

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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NOTORIOUS HYPOCRITES

LAST MONDAY the SDLP issued a major policy statement in which they demanded the immediate 'dismantling' of the Emergency Provisions Act and a return to 'trial by jury' in the north of Ireland.

The SDLP's newly-found hypocritical concern over the five-year-old Emergency Provisions Act represents the first public effect of the massive Coalisland-to-Dungannon march which showed how the nationalist people feel about Brit repression, political status and 'Brits Out'.

The SDLP's bankrupt hierarchy is having to gallop after nationalist opinion, including rank-and-file SDLP members, many of whom (including several local councilors) took part in the massive march.

The nationalist people have become increasingly disillusioned with the SDLP and increasingly support the Republican position; as 'Brits Out' shines through as the only way to solve our 'English Question'. The servile SDLP are forced to dress up in Republican clothes.

'GLORIOUS' DAYS

Current Brit policy of smashing nationalist resistance militarily under 'Direct Rule' involves little or no useful role (with no ensuing rewards) for the collaborators of the SDLP. Thus, in sharp contrast to their former 'glorious' days in their 'prestigious' role of 'power-sharing', the SDLP find themselves out in the cold (temporarily) deserted by their foreign masters.

Their latest 'anti-repression' policy statement is not only designed to bring them more into line with nationalist opinion but is designed as an embarrassing reminder to their British

masters of 'past services rendered.'

The SDLP are trying to show what a 'public nuisance' they could be if the Brits don't throw them some 'power-sharing' type crumbs of comfort.

But the SDLP's empty pleas will fall on deaf ears. Until we smash the whole colonial system of sectarian rule backed-up by British might; that is, until we kick out the Brits and destroy partition then the Emergency Provisions Act (or its like) will remain in force providing for a streamlined system of dispensal for 'unwanted members of the public.'

Such 'emergency' legislation forms a routine (internationally-developed) counter-insurgency weapon against revolutionary national liberation forces.

The Emergency Provisions Act sets up the 'legal' framework for the Brit conveyor-belt transporting their dissident victims from the streets and homes of the six counties into the concrete H-blocks of Long Kesh. (It provides the draconian Brit powers of arrest and 'interrogation' and the farcical non-jury Diplock courts.)

The sectarian structures

of colonial rule dictate the Brit requirement for permanent 'emergency legislation'.

Their unreformable orange statelet has been a permanent state of emergency from its painful birth at their hands and will remain such a state until its coming death at Republican hands.

'Emergency legislation' will only be abolished when the grievous wound of Brit partition cutting harshly across this country is healed by Republican surgery ('Brits Out').

DESCIPABLE RENEGADE

Pathetic collaborators like the SDLP have no hope of removing any of the grievances of the nationalist people. In fact their disgusting English boot-licking activities only worsen the plight of the nationalist people.

On Monday 6th March of this year that despicable renegade, Fitt, said in the British House of Commons: 'Life sentences must be life sentences and there should be no political status.'

The latest SDLP policy statement says that 'violence continues because of an unsatisfactory political situation', and that 'the

government's main response is repression.'

Where does this leave the SDLP on the issue of political status?

If the Emergency Provisions Act is, in the words of their statement, so 'pernicious', and in Fitt's words, 'repressive' and 'unacceptable' then why wasn't it all these things before?

What about when the SDLP collaborated in the puppet 'power-sharing' assembly when this act was first in force?

What did they say or do then?

What they did was to co-operate in the further imprisonment of more than three score members of the nationalist community.

The nationalist people have seen the SDLP collaborate with the system for prestige, position and money. The SDLP are now branded as notorious hypocrites. The people of New Lodge regularly attack Fitt's home because he is a collaborator.

Next week is the third anniversary of the murder of Leo Norney. Fitt threatened to name the Scottish soldier responsible if they were not charged.

But the British government is so confident that it has bought him that the murdering Brits have not been charged. They will not be charged and the cowardly Fitt will not name them.

Screws tightened

THE BRITISH occupation forces continue with their relentless but unsuccessful attempts to brutalise Republican POW's into submission to their 'criminalisation' plans.

The mercenary and bigoted screws are daily tightened against those naked defenceless POW's incarcerated in the stinking H-Block of Long Kesh.

The latest communiqué from the PRO of the H-Blocks details the most recent attacks by screws on blanket-prisoners:

"Patrick Livingstone was sentenced to three days in the punishment block for bringing back from a visit a pair of rosary beads;

"John Thomas was taken to the prison hospital after refusing to bend over to allow screws to search his back passage. When in the hospital he was held down by several screws while another screw probed his back passage with a pair of forceps. For resisting this despicable treatment, he was sentenced to three days on the boards.

"Paul Montgomery and Pearse McMahon, spent seven days on the boards after they were severely beaten and badly bruised by several screws. Their cells were also flooded with urine thrown in by the screws.

"P. Duddy spent 21 days on the boards for trying to push out a high-powered hose which was put into his cell window. He was beaten up four times by screws while in the punishment block, and forcibly bathed in a bath of disinfectant.

"J. Corey spent three days in the punishment block for nothing; just harassment.

"We continue to suffer British 'justice'."

THERE IS ONLY ONE VOICE THE BRITISH WILL EVER SERIOUSLY LISTEN TO AND THAT IS THE STRIDENT VOICE OF THE RISEN PEOPLE ORGANISED IN AND BEHIND THEIR ARMED VANGUARD; THE REVOLUTIONARY IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY.



Friends of Paddy O'Neill paying their last respects at Milltown Cemetery, Belfast on Tuesday August 29th.

IRA warning on Andersonstown robberies

IN A supplied statement the 1st Battalion of the Belfast Brigade of the Irish Republican Army issued the following warning:

"During the past 12 months there has been a spate of robberies and break-ins in the Andersonstown area of Belfast. The Republican Movement, in a determined effort to eliminate the criminal element within our areas, have uncovered the people responsible."

"The culprits who were involved, have been spoken to and a comprehensive list of their activities documented."

"Normally, these people would be punished,

however, in view of the facts that they are young and first offenders, we have taken a lenient approach."

"A number of goods and articles have been recovered and where possible, these will be returned to their rightful owners. We pledged to their parents that no harm would come to these young people ON THIS OCCASION, but if they are involved in similar activities in the future, we pledge to our people that we shall take appropriate action".

BELFAST IRA APOLOGY

IN A supplied statement the Belfast Brigade, Irish Republican Army have said:

"On the 6th July 1978, we carried out a punishment shooting on two men in the New Lodge Road area. On information then available we were satisfied that they were guilty."

"However, new information has come to us which completely clears one of the men, Mr. Edwards. Mr. Edwards is a completely innocent man, and we offer our sincerest apologies to him and his family."

OBITUARY : PADDY O'NEILL

After I came back from the Coalisland to Dungannon march I heard the sad news that Paddy O'Neill had died. He was a great man, and one of the very best Republicans I have known, humble and charitable.

Paddy had been involved in the Republican Movement for over thirty years, and though I first met him in 1968, it wasn't until after the troubles broke out that I really got to know him. Many people are not aware that he was an active-service volunteer and a courageous one at that, before his present illness weakened him.

Particularly after the big internment swoops, when over a thousand men were inside, Paddy carried on the fight, operating from Belfast's 2nd Battalion area. His coolness on an operation steadied many young volunteer's nerves. His closest friend and comrade at this time was Paddy Maguire (Pendleton), who died on active service in October 1972 in the Lower Falls.

I next saw him in a cage in Long Kesh in 1973, still with the same pleasant, eternal smile on his face which no Brit or no amount of hardship could wipe away. Even during the particularly violent dawn raids in the Kesh, Paddy's spirit kept up everyone's morale. He was an extraordinarily charitable man, and would go out of his way to help you, and did more than his

share on duty, filling up the Burca boiler or sweeping out the hut when it was someone else's turn. He used to collect the mail from the screws and many a happy memory I have of associating Paddy with the delivery of a letter from the wife.

In this last couple of years he had been ill with his heart and suffered a number of bad attacks. But still he ploughed on and took up voluntary work with the Irish Republican Prisoners' Welfare based at the Celtic Rooms. If he wasn't to be seen mopping out the place, he was to be seen organising the food parcels for the Kesh minibus, or again sorting out letters for the gaols. And even with his illness he and his wife were to be seen regularly at the Falls Road marches in protest over H-Block, or Commemorating the introduction of internment.

His tri-colour draped coffin was followed by a cortege of colleagues from the IRPB, his many friends and ex-prisoners. After burial and the religious rites Daithi O'Buitigh said a decade of the Rosary in galipe and veteran Republican Liam Hannaway gave the oration, summing up Paddy's life and paying tribute to his dedication. He said that he was a person, whom more than anyone else through his contact with prisoners' families, appreciated



The late Paddy O'Neill

the sufferings of both prisoners and their families.

