodies



● Gerry Adams gives the oration



WORLD VIEW

El Salvador

WHILE WORLD ATTENTION remains firmly focussed on Reagan's sabre-rattling against Nicaragua, events in neighbouring El Salvador have gone virtually unnoticed.

During the past few months, freedom fighters from the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) have engaged US-backed Salvadorean troops in a number of battles, inflicting heavy casualties on the government forces. In one engagement on February 17th, 28 troops were killed and over 30 were wounded, and a few days earlier 11 government troops were killed in a similar engagement.

These humiliating defeats for the Duarte regime have been a bitter pill to swallow, especially on top of the failure of the 1984 October 16th offensive against the FMLN. The FMLN, over a three-month period (October 16th-Dec 2nd), smashed the offensive, causing the loss of 259 government troops, including the entire general staff of the combat zone units.

The Reagan administration is presently pumping 1.2 million dollars a day into El Salvador, and are hoping to push this up to two million dollars a day — to assist the 'moderate' Duarte regime.

In 1984 the Duarte regime carried out 190 bombings of civilian targets, gunned down over 800 civilians and carried out nearly 300 kidnappings (disappearances), and that was in the first five months of its administration.

The United Nations was so impressed with the 'moderate' Duarte's approach to democratic politics that it passed a resolution condemning violations of human rights in El Salvador. The resolution was sponsored last December by France, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Greece, Spain and the Netherlands.

Meanwhile, a US Congressional group has accused the Reagan administration of providing Congress with "insufficient, misleading and sometimes false information" on US military involvement in El Salvador. As it stands at the moment, the 'official' US military involvement in El Salvador is 55 'military advisors'. 'Unofficially' the number of military personnel involved can be limitless.

The Reagan administration is using a loop-hole called 'Temporary Duty' (TDY), which allows the US administration to send as many troops as they like to "provide short-term advice". The troops can also be sent to "repair Embassy radios, vehicles etc, supervise US administrations, or even clean out US Embassy toilets" according to Washington spokespersons. Thus US soldiers who are classified as TDY in El Salvador are not counted as being in El Salvador for 'military purposes'.

Bhopal

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of India's Attorney General, Mr K. Parasaran, who has just returned from talks in the United States the Indian government has been urged to "initiate proceedings in US courts" against Union Carbide on behalf of the victims of the lethal gas (MIC) tragedy.

This recommendation has come at a time when even more horrific statistics have been revealed about the disaster. In a recent survey it was revealed that nearly 25% of babies born to mothers in Bhopal in the past few months died within hours or days of birth, and that over 40% of babies born are chronically under-weight.

Other reports have claimed that deformed babies are also being born to women from the worst-affected areas. Also, results of a house-to-house survey have so far revealed that 15,947 people are still affected badly by the gas. Of these, 9,181 have lung and respiratory problems

and 5,588 have impaired vision.

The Indian government has accused Union Carbide of "issuing misleading and confusing information" and has charged Union Carbide with "total and criminal failure" to provide against the disastrous leak.

The leader of the medical team in Bhopal, Dr Ishwar Das, stated that "we have got no medical help whatsoever from Union Carbide — only misleading information". This "information" included describing MIC gas as being "not particularly lethal... like a strong tear gas" even though a Union Carbide safety manual describes MIC as "poison to human beings — even limited exposure can be fatal".

Organisation of African Unity

THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, during its 43rd meeting at Accra, Ghana, this month, came out strongly in support of the two national liberation organisations, SWAPO and ANC, who are currently engaged in struggles for self-determination against the South African regime.

The meeting was attended by 22 member states, ten observer states and three liberation movements. A number of resolutions on apartheid and the liberation of South Africa were discussed and delegates urged all "justice loving countries and organisations" to help in the liberation of South Africa and Namibia. The OAU commended both the ANC and SWAPO for "intensifying the armed struggle" and demanded the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners.

The chairperson of the OAU (the chair rotates through the mem-

ber states) declared that "at this precarious stage of our history, the dispossessed African people must be mobilised". Rawlings went on to say:

"We have to be free to know what freedom is — the reality of combat, of destruction, of death and the will to resist is what true liberation is about."

The member states decided to contribute to a special fund for SWAPO, so that the war in Namibia could be intensified.

The 44th meeting will be held in Arusha, Tanzania.

A BOMB EXPLODED in a Marks and Spencers store in Paris on Saturday, February 23rd, killing one person and injuring several more.

The French media and French officials suggested at once that IRA involvement was most likely. Political commentators proceeded to explain to a thoroughly confused French public that the IRA was taking revenge on the British on French territory for the 'loss of their £2 million war chest in a Dublin court'.

An IRA statement issued on Sunday, February 24th, put an end to those rantings. The IRA was not involved and had never carried out any military action on French territory, it said. However, this was but the latest of a series of incidents which have occurred on the Continent in the past few months, none of which involved the IRA, but which have all led to 'rumours' of an Irish connection.

Ernst Zimmerman, a German industrialist, was shot at his home in Munich on February 1st this year. The killing was later claimed by a group calling itself the 'Patsy O'Hara Commando' of the Red Army Faction.

ACTION

One week before, on January 25th, a French army general, Rene Andran, had been shot in Paris, an action claimed by the French group 'Action Directe'. Action Directe and the Red Army Faction had issued a joint communiqué ten days previously, declaring that they were forming a common front "against the multinational structure of NATO".

Immediately, French newspaper reports quoted French police sources alleging that Action Directe and Sinn Fein had met and concluded a pact, somewhere in the Basque country in the Autumn of 1984. The magistrate in charge of the Andran case also publicly mentioned police reports linking Action Directe and Sinn Fein.

