



**Major criminal gang
uncovered by IRA**

—SEE PAGE THREE—



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SDLP

FIFTEEN YEARS after its foundation, the SDLP is in the process of establishing a policy studies institute closely modelled on and financed by a right-wing American institute which supports Reaganite foreign policy objectives.

Details of the proposed institute first emerged in June this year in America when the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) revealed that it was forming close links with the SDLP for 'mutually reinforcing assistance'.

The centre-piece of this 'assistance' would be an institute which 'will provide for SDLP officials a centre in which long-range strategies can be considered, policy positions debated, developmental goals established and relations conducted with similar party institutes and foundations in the United States and Europe', as summarised in the *Irish Echo* (an American newspaper) on June 8th.

The NDI also revealed that it would send 'a team of Democratic Party representatives' to the six counties to work with the SDLP. In welcoming the news that his party and the NDI would be working together, John Hume reportedly stated:

"The SDLP has long had a strong relationship with leaders of the Democratic Party. This association with NDI will extend that relationship to the mutual benefit of our parties."

MAJOR CONTROVERSY

Far from being an adjunct of the Democratic Party, however, the NDI shares the aims and the objectives of the National

Endowment for Democracy (NED), a group established in November 1983 which has since been at the centre of major controversy in the United States.

As a private and non-profit corporation, the NED is a convenient vehicle for advancing Reagan's foreign policy under a cloak of secrecy. Because it is private, the NED does not have to reveal its activities under the Freedom of Information Act. Furthermore, it is exempt from the legislative controls on US government agencies which supposedly prevent them from meddling in the internal political affairs of other countries.

In short, the board of the NED includes arch-conservatives such as Senator Orrin G. Hatch and Dr Henry Kissinger, as well as Frank J. Fahrenkopf and Charles T. Manatt, chairpersons of the Republican and Democratic Parties respectively. These, along with the most reactionary elements of the American trade union movement and the American Chamber of Commerce, use the huge funding given them by central government to 'promote democracy'.

The NED distributes this funding to 'worthy' groups who are not obliged to state where they have spent the money. Last year's major recipients were the Free Trade Union

Institute (FTUI), a right-wing alternative to the World Federation of Trade Unions. The FTUI used at least part of its 11 million dollars to rig the result of the presidential elections in Panama in 1984 and also managed to interfere in elections in Grenada.

BENEFACTORS

After the FTUI, the major benefactors have been the National Chamber Foundation, who got 1.7 million dollars, the National Republican Institute for International Affairs and the NDI, each of whom got 1.5 million dollars.

Interestingly, the chairperson of the NDI is the same Charles T. Manatt who is on the board of the NED. Other board members of the NDI are Rosalynn Carter, Cyrus Vance and Daniel P. Moynihan, all of them major figures in the Democratic Party. But as one member of Congress and major critic of the NED stated in an article in the *Wall Street Journal*:

"While the institutes use the names 'Democratic' and 'Republican' neither has been authorised or approved by the governing bodies of the two parties. As they currently stand, the institutes appear to be little more than personal entities organised by the two party chairmen and four other individuals associated with the parties."

Whether Republican or Democrat, these institutes represent the same interest — the interest of American foreign policy worldwide. While the Republican institute has bluntly stated



that its aim is 'to develop an international alliance of conservative parties...', the NDI 'seeks to foster and support democratic institutions and pluralistic values overseas', according to its own handout leaflet.

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

As part of the 'mutual assistance' promised, the SDLP leadership will get financial backing and junkets from the NDI. But what will they be asked to give in return? Already we know that party leader John Hume has developed close links with politicians in both US parties, and regularly visits the States to strengthen these links. Fur-

thermore, and perhaps more importantly, his deputy, Seamus Mallon, has indicated that he personally would not object to exchanging Irish neutrality for unity.

Whether the SDLP as a whole moves towards a policy of support for NATO remains to be seen. But what already seems certain is that sections of the party leadership, with or without the sanction of party members, have already adopted that position and are now claiming the reward offered by an institute whose interests in Ireland is its strategic value in terms of East/West relationships — no more, no less.

OPINION

Irreformable state

IN A STATE built on injustice and inequality, repression and discrimination, justice is an impossibility. That there can be justice within such a state, that the irreformable can be reformed — these are the false promises upon which the SDLP was founded 15 years ago, and this same false belief lies behind the SDLP document published on Monday, August 19th.

This document, entitled *Justice in Northern Ireland* is fundamentally flawed both in its analysis of the nature of the six-county state and its preoccupation with the symbols rather than the substance of British misrule.

This view is in line with the Forum report and its lengthy diatribe on such abstractions as "alienation", "identities", and the "ethos of the two communities". The document holds that the removal of the crown and the oath from courtrooms and their substitution with a "crest of peace and tolerance" can "restore confidence in the administration of justice". The tone throughout suggests more concern on the part of the SDLP with the image of Orange judiciary and their courts than with the suffering of nationalists at their hands.

At the same time, the SDLP criticises every arm of the British system in Ireland — its rotten courts, its corrupt judiciary, its murderous police and army and, with remarkable frankness, it comments that the situation is "practically unchanged since the foundation of the State". But the belief that after 65 years the six-county state can be changed or "democratised" is the SDLP answer, their offering to victims of generations of discrimination.

Their criticisms ignore the fundamental cause of injustice, suffering and death in the six counties — the British presence. The legal system, the judiciary, the repressive laws and the gunmen who administer them are all, as General Sir Frank Kitson described them, weapons in the British government's arsenal. To expect independence from them is to accept the British propaganda line that their role in Ireland is to keep the warring sides apart, a result of tragic historical circumstances.

The SDLP leadership is incapable of facing up to the fundamental injustice of Britain's denial of the Irish people's right to national freedom and sovereignty.

They call for reforms while the nationalist people, including their own grassroots members and supporters, know that the six-county state is irreformable.

FUTILE EXERCISE

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A DELEGATION from the Community for Justice group in the North, concerned with highlighting the degrading practice of strip-searching, walked out of a meeting in Dublin on Monday, August 19th, when the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace (ICJP) refused to issue a statement outrightly condemning the practice.

Community for Justice, comprised of both laity and clergy, have been actively engaged in drawing the attention of the episcopal conference of Irish bishops to the glaring injustices inherent in the six-county state-let. After requests earlier this year to meet with the episcopal conference were obtrusively refused, a further stalling tactic was applied when the bishops' standing orders committee recommended that they spoke to the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace, a group who willingly and eagerly collaborated with the British government to undermine the 1981 H-Block hunger-strike.

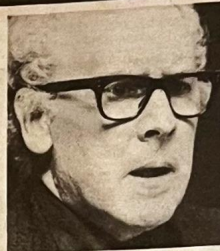
UNREPRESENTATIVE

An indication of the ICJP's contemptuous attitude towards problems affecting nationalists in the North was reflected in the small and unrepresentative number who turned up to meet the Community for Justice group. Only four out of 20 were present, including a former Derry SDLP man Dr Ray McClean and the Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, Dermot O'Mahoney, who, they immediately informed the group, had no power to take decisions.

During the meeting, the ICJP's ignorance of the situation in Armagh and their inability to grasp the urgent need for immediate action convinced the Northern group that:

"The meeting was merely a talking shop, a further buffer zone between us and the Irish bishops."

The ICJP patronised the delegation and fobbed off reasonable requests from the group that they, and in turn the episcopal



● (Above) Fr Des Wilson and (below) Fr Joe McVeigh of the Community for Justice group



conference, issue a "singular and unambiguous" statement condemning strip-searching.

DIALOGUE

Other demands of the group included that the practice be "publicly and loudly" condemned by not only the bishops but "all priests" until it ceases, and that in future the episcopal conference should engage in dialogue with groups who represent the oppressed people of the six counties.

After an hour-long exchange with the ICJP, their stubborn refusal to issue a statement left the Northern delegation with little alternative but to abandon the meeting. Brieg Brownlee, a former Armagh prisoner, described the meeting as "a futile and cosmetic exercise used as a stalling tactic. We told the commission we had no confidence in its alleged ability to mediate on moral issues and that by their silence they were giving the British authorities further leave to continue the practice".

However, in a last-minute bid to minimise embarrassment and

redeem lost public credibility, the ICJP did in fact issue a condemnatory statement on strip-searching later that evening, albeit rather reluctantly.

BRIXTON STRIP-SEARCHES

And while so-called "concerned" groups such as the ICJP shy away from exposing or confronting British methods of repression, two Irish women held on remand in Brixton Prison have been undergoing an average of ten strip-searches each week since June 22nd.

Derry women Martina Anderson (23) and Ella O'Dwyer (26) endured ten strip-searches each within the five-day period from August 5th-10th. Furthermore, an average of 30-40 body searches every week, accompanied by two cell searches and a cell move each week are also imposed on the women.

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin elected representative in Derry, has received what he described as "a distressing letter" from Martina Anderson concerning their treatment. McGuinness called for an "immediate cessation of such degrading and immoral treatment which was unnecessary, unjustified and added to the already heavy burden of distress on their families".

H-BLOCK INCIDENT

Lack of concern for prisoners' lives in the H-Blocks was strongly condemned by North Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Gerard McGuigan following an incident in H7-Block last Friday, August 16th, when two shots were fired into an exercise yard where two prisoners were walking.

The shots, fired from a training range used by the RUC less than 400 yards from H-7, ripped through corrugated iron fencing and lodged in a concrete post in the exercise yard. Both prisoners heard a sharp noise and discovered the bullets a short distance from where they were exercising.

Use of the firing range — which posed a continuous source of danger to prisoners' safety — has been suspended by the NIO, pending investigation into the incident.

FINAL SALUTE

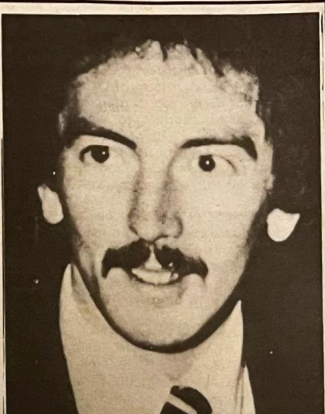
ON TUESDAY, August 20th, South Derry Brigade of the IRA gave the final salute to Volunteer Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, who was murdered by an undercover SAS squad in Fermanagh on December 2nd, 1984.

Three Volunteers from South Derry's 2nd Battalion fired a volley of shots over Volunteer Mac Giolla Bhrighde's Tricolour-draped grave in the cemetery at Coolcolm, Desertmartin, at around 9.30pm. Seven other Volunteers covered the roads leading to the graveyard in this loyalist area to ensure the safety of the firing party.

Despite an immediate follow-up search by the Brits and the RUC, all Volunteers safely withdrew from the area.



● Volunteers from the South Derry Brigade honour their fallen comrade, Volunteer Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde



Collaborator executed

FOLLOWING a stern and detailed 'final warning' issued last week by the IRA against contractors and builders involved in refurbishing or building work for the crown forces in the six counties, IRA Volunteers executed a Tyrone contractor, Seamus McAvoy, in Dublin.

In their statement claiming responsibility and issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin, the IRA said:

MR McAVOY had been given many, many warnings — by telephone, by letter and by IRA attacks on his premises in Coalisland — about his collaboration with the occupation forces in the North.

We repeat our recent warnings to those in the construction industry and to those working in barracks that they will suffer the consequences of such collaboration.

Mr McAvoy, who supplied Rowan cabins and building materials to barracks and military border posts for renovation work, was not earning an honest day's pay but was receiving ill-gotten gains. From such military bases, operations have been hatched which have resulted in the murders of nationalist civilians and IRA Volunteers. Within such bases, nationalist people have been beaten and tortured. Without such bases, British military power would be severely hampered.

There will be no more warnings.

STRABANE BLASTED

IRA Volunteers from the East Tyrone Brigade commandeered a car around 10pm on Sunday, August 18th, and used it to transport a 100lb bomb to its target in Castle Street, Strabane.

The Volunteers placed the device outside the Woolworths store, which is one of the largest in the town, and primed it. They then withdrew from the area and warnings were given.

A short time later the bomb exploded destroying Woolworths and causing severe structural damage to other premises in the immediate area.

NEWCASTLE

The RUC barracks in Newcastle, County Down, narrowly escaped destruction when an electrical fault caused a set of mortar bombs, targeted on the barracks by Volunteers of the South Down Brigade, to detonate while still on their launch pad.

The explosion which destroyed the Volkswagen van containing the mortars occurred around 2.30pm on Tuesday, August 20th.

MAJOR CRIMINAL GANG UNCOVERED

The IRA in Belfast has given members of a major criminal gang

operating in the greater Andersonstown area in West Belfast 48 hours to leave the country.

In a lengthy and detailed statement, the Belfast Brigade has outlined the scale of this particular gang's criminal involvement and of the steps the IRA is taking to end their anti-people activities. It also calls for the nationalist community to assist in combating these thugs by alienating and isolating them in exactly the same way as the RUC and British army are isolated.

The IRA statement says:

FOLLOWING months of patient intelligence work, the Belfast Brigade has now positively identified over a dozen people actively involved in criminal actions including armed robbery, muggings, hi-jacking, break-ins and 'fencing'.

Instructions have been issued to units in Belfast for action to be taken as and from Friday midnight, August 23rd, against specific and positively identified individuals.

The Bank Bar in Castle Street, a centre for this gang's anti-social activities, has now been instructed to close. In the interests of their own safety, people are advised to stop frequenting this bar.

We are in possession of the names and addresses of those involved in the following criminal activities:

1. Casement Park Social Club, West Belfast: two break-ins resulting in over £3,000 being stolen. Among those involved were individuals from Hillhead, Lenadood and North Link (the North Link man has a record of criminal activities).

2. McCormick's shop, Andersonstown Road: two break-ins in which over 11,000 cigarettes were taken.

3. Hairdresser's above Sinclair's Post Office: a robbery in which an imitation .45 handgun was used and £20 taken. Among those involved were two men from Andersonstown, one of whom has a history of such activity.

4. Roddy McCrory Club, Glen Road: two break-ins in which £1,000 was stolen and considerable damage done to the premises. The previously-mentioned men in Items 1 and 3 (from North Link, Hillhead and Andersonstown) were involved as was another Andersonstown individual.

5. St Agnes Drive houses robbed. On one of the robberies the criminals involved gained admission to the house by giving the impression that they were IRA Volunteers and produced a weapon. Money and personal items were taken. Four of those involved were participants in the

events above as well as yet another Andersonstown man.

6. Manning's shop, Andersonstown Road; Pool Hall, Glen Road; a private house in Ladybrook: robberies in which cigarettes, money and personal items, including a microwave oven and radio, were taken. As well as four of those involved in the previous activities, a Bingham Drive man was responsible.