The Republican Movement has lost a great friend and comrade, and I take this opportunity of offering sincerest sympathy to Mrs. O'Neill and her family.

His work lives on.

— A Young Comrade

Sympathy

O'NEILL PATRICK

The officer board and members of the O'Callaghan/Kavanagh Sinn Fein Cumann deeply regret the sudden death of our dear comrade Paddy O'Neill and tender to his sorrowing wife and family our deepest sympathy.

Mary Queen of Martyrs Intercede for him.

BLACKMAIL ATTEMPT BY BRITS

TWO WEEKS ago in the early hours of Wednesday morning a young man living in Derry City was lifted by a Brit patrol while on his way home from a dance. He was taken to the Strand Road RUC Barracks.

There a plainclothes Brit questioned him. He knew everything about the boy's background, including the fact that he was out on bail for a petty crime committed elsewhere. The Brit told him the RUC didn't know about this offence, and if he "helped" the Brits with information, they in turn would help him by not informing the RUC about this offence, and he would also be paid for his information.

The boy was told to ring 6517353, and to ask for "Bob", to arrange to go for a drink in Portrush. But the next day the instructions were changed. A man with an Ulster accent phoned the house the boy was staying in to tell him to ring 65737 at 8 p.m. on Friday night, 25th August.

Brits kill Brits

LAST THURSDAY, August 31st, two plainclothes under-cover Brits (claimed by the Brits as a Sergeant and Corporal "on duty" in the Intelligence Corps) were killed when their vehicle (an unmarked car) crashed into a lorry in a dip in the Lisburn-Aldergrove Road at Anghnamullan (Nuts Corner).

The high density on the ground of these undercover Brits can be grasped when it is realised that the three-ton lorry which killed them was also an unmarked British Army vehicle containing plain-clothes Brits!!

In news reports the lorry



This boy, aware that the Brits were attempting to put him in a very dangerous position, wisely reported this attempted blackmail to the Derry Republican Advice Centre.

When any similar approaches are made by the Brits the wisest course for any future blackmail victim is to report such approaches to the Republican Movement.



Gerry Adams speaking at Sinn Fein Ardfeis in Dublin.

BELOW WE PRINT A COPY OF A SNN FEIN LEAFLET (SLIGHTLY EDITED) OF WHICH 20,000 WERE DISTRIBUTED IN BELFAST THIS WEEK.

STOP THE SHOW TRIAL FREE GERRY ADAMS!

This year has seen a massive increase in harassment against Republican members of the nationalist community in the occupied Six-Counties of Ireland. After nine years British troops have failed to defeat Irish resistance to partition. Curfews, internments, torture, summary execution and special courts have failed to defeat the Irish Republican Army which continues its war of national liberation.

But late last year and continuing into this year the British Government turned their attention against Sinn Fein (which they had nominally legalised in 1973) and "Republican News." There have been scores of raids on members' homes, offices have been ransacked and files and machinery confiscated. This leaflet, which will deal mainly with the case against Gerry Adams, is the first part of a major campaign, involving the distribution of thousands of posters and leaflets to DEFEND SNN FEIN and STOP THE SHOW TRIALS. The second part of the campaign, to be launched soon, will focus on the jailings and repression against Sinn Fein members and the attempted suppression of "Republican News."

The Case Against Gerry Adams

On February 18th, 1978, Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle member Gerry Adams was arrested in a dawn swoop on his Belfast home, where he lived with his wife and four year old son. He was taken to Castereagh RUC torture centre and was interrogated for 7 days, and afterwards he was charged that between March 1st 1977 to the time of his arrest he was a member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) — which is a proscribed organisation under the Emergency Provisions Act.

The RUC used the occasion of the La Mon bombing disaster for his arrest, thus ensuring maximum political pressure would be brought to bear over the ensuing days for his prosecution, though there was obviously no connection between Gerry Adams and the bombing.

During his 7 day interrogation Adams was shown a video-recording of a BBC television documentary programme TO-NIGHT which was screened on the 15th December 1977. The TONIGHT programme, entitled *'The Republicans'*, was a supposed analysis of the Republican Movement and modern developments.

Jeremy Paxman, who made the programme was allowed to film during the Sinn Fein Ard Feis on October 23, 1977. In one scene he showed Gerry Adams speaking on the subject of *Community Politics*. The RUC Special Branch had video-recorded this excerpt from the television screening in Britain and the Six-Counties on the 15th December.

Thus the State Paramilitary RUC had been in possession of their "evidence" for two months and only arrested Adams hours after the La Mon bombing. Yet he was available for arrest at home, at public meetings and at protest marches.

In Court the Crown said their case was that Adams in a speech on the 23rd October referred to "war zone", "billetting" and "battle". Crown said: "The reasonable inference that can be drawn is that Mr Adams is not speaking in a political sense but in the role of a man engaged in a war."

Adams' solicitor, Mr Patrick McGroarty, said he had taken extracts out of recent speeches made by well known Ulster politicians and when studied by themselves it looked as though they supported causes which they "abhorred".

The word "billetting" is common in the North as a colloquialism meaning "a bed for the night". In fact its usage in Eng-

land has been equally as common to cover not only "a bed" but also "a job" or "insecure". It is twice used in Somerset Maugham's Christmas Holiday (published by William Heinemann Ltd.) on pages 12 and 275. On the 27th April in a UTV programme *The Sullivans* it was also used colloquially. Again on television in a British Midlands serial *Crossroads* it was used on the 3rd August.

As for the "War Zone", is the occupied Six-Counties not a battlefield? 14,000 foreign troops in forts and bases, an armed paramilitary RUC; even the legislation recognises that a war is in progress — Emergency Provisions Act and Prevention of Terrorism Act. Prison camps bulging and nearly 2,000 people killed.

NEW CHARGE

Three months later on the 12th May the original charge was dropped and Gerry Adams was accused of being a member of the Irish Republican Army from April 1st 1976 up until the time of his arrest (in fact the charge was just backdated one year, the Ard Feis speech still being used "in evidence").

It transpired that the Prosecution, to strengthen their crumbling case, was alleging that Adams was a member of the IRA because: an Army Sergeant and Policeman would allege that he took position in a Long Kesh parade in Easter 1976 which in their opinion was in the role of Commanding Officer. So they have now made it an offence to stand to attention for one minute in honour of your country's dead!

If such "evidence" was admissible, and if the RUC had such "evidence" in April 1976, why didn't they charge Gerry Adams when he was released from Long Kesh in February 1977? Why wasn't he arrested at the front gate of the gaol? or, is the truth, which most people suspect, that the colonial Northern Ireland Office is fabricating lies so that they can quickly dispose of Gerry Adams, a leading political figure and thinker in the Republican Movement?

POLITICAL WRITER

In 1972 the British Government arranged a top level meeting with the leadership of the Republican Movement — recognising them as a political force. Gerry Adams and several other Republican political leaders were flown on a British Royal Air Force plane to Chelsea. There Gerry attempted to negotiate a settlement with British Government figures, including Mr William Whitelaw, then Secretary of State under Direct Rule and presently vice-leader of the Conservative Party. Due to British intransigence the talks collapsed.

In June 1973 Gerry Adams was arrested and beaten by British troops. Whitelaw the negotiator became Whitelaw the gaoler, and signed a detention order for Gerry's internment in Long Kesh. During his internment he was charged with attempting to escape; he was convicted and transferred from lower Long Kesh to the upper end of the Prison Camp which housed sentenced Republican political prisoners.

In August 1976 he wrote a

pamphlet entitled *Peace in Ireland* which sold thousands of copies within the month, and he contributed many articles to the Republican press and wrote to most of the national newspapers.

Writing in *Peace in Ireland* he said:

"Only an Irish Republic, free from England and from imperialist influences, controlled by the Irish People on structures decided by themselves and based on socialist principles, can solve the many problems besetting Ireland..."

"Only a change of system and the establishment of a social system in all Ireland, equal and worthy of the Irish People, could bring about a just and peaceful society... The State will resist change and will use its methods of violence, its Armies, its Terror Squads, its Laws and its Systems in reaction to those making the demands..."

"Republicans want peace. Does the Establishment or the State want peace? They have shown no evidence that they see merit in urgently seeking ways to end violence..."

POLITICAL ACTIVIST

Gerry Adams was released in February 1977 and attended Ard Comhairle meetings in his capacity as a Sinn Fein activist. Three weeks before Gerry's arrest the Conservative MP Douglas Hurd as part of a BBC

"SPOTLIGHT" documentary (screened on January 18th 1978) met Gerry Adams in Ballymurphy and had a two-hour meeting on the political situation, in which they also discussed the blanket-men in H-Block.

At the time of his arrest Gerry was in the process of finishing a book *Our British Problem* which was a history of Ireland since the Civil War.