Those attacks and similar ones in Belgium, Portugal and Greece were given as the excuse for a special meeting of EEC heads of governments in Italy two weeks ago. The purpose was to discuss a series of common measures,

including tighter collaboration between European police forces, exchange of 'expertise' between 'anti-terrorist squads', and an agreement on extradition.

Free State participants stated their particular interest in seeing if the techniques used by their neighbours could be applied to Ireland, and to their fight against the IRA.

In 1977 the Council of Europe had put forward a proposal for a 'convention on the suppression of terrorism'. But while the convention was signed by all governments but one — Dublin — it was actually ratified, or implemented, by four only, including of course West Germany and Britain.

One of the convention's articles concerns the denial of the right to political asylum for persons who can be "linked" to actions involving the use of firearms, explosives, or kidnapping, whatever the motives or the circumstances.

EXPEDIENT

Some governments, however, had adopted a more expedient position. France, for example, which has not yet ratified the 1977 convention, has repeatedly stated that it would extend political asylum to anyone if their country of origin was ruled by an undemocratic regime. When Mitterand extradited several Basque refugees to Spain last year, he argued precisely that Spain was now a 'democratic state'.

The question came up again on Thursday, February 14th, in Strasbourg, with a resolution urging all EEC governments to ratify the 1977 'anti-terrorist convention' — all Fine Gael MEPs voted in favour, Fianna Fail abstained.

The fact that those recent attacks on the Continent were directed against NATO objectives and people working for NATO, suggests an obvious source of pressure for the EEC to tighten up its repressive apparatus.

STATEMENT

The alleged meeting between Sinn Fein and Action Directe had never, in

fact, taken place. In a statement which was carried in the French press, the foreign affairs bureau of Sinn Fein stressed that Sinn Fein "had attended no meeting and concluded no pact with an organisation called Action Directe".

Around the same time, a special report in the British *Sunday Times*, entitled "Terrorism incorporated" (sic) quoted "intelligence sources" as saying that there had been a meeting of "all the established European terrorist movements" in London last June — "except the IRA".

Despite denials and evidence to the contrary, 'Irish connection' stories continue.

At the end of August 1982, three former IRSP members living in Paris, Mary Reid, Mick Plunkett and Stephen King, were arrested in a blaze of publicity. Guns were produced after a search of their flat by the French paramilitary police — the Gendarmes. These were dangerous people; the police said, about to launch a massive terrorist attack in France.

A year later the court case collapsed, as it was revealed that the Gendarmes had planted 'evidence' in the flat.

HYSTERICAL

Newspapers all over France went hysterical in the days after the arrest of Reid, King and Plunkett. "International conspiracy", "Irish murder link broken", "terror campaign averted", they screamed. One year after the H-Block hunger-strike which had awakened the sympathy of large sections of the European public, the black propaganda machine was back on the rails.

Ironically, when the authors of the killing on February 1st declared themselves as the 'Patsy O'Hara Commando', Michael Plunkett, in Paris, made a declaration to the French newspaper *Liberation*: "Patsy O'Hara was my friend. He was a socialist and an internationalist. That is why the Red Army Faction chose his name rather than that of Bobby Sands, who was merely a nationalist".

Irish republicans are used to surveillance, harassment and repressive legislation in their own country. Their views are censored by the Free State, and by the American government.

As Europe becomes one big police state, will republicans also be banned from Europe, and end up yet again as scapegoats in the dubious conflict between NATO, the EEC governments and a few small groups practising ultra-left violence?

Towards a European police state

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

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BY ROBERT CARLIN

FURTHER PROOF of the irreformable nature of discrimination in the six counties is evident in the eighth annual report of the Fair Employment Agency (FEA), put before the British parliament last week.

The report claimed that, while the Agency's work-load had increased substantially last year, no funds were forthcoming to facilitate the level of investigation required. In 1975, when the FEA was set up, a budget of £280,000 per year was suggested. Today, the agency is operating on a budget of only £250,000, ensuring that it remains a purely cosmetic exercise.

The Agency's comments in the report, on the reasons behind the higher rate of unemployment within the Catholic community, read:

"Part of the explanation for this differential lies in the fact that Roman Catholics tend to be concentrated in industries and occupations which are more susceptible to unemployment.... An alternative explanation put forward by others was that the differentially higher rate of unemployment of Roman Catholics was largely the result of characteristics specific to the Roman Catholic community...."

These remarks smack of the very discrimination and bigotry that the FEA is supposed to combat.

BLATANT DISCRIMINATION

The FEA, in the last year, did manage to highlight the blatant discrimination

NO REFORM POSSIBLE



against Catholics in the fire and ambulance services. The well-publicised report of their findings suggested that

something positive was being done across the board to improve job prospects for Catholics. However, the total

of only 71 new cases dealt with by the Agency in 1984 is still only the tip of a very large iceberg.

The behaviour of a union which withdrew support from three of its members when they refused to drop claims of discrimination, drew the mild criticism from the FEA of 'victimisation' of the complainants.

UNIONS

The response from the five unions representing workers in the Unipork plants in Enniskillen and Cookstown (found guilty by the FEA last week of discrimination against Catholics) to the FEA's request for a meeting shows little interest in combating discrimination.

The ATGWU and APEX did not bother to reply, the AUEW said that they were unaware of discrimination within the company, and the USDAW and AS-TMS had no complaint to make either. Far from being an enemy of discrimination in the six counties, mainly British-based trade unions have been, and are, part of a system which perpetuates anti-Catholic bias in employment practice.

The fact that only seven of the North's 26 district councils have signed the FEA's 'declaration of principle and intent' since its inception in 1975 is indicative of their failure.