7. Royal Victoria Hospital:

a robbery in which a doctor had his watch, wallet and car taken. The Lenadood man involved in Item 1 and another criminal were involved.

8. Receiving of stolen goods. Several identified private taxi drivers are involved in this.

9. Setting up of armed robberies. A Lisburn Road taxi firm is being used by one of its drivers and one of its workers as a front for this purpose.

10. On July 18th a lorry containing 200 cases of spirits was hi-jacked from the Whitefort Bar, Andersonstown Road. The spirits were held in Hannahstown while arrangements were made through a third party, a New Lodge man, for them to be sold to the management of the Bank Bar. Among those involved were two men from Ballymurphy and the Lower Falls, and the Lenadood man previously mentioned. Each received £200 while the New Lodge 'contact' received £1,000.

In concluding its statement, Belfast Brigade ask the nationalist community for its active support in dealing with these thugs:

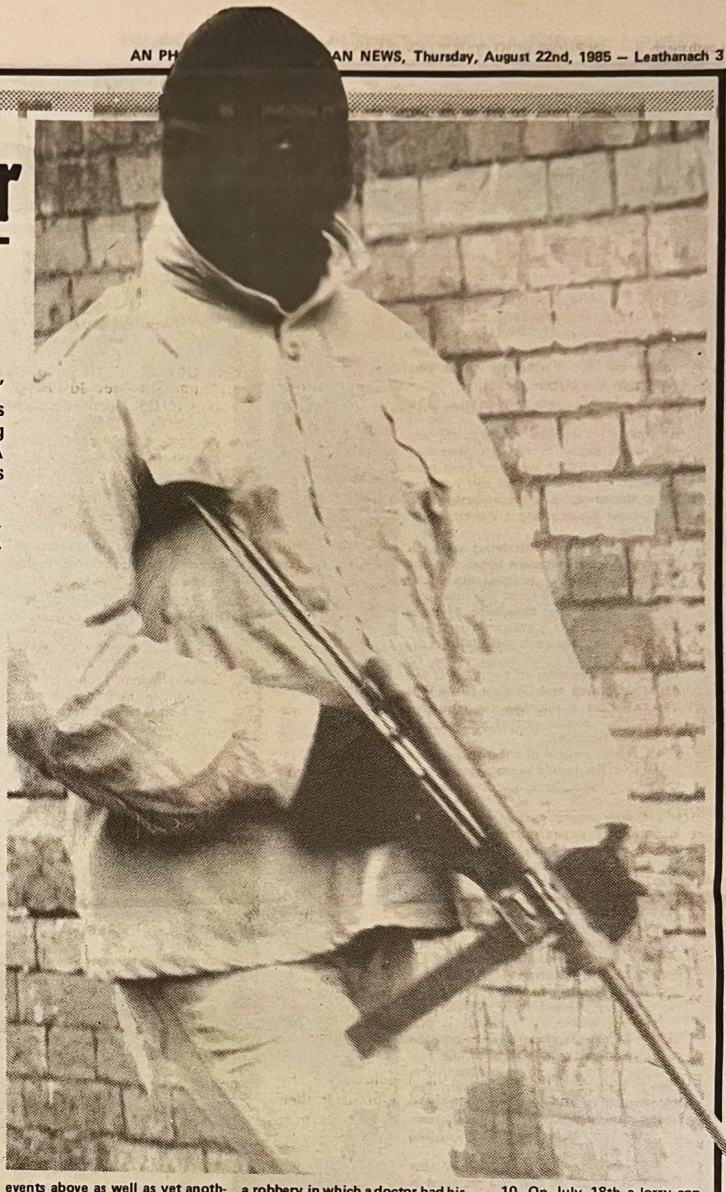
THESE criminals are well-known in the areas where they live. They should receive the same treatment from the nationalist community as the crown forces. That is, they should be completely ostracised. No shop or bar should serve them. No-one should socialise with them.

These people are as much our enemy as are the Brits and RUC and they should be treated accordingly.

Anyone assisting them to remain after the 48-hour deadline expires at midnight on Friday night, August 23rd, can expect to be viewed in the same light as these gangsters.

**These people are
as much our enemy
as the Brits and
RUC and they should
be treated accordingly.**

— IRA



Enough is enough

BY DONAL LYONS

PHIL FLYNN, General Secretary of the Local Government and Public Services Union (LGPSU), spoke to *AP/RN* about last week's announcement by the Coalition of a pay freeze in the public sector.

"Enough is enough," Flynn says. "This pay freeze is the culmination of a series of attacks on workers in the public sector which began in the late Seventies. Since then LGPSU members have been subjected to reductions in real pay and living standards, reneging on agreements, substantial job-cuts and constant public vilification."

He believes that this latest assault is inspired by the mistaken belief that the will does not exist amongst the public service workforce to resist this intervention in free collective bargaining. Flynn is adamant that there is a growing determination amongst the rank and file to resist the dictates of an out-of-touch regime. To this end all branches of the LGPSU are being circulated to hold ballots and give the executive a mandate for industrial action. He is confident that this mandate will be forthcoming.

He is also critical of other trade union leaders in the public sector, saying that they have been "long and loud on verbiage but short on action" and have served only narrow sectional interests. It is time they provided strong leadership and demonstrated faith in their members' courage and capacity to resist, Flynn says. He strongly advocates a united front response and is seeking to organise joint action through the auspices of the Public Services Committee of Congress.

Flynn reserves his strongest criticisms for the whole economic policies of the Free State. He rejects as "ludicrous" the Coalition's assertion that the only solution to unemployment is pay restraint.

He asks where the evidence is that income suppression results in the creation of employment and points to the fact that pay restraint in the public sector has been in force for the past four years. Yet, the number of registered unemployed in the twenty-six counties has almost doubled, from 125,744 in July 1981 to 231,026 in July 1985.

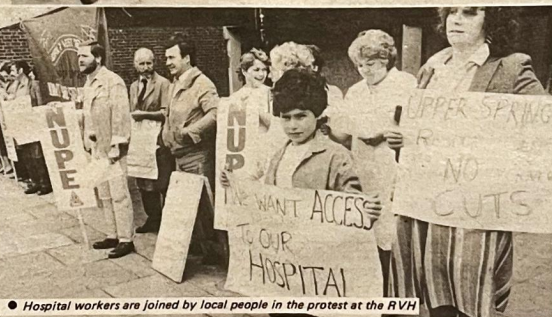
He condemns as "disgraceful" the Coalition suggestion that pay increases in the public sector can only be paid for by cutting public expenditure in the areas of health, education and social welfare. Flynn describes this as an attempt to blackmail workers in general and public service workers in particular.

He asserts that the money would be readily available if they collected the £620 million due in collectable taxes, and also plugged the 'black hole' which annually allows transnationals to move £1 billion from the Free State economy. He also points to the downward trend in Capital Taxation which constituted almost 12% of total tax revenue in 1974. It now only accounts for 4%.

In conclusion, Flynn says that the LGPSU totally reject the policy of the Coalition and will fight them tooth and nail. He urges workers in all sectors to organise now and defeat the growing tide of reaction in our midst.

Recommendations issued this week by the Labour Court in relation to Irish Steel are totally unacceptable, says workers' spokesperson Donal Varian. The court has sided with management and say the workforce must accept 115 redundancies and the pay freeze. The recommendation goes further and gives management the right to introduce selective redundancy and so dispense with seniority.

As we go to press, the workers are meeting to vote on the proposals but, as Varian points out, they are not "voting in a democratic situation" as management



● Hospital workers are joined by local people in the protest at the RVH

have said that the plant will close if the workers reject the package. Even if the workers do accept, resentment amongst them against management/Coalition tactics runs very high.

The chairperson of Sligo Trade Council, Timmy Newell, has condemned the Lord Mayor of Sligo, Michael Carroll, for his remarks blaming the trade union movement for unemployment in the area.



● PHIL FLYNN

At a meeting between councillors and a trades council delegation to discuss the implementation of the Social Employment Scheme, Carroll accused unions of "obstructing people who are willing to work" and "closing factories in this town and this country".

Newell told *AP/RN* that the "remarks of Carroll come as no surprise to the workers of Sligo, this is typical of the reactionary politics of the man".

Carroll, who runs a business in the town, is an ex-Fine Gaeler who in 1972 accused Sinn Féin of causing Bloody Sunday. The Trades Council itself in a statement described Carroll's actions as "disgraceful", and accused him of abusing his mayoral role and of bringing that position into disrepute. The Council are demanding that Carroll publicly withdraw his comments or else substantiate his claims.

To date Carroll has refused to do so and is continuing on his union-bashing orgy.

The Free State Department of Social Welfare has been forced to admit that 35% of the population in the twenty-six counties are dependent on welfare payments to survive. There are 700,000 people in direct receipt of weekly pay-

ments and when their dependants are included the number rises to £1¼ million. The publication of this report comes at a time when the Coalition are making savage cuts in welfare services.

The 45 workers at Robey Sports Ltd in Waterford city have been informed by post that the company will not be re-opening after the August holidays. The company, which is owned by Dutch national Peter Bay, was established here in 1978 with an IDA capital grant of £250,000. Last year the company had a turnover of £1.2 million and the workers union, the ATGWU, believe that the plant has a viable future. Management have steadily run down stocks during the course of this year, and have refused to discuss their plans with the workers. A union/IDA team has flown to Holland and this week to see Peter Bay.

The lives of people seeking emergency treatment at Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital may be at risk because of a decision to close the Falls Road pedestrian entrance from 6pm to 6am at weekends, the health service union NUPE said this week.

The union pointed out that the entrance is adjacent to the Casualty Department, and that patients could face a 15-minute detour through badly-lit hospital grounds. Refuting a claim by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board that the closure is the result of recent physical attacks on staff, NUPE pointed out that, because of financial cutbacks, 17 security staff posts are currently unfilled. They point out that closure of the entrance will not improve safety, since other gates are frequently unstaffed.

On Monday, August 19th, about 300 NUPE members mounted two mass pickets outside the hospital as the first step in a campaign of industrial action against the closure.

Yet again the official live register of unemployed in the twenty-six counties has shown a sharp increase. The month of July saw another 3,088 join the dole queue. This latest surge brought the jobless rate to 231,016 or 17.4% of those available for work. In the past 12 months, unemployment has risen in the Free State by 18,927. When one considers those who don't register, or those hidden on work experience schemes, the true unemployment figure is nearer 300,000.

Bhí sé curtha i leith an Fair Employment Agency (FEA) sa Chúirt Oibre an tseachtain seo go raibh siad féin tar éis leatrom a dhéanamh ar dhuine atá fostaite acu.

Chur bean atá ag obair san FEA an dlí ortha nuair a fuair sí amach go raibh pá níos airde a fháil ag fear a bhí ag déanamh an sórt céanna i roinn stáit eile.

Tá breithiúnas in airde ag an chúirt ar feadh deich lá.

Ambulance staff in many areas of the six counties are on indefinite strike in a dispute over back-door privatisation and petty disciplinary measures.

The strike, which involves members of NUPE, COHSE, and the NUGMW, began last Friday, August 16th, in the Western Health and Social Services area. Unions there have strongly criticised the continued failure of the Board's senior administrator, Tom Frawley, to negotiate with them.

Union spokespersons have pointed out that hospitals in some areas are increasingly using taxis to transport patients, for example renal cases, rather than ambulance teams able to provide trained medical aid. And Belfast ambulance staff this week revealed that from September the authorities plan to reduce night cover in the city.

Repression by any other name

BY HILDA MAC THOMAS

THE SDLP made a bid to grab the headlines last Monday, August 19th, by launching for the second time this year its document on judicial reform, *Justice in Northern Ireland*.

Grabbing the headlines is not a particularly difficult thing to do in the second half of August, when assemblies and parliaments are in recess, and most career politicians are away holidaying — including until last Monday SDLP leader John Hume.

The SDLP document, which had been reported in the press prior to the party's last annual conference, and which the press obligingly re-reported on Monday, advises the Brits on ways to ensure that the "process of justice be seen to be impartial", in the words of SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon.

Three-quarters of the document is culled directly from various critical studies of the Emergency Provisions Act, the RUC and the courts, carried out by civil liberties groups and individuals throughout the last ten years. Under the revealing title *Stretching the Law*, the SDLP lists the conditions of bail, the length of remand, the rules of evidence, the use of plastic bullets, and other long-standing nationalist grievances.

SAFEGUARDS

But all these nasty things would not happen, the SDLP argues, if there



JOHN HUME & SEAN FARREN

were 'safeguards', such as jury courts, an independent RUC complaints procedure, a greater independence of the Director of Public Prosecutions from political pressure, or more judicial inquiries — which are "means to voice public concern".

As the Kincora victims have perhaps

failed to understand.

The SDLP's recommendations however come as a bit of an anti-climax after the bold denunciation of the injustices meted out to Northern nationalists. They ask that the charge of 'disorderly behaviour' be used less liberally, that the law forbidding

'Irish street names be abolished, and that the 'ethos' of courts be changed.

'Ethos', in SDLP language, can loosely be translated as appearance, since what these legal reformers are demanding is nothing less than the removal of Union Jack displays in the courts around November 11th, the dropping of the word 'Crown' in the name of 'Crown Courts', the relocation of the DPP's office away from the Law Court buildings, and the renaming of the RUC. Having a plastic bullet fired at you by the 'Northern Ireland Police' is admittedly far more reassuring than if it were the RUC!

RED RAG

To unionists, however, the seven-month-old SDLP document was once again like the proverbial red rag to the bull. Ex-UDR major and OUP man Ken Maginnis said it was designed to cause "maximum aggravation" to the unionist people, while DUP chief whip Jim Allister referred to the term 'alienation' as "propaganda". The unionists' knee-jerk reaction will probably be the only badge of nationalist credibility the SDLP document will ever get.

For it must be clear to all Northern nationalists that the SDLP is more concerned with the symbols of oppression than with its root cause, the British presence in Ireland. Setting the maximum time on remand to 110 days is an insult to all those Irish people who have been thrown in jail in their own country by a British court. Criticisms of the RUC also fail to recognise the RUC's role in the six counties, as the main arm of British repression. No supposedly independent RUC complaints procedure could deal with that major complaint.

HONEST

In a statement slamming the SDLP document Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams challenged the SDLP leadership to be honest and state whether "they would enter a six-county assembly if Britain were to clean up its act and accept some of the SDLP's recommendations". Furthermore, what if the British did not accept them?