While James Callaghan, David Owen and other leading British hypocrites are attacking Russia over the imprisonments of Orlov, Ginzburg and Shcharansky the British Government locks up its Irish political dissidents and is guilty of infringements of basic human rights for thousands of Irish people.

The British Government would like a quick trial and a quiet burial in the H-Blocks for Gerry Adams (where on-the-blanket with his comrades he will be slandered as a criminal "refusing to conform to prison rules").

Sinn Fein has invited along to the trial as observers, reporters from Tass, and international jurors from several countries, and will be mounting a vigorous picket outside the convicting chambers on September 6th.

WE CALL ON EVERYONE TO HELP DEFEND IRISH DISSIDENTS, STOP THE SHOW TRIAL, FREE GERRY ADAMS!

Andersonstown Martyrs Commemoration Committee

A COMMEMORATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD IN MILLTOWN CEMETRY AT 2.30 p.m. ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10th FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF 1st BATTALION, BELFAST BRIGADE, OGLAIGH na h-EIREANN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE FIGHT FOR IRISH FREEDOM DURING THIS CAMPAIGN.

ASSEMBLE INSIDE THE CEMETRY GATES AT 2.15 p.m. HONOUR IRELAND'S PATRIOT DEAD.

CONGRESSMEN CALL FOR STATUS

TWO AMERICAN Congressmen said in Belfast last week that political status should be reintroduced and described present court procedures as "draconian".

Joshua Elberg and Hamilton Fish, both members of the House Judiciary Committee at Washington, were speaking at the end of a four-day fact-finding mission.

Mr. Elberg, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, said they had not been allowed to inspect the H Blocks at Long Kesh but nevertheless had heard from other people what life there was like.

"There should be some form of special status for those convicted on politically-motivated crimes. This would end the deplorable conditions in the H blocks," he said.

Mr. Elberg claimed that people in H Block had been "railroaded" there through false

confessions and one-judge courts, and their "on the blanket" actions were the only form of protest open to them.

The Diplock courts, he added, were a cause for concern, because a single judge hearing a case offered far more danger to individuals and human rights.

People, he claimed, had been brutalised by the police and no complaint made against the RUC had been followed through with action against the police or the Army.

"We are questioning the guilt of many of the people convicted, particularly because of the Amnesty International report," he stated.

Rediculous charge — Republican family harassed

VERONICA BANNON, the Wife of Tom Bannon, a member of Sinn Fein's Ulster Executive, appeared in a Special Court in Omagh, County Tyrone, on Thursday, 31st August, charged with "collecting or recording information about members of the RUC likely to be useful to terrorists".

Mrs. Bannon who lives in Drumbeare, County Monaghan was arrested at Middletown, County Armagh, with her three young children in her car as she returned home from shopping in the North. In her car when she was arrested was her camera. The day previous she had attended and photographed the massive demonstration in Dungannon.

The film in her camera contained numerous photographs. In some of these shots members of the hated RUC appear. It would've been virtually impossible to photograph the march in Dungannon.

Veronica Bannon Town Square without members of the RUC being included, given their heavy presence. But the RUC, grasped the opportunity to harass and to frame another Republican. They enlarged those pictures with RUC men in them and claimed that Veronica Bannon took them for the purpose of later identifying the RUC men!

This ridiculous charge is a blatant act of intimidation against the Bannon family because of their Republican activities. Scores of people took photographs of the march, including T.V. crews, photographers from the News Letter, and Belfast Telegraph, both of which carried explicit photographs of the RUC, at the march, in their papers on Monday, 29th. Will the RUC arrest these photographers and charge them with "collecting information helpful to terrorists"?

Brutality complaint: Conviction reversed

LAST WEEK Belfast man Ronnie Bunting, won his appeal case against an earlier conviction of "making false allegations", against RUC men who arrested him and questioned him in May of last year.

The case against Bunting was heard in court in April of this year and he was fined £100. The charging of Bunting was obviously designed to intimidate both him and more importantly other victims of RUC torture from making 'official' complaints about it.

UVF on arm

Last week in court Bunting stated that during one of at least twelve separate interrogation sessions he was held down by two of his interrogators whilst a third scraped 'UVF' on his arm. Following the line of their

master and chief torturer, Newman, who a few months ago stated that torture didn't occur in RUC barracks and that in fact detained "suspects" self-inflicted wounds to discredit the "wonderful" RUC men, the Crown Prosecution claimed that Bunting cut the letters UVF on his arm by using a plastic knife.

No option

The claim was so ridiculous that the judge had no option but to reverse Bunting's conviction. In summing up the judge said: "The police were not disinterested, they had compelling reasons for denying the allegation". An obvious reference to the fact that RUC perjury is essential to maintain their morale and to keep the conveyor belt to gaol fully supplied with victims.

GALLAGHER

PROTESTS MOUNT

AS THE campaign for the re-trial of Willie Gallagher gained momentum, the (British) National Council for Civil Liberties (N.C.C.L.) added their voice of support, and also called for the abolition of the non-jury Diplock

arrest on April 26, 1975. The court accepted the accuracy of the record and on this basis convicted Gallagher.

Evidence to the court was that the confession interview began at exactly 2.35 in the afternoon.

However, the official Record of Arrest and Detention — a copy of which is in the possession of SUNDAY WORLD — shows that at 2.35 Willie Gallagher was in his cell in Strand Road barracks, Derry. A visit from his father to his son in the cell is timed as beginning at that moment. This visit is recorded as having lasted 10 minutes.

The alleged confession interview took place, not in the cell, but in an interview room some distance away, to which Gallagher would have had to be removed.

It would appear to follow that he could not possibly have begun the interview with detectives before 2.50 and that the evidence from detectives to the court was, for whatever reason, not accurate in every respect."

The revelation confirmed the view of the Belfast based "Willie Gallagher Defence Committee", that Gallagher's case was riddled with injustices; and provides a unique opportunity to expose the farce that passes for a court;

A spokesman for Sinn Fein stated: "We welcome all initiatives which will highlight Brit repression in Ireland. However we believe that demand should be for Gallagher's release, rather than re-trial, because we do not accept that a foreign government has the right to try any Irish person."



**POLITICAL STATUS
IS A RIGHT
- NOT A PRIVILEGE**



Block

"A POLITICAL PRISONER NOT A CRIMINAL"

by a Republican PoW, B Wing, H3 BLOCK Block

At the time of writing I have been on the blanket protest for six months and if need be I am prepared to stay here indefinitely until political recognition is granted to us by the British Administration in Ireland. I would like to give you a brief history of my case over the past few years.

Seven years ago I joined the Republican Movement. The reasons for doing so were the same ones which brought hundreds of my fellow countrymen to join the Republican Movement. We all saw in it the only solution to the troubles and oppression we have suffered under the British, for so long.

In the years which followed I found myself interned after undergoing the tortures of Holywood Interrogation Centre. I

spent some time in Long Kesh until I was released by Whitelaw in 1972.

On being released I once again took up my political activities only to be incarcerated yet again. Nevertheless, after another spell I was released through the 'Special Courts' procedure of Long Kesh, commonly known as 'the Commissions'.

My next arrest gave me a chance to see how 'Special Category' prisoners are treated. I was sentenced

by a non-jury Diplock court and put into the Special Category Cages of Long Kesh and later into those of Magilligan. On being released from there I carried on with the liberation struggle and was eventually arrested again.

However the position I now find myself in is completely different from any previous one. I am in prison for an 'offence' similar to my previous one for which I got political recognition.

However this time I am to be treated as a 'criminal' or so the British say. This I can never accept.

I am not a criminal. Never, never, never have I

carried out any action for my own personal gain which is the hallmark of the criminal.

On the contrary, all my actions have been designed to help overthrow the British administration in Ireland and to work towards the betterment of my own people.

I would like to add that I am still a political prisoner no matter what the British government may label me; by going on the blanket I am showing contempt for their present policy of criminalisation as well as my rejection of it. I will continue to do my utmost to defeat all their policies.

'MEDICAL BLACKMAIL'

An account by
An H-Block
'Blanket-man'

MEDICAL BLACKMAIL
—that is what I would call the latest tactic of the screws in the H-Blocks.

Tomorrow is my turn again. They will be taking my soaking wet mattress out for three days again. But first the 'doctor' will come round and ask me if I have any complaints.

If I ask him for a much needed check-up he will refuse.

No, not in these conditions, he'll say.

Then what about the mattress, doctor? Its soaking.

Oh, that's condensation, he'll say. The heat of your mattress at night on the cold floor, you know. (Trust me to fall asleep the only time there is any heat in this cell.) There are plenty of dry mattresses if you'll just do as you're told (and become a criminal).

Is there any chance of getting the heat turned on, I ask?

Oh no, I've told you before there's plenty of warm prison (criminal) clothes to keep you warm.