Leatrom in éadan Caitliceach ar bun ag BT

LE CIAN MAC AOIDH

TÁ LÍOMHAINTÍ déanta ag innealtóirí Caitliceacha atá fostaithe ag British Telecom in éadan a gcomhlachta as siocair go bhfuil siad toirmeascaithe as a bheith ag obair ar na gléasraí 'ard-teicneolaíochta' is úire.

De réir scálta an tsaothain seo caite ar *Iris an Phobail* i mBéal Feirste agus ar an eagrán Tuaisceartach den *Sunday World* tá baile innealtóirí Caitliceach anois ag brath iarraidh ar an FEA fíorúcháin a dhéanamh faoi mhodhanna fostaithe agus traenála British Telecom. De réir na nuachtán seo tá BT ag cosc na gCaitliceach ar iarratas ó na húdaráis mhíleata sna Sé Chondae.

Maíonn foinsé amháin i BT nár ligeadh do Chaitliceach ar bith freastal ar chúrsaí san nua-teicneolaíocht i Sasain.

Dá bhrí sin, creideann na hinnealtóirí Caitliceacha go mbeidh a bpóist i mbaol ar ball nuair nach mbeadh ar a gcumas oibriú leis an teicneolaíocht nua — a bhfuil a úsáid ag méadó leis an ád.

CUR ISTEAICH

Sé seo an gearán is déanaí atá déanta ag innealtóirí náisiúnacha i BT fán dóigh a bhfuil fórsaí míleata na Breataine ag cur isteach ar a gcuid oibre. Arsa innealtóirí amháin leis *An Phoblacht/Republican News*:

"Le tamall anuas tá British Telecom ag brú ar innealtóirí obair a dhéan-

amh i mbeirici pás nuair a theipann ar an ghnáth chóras gutháin. Ós a choinne sin crosadh ar Chaitliceach baint ar bith a bheith acu le suiteáil córas nua cumarsáide i mbeirici tríd Béal Feirste ar an ábhar go raibh gléasraí treallamh saofaiciúil in úsáid.

"I dtaca linne de níor cóir go mbeadh ar oibríthe BT obair na bhfórsaí míleata a dhéanamh ar a son agus gur iarracht le méid na gCaitliceach sa chomhlacht a laghdú atá taobh thiar den chos ar thraenáil Caitliceach san ard-teicneolaíocht."

ARM NA BREATAINE

Dúirt an toibrí céanna go bhfuil fhios ag na hinnealtóirí go bhfuil arm na Breataine ag baint úsáide as feithicilí British Telecom ach nach bhfuil a gceardchumann, an POEU, sásta an



● Ceannáras British Telecom i mBéal Feirste

scéal a phoiblíú.

"Ni hionann sin is a rá go bhfuil saighdiúirí Briotanacha in achán theithicil dár gcuid atá ar an bhóthar ach tá a fhios ag gach innealtóir go bhfuil á bhfeithicil in úsáid ar an dóigh seo," ar seisean.

"Ar na mallaibh," lean sé leis, "tógadh dhá veain as áras BT i mBallysillan, Béal Feirste, ach níor fhógair an comhlacht nó an ceardchumann an scéal seo de thairbh go raibh fhios acu go raibh úsáid rúnda á bhaint astu ag arm na Breataine."

Neilstown traders victimised

BY JACK MADDEN

THE CAMPAIGN by large shop-owners to get rid of street-traders in Dublin's city centre has now spread to Neilstown, County Dublin, where the livelihood of seven families who operate van-shops is threatened by the combined opposition of shop-owners and gardai.

Neilstown, which is close to Clondalkin, includes several vast local authority housing estates, built within the last decade. Over the years, with no town centre to shop in, the young population of the area has depended on van-shops for basic essentials. Otherwise, they face a long walk to one of two small shopping centres.

Problems arose when the second of these centres was opened in 1982. Fine Gael politician and big-businessman Paddy Belton owns the centre and shop units are rented on the basis of a percentage of profits. Even though they have a

guaranteed trade from the fast-growing population in the area, the shopkeepers in this centre have attempted to maximise their profits by trying to close the van-shops — all of which are licensed.

FOREFRONT

One shopkeeper, named Lawless, has been to the forefront of the campaign against the van-shops, going so far as to appear in court to give evidence against them.

According to van-shop-owner Mary Kinsella, Lawless began "spying" on each of the vans in turn and with the help of a local garda, Martin Keane, began "badgering" them.

A wide range of government bodies, including the ESB, the



● Customers shopping at one of the threatened van-shops in Neilstown, County Dublin

Eastern Health Board and the Veterinary Department, was called in to 'examine' the van-shops at the behest of the shop-owners whom Lawless apparently represents.

Under a bylaw which re-

stricts street-trading within five miles of Thomas Street or Mount Jerome Cemetery, two of the Neilstown van-shop-owners were summonsed to appear in court. One of these was one-tenth of a mile within the re-

stricted area, the other one-fifth of a mile inside.

Other van-shop-owners were also summonsed for non-display of licence or for illegal parking and the gardai in the area have made it clear that they intend

to shut them down — permanently.

PRESSURE

Already two of the van-shops have been forced to close and pressure is being maintained on the others. This is only two years after they were described as a "community service" by Coalition Minister Jim Mitchell, whose constituency includes Neilstown. Yet, in a speech to grocers last year, Mitchell stated that all van-shops would be closed within two years and added that they had already been closed in Tallaght.