After several weeks of rumours about the possible failure of the London-Dublin talks, and the apparent unwillingness of Thatcher to agree to any significant change, there are those in the SDLP who are beginning to panic and wish to see their party distance itself from the whole venture. Those SDLP members probably best described as the Haughey wing of the party — as in Charles Haughey, not Denis — include Seamus Mallon and Paschal O'Hare who, as it happens, presented the document to the press last Monday.



Latest unionist ploy

THE UNIONIST BLOC on Craigavon Council have done it again. Last Friday, August 16th, again using the RUC, they expelled Sinn Féin, SDLP and Workers Party elected representatives from a second council meeting. Journalists too were excluded as, during a 20-minute session behind closed doors, the unionist mini-junta voted to engage lawyers — at ratepayers' expense, of course — to defend their undemocratic antics in court.

In a further act of pettiness, a local Sinn Féin advice worker, John Little, was barred by an official from even the public gallery and council carpark.

These latest expulsions, the second in as many weeks, result from a motion steamrolled through by the unionist council majority on July 18th. This specified that all members would be barred from meetings unless they sign a "declaration and acknowledgement" condemning violence "for political ends".

That pompously-titled 'decla-

ation', the unionists' latest ploy to disenfranchise Sinn Féin voters, was dreamt up after last June's High Court judgement which declared that the council had acted beyond its powers in excluding Sinn Féin Councillors Brendan Curran and Brian McCann.

FRANTIC

The result of all these frantic unionist manoeuvres — a panic reaction to Sinn Féin's May election successes — have been novel, to say the least.

Over the past decade, since its



Sinn Féin Councillors Brendan Curran and Brian McCann

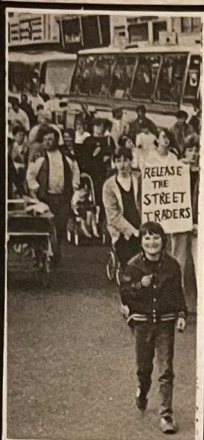
formation in fact, the unionist sectarian discrimination in jobs, in GAA and other recreation fac-

ilities (discrimination which has been documented in court actions and by the Fair Employment Agency) with minimal protest from other elected representatives.

During the past months, however, in which the unionists have been the object of incredulous international media attention, both the five SDLP and two Workers Party councillors have refused to sign the unionists' 'declaration' (citing as their reason the undemocratic exclusion of Sinn Féin councillors) and have walked out or been expelled from meetings rather than collaborate in the unionists' blatant sectarianism.

The SDLP and Workers Party councillors also initiated legal action, which resulted on Monday, August 19th, in a High Court judicial review of the legality of the council 'declaration' and subsequent expulsions.

Judgement is expected by the end of the month, and whatever its outcome, can only result in further embarrassing exposure of the British government and the workings of its sectarian statelet.



Motion supports street-traders

AT A MEETING of Dublin Corporation on Monday, August 19th, the militant position adopted by Dublin's street-traders in recent protests was vindicated when a motion proposed by Sinn Féin's Christy Burke was adopted. Burke proposed that in future all street-traders be notified by the Corporation about forthcoming permit issues. This was agreed and will overcome the anomaly whereby foreign students and others with no tradition of street-trading have first knowledge of available designated sites.

Burke also informs us that the ongoing campaign by the traders is now likely to be successful as politicians of various hues run for cover on the issue. Monday's meeting even had Fianna Fáil Councillor Mulcahy describing the City Centre Business Association (CCBA), as "right-wing". The whole issue has now been referred to the Supreme Court and the vital issues at stake will be resolved then.



FOUR COURTS PROTEST

A DRAMATIC PROTEST was staged in Dublin on Tuesday, August 20th, to highlight, in the words of the protestors, "the silence and inaction of Peter Barry and the Coalition government on the British policy of strip-searching women prisoners in Armagh Jail".

Members of the Liberties anti-strip-search group climbed onto the dome of the Four Courts at 4.45pm on Tuesday with a 30-foot banner demanding an end to the strip-searches in Armagh.

CHALLENGE

In a statement the group said that in the past three years 2,500 strip-searches had been carried out, 400 of them in the first six months of 1985. Nothing has ever been discovered in these searches, their purpose being purely to degrade and humiliate women republican prisoners.

The group challenged the Coalition government to replace their lip-service to Northern nationalists with real action on the issue of strip-searching.

As well as occupying the roof of the Four Courts a picket was held outside the building. Though there was a large presence of gardai at the later stages of the protest, they were powerless to act against the group.

The rooftop protest and picket ended at 6.45pm after two hours.



● Sinn Féin's Harry Fleming with local children in the Finglas advice centre

FINGLAS YOUTH PROJECT

FINGLAS SINN FEIN has been running a very successful project over the past few weeks involving the youth of the area in various social activities. Sinn Féin's advice centre in Finglas has been the base for playgroups, video shows, discos and craft workshops for children and young people.

There has been a welcome response from the people of Finglas where leisure facilities for the young, particularly during the holiday period, are far from adequate.

The project is now in its third week and it is planned to continue after the school holidays. There have been attendances of up to 70 children at the various events over the last three weeks.

Sinn Féin community worker Harry Fleming told AP/RN that the project has highlighted the need for more leisure facilities in the Finglas area as well as showing the positive role Sinn Féin can play in organising activities and opening up its own facilities to the community.

Finglas Sinn Féin will be continuing the project with more events and activities in the near future.

NEW LODGE MAN ADMITS TO COLLABORATION NEVER TOO LATE

A 35-year-old New Lodge Road man has revealed that for several years now he has been working for British Military Intelligence.

The man, who is married with a young family, was arrested for screening by British troops some years ago and taken to North Queen Street Barracks. There he was threatened by British Military Intelligence who said that if he did not assist them in gathering information they would frame him "for murder" and "other things".

The New Lodge man, whose wife is a Protestant, was also told that they "would have her shot". Threats were also made against other members of his family.

At his first meeting with them, one of his Brit 'handlers' cynically remarked:

"There's no going back now — you help us or we'll make sure the IRA shoot you."

CODE NAME

Since that time, he has been meeting his 'handlers' once a

month, sometimes more often. He was given a code name, 'Os-car', while various 'handlers' were called 'Pete', 'Nicky', 'Richie' and 'John'.

A variety of pick-up points were established which included Linenhall Street, Great Victoria Street and Lagan Bank. The usual procedure was for him to "walk up, for example, the left-hand side of Linenhall Street. If I spotted anyone I knew I was to cross the street. The Brit would then leave me alone."

When picked up, he was usually taken to a number of 'safe' houses or carparks in Holywood, Lisburn and Ballykinlar. His job for the Brits, for which they paid him between £10 and £20 on each occasion, was to watch particular republicans and supply information on their movements. He was given telephone numbers in

Lisburn and Belfast if he had any information.

"I was living a Jekyll-and-Hyde existence. It was terrible."

PERSISTENT

On several occasions he attempted to break contact with the Brits, but they were persistent. Although he changed his telephone numbers on three occasions, the Brits swiftly obtained the new numbers and harassed him into resuming contact.

"They would ring me up hour after hour for weeks and months."

More recently, the Brits began to pile on the pressure, even demanding that he recruit his wife.

In addition he believed that the IRA was close to uncovering his actions. For several months past he has been under mounting pressure and finally, last week, he decided to reveal the truth.

He said:

"It's a great relief. I can begin to live a normal life again. I'm glad I've told somebody about it now. I thought it was too late,



I was sure that there was nothing I could do. Now I realise it's

never too late. You're better coming forward."

Antrim republican victimised

NORTH ANTRIM REPUBLICANS are being victimised by the RUC, with incidents of petty harassment and trumped-up charges becoming regular occurrences. Sam Hartley, chairperson of the newly-established Cushendall Sinn Féin cumann, was detained last Thursday night, August 15th, and accused of stealing a number of tyres which he had legitimately purchased.

The incident began the previous day when Hartley was stopped at an RUC checkpoint and verbally abused for display-

ing the colours of the local football team. Hartley's car was meticulously examined for mechanical faults and, when none were found the RUC men ordered him to produce two new tyres at Carnlough Barracks.

Furthermore, his father Eamonn was ordered to accompany the RUC to the local barracks and on arrival was asked why he was there instead of his son. When Sam Hartley produced the tyres, he was immediately arrested on suspicion of having stolen them and was transferred to Ballymoney Barracks, some 20 miles away. The RUC refused to check out his story with the local garage and Hartley was in-

terrogated for five hours by the Special Branch before his release.

And in an equally malicious action the RUC arrested the 16-year-old son of Moyle Sinn Féin Councillor Sean Regan as he was returning from a dance in the early hours of Sunday morning, August 18th.

Two youths were being arrested by the RUC as Francis Regan was walking home and, without any provocation, he was also dragged into the back of an RUC car.

Regan, who was charged with disorderly behaviour, was held in Cushendall Barracks until his mother arrived at 5.30am.



● SEAN REGAN

Ballymurphy harassment

AN 18-year-old West Belfast man was kicked and beaten by members of an RUC patrol on the Monagh Road last weekend.

Eamon Morris, who was returning home with a friend from a Saturday night disco at a local social club, believes he was singled out because last month he publicly exposed a year-long RUC campaign to intimidate him into supplying information.

Since June 1984, when he was 16, Morris has twice been held in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre where RUC Special Branch threatened that unless he agreed to do a deal he would be detained on trumped-up charges (see AP/RN, July 25th). Over many months, Morris was subjected to regular street harassment by the RUC and also received several phone-calls from men with English accents, threatening that he would be shot.

Since Morris exposed the RUC's sordid harassment, a further two death-threat

phone-calls have been made to the shop where he works. The most recent occurred on Thursday, August 15th.

The latest incident began around 12.30am on Sunday when Morris and a friend, John Munce, were stopped by an RUC patrol on the Monagh Road. After giving personal details, they were detained for several minutes and then Morris was singled out by the RUC.

UNCONSCIOUS

He recalls:

"They started pushing me towards the back of the jeep and then pulled me in by the hair. Four got in the back and two in the front.

"They asked my name and address again. Then the one in the passenger seat punched me in the jaw and they all started punching and kicking me, it must have been dozens of times.

"I fell to the floor. I think I must have been unconscious because my mate said they had me in the jeep for 15 minutes, but to me it only seemed like five."

Eventually, the RUC kicked Morris out of the vehicle, one of them shouting "Happy 19th birthday!"

Eamon Morris suffered bruising to his forehead, back of the head, ribs and back, as well as lacerations to both hands. He was treated in the Royal Victoria Hospital and has consulted a solicitor with a view to taking legal action against the RUC.

The RUC's brutal assault on Eamon Morris was condemned by local Sinn Féin Councillors Lily Fitzsimmons and Sean Keenan, who advised anyone being harassed "in this very sinister manner" to contact Sinn Féin.



● EAMON MORRIS



In the British

BY LIZ CURTIS

THE OUTCRY over the banning of the BBC's *Real Lives* programme about Martin McGuinness and Gregory Campbell has highlighted, once more, the question of British media coverage (or non-coverage) of the political situation in the North of Ireland.

There was little new about the ban — it was just one more episode in the shameful and repetitive story. The reason it provoked journalists into an unprecedented strike was that this time the censorship procedure was so swift, so surgical and, above all, so public.

The film had been completed and was advertised at length in the *Radio Times*, when the *Sunday Times* alerted politicians to it on July 28th. Next day the Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, demanded that the BBC ban it, and the gutter press began howling for censorship. On Tuesday the BBC's governors caved in. It all took just three days.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES

Up until British troops went onto the streets of Belfast and Derry in August 1969, unionist politicians had policed the radio and television coverage of Ireland. Together with the usually compliant broadcasting chiefs, they had en-

sured that virtually no coverage of their unjust and anachronistic 'province' reached the airwaves.

Then for a few months British politicians tried to press the unionist regime towards reform, and the media praised the Civil Rights Movement, treating people like Bernadette Devlin as celebrities. But when British strategy changed, pushing ever-greater numbers of British troops into a highly-aggressive role in nationalist areas, the media, and especially the right-wing press, became increasingly hostile to the nationalist community.

The results were sometimes ludicrous, as in this *Daily Sketch* report in June 1970:

"Behind the swirling haze of CS gas, the croak of the frog summons Londonderry to riot... It moves from street battle to street battle, pouring out a continuous stream of hate, vilification and obscenities."

But the biggest assault by British politicians and newspapers (and the inevitable

LIZ CURTIS is a member of the London-based Information on Ireland publishing group and author of *Ireland: The Propaganda War*, published by Pluto Press in 1984.

Mary Whitehouse) against radio and television began in 1971. The introduction of internment without trial was accompanied by torture of detainees and widespread brutality by British soldiers on the streets — they killed 11 civilians on August 9th alone, the day internment was introduced.

PATRIOTIC CENSORSHIP

Reports of such atrocities on radio and television infuriated Tory MPs who demanded "patriotic censorship" and the then Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling, summoned the chairpersons of the BBC and the Independent Television Authority (the body that oversaw the commercial stations and forerunner to the Independent Broadcasting Authority).

Christopher Chataway, the minister responsible for broadcasting, publicly lectured the broadcasters not to treat the "soldier" and "murderer" as

moral equals. Lord Hill, chairperson of the BBC governors, agreed:

"The BBC and its staff abhor the terrorism of the IRA and report their campaign of murder with revulsion... As between the British army and the gunmen, the BBC is not and cannot be impartial."

Since the introduction of internment, the BBC had begun to censor numerous items including an in-depth programme on the IRA, an interview with released detainee Michael Farrell, and a report of a nationalist "alternative parliament", as well as news of several incidents showing the British army in a bad light.

Lord Hill's statement, which was soon echoed by the Independent Television Authority, formalised the situation, publicly committing the BBC to a biased and selective treatment of events in the North, in which the views and experiences of a large part of the nationalist community were taboo.

THE VIETNAM PARALLEL

The particular fear of the British establishment at the time was that critical coverage of the British army would sap morale in the military and back home. Lieutenant-Colonel

'Mad Mitch' Mitchell, Tory MP and veteran of earlier colonial wars, for instance, accused the BBC of "contributing to IRA objectives by undermining the will of the home population to fight in Ulster".