What about my X-Ray, doctor.

No, you must do as you are told first. In other words become a criminal.

Are you still telling the consultant that I am refusing to see him?

Yes, you've been told before you must first of all obey prison rules (in other words accept the label of a criminal and all that this entails.)

Ah well, that me passed fit again for more torture.

Four of the other lads were out with him this week too. We always get the same old answers.

Personally, I thought that all medical people were above this sort of thing. Then again I thought too that doctors were not involved in exterminating Jews in the last war. I now know this to be false.

(More later)

"Despair-Never!"

This article printed below was written by a young Belfast Republican from the Kashmir Road area who is presently incarcerated in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. This prisoner completes his second year on the blanket in November. This is his second term of imprisonment and in all, since 1971, he has been in gaol for 5½ years.

When he was released in 1974 after serving 3½ years he again became active in the struggle for freedom.

During 1975 he was shot by the Brits and seriously injured while driving a car on the Falls Road. For months he was on the danger list and it was only as a result of his great determination that he lived. His injuries left him with a permanent limp and a paralysed arm.

Currently he is serving a sentence of fifteen years. Below he writes about how he felt on being sentenced.

What does it feel like to receive 15 years at 21 years of age? I often asked myself that question before the war. I never really thought I would find myself in that position. I always said to myself, that sort of thing only happens if you value your freedom lightly and do something to merit the sentence. I always thought to myself, how can anybody stick being locked up? The feeling of despair one would experience being taken out of the 'real' world to become just a number. No more weekends with the boys, no more nights in the club, no more going on holidays, no more

walking in the sun, no more evenings with the kids, no more comfort from loved ones in times of need. These thoughts went through my mind. I always said to myself: "Never do anything to jeopardise your freedom". But one thing I didn't foresee — the time when our people would once more rise up against the British.

I, like many others, was proud to take up arms to fight against the Brits. As a result, I was captured and sentenced. Now I know what it feels like to receive fifteen years jail at 21 years

of age. I can only say that I experienced no despair after the initial capture. On the contrary I felt very proud. All the lost weekends, the lost nights out, the terrible beatings, the verbal abuse, the inedible food, the 24 hour confinement, the stink and the smell — they all amount to nothing because I know we are not alone.

I write this not for sympathy, for it is not we who need that, but those who are still on their knees. Nothing great was ever accomplished without great sacrifice and one has only to look at the many graves of those who have given their lives and one will see

"Teapot",
"B' Wing H3



THE TRUTH IS SO RELE

AT HOME and abroad Britain attempts to justify imperial intervention in Ireland under the banner of "keeping the peace" and spreading the "democratic protection" of the "Mother of all Parliaments". But the reality of the war is very different, not only in its impact on Ireland but also in the heartland of imperialism itself.

The impact of the war on Britain has been that, far from EXPORTING 'democracy' to its sectarian colony, it has IMPORTED unprecedented repression.

Two of the most blatant examples of this are the self-admitted "draconian" "Prevention of Terrorism Act", designed to intimidate Britain's Irish community and 'official censorship' of the media, particularly of television.

Ten years ago, the widespread British TV coverage of the Civil Rights struggle, reflected the British establishment's main interest in Ireland at that time: to reform their Six County colony.

However, as the struggle developed, a decade ago, from one of peaceful protests (for reforms) to a full-blooded national liberation war directed against the British establishment, the picture presented by the British media changed dramatically.

The whole emphasis shifted from highlighting 'stories' of Orange injustice and police brutality to "IRA atrocity stories" and tales about "what a good job our lads are doing".

AMERICAN FAILURE

The British had learnt a valuable colonial lesson from the American failure in Vietnam. The American establishment had failed to prevent on-the-spot TV reporting of their troops' bloody activities in Vietnam; this brought the savagery of the war, such as the napalm-bombing of children, directly into every American home in horrific technicolour. In-depth discussion programmes and analyses of the background to the war were televised live; dissidents were not effectively stifled.

This open T.V. coverage became a decisive factor in building massive popular home-based opposition to continued U.S. intervention in South-East Asia.

NOT UNDERESTIMATED

In turn, this massive anti-war movement, amongst their own people, was a major factor in demoralising the American troops, and became an essential factor in assisting the eventual victory of the Vietnamese National Liberation Front.

The British were not to make the same mistake here; the importance of directly controlling the media (especially the T.V.) was not underestimated by them.

In a new counter-insurgency book ("Peacekeeping in a Democratic Society") by a Brit officer

(Colonel Robin Eveleigh) writes about "the generally favourable press and television view of it (the British Army's role in Ireland) projected in Britain", he explains that it is of "tremendous importance to their (the soldiers) morale that they should receive a favourable press". He also admits that the British government realised how important it was to keep the Republican viewpoint off the T.V. and out of the press.

SUBTLE CENSORSHIP

On all political questions, including Ireland, subtle and non-conspiratorial methods of censorship operate within the British media to ensure that there is no major deviation from the needs of the establishment; and importantly all these controls are exerted to their maximum effect on the most vital outlets such as T.V. news broadcasts and on the most "sensitive" subjects, such as the Irish war.

These subtle censorship pressures operate broadly along the following lines:-

ARMY HANDBOUTS

Firstly, the main sources of news are "official", (for example, Brit army press handouts) giving an initially biased picture.

Secondly, the reporters (mainly English middle-class) background, education, training and prejudices, ensure that they generally view and select information in a Brit establishment light. (For example, they have a naive belief in Brit "fair play").

Thirdly, the editorial process of selection, changes and cuts made by more senior (and even more establishment-minded)

media staff, effectively removes any significant "deviation" which creeps in.

TRIVIALISATION

Finally, the manner in which "news-items" are presented as isolated inexplicable events, without giving the necessary details to make sense of them, ensures an ignorant audience. For example, the 'news' that "last night a man was shot dead in North Belfast" is a typical meaningless piece of media information (especially for an English audience).

Thus, the politics of the struggle are hidden by trivial presentation. Much more meaningful would have been to report that "last night a Catholic youth was shot dead in North Belfast by a Loyalist assassination gang".

Not only essential detail but vital background information is left out. This deliberate "trivialisation" does not happen just to news broadcasts. Last week it happened to the play about the trial of hunger-striker Willie Gallagher; the BBC censored the commentary before and after the trial which put it in the context of the Diplock courts rubber-stamping away those charged.

PREJUDICE

At every level media workers are under pressure to conform, not to "rock the boat" for fear of losing their "reputations" or their jobs. A typical media bureaucrat is Dick Francis, who was until recently BBC controller for the North of Ireland and is now BBC Director of News and current affairs.

On BBC 2 in February of this year he revealed the kind of stubborn conservative prejudice which makes a top BBC man. Referring to the Irish war he arrogantly claimed: "I don't believe it is a colonial issue". He went on: "It's an integral problem facing this country" (Meaning Britain!).

As we have seen, the whole process of "news" production, starting with "official" sources, handled by (prejudiced) journalists, cut by (more prejudiced

BRITISH CENSORSHIP AND THE WAR

sub-editors, over seen by (even more prejudiced) editors and then trivialised by its manner of presentation, normally ensures no problem of political deviation is posed for the establishment.

But in the case of Ireland, this subtle process of censorship and self-censorship has proved to be inadequate.

A system of "official" direct censorship has had to be imposed on broadcasters because every angle of the truth is so relentlessly anti-Brit.

It became necessary to cover-up British war-crimes such as the beating and shooting of civilians, and the torture and frame-up of prisoners, because the establishment feared such activities would be unacceptable to the mass of the British people.

Also it became necessary to project a distorted picture of the Republican struggle for fear that British people might sympathise with the justness of our cause in these times of "independence for former colonies". Therefore initially the national liberation struggle was portrayed as the activity of "mindless madmen" and then later from '75 (post-truce) onwards, as a "criminal conspiracy".

TV SUFFERS

It is not surprising to find that whilst all the mass media (T.V., radio and press) suffer from subtle "unofficial" censorship (as described) it is television as the most important and popular media, which has suffered the brunt of direct "official" censorship. T.V. holds this special position because of its immediacy, its live visual impact, and in fact many people watch T.V. as their principle

news source.

However, there is a recent case of (official) blatant radio censorship: The recent strong ("Sewers of Calcutta") condemnation of the H-Blocks by Primate Tomas O'Fiaich was totally removed from the BBC International News which was broadcast around the world.

The way in which this

MEMBERS OF THE UNITED TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT PICKETED THE BBC TELEVISION CENTRE IN LONDON ON 22ND AUGUST. THEY WERE PROTESTING AGAINST THE BBC'S CENSORSHIP OF THE PLAY ABOUT WILLIE GALLAGHER'S TRIAL AND DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR WILLIE. IN A STATEMENT THE UTOC ACCUSED THE BBC OF TRYING TO MAINTAIN THEIR SILENCE ON THE NO-JURY DIPLOCK COURTS AND ON THE WHOLE SYSTEM OF 'BRITISH JUSTICE' IN OCCUPIED IRELAND.