According to Mary Kinsella, all of the van-shops operate within the housing estates:

"In this area alone there are about 6,000 houses with 18,000 people. For women with children, the van-shop provides a convenient service as it saves them a long walk to the shops in bad weather. We only provide basics but the large shop-owners want to have a monopoly and that is why they are trying to get rid of us."

tv

REVIEWS

Jacobs awards take the biscuit

BY AINE MARTIN

"1985 will be a 'cracker' of a year" — so goes the Jacobs biscuit advert currently on view on hoardings throughout the land.

Unfortunately, the Jacobs Radio and Television Critics Awards broadcast on RTE1 on Friday, February 22nd, didn't quite live up to this promise. In fact, it was an unmitigated disaster.

For starters, the top prize went to the children's programme Bosco, euphemistically described as "combining education, fun and fascination". In fact, Bosco is a programme that continually assaults the senses and treats kids as if they are all gibbering idiots.

And while we're on the subject of gibbering idiots, Garret Fitzgerald's performance as the presenter of awards will be hard to surpass. Looking extremely worse for wear, bow-tie askew and slurring his speech even more than usual, the bould Garret launched into a near-incomprehensible ramble, the subject of which, accompanied by much arm-waving and loud guffaws, was — you guessed it — Garret Fitzgerald.

FitzGerald announced to a stunned audience that if he wasn't given an award soon, his government would have to

pass another law to gag TV and Radio — hol hol hol Both Brendan O'Brien of *Today Tonight* and Julian Vignoles of Radio 2 made commendable condemnatory speeches about Section 31 to sustained applause from the audience.

Then, getting into his stride, FitzGerald proposed that the only way to keep Gay Byrne in the twenty-six counties was to introduce internment — hol hol hol yet again. Throughout the rest of the proceedings and much to the embarrassment of Joe Lynch who was chairing the event, FitzGerald leapt up and down in front of the cameras like one of the caged apes in Dublin Zoo.

Other notable features of this 'fun-packed' TV spectacular included the Artane Boys Band who insisted on playing fanfares out of tune, the absence of Jim Fehy (an award winner) who refused to attend because he would be required to wear a monkey suit and the comments of J. Graham-Raid who described himself as a "black Protestant" and who, when accepting his award, turned towards Garret and declared:

"I see the Sandy Row

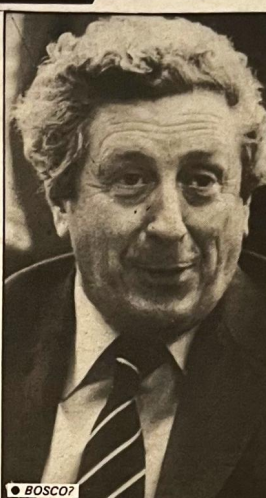


● GARRET FITZGERALD?

Young Defenders are here in force."

The UDR was the subject of a 'profile' on BBC1's *Spotlight* last Tuesday night. And a very skimpy profile it was, too. It quickly skipped over the massive list of crimes the distinguished regiment has been involved in — a brief mention of the Miami show-band massacre, and a hint that that over a hundred of the loyalist thugs had been actually imprisoned — and concentrated on the enormous pressure the poor guys are under.

A long sympathetic inter-



● BOSCO?

view with relatives of a supposedly former member was quickly followed by a brief interview with the relatives of Sinn Féin member Peter Corrigan. Corrigan's widow was asked if her husband's membership of Sinn Féin "contributed to his death?" Like, wasn't it his own fault? Can't recall any widow of a Brit/UDR/RUC man being asked that kind of question, can you?

Seamus Mallon featured, saying that if the Brits had any regiment in 'mainland Britain' with the same track record as the UDR, it would be disbanded. The SDLP have consistently called for nationalists to support the crown forces, of which the particularly obnoxious UDR form an integral part.

While *Spotlight* may have looked at the UDR, the light was certainly very weak.

Annie Maguire was interviewed on the same *Spotlight* programme. On Sunday she had featured on the less-boring-than-usual *Sunday Review* spot on RTE. This woman has just finished a ten-year prison sentence for offences of which she was com-

pletely innocent. She said that she is not bitter about her imprisonment and forgives the British judiciary for the "mistake" they made.

Mary Holland challenged the assertion that a "mistake" had been made and maintained that, as in the case of other Irish people currently held in Britain under the PTA, Annie Maguire was the victim of a frame-up. Mary Holland's task of pointing out the clear desire of the British establishment to convict Irish people simply on the basis of their nationality was not made any easier by the inane comments of Fiamma Fiall's Michael O'Kennedy. He obviously knew little or nothing about the subject but that didn't prevent him from waffling on at length.

He refused to believe Mary Holland when she pointed out that the PTA was rushed through the British parliament in one evening, but became suitably subdued when she pointed out that she had been covering the story at the time and knew the facts.

He also seemed somewhat surprised to be told that a Free State government had rushed through a similar piece of repressive legislation — the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act — in a similar fashion, as a reaction to the bombings in Dublin.

It is the height of irony when a politician from one country condemns a piece of repressive legislation in another while endorsing the same measures in his own country. This form of political 'doublethink' is, too often, left unchallenged. But, with Mary Holland pointing out the inaccuracies in his argument, O'Kennedy was left without a leg to stand on.

film

Beverly Hills Cop

BY EDDIE STACK

AT THE BEGINNING OF *Beverly Hills Cop*, the comedy thriller starring the new black superstar from America, Eddie Murphy, a telling sentence appears on the screen. It is "This film was made by Eddie Murphy Productions". That to me is a sentence about the American Dream. Eddie Murphy isn't a happy-go-lucky 23-year-old no more; he's 20,000 shares at 200 bucks a share.