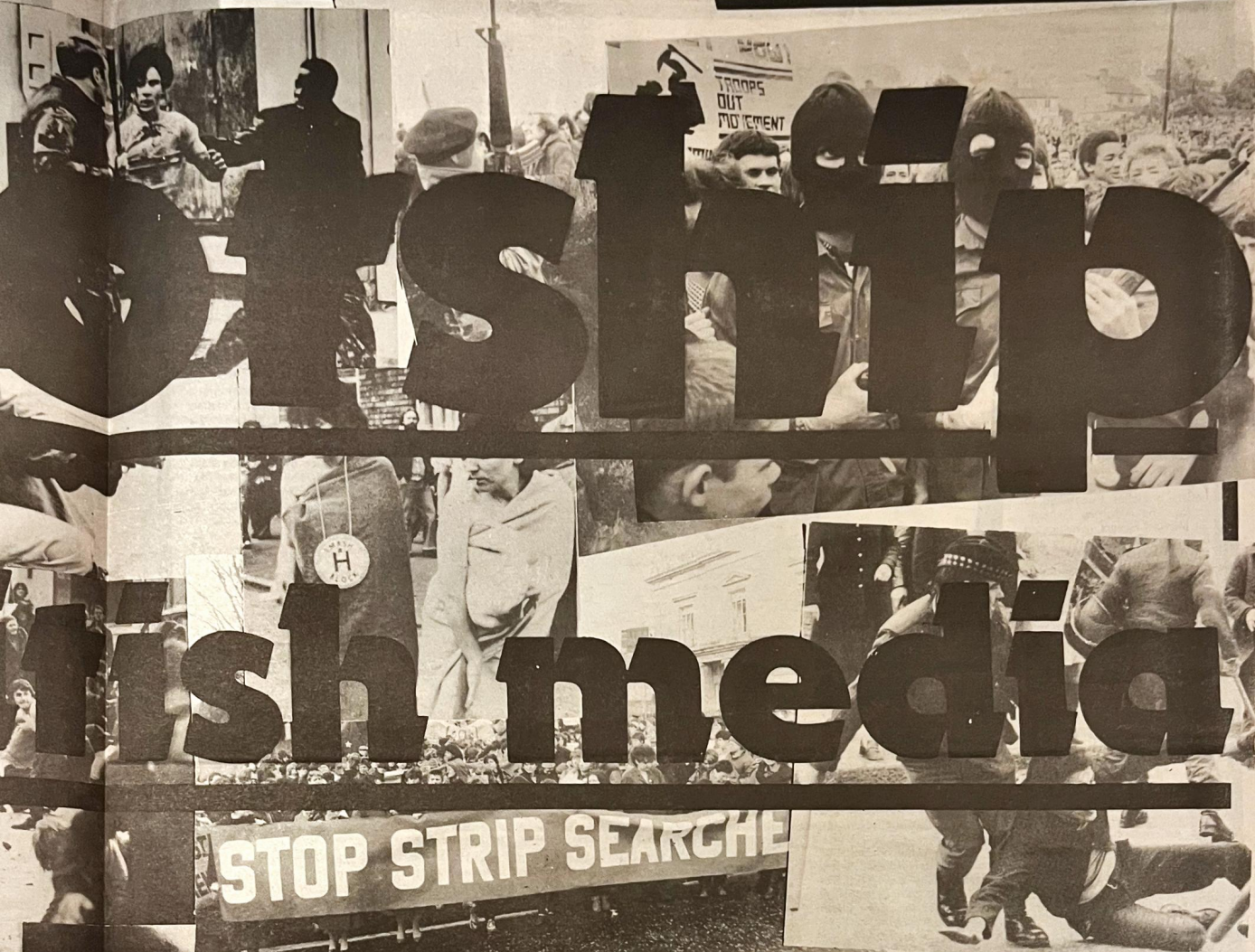
The fear was real. An opinion poll in the *Daily Mail* that September showed that 59% of British people wanted the troops brought home. Politicians and pundits invoked the alarming example of American TV coverage of the war in Vietnam, which was being widely blamed (or credited, depending on your viewpoint) for the enormous growth of the anti-war movement.

The American authorities effectively spiked the anti-war movement, not by censoring TV coverage, but by 'Vietnamising' the war and taking 'our boys' out of the front line and replacing them with locally-recruited forces (thus decreasing the number of coffins on the homeward-bound planes). In the mid-Seventies, the British began to follow the same policy. 'Ulsterisation' in the six counties and the decline in the number of British troops was accompanied by a decline in British public interest. (The RUC and UDR, after all, are not considered by the British to be 'their boys', and their

deaths have no Britain.)

HUNGER STRIKE
In effect, the U of the 'security' side of the British government of the attitudes with an 'Irish' helped to promote isation of information.

From about 1970 the collapse of 5 Ireland deepened British headlines. it has featured only when British wanted to promote particular developments as the 'Peace People' or when the scale of resistance had ma



ible for the British media to ignore the situation.

During the 1981 hunger-strike, for instance, when Thatcher and others attacked the television companies for the amount of coverage given to the hunger-strikers' funerals, the BBC's then Director General, Sir Ian Trethowan, defended his organisation by saying:

"The irritation of many viewers at being shown so much about Sands will be entirely understandable, but however much they disliked it, the Sands affair became a major international development which had to be reported to the British public."

Within the North, however, there is an abundance of information from a variety of political perspectives. The radio and television companies look on events from a pro-British/Alliance Party/middle-class perspective. But they produce much more news and analysis of six-county politics, including statements from and interviews with Sinn Féin and examinations of 'sensitive' issues such as plastic bullets, than do the British national media.

Indeed, the six-county broadcasting companies have little alternative but to report fairly

fully, because otherwise they would have no credibility with their audience, which is also receiving news from other sources, including local papers and, importantly, direct experience.

INTERNAL CENSORSHIP

The quality and quantity of television coverage of the North has also been reduced by the stringent internal censorship procedures operated by the television companies since 1971. These special rules for covering Ireland are laid down in the BBC's handbook for journalists, *News and Current Affairs Index*, under the heading *Coverage of Matters Affecting Northern Ireland*, and in the Independent Broadcasting Authority's *Guidelines*, handbook for the commercial broadcasting companies.

The system, which so far applies to no other political issue, is often called 'reference upwards' or 'managerial censorship'. Basically, this means that top bureaucrats keep close control over all programmes dealing with Ireland. Reporters and producers, overwhelmingly white, male and middle-class (and, in the BBC, vetted by MI5 to weed out progressives), are normally trusted to make the 'right decisions'. But when it comes to Ire-

land, no-one is trusted.

Producers, editors and reporters 'refer up' all ideas for programmes on Ireland to top management including, in the BBC, Controller Northern Ireland, and have to continue consulting top management during the making of the programme. In ITV, programmes have to be referred to the management of the television company concerned and then to the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

In both BBC and ITV, programmes which are 'sensitive' — mainly those critical of the British authorities or giving time to republican politics — have to be viewed by top officials. At present the BBC's rules do not require reference to the Board of Governors, but the fear is that in the wake of the recent furore this will become the norm and genuinely truth-seeking reporters will be entirely suffocated.

BANNED

In the course of this 'reference upwards' procedure, numerous programmes or items have been banned, cut, delayed or altered. From 1971 onwards, nearly 50 programmes are known to have been affected. They include current affairs programmes, plays and

even pop music — in 1981 the BBC banned from *Top of the Pops* the Police rockgroup's video for their single *Invisible Sun*, which showed six-county street scenes of graffiti, youths, and British soldiers.

They include historical documentaries, such as Kenneth Griffith's film on Michael Collins, banned by the commercial network in 1973, portraits of the lives of nationalist people, a film about the Short Strand district of Belfast, banned by the BBC in 1977; plays and documentaries dealing with torture and other unsavoury British activities; and, perhaps not surprisingly, a projected programme for the BBC's *Access* slot, *Open Door*, which was to have examined British media coverage on Ireland.

The 'reference upwards' procedure, and the knowledge that Ireland spells trouble, also acts as a deterrent to career-conscious TV journalists, many of whom are especially vulnerable because they are employed on short-term contracts. As has been said, for every programme that gets banned, there are probably 20 that are never made in the first place.

REPUBLICAN INTERVIEWS

As well as the general

'reference upwards' rules, there are extra-tight rules for interviews with members of 'terrorist organisations' — which in practice means banned organisations — and with people 'who are or may be associated with such organisations'.

Since the UDA, the largest loyalist paramilitary group, is legal (as is, of course, the paramilitary wing of the British government), these rules mainly restrict access to republican organisations. In the BBC, reporters wishing to interview members of the IRA, have to ask the permission of the Director General both before doing the interview and before transmission. Reporters in the commercial companies have to consult their top management, who in turn have to ask permission of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Since 1979 there have been no interviews with spokespersons for the IRA, and no film of IRA members in action. (The only partial exception was a *Panorama* film about the issue of extradition, shown in 1982, which featured a number of people living in the twenty-six counties who had escaped extradition by claiming membership of the IRA.)

CONTINUED
ON NEXT PAGE

deaths have no impact in Britain.)

HUNGER-STRIKE

In effect, the Ulsterisation of the 'security' situation plus the British government's abandonment of the attempted solutions with an 'Irish dimension' helped to promote the Ulsterisation of information.

From about 1974, following the collapse of Sunningdale, Ireland dropped out of the British headlines. Since then, it has featured prominently only when British politicians wanted to promote a particular development — such as the 'Peace People' of 1976 — or when the scale of republican resistance had made it impos-

(continued from previous page)

This *de facto* total ban was the product of major rows over two BBC projects in 1979. In July an interview with an INLA spokesperson, transmitted by *Tonight*, provoked Margaret Thatcher (backed by Labour's Merlyn Rees) into "lashing" and "blasting" the BBC over its "appalling error", as the newspapers put it. Then in November a planned film by *Panorama* on the IRA sank without trace after news leaked out that the crew had filmed an IRA checkpoint in the County Tyrone village of Carrickmore. This sent Thatcher once more into apoplexy and reduced the BBC governors to doing "their customary imitation of chickens running around with their heads cut off", as a BBC trade union journal put it.

The police demanded — and got — the film from the BBC. The BBC management sacked the editor of *Panorama* from his post — he was reinstated after National Union of Journalists branches threatened to strike. The Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, investigated both the INLA interview and the Carrickmore film, and reported that there was enough evidence to prosecute the journalists under Section 11 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act for "withholding information".

He refrained from doing so, probably because a furore about press freedom would have ensued, but the threat remained.

'BALANCE' AND HOSTILE INTERVIEWS

In addition to the rules on procedures, there are conventions, which have been spelled out by BBC executives over the years, as to the content and character of programmes on Ireland. The first is that programmes featuring nationalist or republican views must also include the opposite view.

So while British or unionist politicians, or pro-British figures such as Gerry Fitt, can appear unopposed, Sinn Féin representatives must be 'balanced' by people expressing the pro-British or unionist viewpoint.

The second convention is that all republican interviewees — whether members of military or political organisations — must be treated as 'hostile witnesses'. This means that the interviewee is questioned aggressively, often with frequent interruptions. The interviewer repeatedly challenges or even contradicts statements made by the interviewee.

Where the interview is part of a film, it is often presented in a hostile context. Television films about Gerry Adams, for example, are usually done in this style.

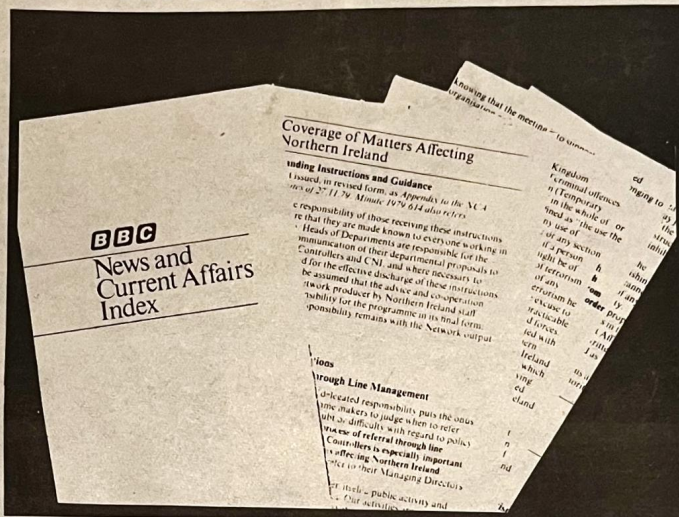
These conventions, together with the 'reference up' procedures, are the ways the BBC ensures that coverage is moulded to fit its pro-British, anti-republican stance.

JOURNALISTIC COVERAGE

In 1980 Richard Francis, a senior BBC executive, using words which have been echoed time and again during the recent *Real Lives* uproar, wrote:

"Nobody involved in the journalistic coverage of terrorism is other than sympathetic to the victims or repelled by the perpetrators of terrorist crimes... Not only do they

Censorship in the British media



get very much less coverage than those who pursue their aims legitimately, but the very manner and tone that our reporters adopt makes our moral position quite plain."

The BBC governors objected to the *Real Lives* film because in their view it was not sufficiently anti-republican. The *London Times* reported on August 3rd:

"They felt the portrayal of Mr Martin McGuinness, widely believed to be the IRA Chief of Staff, dandling a baby on his knee in the front room while being sympathetically interviewed, was disturbing."

"The clinching factor was that there were no clips of the consequences of IRA violence cut into the interview to illustrate the background to Mr McGuinness's apparently moderately expressed views. The only violence depicted were scenes of Royal Ulster Constabulary policemen clubbing republican demonstrators with batons."

Doubtless if the film is ever transmitted, the 'amendments' promised by the Director General, Ailsa Milne, will incorporate the governors' recommendations.

THE BRITISH WAY OF CENSORSHIP

Way back in 1972, a broadcasting union official complained to the BBC that the 'checks and balances' on Irish coverage "were becoming as effective as censorship, probably more effective because they were not much-known outside the circles immediately involved, were superficially merely an intensification of normal safeguards, and were too vague and distant a target for public criticism".

This hidden censorship has been a classic British solution to the problem of how to censor without appearing to do so. Successive British governments have refrained from bringing in direct censorship along the

lines of Section 31 in the twenty-six counties. This option is available in existing British law, but the establishment fears — justifiably, as the international outcry over the *Real Lives* ban proved — the impact of such a step on Britain's reputation as a 'haven of free speech'.

CREDIBILITY

When in 1971 rampant right-wingers proposed formal censorship, operated either by the state or broadcasting companies, BBC chiefs rejected this, mainly on the grounds that it would undermine their credibility. Instead, they said, they were maintaining "a scrupulous editorial watch" on programmes on Ireland. Sections of the British army shared this view, as did the *London Times*, which argued that censorship would help the IRA and "would mean that no fact, no assessment offered by British television, radio or newspapers would be free of the taint that it had been presented under government supervision".

At the close of 1972, Home Secretary Reginald Maudling tried to stop a BBC talk-in called *The Question of Ulster* by publicly telling the BBC that the show, if transmitted, "could do serious harm". The pressure was so blatant that the BBC felt obliged to go ahead with the programme since, as the *Financial Times* said "as an independent public corporation it could not be seen to give in to political pressure."