GENTLESLY ANTI-BRIT

ally and therefore (normally) at programme level BBC personnel can feel, reasonably enough, that they have a considerable degree of autonomy.

However, in relation to Northern Ireland, the reference upwards system comes into operation without any question, so that it is not an exception, it is rather the rule.

"The reference upwards system means that if an interview is sought with an IRA man, for example, this is not a decision that can be taken by a reporter, or a producer at the level of the programme. But has to be referred to the departmental editor, let's say of radio news or television news and then it will probably go higher to the Director of News and Current Affairs and so on."

SPECIAL SCRUTINY

All "controversial" (i.e. political) programmes about the North of Ireland are the subject of this "special scrutiny" of "upwards referring" by both the BBC and ITV. In the BBC, such programmes are referred to the Board of Governors and ITV companies have to refer such programmes to the independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA).

According to Jeremy Paxman (Producer of BBC's 'Tonight' programme):

"It seems to me that if you

have a referral procedure about stories about Northern Ireland, then you are asking people to decide beforehand what exactly the story is about and what kind of conclusion you are going to come to. That seems to me to have an inhibiting effect upon the way people go about doing stories about Northern Ireland".

So the "official" censorship also ensures that self-censorship is stricter than normal and the programme banning which can result in blank screens and public rows are only the tip of the "censorship" iceberg. The degree of censorship has heightened as the Brit propaganda under Mason has more and more diverged from reality.

The Brit's failure to impose a political "solution", their failure to beat the IRA, their lies about "criminals"; their Castle-reagh torture, their farce of the Diplock Courts, their hell-holes of the Kesh, their assassinations; all have had to be covered up. Mason has even tried to rewrite history by claiming that the six occupied counties of Ireland are as British as Yorkshire!!

LATEST PHASE

The latest phase in the media war started with the transmission on Thursday December 15th 1977, the same night as the first raids on "Rep-

ublican News" of a Tonight programme on the IRA. Although the general line of the programme was anti-Republican it contained film of IRA men training, speeches by leading Sinn Fein members (including Gerry Adams, since charged with IRA membership on the basis of an extract of his speech) and it portrayed the Republican struggle as political, but misguided.

The programme drove Mason and Tory nit-wit Airey Neave into their usual fury. The film said Neave, was "most dangerous". Early in March '78 the reporter and producer were given a long grilling by the RUC over their Republican sources in an attempt to intimidate them and others.

A month earlier, in February, Thames TV "shelved" (banned) a three part documentary on Ireland to be called "The Orange, the Green, and the Red, White and Blue", which was to have been produced by David Elstein and Peter Taylor of "This Week".

Thames TV thought the programme which placed the current war in historical perspective was too sensitive.

But the wall of silence and distortion did begin to crack back in February '78. During a BBC 2 film "Before Hind sight", the famous broadcaster

Jonathan Dimbleby compared the 1930's films, which had covered up the growth of the Nazi menace in Germany and in particular the persecution of the Jews, with present day British media coverage of the North of Ireland.

He pointed out that:

"Northern Ireland is reported outside Britain as a colonial problem. History has told us, and tells us, and will tell us, that Northern Ireland is our last colonial issue. Now if we were to regard Northern Ireland as a colonial matter, rather than simply as a matter for restoring order and bringing peace to a divided community, we would look at the Northern Ireland problem, at the role of the army, and at the role of the British State, through very different eyes". (see "Republican News" Saturday 18 March).

British TV censorship and the War

Dimbleby was unable to attend the studio discussion after the film, because he had been sent (on purpose?) to Ethiopia! But David Elstein vigorously backed him up with claims of censorship and self-censorship, specifically he claimed that "This Week" has been censored many times on Northern Ireland. We have lost programme; we have had programmes banned, cut, postponed and abandoned".

Even "The (London) Times" acknowledged on March 16th: "The British media's coverage of events in the province is now under increasing criticism from an ad hoc and articulate lobby headed by the TV journalist, Johnathan Dimbleby".

STORMS AGAIN

On March 9th "This Week" once again ran into storms with a programme which included an interview with Sinn Fein President, Ruairi O'Bradaigh and it displayed the IRA's M.60 machine gun. Also in March, the BBC postponed the play about Willie Gallagher's trial, claiming that it would "exacerbate tensions".

The end of April saw the second round of major raids against "Republican News" - A masonic attempt to black out news of the war and of British atrocities at source.

In May, London special branch men interrogated Thames

(Continued on page 8)



The truth is so relentlessly anti-British

(Continued from page 7)

TV "Head of Programmes" Jeremy Isaacs. They wanted to know all about Ian Stuttard, a film director who works on "This Week".

JOINT MEETING

At the end of May, BBC producer, Colin Thomas resigned over censorship of the series "The Irish Way". He was particularly angry over the way the BBC insisted on recutting his film about Ballintoy "A Bridge of Sorts". His resignation sparked off anger among media workers.

On June 7th a joint meeting of the two main unions in the BBC, ACTT and ABAS, passed a resolution calling for a trade union committee to be set up to monitor censorship, demanding no victimisation of Colin Thomas, deplored "the actions of the BBC in controlling the transmission of open information about Northern Ireland", and calling on the union leadership to black Thomas' film about Ballintoy if the BBC went ahead and censored it. (The resolution was printed in full in "Republican News" dated Saturday July 22nd).

But just two days after the trade union meeting, the Independent Broadcasting Association (IBA) followed the BBC's example; they banned "This Week's" film about the Amnesty Report on RUC torture.

PROTEST MEETING

Thames T.V. technicians "pulled out the plugs", refusing to transmit an alternative programme leaving ITV screens blank for thirty minutes; this was the first ever anti-censorship

British TV censorship and the War

strike by British TV technicians.

In a defiant gesture the torture film was handed over to BBC's "Nationwide", by Thames T.V.

These events led to an 87-strong protest meeting of TV programme makers in mid-June. According to Brian Winston who chaired the meeting, as far as the broadcasting authorities are concerned: "It is really a question of (them) pretending that there is complete freedom of expression when there is not: of re-editing, postponing or banning programmes but not admitting to censorship."

The meeting demanded that censorship be brought out into the open.

Interesting to note is that among those on the platform was Alan Sapper, General Secretary of ACTT. Now Sapper is a member of the "Connolly Association" (The Communist Party's Front among the Irish in Britain), which takes a general Sticky line and he had previously refused to speak out against censorship of Irish coverage. At the meeting he recommended that TV technicians should "pull out the plugs" whenever censorship occurred.

NOT APPROPRIATE

Several weeks later on July, 8th London Weekend T.V.'s programme "Look Here" (shown only to a London audience) showed film of the meeting and interviewed several media workers.

David Cox, Editor of ITU's "Weekend World", described recent interference with a programme analysing the strength of the IRA:

"After we had started filming

there was a full meeting of the IBA authority and at the end of that afternoon we got a phone call telling us that the whole programme had to be scrapped because the authorities felt that a programme about the Provisional IRA was not appropriate at that time".

"Weekend World" decided to carry on filming and after much argument and cuts in their film, the programme was broadcast on 21st May, three weeks behind schedule.

THE SAME WAY

According to Editor David Cox:

"Well, as a journalist I came to television because I believed that this was one of the few countries in the world where broadcasters are free to make objective analyses of public events. Had it looked, as indeed it did, in April as if "Weekend World" was not going to be allowed to address itself to the question of whether or not the Provisional IRA had staged a recovery, something which I thought was absolutely essential to the programme purpose, I began to ask myself what am I doing in television at all? And if the IBA continue to regard the reporting of Northern Ireland in any way they seem to be regarding it at the moment, there will be plenty of journalists in ITV feeling the same way."



David Elstein of 'This Week'.

WITHDRAWN

According to David Elstein, Producer of "This Week":

Northern Ireland is probably the most important subject in domestic British politics for television current affairs to report on.

"I think that the job that we do, if you judge it by any objective standards, is pretty poor.

"It is a very practical job and it is lacking in any real historical context, any real sense of what the Northern Ireland problem is about.....I have no doubt that the IBA is acting perfectly honorably, believes that it is fulfilling its public duty. I have equally no doubt that the IBA is wrong. That the IBA's primary duty is to inform the public and that we misinform the public about Northern Ireland.

"Indeed we misinform them so grossly, that I sometimes wonder whether broadcast journalists should not stand back and think whether what passes as coverage of Northern Ireland is such a disservice to the public that it is worse than nothing - that we shouldn't voluntarily withdraw from attempting to report Northern Ireland in any form of analytical terms until such time as the system changes.