Woody Allen used to have a line about himself like that. He said he had turned himself into a company with his parents owning 50% of him but already they were trying

to squeeze him out. Meanwhile, *Beverly Hills Cop* is just Eddie Murphy's third film after *48 Hours* and *Trading Places* but already it's one of the biggest box-

office hits of all time. It's hard to believe, but *Beverly Hills Cop* has no shark, no extra-terrestrial, no Darth Vader, no boys peeping at girls in the shower, no ghosts to bust, no Cuban-Russian-Nicaraguans to invade America and no Clint Eastwood to say "Go on, make my day". All it's got is Eddie Murphy, his dirty grin, his laugh, his four-letter-word vocabulary — and still it's a smash!

But then again to say that all *Beverly Hills Cop* is Eddie Murphy is close to the truth. It's quite an unexceptional chase and shoot-'em-up movie.

It's got a few laughs here, a dig at gays there, a nasty villain and all, but by and large you could sleep through it without too much bother. It's just when Eddie Murphy appears and laughs his nawk, nawk, nawk, laugh that the audience roll around helplessly as if someone flicked the switch on their electric chair.

My impression was that Murphy was ad-libbing half the time but I'm just not sure that I really don't envy him for getting away with it.

Murphy plays Axel Foley, a Detroit cop with most unorthodox methods of interrogation and detection.

Having walked back to his



● EDDIE MURPHY

apartment after destroying five police cars, four lorries and ten thousand cigarettes (please don't ask me to explain the cigarettes), he meets an old buddy recently returned from Beverly Hills. This pal, however, has stolen German bonds from a big crook in Hollywood and so the crook's hit-team comes out to shoot him outside Axel's apartment.

BUDDY

To revenge his buddy, Axel heads for Beverly Hills, thus explaining why they called this movie *Beverly Hills Cop*. These Americans aren't stupid, you know.

Anyway, Axel, being really cool, walks right into the

crook's office, upon which the big crook gets his heaves to throw Axel out the window. Axel is thus arrested by Beverly Hills policemen who drive him to the station. Axel is impressed by the cleanliness of their police car. "Hey this thing is nicer than my apartment," he notes.

In the station, Axel finds that in Beverly Hills, policemen do things by the book. This is unlike any other police force in the world, be it in Dublin, Belfast, Kilcock, New York or in, of course, Beverly Hills! But Axel soon gives them the slip and goes to stay in the Beverly Hills Hotel where the tips come to about half your wages. Here the script sags slightly, forcing Eddie Murphy to employ his famous laugh, nawk, nawk, nawk.

ADORABLE

But you can't help but love Axel. He sends down a delicious meal to the cops watching his hotel because he knows what it's like to sit and wait in a car all night. Isn't that just adorable? But wait, while the policemen are distracted by their meal, Eddie slips a banana into their exhaust, causing their car to conk out.

Axel, having fooled the cops, finds out that the big crook is importing heroin. He tells the Beverly Hills cops to arrest the crook immediately. "We can't do that," they say, "We need a warrant."

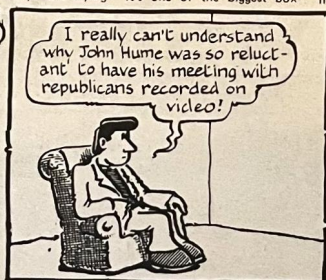
"But since when do police need a warrant?" says Axel in the by far most realistic sequence in *Beverly Hills Cop*.

Suffice it to say that *Beverly Hills Cop* is a bit of fun with a few laughs and is not a total waste of your ticket in. But I can't see what all the fuss is about why Eddie Murphy is now Eddie Murphy Productions. Nawk nawk, nawk.

NOTES



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Imeachtaí

CEILI/OLD TIME SOCIAL
Featuring
the Shamrock Ceili Band
Friday 8th March
Memorial Hall
GULLADUFF
County Derry
In aid of the Hughes/Connolly
McElwee Memorial Band

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ACTIVITIES

WHITE LINE PICKETS
in all local areas
Friday 8th March
1-2pm (6 counties)
5-6pm (26 counties)

24-HOUR VIGIL
5pm March 8th-9th March 9th
British Embassy
DUBLIN

ALL-DAY SEMINAR
Workshops and Videos
11am to 5pm Saturday 9th March
Whitewick Leisure Centre
BELFAST

FUNCTION
8pm Saturday 9th March
Andersonstown Social Club
BELFAST

ARMAGH JAIL PICKET

Sunday 10th March
Armagh Jail
Belfast buses leave
Dunville Park at 1pm
Taille £2 return
Bookings from 238123
Dublin buses leave Municipal
Gallery at 12 noon
Taille £5 return
Bookings from 723932 531749

CUIMHNEACHAIN MHAIRTINÍ

**CHLUAIN ARD
CLONARD MARTYRS
COMMEMORATION
FOLK NIGHT**
Featuring Bramble
8pm Saturday 9th March
Cluain Ard GAC
Springfield Crescent
BELFAST
Taille £1
Tickets available from local
Sinn Féin

WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY
3pm Sunday 10th March
Milltown Cemetery
BELFAST

**GEORGE PLANT
CJMMEMORATION MARCH**
Sunday 10th March
St Johnstown
FETHARD
County Tipperary
Assemble: 2.30pm Coolbawn
Cemetery
Commemoration Social on
Saturday 8th March, Caman Inn,
Killaule, Thurles
Taille £2

**BALLYSEEDY
COMMEMORATION**
2.30pm Sunday 10th March
Assemble Ballygarry House
BALLYSEEDY
County Kerry
Speaker: Caoimhghin Ó Caoilain

CEILI
9pm Sunday 10th March
Ballygarry House
BALLYSEEDY
County Kerry
Taille £2

BALLAD SESSION
Music by Dan Paddy Andy
8pm to 11pm Friday 15th March
Derby House Hotel
KILDARE
County Kildare
Taille £2.50
Organised by Sinn Féin

**BALLAD SESSION
& BUFFET**
Guest speaker: Danny Morrison
8pm Saturday 16th March
Castle Inn
Christchurch Place
DUBLIN
Taille £10
Bar extension
Organised by Dublin
North-East Sinn Féin

Call for unity on language

BY CIAN Mac AOIDH

THE HEAD of the Sinn Féin cultural department has invited the SDLP to co-operate with Sinn Féin in tackling the major issues affecting Irish language enthusiasts in the North.