LESS-DIRECT PRESSURE

Since then, the politicians have kept the broadcasters under control by less-direct pressure. Some have made private requests to senior executives to alter planned programmes (a method advocated by Merlyn Rees). Others, aided by the press, have created huge public uproar whenever the

television companies overstepped the mark. Labour's former Northern director-ruler, Roy Mason, was a leading proponent of this bullying approach as is the present prime minister, Thatcher.

Both the BBC and the commercial TV networks are very susceptible to government blandishments. The BBC's governors, who appoint the Director General, are government appointees, as are the members of the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The BBC's just-retired 'National Governor for Northern Ireland', appointed by Merlyn Rees, was Lady Faulkner, unionist and widow of Brian, who is being replaced by Dr James Kincaid, another unionist. The IBA's 'Member for Northern Ireland' is Mrs Jill McIvor, wife of Basil, another former unionist member of Stormont. Further, the government decides the size of the BBC licence fees — and the Tories are threatening to force the BBC to accept commercials — while the IBA awards the franchise to the 'independent' TV companies which are therefore anxious to avoid trouble.

CHARADE

Not surprisingly, both the BBC and the IBA have repeatedly responded to political pressure by tightening up their internal censorship procedures. But the present Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, and the chairman of the BBC governors, Thatcherite appointee Stuart Young, apparently did not understand the role they were supposed to play in the charade. As a result, to put it bluntly, they blew it, causing consternation on every side.

"BBC World Service derided abroad as a state organ," announced the *London Times*, while the *Financial Times* mourned:

"The next time an enterprising BBC team produces an exposure of slavery in the Middle East or Gulgins in the Soviet Union, foreign regimes will be able to tell their own people that the Corporation is an instrument of the British government."

Many of the protests in Britain against the ban have been in a similar vein. Neil Kinnock, and the National Council for Civil Liberties, complained that the ban had given more publicity to 'terrorism' than transmission would have done. David Owen of the Social Democratic Party said the film should never have gone further than the cutting room. National Union of Journalist's spokespersons proclaimed their detestation of 'terrorism' and that they fully accepted the existing internal 'guidelines'.

Virtually all the protestors with access to the British media (that is, people from the centre of the British Labour Party rightwards) lamented not that yet another film on Ireland was being suppressed, but that the actors had ignored the rules of the game. Many of them will doubtless connive at censorship in the future, provided it is less-obviously done.

But at least the episode has had one major positive result. For millions of people world-wide the myth of the BBC's independence and impartiality has been shattered. The BBC, which was the model for George Orwell's Ministry of Truth, stands exposed as the Big Brother Corporation.



McGuinness isn't good for you

Catastrophic season for farmers

THIS SUMMER'S WEATHER may have been a disappointment to holidaymakers but the continuous rain has been catastrophic for Irish agriculture.

The supply of winter fodder has been seriously affected with a reduction of between 25% and 40% in the hay crop. Cattle prices have begun to plummet as farmers, especially in the hardest-hit areas in the West, try to sell off stock which they now cannot feed.

Cereals have been hit by disease and in many areas crops are lying on the ground, beaten down by hail-storms. It is expected that yields will be down by 20% and 30% and higher in many places.

Amongst the worst hit of the farmers have been fruit and vegetable growers. Tomatoes and potatoes have been especially badly affected by several strains of blight. Some growers have lost 90% of their potato crop.

Potato blight has been prevalent throughout the season. In the middle of July, the Department of Agriculture advised farmers to spray with 'Ridomil'. This chemical is produced by Ciba Geigy and is more expensive than other sprays. Since 1980, it has not been used by most Irish potato growers, when it was found that the product did not kill the blight when used at the recommended spraying rate, and a case is pending against Ciba Geigy in the courts.

SMALL RETURNS

As it is, the cost structure on potatoes offers small returns if crops were normal and prices remained at the normal level. In fact potato prices this year have fallen to the exceptional level of £2 per bag (£80 a ton) for the first crop. Farmers expect to get only £52 a ton, after the costs of bagging, transport and merchants' commissions have been deducted. This return to the farmer has to cover fertiliser costs



● Surveying the damage caused by 'summer' weather

at £20 per ton, labour at £10 per ton, and diesel and spraying costs which might add up to £20 per ton.

Despite the scarcity of Irish potatoes due to the bad weather, prices have actually fallen to £80 a ton from an expected £120. This drop is due to the continued importation of subsidised potatoes from Holland and Cyprus.

Although exact estimates of the loss

to the potato crop this year are not yet available, agricultural experts are saying that the bad weather will have irreversible effects upon Irish potato growing for the future. These effects are incurred not just because of the destruction of the crops, but because importers and merchants are free to import from European markets, which has forced prices down below economic cost levels. Some have said that

"the day is not just coming. It has arrived, when the Irish potato will be forced out of existence in the home market".

ASSISTANCE

The Department of Agriculture has introduced two measures to relieve the fodder shortage, offering a £35 per tonne grant on nitrogenous fertiliser to small farmers in the West, and a grant of between £4 a tonne up to a maximum of £200 for first-time silage makers. It is unlikely that these measures will be of much help at this stage to small farmers in areas where the land is often too wet for any machinery, and where the silage, if it is made, will have poor digestibility.

Nothing so far has been offered to vegetable growers or to those farmers who have suffered losses to cereal crops. The EEC is reputed to have a 'disaster fund' of some £2 million. Kildare alone has already put in a claim for £1 million. Overall estimates of the losses to crops in the twenty-six counties have run as high as £300 million! Free State Minister for Agriculture, Austin Deasy, when opening the Floraveg exhibition at the Dublin Horse Show, spoke of how vegetable growers should not be content to "hold onto their share of the market but should seek to extend their share of this growing market".

PIOUS HOPES

It was hardly an opportune moment for the expression of such pious hopes when many of the vegetable crops have been destroyed, and with the Government taking no measures to maintain prices to producers or to curtail imports, even until the Irish crops are sold.

The exceptional weather conditions, which have had such disastrous effects upon Irish crops, are likely to have merely exacerbated the situation where the Government is unable and unwilling to take any measure to prevent the ever-increasing growth of imports of vegetables, which have risen from £7 million in 1980 to £50 million last year.

A meeting organised by Sinn Féin was held in Monaghan town on Tuesday, August 20th, where farmers discussed the immediate problems they face and a local Sinn Féin agricultural committee was formed.

Piléir plaisteach

TÁ comhairleoirí Sinn Féin ag iarraidh móladh, le deireadh a chur le h-úsáid na piléir plaisteach, a thabhairt os comhair Comhairle Chathair Bhéal Feirste. Tá na piléir seo agus piléir rubair in úsáid anois sna sé chontae le 15 bliain anuas agus go dtí seo tá 15 duine dúnmhairithe acu, seachtar acu ina leanaí, agus gortaíodh níos mó na 60 duine go h-olc.

Tháinig a móladh ó ghrúpa a cuireadh ar bun le cur in aghaidh úsáid na piléir plaisteach. The United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets (UCAPB). Gaolta na ndaoine a dúnmharaíodh le piléir plaisteacha is mó iad baill an ghrúpa seo. Tá an feachtas atá ar siúl acu ag dul i neart agus tá siad ag fáil go leor tacaíocht ó beagnach gach duine.

Sé an méid atá sa mholadh ná "go bhfuil Comhairle Cathair Bhéal Feirste glan i gcoinne úsáid na piléir plaisteach agus gur mhaith leo go mbeadh deirdeadh iomlán lena n-úsáid".

Tá an UCAPB ag iarraidh

crúinniú speisialta a reachtáil i Halla na Cathrach, idir comhairleoirí atá i gcoinne úsáid na piléir seo, leis an mholadh a phlé. Tá comhairleoirí Sinn Féin ar an comhairle ag tabhaidh go mór leis an mholadh ach ní hionann an scéal le comhairleoirí eile.

Go dtí seo, níl an SDLP sásta tacú leis an mholadh mar atá sé, ach tá an UCAPB ag súil go mbeidh athrú ar an scéal i ndeireadh an lae. Tá Páirtí an Chomhaontais ag rá go dtacaíonn siad le húsáid na piléir plaisteach agus nuair a gheibheann duine bás mar gheall orthu níor mhaith leo ach go ndéanfadh an rialtas léirmheas orthu.

MÚINTEOIRÍ

"Eagraíocht amháin atá ag tabhaidh go mór leis an fheachtas ná The Organisation of Concerned Teachers a thugann tac-

aíocht gan choinníoll don UCAPB. Tá siad ag iarraidh ar na comhairleoirí uile teacht le chéile agus tacú leis an móladh a bheidh os comhair na comhairle roimh i bhfad.

Shínigh 1,156 múinteoir achainín ag éileamh go gcuirfeadh deirdeadh leis na piléir plaisteacha. Iarrann an t-achainín ar dhaoine a bhfuil tionchar agus cumhacht acu brú a chur ar rialtas Shasana cló leis an rún a ritheadh i bparlaimint na hEorpa a dírú gur chóir deirdeadh a chur lena húsáid. Deir Teresa Holland atá ina comhairleoir agus atá ina h-ionadair Sinn Féin ar choiste an UCAPB.

"Go bhfuil sé an tábhachtach go dtagann na comhairleoirí uile le chéile leis an mholadh seo a rith chun cinntiú nach dúnmharaíonn fórsa na corónach páistí ar shráideanna Bhéal Feirste agus Chóire".

BEIDH cruinniú mór poiblí in Iarthar Bhéal Feirste roimh dheireadh na míosa seo chun feachtas a eagrú chun troid in aghaidh na ngearrthaí siar atá á mbagairt faoi lathair in iocaíochtaí slándáil sóisialta agus má chuirtear na leasaithe seo i gcrích, sé an toradh a bheidh orthu ná:

- Deirdeadh le hairgead do riachtanais speisialta, (pramanna, eadair agus ar uile).
- Deirdeadh le deontais teasa.
- Ní bheidh airgead breise fá

choinne na ndaoine a mbíonn ar aistibí speisialta.

- Ní bheid deontais rátaí níos mó ná 20% do shealbhoirí tí.
- Tá ionadaithe an phobail



● Picéid i gcoinne piléir plaisteach

Gearrthaí á mbagairt

iontach buartha fá thaobh na ngearrthaí siar seo agus síleann siad go bhfuil géargh le díospóireacht phoiblí leis an chúis áirithe seo a phlé. Deir siad go gcuirfidh na gearrthaí leis an chruatan sna ceantair is boichte in Iarthar Bhéal Feirste.

Ar na mallaihbh, bhí picéid iasmuigh d'oiúigí an DHSS i mBéal Feirste ar an 14ú Lúnasa ag cur in iúl don phobal faoi na gear-

thaí atá molta. Measann na hionadaithe nach dtuigeann formhór mór na daoine brí iomlán na leasaithe seo.

Sé an toradh a bheas ar na hathraithe ná go mbeidh 110 míle duine sna sé chontae thíos leis. Is sean-daoine don chuid is méid agus meastar go gcaithfidh rialtas Shasana sé mhí dhéag ag iarraidh na moltaí uile seo a chur i bhfeidhm.



BELFAST GRAVES, a beautifully-produced book recording the sacrifices of Belfast republicans down through the years, especially in the present, final, phase of the liberation struggle, is now available.

The book incorporates biographies of all the republicans who have fallen during the past 15 years and will be of considerable interest to all members and supporters of the Republican Movement. Belfast republicans will find the book especially interesting, but it will prove an invaluable possession for republicans all over the country.

Belfast Graves, price £3.50 Sterling (plus 50p postage), and Ir£4 (plus 60p postage), is available from the following republican outlets:

- The Book Shop, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.
- The Craft Shop, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast.
- Republican Publications, 2a Monagh Crescent, Belfast.



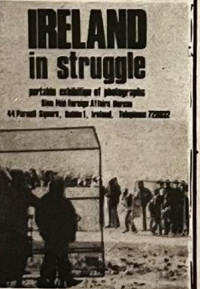
T-SHIRTS

'Freedom' and 'Brit-busters' T-shirts are now available, price £3.75 each. Prices for bulk orders are available on request.

Prices including postage are as follows:

- Europe: £4.50
- Britain: £4.10
- USA: £4.75

Orders through Republican Publications, 2a Monagh Crescent, Belfast.



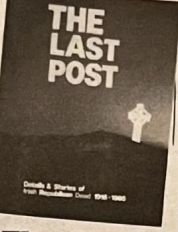
IRELAND in struggle is a portable exhibition of photographs and text of historical information from before the Ulster plantation, until after the hunger-strikers of 1981.

It consists of 20 glossy pages 45cm x 32cm (black and white). (English only at present).

Available from: Foreign Affairs Bureau, 44 Cearnóg Pharnell, B&C 1.

Usual price: Ir£6. Special reduction £3.50. (Postage cost is separate).

mála poist



The Last Post

A Chara,
The review of *The Last Post* (published by National Graves Association) was for the most part, complimentary and welcome.

The point as to whether or not the poem in honour of the 22 dead hunger-strikers should have been included is debatable. But when it came to criticism of the poem, the reviewer revealed more of himself than his appreciation of the book.

As for being "long-winded", the middle section was designed to contain 22 lines to correspond with the number of dead and no apology is made for following the Gaelic-tradition of verse after verse ad nauseum. For "stage-irish" read "rhetorical", in which respect I humbly bow to the genius of Mangán, O Laoire and a host of poets who respectively *oched* and shouted their frustrations through many a "long-winded" masterpiece. As for "glorifying death", then we should castigate P.H. Pearse for his quotation on the back cover of the book.

The puerile remarks, that "it wallows in sentimentality" and "it is an image of an Ireland that never was" reflect a mind that is cemented in the times of Barrettstown House, ill-treatment of street-traders and four foreign TV channels available in the Gael-tacht, a mind closed to reverie and the mysteries of rural Ireland.



REVENGE-HUNGRY STATE

A Chara,
We would like to answer the statement from the British Home Office spokesperson re the repatriation of Irish political prisoners. The spokesperson said where innocent people had been maimed or killed, they, the prisoners, would be regarded as undeserving of any degree of public sympathy.

Why then were the Scottish soldiers convicted of the horrific Pitchfork murders and the soldier who murdered Thomas O'Reilly, to name a few, sent back to serve their sentences in England?

Why the call from Britain to send back their own nationals who have been convicted abroad of crimes ranging from espionage, drug trafficking and murder?