"I don't believe, as it happens, that the system changes and I personally believe, which is why I carry on producing programmes, that what we do is that much better than nothing at all."

EYEBALL TO EYEBALL

Also, in early July, the General Council of the ACTT discussed TV censorship particularly the BBC cutting and cancelling of Colin Thomas' programme and the IBA banning the Amnesty programme.

A few delegates argued that because of "the armed violence taking place" the union should take no position but the General Council meeting "came down

heavily against censorship". (According to the August/September issue of the union's paper The "Film and Television Technician").

Particular anger surrounded the IBA's banning action but the two cases discussed were similar according to the union's TV organiser Jack O'Connor. He argued that in the Thomas case the Director was censored by senior management and in the Amnesty case an ITV company was censored by the IBA.

O'Connor spelt out the fact that in issues of blatant censorship, the union could not give an absolute assurance to observe their agreement to transmit no-matter-what. He claimed censorship is too fundamental an issue to be ducked.

ACT MEETING

The (British) Federation of Broadcasting Unions has also condemned the action of the IBA. In a statement issued after their mid-June meeting, the broadcasting unions said that "the intervention was a serious attack on broadcasting freedom".

The Film and Television Technician" report (Censorship: The Anger Grows) already referred to concludes:

"It is increasingly clear that broadcasting unions will not lay down and play dead when bureaucrats decide - at the last second - what the public may, and may not, see and hear. The public's right to know is eyeball to eyeball with the bureaucrats right to censor. We have not heard the last of it".

These cracks in the censorship of the British media are welcome to Republicans. A lifting of the T.V. curtains will be essential as part of creating a popular climate of "BRITS OUT" within the heartland of imperialism, itself.



DIVIS FLATS MUST COME DOWN!

The huge sprawling complex of Divis Flats is probably the worst of Belfast's Catholic ghettos. It has a population of between 8,000 and 10,000 and consists of a series of inter-linked seven storey blocks and one nineteen storey tower. The actual area of the complex is about a quarter of a square mile. Every imaginable high density housing problem is rampant: overcrowding and widespread (over 55%) unemployment.

Many of the tenants are squatters, who originally refused to pay rent, gas and electricity after internment was introduced, in August 1971. Now that formal internment is over Divis squatters still refuse to pay for inhuman living conditions.

Divis residents are sub-

jected to regular balcony patrols by Brits, regular raids and searches of their homes. Every youth of 14 and up and most men under 35 are stopped and asked a multitude of personal questions. They are also checked, and held by an army patrol for up to 30 minutes and sometimes

longer. To top all this Divis residents are openly under constant surveillance from a permanent Brit post on top of the 250 foot Divis Tower or from frequent visits by low flying Brit helicopters.

Over the past few months Divis residents have been agitating for the demolition of the Flats and the re-housing of the people. These protests came to a head after a young married woman plunged to her death from the 17th floor of Divis Tower. Hundred of residents blocked all the main roads in the district during peak traffic times and called on the Housing Executive to pull down the Flats and build semidetached houses for all families in the Flats and chalet type bungalows for pensioners. Instead the Housing Executive announced a £5 million face-lift for Divis Flats.

PROPOSED FACE LIFT

Divis Flats people strongly criticized the so-called

FACE LIFT when they heard that the average sum to be spent on each dwelling to renovate it was to be £14,700 (enough money to build a three-bedroomed semi-detached house). The renovations were to be carried out in two phases - the first would include a new heating system, improved insulation, replaced windows, new ventilation systems, new furnishings and general repairs.

The second phase of the FACE LIFT would include improvements to the exterior of the flats such as new vandal-proof balcony lights, new refuse disposal system, new play facilities for all age groups and closing off of each block from the other by removal of links and provisions of new stairs and lifts. "Too little, too late" is the view of most Divis residents and the general feeling of the people is for demolition and new housing. Three recent incidents highlight

the plight of Divis Flats residents.

BLOCK OF FIRE

On Saturday night July 29th, or more correctly Sunday morning, a huge pile of timber collected by local kids for the bonfire in commemoration of INTERNMENT DAY and stored by them under an arch in Whitehall block was set on fire, probably by drunken teenagers. Within minutes the asbestos floor of several flats on Whitehall Walk were on fire and over twelve families were evacuated. Gas pipes burst and escaping burning gas became a major hazard.

By 4 a.m. the fire brigade had brought the main blaze under control but it was not until after 5.20 a.m. that the Gas Board arrived to turn off the blazing gas pipes. Next day many of the evacuated families were forced to return to their charred flats.

(More later)

IRELAND FREE - NO E.E.C.!



Professor Jean-Pierre Vigier (from France) speaking at an anti-EEC public meeting held in Belfast on Tuesday 27th August. Sitting next to him is Richard Behal (Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau) who chaired the fifty-strong meeting.

BELFAST MEETING

by Collette O'Neill

AT A public meeting organised by Belfast Sinn Fein in the Andersonstown Social Club on Tuesday, 27th August, Professor Jean-Pierre Vigier talked in detail about the E.E.C.

He stressed the dangers which the workers of member countries face, both now and in the future.

He pointed out that the exploitation of the working class within the E.E.C. is alarming and that technologically, under-developed member nations are literally drained of their natural resources. Mass unemployment, poverty and repression are predominant throughout whole areas of Europe.

An alarming situation is the co-operation which exists between the repressive forces of different E.E.C. countries. A recent example is of German police hunting for "terrorists" in Paris, or the proposal for a "unified computer" (based in West Germany) which would contain files on all so-called

"terrorists" and their supporters. In reality, this smokescreen of a "united front against terrorism" is nothing more than an attempt to extend the repressive system against any form of protest on the part of the people.

Furthermore, the proposed "European Convention Against Terrorism" is a blatant threat which undermines what few rights people now have because it means that any form of action, whether it be students protests or trade union stoppages could be viewed as "threats to the system". The inevitable outcome means only one thing: the remnants of democracy will fast disappear.

Professor Vigier went on to outline his fears regarding H-Block. He maintains that H-Block is being used as a testing ground by the British and as such, it shows the extreme to

which imperialist oppression will sink in order to intimidate the people. The same situation which exists in H-Block, he believes, could happen in any European country if the establishment is threatened.

On the question of national independence for Ireland the Professor stated that Ireland must both "break the link with the E.E.C." and "break the back of British imperialism." "Britain" he said, "was perpetrating the same methods which were implemented by the Nazis in their occupation of Europe".

The E.E.C. was crippling Irish self-determination. Our resources, such as our fisheries and gas-fields, were being wrenched from us and exploited by multi-national companies.

The Professor concluded by saying that we must boycott, protest and use whatever means available, to get out of the E.E.C. and, to quote the Professor, "kick out the occupying troops".

"Building a united opposition to the EEC throughout Europe"

Professor Jean-Pierre Vigier a distinguished French Scientist recently spent a busy four days giving anti-EEC lectures in both Belfast and Dublin. He also took part in discussions with the Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle as well as attending the Dungannon Rally on the 27th.

Professor Vigier is a former member of the G.H.Q. Staff of the French Resistance during World War II and a former member of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party (which he left over disenchantment with its' passive support for the French government during the Algerian War of Independence).

For many years now he has devoted himself to opposition to the E.E.C., which he, like Sinn Fein, sees as the most dangerous development in imperialism in Western Europe.

Both the Belfast and Dublin public lectures were chaired by Richard Behal of the Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau who stated the position of Sinn Fein with regard to the forth coming elections for the European Parliament.

"While we remain as strong as ever in our opposition to membership of the E.E.C.", said Mr. Behal "the tactics of the implementation of that opposition have yet to be decided". He went on, on behalf of the Movement to categorically deny that any decision had been made to positively participate in the elections, as incorrectly reported in the Irish Times some weeks ago.

Professor Vigier stated the reason for his visit was to help build a united opposition throughout Europe to the E.E.C.

Through the forthcoming elections the "Community" was

moving towards what the German Chancellor and ex-Nazi officer Helmut Schmidt hoped would be a new confederacy of European States; an aspiration endorsed by Giscard D'Estaing of France; and which if fulfilled would mean the total erosion of national sovereignty as well as the continuing accumulation of all power in the hands of the "few".

by
Seosamh
Mac Gabhann

They would be backed up by the military power of N.A.T.O., to the complete detriment of the "many" in the form of increased repression, unemployment, inflation and of the hardships presently being experienced by workers throughout Europe as a result of the "austerity measures" which have been enacted by the powers that be.

This move towards a highly centralised "government of Europe" is by no means a recent innovation. It is merely the present phase of an imperialist development which began by necessity, after the Second World War, with the division of Europe and the de-colonisation process in Africa and elsewhere in the following decades.