Mairtin O Muilleoir was speaking on the Radio Ulster Irish language programme *An Dara Sui* in reply to the SDLP's Brid Rogers, who, two weeks earlier, had used a slot on the same programme to launch an unchallenged attack on Sinn Féin's promotion of the Irish language. At that time, O Muilleoir had lodged an official complaint with the BBC over the pro-SDLP bias shown by the programme presenter and demanded the right of reply to Rodgers' "party-political broadcast".

On *An Dara Sui*, which was broadcast on Thursday, February 21st, and again the following Sunday, O Muilleoir said that SDLP/Sinn Féin co-operation on the demands of Northern language enthusiasts would lead to increased funding for education through Irish, more broadcasting in Irish and an end to the ban on Irish in prisons.

CRITICISMS

Speaking in Irish, he replied to the SDLP criticisms of Sinn Féin's language work, saying:

"Sinn Féin has no monopoly over the Irish language, which is the common heritage of all the Irish people. There can be no doubt, however, that the Irish language has been boosted by republican involvement in the cultural revival.

"Republican prisoners, in the H-Blocks especially, by their dedication to the language, demonstrated to many people the importance of our Irish identity. The numerous Irish classes run by Sinn Féin and our involvement in the setting up of Irish language schools are other examples of our constructive contribution to the cultural revival."



● MAIRTIN O MUILLEOIR



● A protest was held by Irish language supporters outside the BBC offices, Belfast, on Saturday

He added:

"The nationalist people are entitled to promote the Irish language and any attempts to divorce the language from the Irish nation will, therefore, be rejected by Irish nationalists."

CAIRBRE O CIARDHA

The imprisonment of Cairbre O Ciardha in Mountjoy Jail on Monday, February 25th, for his refusal to pay a television licence has been condemned in a statement

from Sinn Féin's cultural department. This states:

"His (O Ciardha's) protest, like that of many other individuals, is aimed at exposing RTE's discrimination against Irish speakers."

"At the moment RTE broadcasts a disgraceful 3% of Irish language programmes. Perhaps now would be a suitable opportunity for Dublin Communications Minister Jim Mitchell to put into action his recent verbalising on RTE's cultural obligations."



● A section of the large crowd at the Dunloy commemoration

Dunloy commemoration

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY of the deaths of IRA Vols Henry Hogan and Declan Martin was marked on Sunday, February 24th, by a commemorative march through Dunloy, County Antrim, to the spot where they were both gunned down by an undercover unit of the Brit SAS.

There, Sinn Féin elected representative for Fermanagh/South Tyrone Owen Carron gave a brief oration praising the courage of the Volunteers, both victims of the Brits' shoot-to-kill policy.

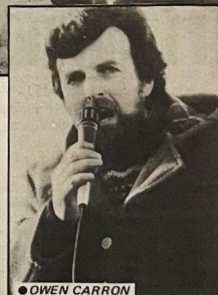
Commenting on the similarities between their deaths and the slaying of three Volunteers at the weekend,

Carron stated:

"We stand in mourning with yet another two grieving families in another corner of the six counties, the Devine family and the Breslin family from Strabane, whose three sons were shot to death by the same faceless strangers, in the early hours of Saturday morning in a field near their home."

The march, through the town earlier had been led by a colour party from the Hogan/Martin Memorial Flute Band, Dunloy, one of five bands on parade at the commemoration. A strong RUC/UDR presence failed to intimidate the crowd of over two thousand who came to pay tribute to the memory of the dead Volunteers.

En route to the spot near the Hogan family home where the Volunteers were killed, the march halted at the cemetery and wreaths were laid on



● OWEN CARRON

their graves by their families and friends and on behalf of the Republican Movement.



●The aftermath of the British army's raid on the Sinn Féin bank, Dublin, on February 27th 1920

Dail Eireann Iolan

BY PETER O'ROURKE

IN APRIL 1919, within weeks of the establishment of Dail Eireann, the republican government launched a national loan.

The proceeds of the loan, the organising of which was entrusted to Michael Collins as Minister for Finance, were to be used to propagate the Irish cause throughout the world, establish foreign consular services to promote Irish trade and commerce, develop the national economy and generally to be used for national purposes.

From the offices of the Minister for Finance at 6 Harcourt Street, republican bonds to the value of £250,000 in sums of £1 to £1,000 were issued. As a precaution against seizure by the British, the loan money was banked in the names of private individuals.

The task of organising the national loan was not made any easier by the British, who grew alarmed and set out to suppress it from the start. The

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Dublin Castle regime, through its spies and agents, had made exhaustive efforts to locate the money, together with Sinn Féin funds, but without success.

TRACE

During February 1920, a British agent, Alan Bell, was appointed to trace the growing national loan and other Sinn Féin funds. Bell, a resident magistrate noted for his services to British Intelligence in Ireland had, as a young man in the RIC, helped investigate the Land League funds during the 1880s.