Why the call from Britain to repatriate mercenaries from African states - when they have been convicted of brutal

crimes - the murder of innocent men, women and children - all for monetary gain? Our people would not be in prison if it wasn't for the war in Ireland and their personal conviction to end that war and free their country, yet they are being held in British jails, hundreds of miles from their families - political hostages of a revenge-hungry state.

PRO, The Relatives of Political Prisoners in England Committee, Belfast 14.

Personally, I would rather have died 40 years ago at the age of 90 years - in the Ireland I tried to portray - than live to be 40 years in 90 years time.

Seamus Mac Ciarnáin, Eagarthóir

Wrong track?

A Chara,
A letter by 'Vigilant Nationalist' to *AP/RN* on July

18th provoked a number of replies that must have been a Godsend to the Sticks. Anybody reading them must conclude that a reappraisal of Sinn Féin policy is urgent. Certainly our organisation appears to have got on to the wrong track once more. (Is the title 'Sinn Féin' appropriate any longer?)

I was struck by the failure of the replies to face up to the main charge in the original letter: that our fight for freedom was being sidetracked and replaced by ideologies which, however praiseworthy in their proper places, were distractions and out of the proper order of priority to

ALL letters should be addressed to: The Editor, *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin. Letters should be written as clearly as possible, preferably on one side of paper only. Names and addresses should always be included, even when not for publication.

such an extent that victory for us was rendered impossible in a reasonable time and our enemies were left in possession of the battlefield for the foreseeable future. This order of priority is so important to a small country with few weapons in hand!

The replies were unfair in implying that 'Vigilant Nationalist' was against other oppressed groups - in fact he was just saying 'first things first'. The words used in one, 'Chauvinistic Nationalist', indicated a wish to be offensive when the occasion really called for logic and common sense.

All the letters serve to remind us that during the past 60 years the Republican Movement on more than one occasion was led too far to the Left at the wrong time. Nobody doubts the good intentions of the leaders in these moves, but they, each and all, failed, and they left the Republican Movement weakened and ineffective for years. After 60 years of enthusiastic effort (chauvinism, if you prefer that dishonest word), we get no more than 5% of votes cast while our political opponents time and again get around 85%.

What a pity! Sixty years of honest effort and not a single dividend for Ireland, simply because we can't get our priorities right.

Ireland First, Newry.

Secular education

A Chara,
I read with interest the article in *AP/RN*, August 1st, by Charlie McFadden about education in the twenty-six counties. It was an article of the highest quality, but it failed to clarify the policy of Sinn Féin. As a supporter of the Republican Movement and a committed socialist, I would like to know if Sinn Féin supports as I do, the secular control of education.

I am a pupil at a Dublin Community School, and I feel that I am a victim of the denominational school system.

Although born and raised a Catholic, I am an atheist. Religion in my school is taught under the assumption that everyone is a Catholic (unless a note stating otherwise is received from the

parents). I have not got the choice of a non-religious education - which I believe is my right.

The only way in which I can avoid a religious education is if I obtain permission from my parents. In other words, the school is more interested in whether or not my parents are Catholics - when it is me who is being educated.

The only way to solve the problems of myself and people like me is to set up a non-denominational, secular school system - to replace the name of Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter with the common name of Irishmen and Irishwomen.

If this system is not set up then the Catholic church will continue to monopolise Irish society - something which is not in the common interest.

Ciaran Byrne (age 13).

P.S. While I am in support of the Irish language, I wonder how Irish atheists should address one another, since *Dia dhuit* means *God be with you*.

Foilsitheoireacht faoi ionsaí

LE PÓL MAC DARÁ

MAR TAINNE eile i gcóna na Gaeilge tá rialtas na sé chontae is fíchid chun an méid airgead a chuirtear ar leataobh do dheontais ar son leabhair as Gaeilge, a laghdú an bhliain seo chugainn.

Bhí £155,000 ar fáil i 1985, an méid céanna a bhí ann i 1984, ach tá cinneadh déanta, £5,000 a bhaint den bhfigiúr seo do 1986.

Tá foilsitheoirí na Gaeilge ar buile de bharr neamhaird an rialtais i leith ardú costais foilsitheoireachta agus an ghéarghá atá le tacaíocht, go háirithe agus borradh thar cuimse tagtha ar litríocht na Gaeilge le blianta beaga anuas.

Ní fios go fóill an réiteach fad níos gearr-théarmach a bheadh i gceist. Ach má leanfar leis an socrú ar feadh cúpla bliana eile, brisfidh siad droim na foilsitheoireachta i nGaeilge. Ní gá ach breathnú siar go dtí na seachtóid nuair a bhí an ráta boillsithe an-ard chun é seo a léiriú.

D'ardaigh costas na foilsitheoireachta 600% i gcomparáid le ardú 60% i líon an deontais sa treimhse seo. Dá bhar sin níor fhoilsigh an Clócomhar Teoranta leabhar ar bith ar feadh

dhá nó trí bhliana.

Tá na foilsitheoirí ag braith go mór ar an dtacaíocht seo mar atá foilsitheoirí an Bhéarla ag braith go mór ar chabhair ón gComhairle Ealaíona do shaothair liteartha.

B'fhéidir nár mhiste modh iocaíochta an Chomhairle a úsáid seachas cloí le córas bhacach Bhórd na Leabhar Gaeilge. Sé sin leath an airgid a fóc roimh fhoilsiú an leabhair agus an leath eile ina dhiaidh sin.

tv

RTE NEWS

Non-events and non-persons

BY AINE MARTIN

RTE News never ceases to disappoint its long-suffering viewers and last Sunday evening's offering achieved the usual excellent standard of reporting.

As the main news story of the day, we were treated to extensive coverage of a non-event in Cork. Because of bad weather, a planned air spectacular was cancelled, but RTE decided to show us what we hadn't missed. Scenes of empty skies, grounded planes and rain-soaked hopelessly flashed across our screens.

Of course, the reason for this 'exclusive' was that RTE had actually sent a camera crew outside Dublin 4 and, by God, we were going to see what they did.

While we can all rejoice that we Gods in Montrose have finally discovered that Donnybrook isn't the hub of the universe, this type of drive is a little hard to take. After all, most of us would prefer to be told what has happened in the world rather than what hasn't happened.

The standard didn't slip a whit on Monday. The meeting in South Africa between nine prominent church leaders and arch-racist P.W. Botha, to discuss apartheid and the deepening crisis in that country, figured as a main news item. Giving one of their usual well-rounded and balanced reports, RTE quoted only the statement of the Roman Catholic cleric, ignoring all the others.

This can mean one of two things. Either none of the other clerics had anything to say, or RTE thinks only the Catholic view is of importance.

If you're a Catholic from anywhere, then RTE will find time to air your views - anywhere, that is, except the North of Ireland. On the same news bulletin, we were

told that "a group of Northerners" had walked out of a meeting with the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace. The group were later identified as "calling themselves the Community for Justice Group" but seemed devoid of any personalities - no names, no spokesperson.

Reminds me of RTE's reports of South African riots: "five blacks were shot dead" - they couldn't be bothered telling us whether the 'blacks' were men, women or children. As if black people weren't really people at all.

"Northerners", like 'blacks', don't merit any personal identity in RTE's view of the world.

If any poor schmuck still thought that the oh-so-impartial BBC was either independent or impartial, then this week's revelations must have come as a cruel blow. The revelations, in last Sunday's *Observer* newspaper, showed that BBC news and current affairs staff are carefully vetted by MIS before they are employed.

An interesting aspect of the TV reporting of the *Observer* story was the differing emphasis put on it by the BBC and ITV. ITV made it the lead story on Sunday while the BBC, whose credibility had been undermined, after all - gave it a little space in the middle of its bulletins, mulling about "newspaper allegations" and vetting being confined to "sensitive information".

Despite the ex-chief of the BBC admitting that the practice had gone on for years.



● COLONEL GADDAFI

The French Foreign Legion was profiled by the old Beeb on Thursday night. And quite a nice bunch of blokes they were, too, by all appearances: just grown-up boy scouts, really - gentle as lambs, all of them. All those stories we had heard about their brutal training and barbarous methods were, we were assured, totally without foundation. And who spread these vile stories about the glorious Legion? Why, those wimps and nancy-boys who couldn't stick the pace with the real men, that's who! Bloody deserters, contemptuous scum! Pahl

The presenter of the programme, Simon Murray, was totally objective in his report. We know this because he told us he had been a member of the Legion for five years, and told us he was proud of it. Can't get a more balanced view than that, now can you?

The programme was so balanced that it left itself open to charges that it might romanticise a prime weapon of French imperialism. Even to charges that it glorified violence. Or even that it glorified imperialism and the joy of killing people in far-off lands just because they objected to your presence as an army of occupation. Or, God forbid, that it glorified the killing of people - full stop.

On Monday night the BBC launched one of the most viciously blatant propaganda attacks I've seen in ages. For a change, it wasn't directed at Irish republicans, but this time at another sworn hate-figure of the British establishment - Libya's Colonel Gaddafi. Called *Siege*, the hour-long 'documentary' purported to be an analysis of last year's terrorist attacks on the British People's Bureau. In fact, it was nothing more than another session of trial by television, with the usual foregone conclusion: the accused is as guilty as hell.

The prosecution wheeled on its usual credible witnesses: men in darkened rooms, their faces hidden 'for fear of their lives'; the impartial police chiefs; the government ministers.

The faceless men in this case were sworn enemies of the Libyan regime, so every damning word they uttered had the ring of complete and absolute truth - sure, why would they consider telling a lie (especially when they quoted

"our source in the embassy" to back up their story)?

One hilarious piece of evidence was brought up. According to the programme-makers, some Libyans walked out to a workman standing outside the embassy the morning the siege began and told him that they had 'loads of guns inside' and that 'there would be trouble'. An indication of how credible the 'evidence' was.

One after another the old clichés came trundling out. Libyans are "unpredictable" and "their anger often leads to violence". Gaddafi is "one of the most dangerous men in the world". (Having access to nuclear weapons, I would have thought Reagan, Gorbachev or P.W. Botha a lot more dangerous...)

What sickened me more than the programme's predictability and barely-hidden racism was its complete hypocrisy. The constant whinging about Libya's abuse of diplomatic privileges was a bit hard to take, bearing in mind the abuses that all the major powers are guilty of in this area.

While Libyans "hit-men" and "terrorists" go around "murdering dissident students", the Brits and Yanks "terminate enemy agents" or spies and "sanction with extreme prejudice" with scant regard for diplomatic niceties.

And then there was the reference to the Libyan embassy as a "terrorist headquarters". This is ironic, bearing in mind that the embassy was filled with military attaches - of all the major powers are stuffed full of electronic spying equipment and undoubtedly weapons as well. What else would they use diplomatic bags for - smuggling in duty-free booze and fags, perhaps?

censorship of the media in recent weeks. Truth may be the first casualty of war but in the case of British imperialism truth is the first enemy when it threatens to break through to working-class people in Britain.

Information on Ireland has been to the fore in the battle for truth and their latest publication will be a thorn in the side of British propagandists.

● *A Resources Guide to the North of Ireland* is published by Information on Ireland. Price 50p (Sg). Available from 101, Box 189, 32 Ivor Place, London NW1 6DA and the Bookshop, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. (Please include 20p post and packaging.)



na theoir san ollscoil. An-taíon an t-ollamh, bhí sé chomh sánda le na theoir. Is fíod go mór an leabhar seo a léamh má tá greann de dhíth ort.

● *Buan ar Buairt* le Anraí de Paor. Cúigim, 127 Bóthar na Trí, BÁC 4, a dh'fhoilsigh Luach £2.00.

Imeachtaí

VIDEO SHOW & FOLK NIGHT
'Plastic Bullets - The Deadly Truth'
8pm Thursday 22nd August
St Matthew's Social Club
Short Strand

BELFAST
Taillie £1
Organised by the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets

FUNCTION
Featuring Irish Sound
9pm Friday 23rd August
Melvin Hotel
KINLOUGH
County Leitrim
Taillie £3 incl. supper
and bar extension
Organised by Sinn Féin

JO FORAN COMMEMORATION
UNVEILING OF PLAQUE
11am Sunday 25th August

MOONCOIN
County Kilkenny
Assemble at parish church
Speaker: Richard Behal

CHILDREN'S SPORTSDAY
2.5pm Sunday 25th August
Phoenix Park
Near dog's pond

DUBLIN
Anyone 16yrs or under welcome
All events will be noncompetitive
bring sack, spoon, potato
and string
Organised by Fianna Éireann

TRADE UNIONISTS
AGAINST STRIP-SEARCHES
SOCIAL

Featuring Eile
8.30pm Saturday 31st August
Connolly House
East Essex Street

DUBLIN
Taillie £1.50 (£1 unwaged)

BALLAD SESSION
Saturday 31st August
Fiddlers Green
DUBLIN
Taillie: £1.50
Organised by Sinn Féin

ANNUAL COLE/COLLEY
COMMEMORATION
12 noon Sunday 1st September
Assemble: Rendezvous car park
(Bessborough)

DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Féin

SINN FEIN
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE
MEETING
12 noon Sunday 1st September
44 Parnell Square

DUBLIN
All Sinn Féin members welcome

NATIONAL ANTI-
STRIP-SEARCHES PROTEST
3.00pm Sunday 1st September
ARMAGH JAIL

Buses leaving at 12 noon
from Municipal Gallery
Parnell Square

DUBLIN
Taillie £5
Contact Jacinta at 5 Blessington
Street or Lucilla at 44 Parnell
Square.

SINN FEIN WOMEN'S DEPT
FUND-RAISER
8.30pm Saturday 7th September
Eccles Lounge
Dorset Street

DUBLIN
Taillie: £1

ANTI-APARTHEID PICKET
"SANCTIONS NOW"
12.30 to 2pm Monday
9th September
Dept of Foreign Affairs
St Stephen's Green

DUBLIN
Organised by IAAM

STOP THE SHOW-TRIALS
MARCH AND RALLY
2pm Sunday 15th September
Dunville Park to Busy Bee

BELFAST
All interested groups welcome

Torthaí crannchur

An Cumann Cabhrach, Dublin
Committee Draw
July: £100; No. 329; £50; No. 12
£25; No. 321; £10; Nos. 118, 145,
152, 328, 383.

pamphlet

Defeating censorship

BY MAIRTÍN MAC DIARMADA

SINCE ITS FORMATION IN 1978, Information on Ireland has provided people in Britain with probably the best means of finding out the truth about Ireland and breaking through the web of British media censorship and distortion.

This voluntary group is best known in Ireland for their excellent publications such as *The British Media and Ireland*, *British Soldiers Speak Out on Ireland*, and, more recently, *Nothing But the Same Old Story*, the roots of anti-Irish racism.