We have only to look at our own history to realise the val-

idity of the "change by necessity" development of Imperialism. From the 16th century onwards we have had imperialism variously implemented by the plantations (straight colonisation), Home Rule of a sort (Grattan's Parliament), integration with England (Act of Union), the colonial and new-colonial systems established by the Treaty of '21, and now finally the multi-national "change by necessity" development in imperialism as embodied in the E.E.C.

The initial impetus for the new order of imperialism, caused by the defeat of Germany and Italy in World War Two was provided by the U.S., which casualty wise was comparatively unscathed, whilst its industry and technology, again unlike those of Europe (which suffered the attention of blanket bombing raids) had advanced extraordinarily by virtue of the abnormal pressures of the war.

This, coupled with the fact that the U.S. was and is a comparatively rich country led, through the "Marshall Plan", to the re-industrialisation of Europe, particularly W. Germany. This established the economic dominance of the U.S. in West Europe particularly West Germany. In turn, West Germany has increasingly asserted its' own economic dominance over the rest of Europe and to such an extent that it is now even a challenge to the U.S. inside Europe.

As a result of the U.S. inspired 'model' West German state now through its economic power holds the dominant

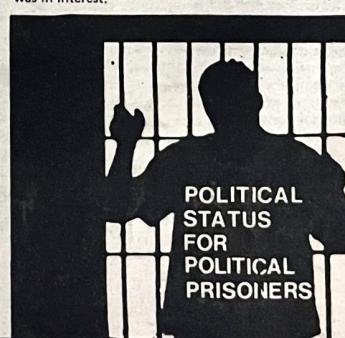
position in both the E.E.C. and the rest of Europe. The political survival of the present West German state depends on its repression; 700,000 people are under surveillance and legislation is used to ban "suspected" radicals from public employment. All of which has prompted Ruairi O'Draoibh to refer to W. Germany as "An economic oasis but a spiritual desert."

The wealthier, more industrialised and technologically advanced countries, by the export of their goods and know-how, have drawn in the underdeveloped countries of Europe (including Ireland), of Africa and of the Third World to put their economies (i.e. their natural resources and their peoples labour) into what is in reality a hire purchase agreement, e.g. in 1977, of the fifteen (Billion) dollar debt repayments made to the U.S. by Third World countries, nine billion dollars was in interest.

In similar fashion our own resources, our mines, our potential oil and gas, our fishing rights, our labour are sold off for minimal sums while we have to pay exorbitant prices for the end products. In brief, we are actually funding our own exploitation. And while we must continue to resist the most readily and easily identifiable imperialist, the Brit, we must realise that we are no longer simply fighting our historic oppression on his own.

We are engaged in a struggle with a much larger, much more subtle and much more powerful imperialist enemy than that of fifty years ago, as is evidenced in the counter-insurgency "plantation" of the De Lorean factory and in the co-operation given by N.A.T.O. to the Brits in releasing British troops for service in the Six Counties, from duty on the Rhine in Germany.

As a follow up to Professor Vigier's invaluable and extremely informed visit Sinn Fein representatives will be attending a conference in Paris in mid-September with anti-EEC groups from all over Europe where it is hoped that a European anti-imperialist Resistance Front can be formed and some sort of common anti-European Parliament election tactics discussed.



POEMS FROM THE H-BLOCKS

"H-BLOCKS NEW FACES"

by A. St. James (ex-Markets)
'Blanket Man'

I'm here tonight because a friend
Went and told me of this gig.
He said come along and do your thing,
A joke, a song, a gig;
I said sorry Tom can't dance nor sing,
And jokes I just don't know 'em,
But I'll tell you want I'll try and do
I'll try and write a poem,
That's fine said Tom, it's just for the crack,
But we'll put you through your paces,
'Cause this gig is full of talent mate,
It's called "H-Blocks New Faces".

That shook me friends when I heard that name,
You'd think I'd seen a ghost,
Memories flooded back of how artists
Flinched at the taunts of Micky Most,
Of how on T.V. I'd seen that panel
End more than one career.
Tom saw my shock and took my arm,
And said W.B. don't fear.
The panel's different sure,
With Hanvey, Arthurs, Fays and Hart,
Tom Bucks the compere, he knows the crack,
He'll call you at the start.

The panic eased and my blood once more flowed,
Brining colour to my face,
Said thanks for the words of confidence,
I've re-composed my grace.
But deep inside I was unsure,
It still could go all wrong.
Was a poem a thing I should attempt
Or play safe with just a song?
Originality was the answer,
You'd appreciate my use of head,
I threw all caution to the wind
And chose this here instead.

More reassured of at least a chance,
To say my little part,
I went ahead and I've done my best
To make inroads to your heart,
Though our stage tonight is dirty,
And our coverage rather small,
I'm proud and happy to do the act,
Hope I've entertained you all.
You're a group of lads, in later years,
I hope I'll be proud to see,
We'll shake our hands,
Talk of times like this,
Then in our country free.

LOCKED UP IN A BOX

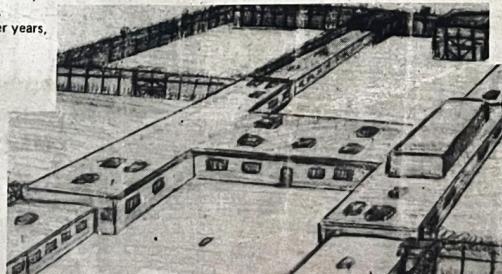
by Eddie Fay,
Turf Lodge

I'm just a poor flea, locked up in a box,
Of reinforced concrete and big fancy locks,
Never let out, kept shut in here,
My life is a misery, I'm in constant fear,
They bang my door in the mornings,
Deprive me of sleep,
Make fun of my religion,
Their hatred runs deep.
My food is always freezing, the Screws
Throw it on the floor,
I really have to eat it and could do
With some more,
But I'll just have to bear it,
Cause I'm staying here,
And to their Governor I'll say,
"You Can Bangle Your Gear".

THE MEN OF H-BLOCK 3

by Noel Ferguson, H-Block 3

In H-Block 3,
You'll find fine company,
No better men on earth.
They sing and slag,
And sometimes brag,
About how they've come to berth.
Now some are bold, and some are brave,
They'll never lose that crave,
For the day will come,
The Brits will run,
To their home or an early grave.
The day draws near, but never fear,
For these men of H-Block 3,
They'll sing and dance,
And laugh and cheer,
'Cause old Ireland will be free!



WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

by B. Lillis, Lower Falls and
G. Moore, Derry

On June 22nd 1978,
Three young men met their fate.
Cold bloodily mown down,
By killers of the Crown.
The three young men,
From the Belfast Brigade,
Did not know the Brits lay in wait,
As they set out, on their bombing raid.
Just as they approached Belfast Town,
There erupted a thunder, all around,
Until a hail of death was found,
And three volunteers of the IRA
Lay murdered on the blood-stained ground
Jackie Mailey, Jim Mulvenna, Dinnny Brown
Their young lives, they had laid down,
For a cause so dear and grand,
The freeing of their native land.
We'll always remember
The sacrifice they made.
Volunteers Mailey, Mulvenna, Brown
Third Battalion Belfast Brigade.

INSIDE THESE WALLS

by S. Delany, Ardayne

Inside four 'H' Blocks, by day and by
night.
A fight's being fought by the bold IRA.
March 1st '76 they took status away,
But Mason and his amadons (idiots)
Simply can not stop us.
We exist in this filth all of the time,
Rather than accept that our deeds are
a crime.
The food we receive, a 'controlled diet',
its named,
But to us, it's torture and Mason's to
blame.
Now the truth is out, what's happening
in here,
We've rallied support from far and near,
America and France, and Germany too,
They're becoming aware about me, about
you.
'H' Block's not alone with its struggling
Gaeels,
Crumlin Road and Armagh, are the other
two gaols.
For their courage and stand and support in
this fight,
We salute them as soldiers, they're
Ireland's delight.



English prison food - myth and fact

LAST December the 'SUN' newspaper carried an article on Christmas Menus in British Prisons. That article with the dramatic headline 'A turkey tuckin for the jailbirds' deliberately sought to mobilize all the prejudices that exist against prisoners and reinforce them with unfavourable comments from screws and politicians.

In contrast to this gutter-press approach, the Sunday Times Magazine (23/7/68) devoted two pages to a 'Good Prison Food Guide.' Its restrained approach, and factual orientation reflected the difference in the readership of the two papers. Whereas the Sunday Times is essentially the paper of the establishment elite, who are of necessity allowed considerable latitude in forming their views, the Sun is an ideological weapon used to keep the Working-Class in its assigned place. Starved of all but the minimum possible information - and that, heavily garnished with reactionary editorial content, the Sun readership is constantly told that the present political system is the only one.