On February 27th British troops

raided a Sinn Féin office and seized £1,040. The main amount of the republican funds was, however, deposited in Dublin banks and was therefore very difficult to trace.

On March 1st 1920, Bell issued a proclamation ordering all bank managers to appear before him and give evidence regarding the sources of their deposits. By mid-March he had already extracted a considerable sum believed to belong to Sinn Féin from the Munster and Leinster Bank. It was now only a question of time until he had lands on the national loan.

As IRA Director of Intelligence, Collins ordered his intelligence officers to track down and execute Bell. Before the end of the month Bell, while on his way to work from his home in Dalkey, was taken from a tram at Merrion, County Dublin, and shot dead.

The national loan was saved and was successfully closed later that year at £357,000.

THEir HUMANITY

BAILEY, Sean. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our comrade Vol Sean Bailey, 'C' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died as a result of a premature explosion on February 13th 1976. They may kill the revolutionary but never the revolution. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a nam dílis. Always remembered by the republican POWs in the Cages and H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

BEST, Paul. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my friend and comrade Paul Best, Belfast Sinn Féin, who died after February 18th 1976 from gunshot wounds inflicted by renegade Irishmen. Mass offered. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a nam. Venceremos, comrade. Always remembered by Pol.

BURNS, James. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol James 'Skipper' Burns, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was murdered on February 23rd 1981. When comes that day, all hearts to weigh, if staunch thee be or vile. Shall we forget that secret debt, we owe our mother Isle. My native heath is brown beneath, my native waters blue. But crimson red over both shall spread, 'ere I am dead to you. May heaven keep the men who sleep, in the ranks of the Old Brigade. Always remembered by Burns, James, (4th Anniversary).

In proud and loving memory of Vol Jim 'Skipper' Burns, Oglagh na hEireann, who was murdered on February 23rd 1981. RIP. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Lay him away on the hillside, along with the brave and the bold, inscribe his name on the roll of fame, in letters of purest gold. Sadly missed by his Aunt Lily, Joe and family.

CASSIDY, Paddy; McKILLOP, P.V. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of P.V. McKillop and Paddy Cassidy who died as the result of an accident on February 26th 1984. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for them. Always remembered by the Jim McGinn Sinn Féin cumann, South Derry.

DUFFY, Paul. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol

Paul Duffy, Oglagh na hEireann, County Tyrone, who was shot dead in a stake-out operation on February 26th 1979. I measc laochra na hEireann go raibh a nam dílis. Always remembered by Tyrone Oglagh na hEireann.

DYNES, Eddie. (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Eddie Dynes, North Armagh Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died in a car accident at Kesh, County Armagh, on March 1st 1983. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a nam dílis. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the North Armagh Brigade.

DYNES, Eddie. (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Eddie Dynes, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed in a car-crash on March 1st 1983. From Mary, Marion and family.

DYNES, Eddie. (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Eddie Dynes, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed in a car-crash on March 1st 1983. Always remembered by the John Greene Sinn Féin cumann, Castleblayney.

HOGAN, Henry; MARTIN, Declan. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Henry Hogan and Declan Martin, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on active service on February 21st 1984. Always remembered by the Veronien Liam Molloy.

HOGAN, Henry; MARTIN, Declan. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Henry Hogan and Declan Martin, North Antrim Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on active service on February 21st 1984. Always remembered by the McBready/Maguire Sinn Féin cumann, Letterkenny.

STAGG, Prolinias. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Prolinias Stagg who died on hunger-strike in Wakefield Prison, England, on February 12th 1976. Mass offered. They tried to break your spirit, the phoenix they tried to quell, but all in vain, for the more they tried, the harder you did rebel. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a nam. Always remembered by P.V.

Comhbhrón

BRESLIN, DEVINE. The Republican Movement, Cookstown, extends sincere sympathy to the families and friends of Vols Charles Breslin, David Devine and Michael Devine, Oglagh na hEireann, who were murdered on February 23rd.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. The republican POWs extend the deepest sympathy to the families of Vols Charles Breslin, Michael Devine and David Devine, Oglagh na hEireann, who were killed by British troops on Saturday, February 23rd. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nam.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. The Sinn Féin POW Department extends deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Vols Charles Breslin, David Devine and Michael Devine, Oglagh na hEireann. RIP.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. Newry/Armagh Sinn Féin comhairle extant extends sincere sympathy to the families and friends of Vols Charles Breslin, Michael Devine and David Devine who were murdered by the British army on February 23rd.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. Michael McVerry Sinn Féin cumann, Cullyhanna, extends heartfelt sympathy to the families and comrades of Vols Charles Breslin and Michael Devine who were murdered on February 23rd. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nam.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. The McCruesh/McCabe Sinn Féin cumann, Mullsawbawn, extends sincere sympathy to the families and friends and comrades of Vols Charles Breslin and Michael Devine who were brutally murdered by the British army on February 23rd.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the families, friends, relatives and comrades of IRA Vols Charles Breslin, Michael Devine and his brother David Devine who were murdered by the faceless and spineless SAS. The only tribute we can give to our fallen comrades is to continue the struggle until the freedom for which they died has been achieved. From Pat McGovern, Cormac King, Brian, Lorna and kids, Ann, Pat and kids, Paddy Dempsey, Anto, Inka, J.B. and Paddy 'D', Tiocfadh árla.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. Silgo Sinn Féin comhairle extant extends sincere sympathy to the families, friends and comrades of Vols Charles Breslin and Michael Devine who were brutally murdered by British troops on Saturday, February 23rd. I measc laochra na hEireann go raibh a nam.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. The Langan/McDonnell Sinn Féin cumann, Silgo, extends heartfelt sympathy to the families of Vols Charles Breslin, Michael Devine and David Devine who were shot dead by the British army on February 23rd. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nam.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. The Seamus Steele Sinn Féin cumann, Camlough, extends deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Vols Charles Breslin and David and Michael Devine, Oglagh na hEireann.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. The Barney Morris Sinn Féin cumann, Crossmaglen, extends their deepest sympathy to the families and friends of David and Michael Devine and Charles Breslin.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. The Boyle/Bennet/Clarry Sinn Féin cumann, Belfast, extends deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Vols David and Michael Devine and Charles Breslin.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. The Patrick Logan Sinn Féin cumann, Clady, extends deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Vols David and Michael Devine and Charles Breslin.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of Vols Charles Breslin, David Devine and Michael Devine who were killed on active service on Saturday, February 23rd. RIP. From Sean Gallagher, Strabane.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the families, friends and comrades of Vols Charles Breslin and Michael Devine, Oglagh na hEireann, who were shot dead by the British army on Saturday, February 23rd. From Tony Treacy and Eugene McKee (Portlaoise).