Their latest publication is a

comprehensive work of reference listing the alternative sources of information on Ireland to the mass media. *A Resources Guide to the North of Ireland*, is an attractive and well-presented review of books, pamphlets, newspapers and periodicals, films and videos, exhibitions.

and organisations.

INVALUABLE

It lists the sources for all the material available and how they can be obtained. Though this guide is mainly aimed at readers in Britain, it will also be invaluable to republicans in Ireland as a reference book and should be on every republican bookshelf along with other publications of Information on Ireland.

It is appropriate that the guide should be published at this time with the stepping-up of British government

bhronnadh ar chuid de na daltaí.

Sé deireadh imfionn Clap ar mire ar fad agus é amuigh ag rith lá amháin. Cóg bhliana déag ina dhiaidh sin tá mac Chiap ina ollamh san ollscoil ceannna ina mbfodh a athair, san oifig céanna, agus an nuaiceannna aige, ach ar an droch uair té síe amuigh nuair a thagann caitreoir isteach chuige agus cúrta beag aitheantais air: Glacardul Truifles PHD, DSc (hons), Iarann sé ar an ollamh gar a dhéanamh dhé, nó gur mhaith leis an infón a ba shine a bhí aige céim a bhaint amach faoi

leathannadh ar chuid de na daltaí. Sé deireadh imfionn Clap ar mire ar fad agus é amuigh ag rith lá amháin. Cóg bhliana déag ina dhiaidh sin tá mac Chiap ina ollamh san ollscoil ceannna ina mbfodh a athair, san oifig céanna, agus an nuaiceannna aige, ach ar an droch uair té síe amuigh nuair a thagann caitreoir isteach chuige agus cúrta beag aitheantais air: Glacardul Truifles PHD, DSc (hons), Iarann sé ar an ollamh gar a dhéanamh dhé, nó gur mhaith leis an infón a ba shine a bhí aige céim a bhaint amach faoi



leabhar

Cnuasach greannmhar

LE GOMHAR Mag AOIDH

SCÉAL GRINN atá sa leabhar seo. Chuir sé i gcuimhne don leabhar a tháinig amach bhíodh ó shin ina raibh cnuasach de na haltna a scríobh Clárán Ó Nualláin, grásta ó Dhia ar a anam, ar Inniu. Más buan mo chuimhné bhíodh altna Chiarán suite go míniú sa cheantar Múilleann na Míre.

An scéal atá sa leabhar seo *Buan ar Buairt* bainneadh de leaidh, fear cluise agus reathaí mór le rís, ach bhí seachrán céille ar an bhfeach bocht.

Ar an gcead leathanach tá Clap ina shuí ina oifig san ollscoil agus réitíonn sé ar deireadh a chur le buaireamh

Duine garach amach agus amach a bhí i gClap mar ollamh, ní hamaínn gur thug sé freagraí na gceisteanna sna scríodáidhe do na daltaí ach mheall sé an scríodáitheoir seachtach. le duaiséanna a

Uncial an Mhucardail seo



ADAMS LASHES APARTHEID

FOLLOWING South African President Botha's rejection of 'one person, one vote', Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams has launched a scathing attack on Western countries who financially prop up the racist Pretoria regime.

In a statement issued on Friday, August 16th, Adams said:

C BOTHA'S unequivocal rejection of 'one person, one vote' in South Africa is a blatant slap in the face for all those who argue that the 'softly, softly' approach is the way forward with the apartheid regime.

Liberal platitudes have achieved nothing. Immediate sanctions must be imposed to force the South African government to release Nelson Mandela and negotiate with the leaders of the oppressed black majority — the African National Congress.

The parallels between the sectarian six-county state in the North of Ireland and the racist state of South Africa are many. Both are founded and maintained on censorship, discrimination, social deprivation, states of emergency, mass arrests, show-trials and shoot-to-kill policies.

The seriousness of governments — especially Britain, the main financial prop of South Africa and the twenty-six-county state — in destroying the evils of apartheid and racism will be measured in

the coming days and weeks by their attitudes to immediate and total sanctions on all trading, sporting and cultural links with the racist Pretoria regime.

Apartheid and racism are cancerous diseases — South Africa must be isolated.



● GERRY ADAMS



JOIN SINN FÉIN

SINN FÉIN is dedicated to forcing a British withdrawal from the occupied six counties, the re-unification of our country, and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic.

There are Sinn Féin cumainn throughout the thirty-two counties and a number of areas have established supporters' groups.

If you would like to join Sinn Féin, or find out more about our activities and our

policies, fill in the form below and send it to: Sinn Féin Head Office, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Aim.....

Seoladh.....

WORLD VIEW



Nicaragua

NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT Daniel Ortega has accused Israel of arming and training US-backed *contras* based in Honduras.

Ortega announced on August 8th that the Sandinista government has documentary evidence that Israel has military personnel in Honduras, and that these Israeli soldiers are directly involved in the counter-revolutionary war against the Nicaraguan administration. Ortega claims that the evidence now in his country's possession was obtained from captive *contras*. The Nicaraguans will eventually publish the captured documents for public consumption.

In the United States, a concerted campaign of support for the *contras* is in full swing, with the aim of raising over 100-million dollars by the end of 1985. In charge of this campaign is former Chief of Staff of US forces in Korea, Major-general Jon Singlaub. Singlaub was thrown out of Korea by ex-president Carter because he consistently opposed Carter's foreign policy. Now Singlaub has found a president he can fully agree with and has been given the green light from Reagan to plough ahead with this major fund-raising enterprise.

To date Singlaub has raised 25 million dollars. Add this to the *contras'* own 20-million dollars 'arms fund', and the 27-million dollars

'humanitarian aid' from the US Congress, and Singlaub has to raise less than 30-million dollars before Christmas.

Recent visitors to the Whitehouse as honoured guests of President Reagan were Adolfo Calero, a leader of the *contras*, and Lieutenant-colonel Oliver North of the US Marines, the officer in charge of US military advisers in Honduras. Calero has been given the power to distribute the 27-million dollars 'humanitarian aid', and his main purpose in visiting Reagan was to enlist the president's help in the *contras* campaign to obtain observer status at the United Nations.

Meanwhile, two weeks ago Nicaraguan defence forces scored a major military victory against the US-backed *contras*. In three major clashes between August 5th and August 11th over 60 *contras* were killed in the provinces of Matagalpa, Jinotega and Rio San Juan. The Nicaraguan government has up-graded its regular army at a very rapid pace, and has successfully trained and armed hundreds of thousands of civilians for military defence, thus making it very difficult for the *contras* to make any inroads into the Nicaraguan countryside.

El Salvador

THE five guerrilla armies grouped under the umbrella of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) have announced that they are to be fused into one political-military organisation.

The announcement was made by Commander Leonel Gonzalez of the Popular Liberation Forces and backed by Commander Joaquin Villalobos of the People's Revolutionary Army. In the statement, announcing the unity moves, the FMLN declared that "the only division the enemy can expect from us now is the division of labour". The statement went on to declare that they would step up attacks against the Duarte regime, especially in the capital San Salvador and other major cities.

The FMLN high command have promised new political co-ordination and are putting as a very high priority the recruitment of people to the war. This new unity amongst the military wings of the FMLN will also include the political organisation the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR). The FDR will, of course, still retain its own autonomy but will work much closer with the FMLN on questions of ideology, strategy and tactics.

Union Carbide

NEARLY 200 people were injured on Sunday, August 11th and on Tuesday, August 13th, in Institute, Virginia, USA, when a massive cloud of poisonous gas leaked from the Union Carbide plant (the parent company of the plant in Bhopal, India, where over 2,500 people were killed in the world's worst industrial disaster).

The first leak at Institute lasted ten minutes, emitting a poisonous gas which included methyl-isocyanate (MIC) the gas responsible for the deaths in Bhopal. The second leak occurred on Tuesday night, after some of the plant was shut down. Union Carbide officials wouldn't say what chemical was involved, but said it was non-toxic. People though were warned to stay indoors and over 60 complained about being sickened by an "unbearable stinking odour". The Institute plant shut down for three months after the Bhopal disaster, whilst five-million dollars worth of safety devices were installed before the plant resumed production.

These latest 'accidents', which Union Carbide declared "could not occur here", happened just after a report was issued by two international

trade union organisations two weeks ago. The report accused Union Carbide of "dangerous and irresponsible procedures", and concluded that it was only a matter of time before a similar 'accident' occurred again.

Meanwhile, talks between Union Carbide and the Indian government have been irrevocably broken down. The Indian government rejected an offer of 200-million dollars from Union Carbide as being "totally inadequate and insulting". The Indian government have not publicly disclosed what amount they are seeking, but sources close to the government claim it is billions rather than millions. The Indian government's claim was lodged at least three weeks ago, and has been totally rejected by Union Carbide.

Make sure of your weekly copy of An Phoblacht/Republican News by taking out a subscription. Annual rates: Ireland and Britain - £20; Europe - £24; Elsewhere - \$60. Send to: AP/RN, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

EVERY WEEK!

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Humbert's expedition

BY PETER O'ROURKE

OF the three French expeditions which set sail for Ireland between 1796 and 1798, the only one to achieve any measure of success was that led by General Humbert.

Throughout June 1798 Theobald Wolfe Tone and Edward Lewins continued to press the French directors to send aid to Ireland. Eventually in July the French agreed to send three expeditions under Generals Humbert, Hardy and Kilmaine. The first two were to start simultaneously, Humbert with 1,000 men and Hardy with the main army of 3,000. All going well, Kilmaine was to follow with a force of 9,000 men.

Humbert, who had taken part in Hoche's ill-fated expedition to Bantry Bay in December 1796, was held up in port like the other two parts of the expedition due to a lack of cash. He eventually succeeded in raising the money himself from local sources.

At last, on August 6th 1798, he set sail for Ireland with his three frigates, and just over a thousand officers and men together with some five thousand extra arms and a few pieces of artillery. Among the Irish leaders who accompanied the expeditions were Bartholomew Teeling and Wolfe Tone's brother, Matthew.

Sixteen days later the three men-of-war flying the English flag appeared off the Connaught coast and landing in Killa Bay, in County Mayo, immediately stormed and occupied the town. Here the house of the Protestant Bishop of Killa was made the headquarters of the French general. Humbert called the people to arms and distributed copies of a proclamation among the people, large numbers of whom were drilled by the French officers.

Next day he began his military operation by taking the town of Ballina. From here he quickly moved south, and within a week had met and totally defeated a much superior English force under General Lake at Castlebar. Lake lost fifty men while the rest fled in panic. The battle has gone down in history as 'the races of Castlebar'.

A provisional government was at once established with a local Catholic, John Moore, being appointed President of Connaught. From Castlebar Humbert marched north again with his

army, but by September, with no sign of the other expeditions, he found himself trapped by a vastly superior English army under Lord Cornwallis at Ballinacorney, County Longford. After a short battle he was forced to surrender. The French were treated as prisoners-of-war while the Irish were slaughtered without mercy. Tone and Teeling were later hanged in Dublin.

General Humbert's expedition arrived in Killa Bay, County Mayo, on August 22nd, 1798, 197 years ago this week.

GENERAL HUMBERT

Diarmid: An raibh tú ag an cluiche inniu? - Were you at the match to-day?

Deirdre: Bhí agus céan fáth nár chonac mé ann thú? - I was and why didn't I see you there?

Diarmid: Níl a fhios agam mar bhí mé anuas d'han mé leathair ag faoi ortha taobh amuigh. - I don't know because I was there and I waited for half an hour for you outside.

Deirdre: Ba dheacair an rud é aon duine a fhealláil, ach bhí an slua chomh mór sin. - It was hard to see anybody, the crowd was so big.

Diarmid: Is cuma. Ar bhain tú taitneamh as an cluiche tar éis an tsaoil? - It doesn't matter. Did you enjoy the game after all?

Deirdre: Bhain. Sárluiche a bhí ann ar b'ádh buacha. Ach beidh an bua againn san athcluiche. - I did. It was an excellent game even though we

Irish Lesson

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didn't win. But we will win the replay. Diarmid: Tá súil agam go mbeidh, agus ar súil agam go mbeidh feabhas tagtha ar an scórach tinn atá agom d'ádh beith ag b'éiginn in aon dhóinn inniu. - I hope so and I hope this sore throat that I have from shouting at the top of my voice today improves.

Tar éis an tsaoil - after all
Sár; e.g. sár-óiche - prefix meaning excellent, very good e.g. excellent night
Feabhas - improvement

Scórach - throat
In a dhóinn - at the top of his voice
Is cuma liom - it doesn't matter to me, I don't care.
Cluiche peile - football match
Cluiche ionánachta - hurling match
Peil - football
Slíotar - hurling-ball
Cúimín - hurling stick
Cúil - goal
Cúilín - point
Ráiteoir - referee
Cluiche coitrim - drawn game

BRADLEY, Eamonn, (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Eamonn Bradley, Derry Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on August 25th 1982. Fuair sé bás ag tréid agus ag obair ar son saoirse mhuintir na hÉireann. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

COLE, Sean COLLEY, Alfred, (63rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flanna Sean Cole and Alfred Colley who were murdered by the Free State army on August 16th 1922. Always remembered by the Cole/Colley and Dublin North East Sinn Féin cumann.

CONVEY, Brendan, (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of INLA Vol Brendan Convey. Always remembered by the McShane family, Maghera.

DEVINE, Michael, (4th Anniversary). The Republican Movement remembers with pride INLA Vol Mickey Devine who died on August 20th 1981 in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh after 50 days of hunger-strike. In every generation we have renewed the struggle, and so it shall be to the end. When England thinks she has trampled out our blood in battle, some brave man rises and rallies us again, when England thinks she has purchased us with a bribe, some good man redeems us with a sacrifice. - Padraig Pearse.

DEVINE, Michael, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Mickey Devine who died on August 20th 1981. Dear is the grave where my brother is laid, dear is his memory that will never fade, we do not forget, nor do we intend, we love you too dearly and will to the end. Never forgotten by his sister Margaret and brother-in-law Frankie, Derry.

DEVINE, Michael, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of INLA Vol Michael Devine and his nine comrades who died on hungerstrike in the hell holes of Long Kesh in 1981. To mourn them is to organise a movement big and strong, with Armalite and battle with musk and with song. Always remembered by Tony and Geraldine McDermott, Derry.

DEVINE, Michael, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Michael Devine who died on August 20th 1981. Each thing that happens in our lives, we say it is God's will, so please ask him to forgive us, Michael, for we cannot accept your going still. Always remembered by Cathy and Davy.

DEVINE, Michael, (4th Anniversary). In loving memory of our uncle Michael Devine who died on August 20th 1981. He gave his most cherished possession, his life, for the cause of Irish freedom. Always remembered by Jody and Lisa.

DEVINE, Mickey: SANDS, Bobby; HUGHES, Francis; MCCREESH, Raymond; O'HARA, Patsy; McDONNELL, Joe; HURSON, Martin; LYNCH, Kevin; DOHERTY, Kieran; McELWEE, Tom, (4th Anniversary).

In proud and loving memory of ten brave Irish republicans who laid down their lives for Ireland. It is not those who inflict the most, but those who endure the most who shall conquer in the end. I measc laochra na hÉireann go raibh a nanamach. Remembered with pride by the staff of AP/RN.

DEVINE, Mickey: SANDS, Bobby; HUGHES, Francis; MCCREESH, Raymond; O'HARA, Patsy; McDONNELL, Joe; HURSON, Martin; LYNCH, Kevin; DOHERTY, Kieran; McELWEE, Tom, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of ten extraordinary and brave Irish republicans who laid down their lives in prison asserting the justice of our cause. They faced death fearlessly. From the grasp of these patriot men will certainly grow a living nation. Always remembered by Danny Morrison.

DEVINE, Mickey: SANDS, Bobby; HUGHES, Francis; MCCREESH, Raymond; O'HARA, Patsy; McDONNELL, Joe; HURSON, Martin; LYNCH, Kevin; DOHERTY, Kieran; McELWEE, Tom, (4th Anniversary). Australian Aid for Ireland remembers

with pride and salutes the hunger-strikers on this 4th Anniversary of their deaths. We extend sympathy to their relatives, close friends and comrades. "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." - Ho Chi Minh.

DEVINE, Mickey, (4th Anniversary). In honour of hunger-striker Mickey Devine whose spirit of freedom will live forever. All governments tell us that they will give in to force, all history tells us that they never yield to anything else. Victory to Ireland's freedom fighters. Always remembered with pride by the Scottish Communist Republican Party.

DEVINE, Mickey, (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of INLA Vol Mickey Devine who died on hunger-strike on August 20th 1981. Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his friends. We salute the bravery and revolutionary spirit which will always be associated with his name. Remembered with pride by the Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee.

MURPHY, Patrick; MADDEN, Noel; ROWNTREE, Oliver, (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Patrick Hughes, Nigel Madden and Oliver Rowntree, Óglaigh na hÉireann, Newry, who were killed on active service on August 22nd 1972. Truly loved and always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Irish Republican Army, Newry.

LAFFERTY, Eamonn, (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Eamonn Lafferty, Derry Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on August 18th 1971. Lay him away on the hillside along with the brave and the noble. Remembered with pride by his friends and comrades in the Irish Republican Army, Newry.

MALLON, Gerard, (2nd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of INLA Vol Gerard 'Moses' Mallon who was killed on active service on 13th 1983. He went as one who knew no fear, for you Ireland he loved so dear. His love for his country it all, he heard that lonesome piper call. His brave young heart, now you must keep, safe, everlasting. Always remembered with pride by Brendan O'Hara, Armagh.

O'HAGAN, James, (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol James O'Hagan, Derry Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died on active service on August 19th 1971. I measc laochra na hÉireann go raibh a n-am. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Irish Republican Army, Derry.

WATTERS, Brendan, (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Brendan Watters, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on August 8th 1984. A silent grief that's in my heart, no human eye can trace, for many a broken heart is hid behind a smiling face. I measc laochra na hÉireann go raibh a n-am. Always remembered by Jackie Campbell, wife and Jackie O'G.

WATTERS, Brendan, (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Brendan Watters, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on August 8th 1984. Ar dheis dhá dhé go raibh a n-am. Remembered always by Jackie Campbell, wife and Jackie O'G.

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WATTERS, Brendan, (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Brendan Watters, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died on active service on August 8th 1984. It is not those who can inflict the most, but those who can endure the most who shall conquer in the end. Always remembered by Liam (Portlaoise).

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Beannachtaí

BOCKY. This is to wish you a very happy birthday and many happy returns in health, happiness and freedom. Also to tell you that I love you very much, baby. Thinking of you always. Your ever-loving 'Morning Star'. All my fondest love. xxx. UTP

McGEOUGH, Peter, (H2-Block). Happy 21st birthday, Peter. Love from Mam, Dad and family. Lurgan, UTP

McGEOUGH, Peter, (H2-Block). Happy 21st birthday, Peter. It's all about hill now. From Maureen, Paddy and children, Dundalk, UTP

McGEOUGH, Peter, (Long Kesh). Birthday greetings, Peter. From Carmel, Pip, Sam and Gerry.

MORGAN, Eileen, (Armagh). Best wishes on your birthday, Eileen. From P. Ward, Australia.

GREETINGS to David Douglas and Gerard Tuite (Portlaoise) and Harry Dugan, Martin O'Connell, Hughie Doherty, Martin Coughlan and the two Mulyan brothers. From Jimmy Fitzsimmons, Dorset Street.

BARRETT. Sincere sympathy is extended to wife Eileen, daughter Sean, nieces and nephews on the sad loss of Sean Barrett, Dublin/Kerry, on Monday, August 19th. From the Central Committee of An Cumann Cabhrach. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-am d'ilis.

BARRETT. Deepest and heartfelt sympathy is extended to wife Eileen, daughter Noelle, sisters Kathleen and Sr Canice, nieces and nephews on the sad loss of Sean Barrett, Dublin/Kerry, who died on Monday, August 19th. From the McGlynn family, Dublin. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-am d'ilis.

DOWLER. Australian Aid for Ireland regrets the death of Sean Dowler, a native of Galway, lived in Adelaide, South Australia for many years. He remained a staunch and generous supporter of the Republican Movement, and was a republican of great heart and character. He will be sadly missed by his comrades in AAI. We extend our love and sympathy to Sean's wife Babs, his family and friends.

ENGLISH. Deepest sympathy is extended to the mother, father, brother and sisters of my friend and comrade

COMHBHRÓN

Vol Charles 'Chuck' English who gave his life for Ireland on August 6th 1985. The dust of these is Irish earth, amongst their own they rest, and the same land that gave them birth, has called them to her breast. And we pray that from their clay many a race may start, of true men like you to play as brave a part. Vol Charles 'Chuck' English who gave his life for Ireland on August 6th 1985. The dust of these is Irish earth, amongst their own they rest.

Admhaíl

BERRY. The family and relatives of the late Annie Berry, Clonsilla, Clara, wish to thank all those who sympathised with them in their sad bereavement, those who attended the funeral and sent letters of sympathy. Also a word of thanks to the Republican Movement and AP/RN who honoured her. The holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for their intentions.

and the same land that gave them birth, has called them to her breast. Always remembered by his friend Paddy McCarthy.

McHUGH. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Bridget McHugh who died recently. Always remembered by Kevin and Marcelle McKenna, Smithboro.

McHUGH. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Bridget McHugh who died recently. Remembered always by the Aine O'Neill Sinn Féin cumann, Smithboro.

McHUGH. Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Bridget McHugh who died recently. Remembered by John Joe Coyle and wife, Monaghan.

McHUGH. Sinn Féin cumann Toirbeach Mac Sulbhain, extend heartfelt sympathy to Frank, family and friends of Lily McLaughlin who died on Thursday August 15th. Words could never express our sorrow. Paddy Pio pray for her.

McLAUGHLIN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Frank and family on the sad loss of Lily McLaughlin who died on Thursday, August 15th. Always remembered by Clare comhairle ceannair.

McLAUGHLIN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Frank and family

circle on the sad loss of his wife Lily who died on Thursday August 15th. Deeply regretted by Na Fianna Éireann, Sharon.

McLAUGHLIN. Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Frank, family and friends of Lily McLaughlin who died on Thursday, August 15th. Deeply regretted by Peter, Michael, Gerard and Cillian, also Billy and Nuala.

McLAUGHLIN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Frank and family on the sad loss of his wife Lily McLaughlin who died on Thursday August 15th. Deeply regretted by Michael McKee, Sharon.

McLAUGHLIN. Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Frank, family and friends of Lily McLaughlin who died on Thursday, August 15th. Always remembered by Clare comhairle ceannair.

SEE. The Seamus Swar Sinn Féin cumann extends deep sympathy to the family and friends of Gerard Traynor who died on Friday, August 16th. Ar dheis dhá dhé go raibh a n-am d'ilis.

TRAYNOR. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Gerard Traynor who died recently. Always remembered by his brother, Armagh.

The Liam Og Column

O Christmas tree

BBC STAFF are vetted by MI5, the British Intelligence Service, the British Sunday paper the *Observer* revealed on August 18th.

The vetting procedure, which started in 1937 and never stopped since, takes place in Room 105 of Broadcasting House in London, where an MI5 agent, employed as 'Special Assistant to the Director of Personnel' vets all current affairs appointees.

If an employee's file is stamped with a Christmas tree, it refers apparently to a second, secret file kept about the same person in Room 105. Such a file might contain details of the individual's private life, political activities, and all the usual low-grade intelligence which is collected through the massive surveillance system of MI5, the British Special Branch and such like.

But why a Christmas tree stamp on a 'suspect' file, I hear you ask? Why not a Russian bear, or a Red Flag. Exactly! The British Labour Party's anthem, the *Red Flag*, makes use of the melody of an old German carol, entitled *O Tannenbaum*. And in English this means... *O Christmas Tree*.

FOLLOWING inquiries by Sinn Féin MP Gerry Adams to Lord Elton at the British Home Office about the right of Ronnie McCartney (a republican prisoner in Gartree) to correspond in Irish, the government minister's secretary has confirmed that he may do so but correspondence will only be released after translations have been obtained.

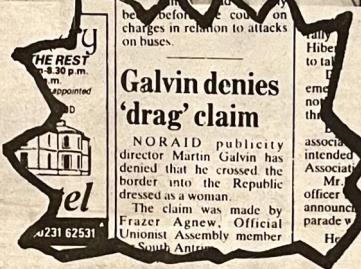
The reply was sent to the West Belfast MP at 51/53 Bothar na bhFalls (Falls Road).

NOT since the heady days of '98 have the Presbyterian artisans and other settler stock been so infused with sedition and rebellion, attacking and driving out RUC members of the crown forces from such areas as Portadown, Omagh, Cookstown and East Belfast!

The rebellion and the demand 'no taxation without representation' have spread to other disaffected areas i.e. Castlederg. Two loyalists, full of a few pints of anti-freeze in the early hours of August 3rd, were apprehended within the city gates by the local yeomanry who were on beat patrol.

Young Robert Scott, who had taken the oath, and his companion Andrew-Keith Gallagher, both from Newtownstewart, were taking chances apiece in whistling bars of *General Munroe* when they were pounced upon. Young Scott gave the arresting officer a mouthful of rebellious abuse such as "SS, RUC", "What about Newry?" and "Two exams and these men think they're policemen".

Coshed and concussed he was taken to the local dungeon as was Andrew-Keith, but not before AK had time to scream "RUC, SAS" and "You only joined the police to grow a moustache".



Last week, as the rebellious loyalist areas appeared to be succumbing to HM's control, the two Newtownstewart rebels appeared before the magistracy and were each given three-month prison sentences, suspended for three years, for behaviour befitting Fenians.

A senior Israeli army officer, who beat to death two Palestinians for hijacking a bus in April 1984, has been cleared of using excessive force, General Yitzhak Mordechai was one of nine military and Secret Service men who used pistols and rifle butts on the Palestinians, who had both been taken as prisoners.

They died of skull fractures.

Israeli State Radio said Mordechai is now expected to be promoted.

CRIMEWATCH UK and other exhortations to the public to be on red alert are certainly paying dividends. Liverpool City Councillor Tony Mulhearn, who called in to Picton Library and asked for research material and papers on the Republican Movement, was reported to the police by 48-year-old librarian Edward Fleming.

Fleming has now been suspended from his duties and his solicitor had the neck to claim:

"This has all the hallmarks of the beginning of a totalitarian regime."

THE Belfast daily the *Irish News*, which doesn't circulate in any Gaeltacht areas in the twenty-six counties, has a strange way of attempting to ingratiate itself with Gaelic-speakers and the RUC alike.

In its series *Láigh agus Abair* (Read and Say), it recently featured an imaginary checkpoint situation where the law is represented by Irish-speaking gentlemen who order one to give an account of one's movements, ask one's age and occupation, and order one to open to boot and bonnet of the car.

The Martian who compiled it had the motorist and his assailant saying in the parting words:

"Slán na bhaile" (Safe home).

"Go raibh céad míle maith agat" (Thanks a million).

"Gurb é duit" (The same to you).

"Corp an duine uasal thú" (You're a gentleman).

Tá a fhios agam! (I know).

On second thoughts, if it was an IRA checkpoint that would explain everything.

Dúirt siad

"It's a sad day for Portadown when the Protestant community turns on the RUC. Our enemies in the SDLP and Sinn Féin must be laughing tonight at the terrible spectacle of policemen and their families being turned out of their homes by loyalists."

— Former Craigavon Mayor Arnold Hatch.

"I have had people complain to me about things like the TV series *Hill Street Blues*. I even spoke to one woman who objected to *The Sound of Music* because there are nuns in it."

— Belfast DUP Councillor Jim Walker on his opinion to the film *Rambo*, which was given a certificate allowing 15-year-olds to see it.

"With Gerry Adams not taking his seat he says that he is still the real MP for West Belfast, but an unpaid one."

— Gerald Barry, writing in the *Sunday Tribune* of Lord Gerry Fitt's ruminations from his boat on the Thames.

"The Northern experience has convinced several politicians on both sides of Leinster House that some legislative strait-jacket must be fashioned to curb Sinn Féin before they can make any significant advances in the South. This is essentially because the dual SF strategy of ballot and bullet has had such an extraordinary impact on the North."

— J. J. O'Molloy, *Sunday Tribune*.

"Our targets are not the white civilians, but we shall escalate the struggle to a degree where it will be impossible for white citizens to escape from being hurt... Those among our own people who have pinned their hopes on Botha changing heart and conceding that there is an urgent need for change must abandon all their illusions."

— Oliver Tambo, ANC president.

"It was always expected that I'd work. If I stayed at home all day I'd just get in the way of the nanny and the cleaning ladies."

— Lady Jane Spencer in *Options* magazine.

"I didn't like the crypto-republicanism that came through on Section 31, the Offences Against the State Act and the suggestion that the Provos were in the tradition of the people who founded this state."

— Coalition Minister George Bermingham referring to the tough line of questioning he had to face at the 'National Youth Parliament' in Dublin.

NOTES
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