BRESLIN, DEVINE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the families, friends and comrades of Vols Charles Breslin, David Devine and Michael Devine, Oglagh na hEireann, who were murdered in cold blood by the SAS on Friday, March 23rd 1985. God grant eternal peace to them. From Michael and family.

BRESLIN, DEVINE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Devine and Breslin families on the deaths of their sons. From Seamus and Catherine McGarrigle and family.

BRESLIN, DEVINE, KELLEHER. Cumann Toirneach Mac Suibhne, an tSionna, Contae an Cháirde, extends heartfelt sympathy to the families, friends and comrades of Vols Charles Breslin, Michael Devine and David Devine who were brutally murdered by British terrorists while defending our country from foreign rule. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Commandant General Tom Kelleher, a life-long republican, saint Jesus, have mercy on their souls.

KELLEHER. The Joe McDonnell Sinn Féin cumann, Bantry, extends deepest sympathy to the family, friends and comrades of Commandant General Tom Kelleher who died recently.

PENDER. The Republican Movement in Kerry extends sympathy to Moss Pender on the death of his son.

SMYTH. The republican POWs in the H-Blocks, Long Kesh, extend deepest and heartfelt sympathy to our comrade Gary Smyth (H-Block), and his family on the death of their mother on Tuesday 19th February. Go nuaire Dia le daoine a hanam.

SMYTH. Most deep and heartfelt condolences are offered to Gary Smyth (H-Block) on the recent death of his mother. A Mhuine na nGael dean Idirghul ar a hanam. From Peter Whelan.

SMYTH. Deepest sympathy is extended to Gary Smyth (Long Kesh) on the death of his mother. From all his friends in Skerries.

USEFUL PHRASES

Rith mé ar nós na gaoithe nuair a chomlaic mé an tarbh ag teacht - I ran like the wind when I saw the bull coming.

Bhí Seán ag obair ó mhaidin go hoíche chun an ghluaisín a dhéanú - Seán was working from morning till night to fix his car.

Féidh mé Síle amárach le cuidiú Dó - I will see Síle tomorrow with the help of God.

Is dual do chat luca a mharú - It is natural for a cat to kill a mouse.

Ní raibh sé anseo i rith an lae - He wasn't here during the day.

Tá Máire tuirseach traochta, bhí sí ag treabhadh sa ghort ar maidin - Maire is tired and worn out, she was ploughing in the garden this morning.

Go dté tú slán, a chara - May you go safely, friend.

Tá réiteach na faidhe agam - I have the solution to the problem.

Ta an cat ag cronan - The cat is purring.

ag treabhadh sa ghort ar maidin - Maire is tired and worn out, she was ploughing in the garden this morning.

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Ta an cat ag cronan - The cat is purring.

Rish Lesson 176

Beannachtaí

CLARKE, Anthony; McCOMB, John. (England). Birthday greetings to you both. From all your friends and comrades in Kerry.

CUNNINGHAM, Brian. (H-Block). Birthday greetings, Brian. Hope your next is spent in freedom. From all the family in Castleblayney.

CUNNINGHAM, Brian. (H-Block). Happy birthday, Brian. From all your friends in Castleblayney.

DEVINE, Paddy. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Paddy. You're always in my thoughts. From your loving wife Etta, xxx

DEVINE, Paddy. (Portlaoise). Happy

birthday to a wonderful Dad. We all love you. From Margaret, Linda, Carmel, Barbara, Patrick, Gerard and baby Lisa, xxx

DEVINE, Paddy. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Paddy. See you soon. From Mam and James.

DEVINE, Paddy. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Paddy. From Frank, Ann, birthday, Paddy. From the family in Kerry.

FANNING, Eugene. (Portlaoise). All the best from 'Fat Gordon'.

FANNING, Eugene. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Eugene. From an old friend, guess who?

FARRELL, Malread. (Armagh). Happy birthday on March 3rd, Malread. From all your friends in Kerry.

McPEAKE, Sean. (H-Block). Birthday greetings, Sean, for March 1st.

Hoping your next one is spent in freedom. God bless. From the Bellaghy Republican POW Welfare Association.

TUITE, Gerry. (Portlaoise). All the best, Gerry, on this your 21st-plus. They say all roads lead to Portlaoise! Good luck for the rest of the year and don't overtake the 'Big Fella' in running. From Maureen, Danny and Janet.

TUITE, Gerry. (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings to you Gerry lad. Everyone joins in this greeting to you, me and you. God bless you and all the boys there. From Molly and friends.

TUITE, Gerry. (Portlaoise). Wishing you a very happy birthday, Gerry. Best regards from Patricia, West London.

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