Though the Sunday Times feature did make quite a few criticisms: 'unimaginative institutional food' (Pentonville), 'vegetables unattractive' (Kirkham), it can hardly be argued that the food served on one particular day in six prisons, containing only 10% of the total prison population can be taken as representative of the entire system. Particularly as readers were not told how much advance notice of the journalists' visits were given, or even who selected the six prisons featured. The Sunday Times did observe that even the best cooked food was not so palatable when eaten in cells reeking with the 'smell of urine, disinfectant and old cabbage'.

According to the Sunday Times the not very extravagant sum of £3.80 is the maximum permissible expenditure per prisoner each week on food, though - perhaps as a result of Home Office preconditions for the visits - they did not reveal the prescribed 'Dietary Scale' of food allowances.

We have however obtained our own copy of the ration scale and we print it here in all its bureaucratic fineness: WEEKLY FOOD ALLOWANCE FOR MALE ADULT PRISONERS:

Meat (inc Bacon):	10 ozs;
Drippings:	9 ozs;
Milk:	3½ pints;
Flour (inc Bread):	5½ lbs;
Margarine:	9 oz;
Potatoes:	7 lbs;
Chicken:	8 ozs;
Pork:	3 ozs;
Baked Beans:	4 ozs;
Carrots:	10 ozs;
Other Root Vegetables:	4 ozs;
Greens:	3 ozs;
Marrowfat Peas:	3½ ozs;
Split Peas:	1½ ozs;
Eggs:	2

These hardly generous allowances, especially of protein, are of course subject to the 'skills and ingenuity of the catering staff' before actually reaching the prisoners. Quite a proportion in fact never reaches the prisoners - being sold on the 'black-market' to outside caterers. While the fact that screws do not eat the same meals as the prisoners hardly implies a reasonable level of culinary standards.

Visitors to Irish political prisoners frequently comment on their unhealthy pallor and skin complaints as a result of low protein intakes and a lack of fresh fruit. It is indeed interesting that there are no Irish P.O.W.s in the prisons visited by the Sunday Times.

In addition to the everyday stodgy, tasteless, poorly cooked food there are the 'specialities' like Hull's 'Piss in the Tea' - after the uprising there, the screws urinated in the prisoners' mugs before filling them with tea. (Article courtesy of Birmingham Prisoners' Welfare Group.)

**POLITICAL STATUS
IS A RIGHT
- NOT A PRIVILEGE**

ENGLAND

November 26:

DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH IRISH PoWs

'I will die proudly and triumphantly in defence of Republican principles and the liberty of an oppressed and enslaved people.'

These words were spoken by William Allen at the close of his trial in Manchester in November 1867. He, along with Michael O'Brien and Michael Larkin, who were all three to hang, had been framed for the death of a policeman. The trial of the Manchester martyrs is more relevant than ever today when over 2,000 Irish political prisoners are being held in jail for the 'crime' of defending Republican principles.

More particularly in England 20 men and women, totally innocent of anything except being Irish, have been sentenced to savage terms of imprisonment after being framed by the British police. For some, if these savage sentences are carried out, death will be their only release.

In the last century Fenianism represented a popular movement, in the words of Karl Marx a 'socialist tendency', in opposition to British rule in Ireland. Today that continues in the struggle led by the Republican Movement to free Ireland for British colonial domination.

Those captured in that war are held in the jails and concentration camps of England and Ireland.

Capital punishment is still carried out against these prisoners: Brian Maguire hanged in Castlereagh barracks; Hugh Gerard Coney shot dead in Long Kesh; Tom Smith shot dead in Portlaoise; Michael Gaughan murdered by force feeding

in Parkhurst; Prolsias Stagg killed on hunger strike in Wakefield; Noel Jenkinson found 'dead in his cell' in Leicester; Sean O'Conor painfully killed in an untreated cancer.

All of these men, like the men, women and children shot dead on the streets of their own towns and villages of the Six Counties, would be alive today if it were not for the brutal determination of the ruling classes to maintain their stranglehold on Ireland.

The anniversary of the execution of the Manchester martyrs is a suitable time to remember the deaths of these patriots and to show solidarity with their imprisoned countrymen.

The plight of those dragged before the courts of British imperialism is, if anything, worse today. The trial of the Manchester martyrs was so outrageous that 30 journalists who had attended it petitioned for a reprieve and a demonstration of over 25,000 workers was organised by Marx to protest at the hangings.

Mark and his daughter Eleanor led a campaign in England and abroad to expose the barbaric treatment of Fenian prisoners.

Today the British media are collaborators with the crimes of their government - the prison conditions in England which have led to the deaths of four Irish prisoners are of no concern to those busy with human rights in other parts of the world.



Protest undertaken with great courage and at great personal risk like those by Irish prisoners in England in July and like the two-year blanket protest by prisoners denied political status in H-Block, demand a response of complete support and solidarity.

O'Brien struck at the heart of the system which oppresses English and Irish alike when he said:

'Let them look at London and see the thousands that want bread there, whilst those aristocrats are rioting in luxury and crime,' and he was prevented by the judge from saying any more.

But we can take up his speech today by raising our voices in solidarity with Irish men and women persecuted for their defence of the liberty of their country.

'I'll die, as many thousands have died for the sake of their beloved land in defence of it,' said Allen. And more will die like him unless all true socialists and anti-imperialists in England build a true movement of solidarity with the Irish freedom struggle.

We ask you to march on November 26 in memory of the Manchester martyrs and for all imprisoned Irish patriots.

NOEL JENKINSON MEMORIAL MEETING

7.30 p.m.
Friday, October 13
Conway Hall
London

London Conference

The Armed Forces and the Trade Unions' at Wembley Conference Centre on Sunday, September 17, 1978.

There will be a charge of £1 each for delegates from trade union branches and other organisations as well as for visitors.

For conference information, please write to: 'News Line editorial board, 218 Old Town, Clapham, London SW4 0JT.'

LONDON MARCH

— 26th NOVEMBER

- Solidarity with Irish PoWs!
- PoW Status and Amnesty for all Irish Political Prisoners!
- Brits out of Ireland!

Assemble: 2.30p.m.
Speakers Corner
Marble Arch

March to Clerkenwell Green

***** BIRTHDAY GREETINGS *****

CONNOLLY, Brendan, POW H Block 5. Happy birthday and all our love. From your loving Wife and Daughter Lisa. UTP.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, POW H Block 5. Birthday greetings from Mum, Dad and all the family in Lurgan.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, POW, H Block 5. Happy Birthday Greetings from the Finnegan family, Australia. UTP.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, POW, H Block 5. Happy Birthday Brendan. Thinking of you on the 31st. Love from the Sweeney Family.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, POW, H Block 5. Thinking of you on your Birthday. All our love. From the Edwards Family. UTP.

CONNOLLY, Brendan, POW, H Block 5. All the best on your Birthday. We are behind you all the way. From Brother Tony, and all the boys. Cage 9. UTP.

McCAUGHEY, POW, 'B' Wing, Armagh Gaol. Happy Birthday Briege Anne. Thinking of you on your 19th. Keep your chin up, all our love. From Eamonn & Anne xxx.

McCAUGHEY, POW, 'B' Wing, Armagh Gaol. To Auntie Briege Anne, Happy Birthday, all our love. From Wee Eamonn & Fionnuala & Baby Sean xxx.

McCAUGHEY, POW, 'B' Wing, Armagh Gaol. Thinking of you always Briege Ann on this your 19th Birthday. You are always in our thoughts, God Bless you. From Domnall, Christien and Baby Ciara. UTP.

McCAUGHEY, POW, 'B' Wing, Armagh Gaol. All the best on your 19th Birthday Briege Ann on Friday 1st September. Thinking of you always and all the girls on protest. Your fight is our fight. God bless you all. Love Mum, Dad, Fionnuala, Ciara. UTP.

NUGENT. Happy 21st Birthday, 12th September to Kieran in 'H' Block. God bless you and all your gallant comrades. From Mum, Dad, Brother and Sisters.

BURNS, H5 (On the Blanket). Congratulations Eugene on your 21st Birthday. No morning dawns no night returns that we don't pray for you and all your comrades. God bless you always. Love Mother and Father.

BURNS, H5 (On the Blanket). Congratulations Eugene on this your 21st Birthday. Stone walls do not a prison make nor iron bars a cage. God bless you and your comrades. Love from Roisin & John and kids.

BURNS, H5 (On the Blanket); Congratulations Eugene on this your 21st Birthday. They'll try to break your resistance in a hundred ways or more, but we know this will strengthen you and make you stronger than before. Love from Danny and Anne-Maire.

BURNS, H5 (On the Blanket). Congratulations Eugene on this your 21st Birthday. Lets hope your next one is spent in freedom. These words are few but mean a lot to tell you Eugene we haven't forgot. Love from Paddy and Bernie.

THANKS

We wish to thank our Irish friends in Denmark for their generous contributions to the Green Cross Fund.

The Green Cross.

Congratulations

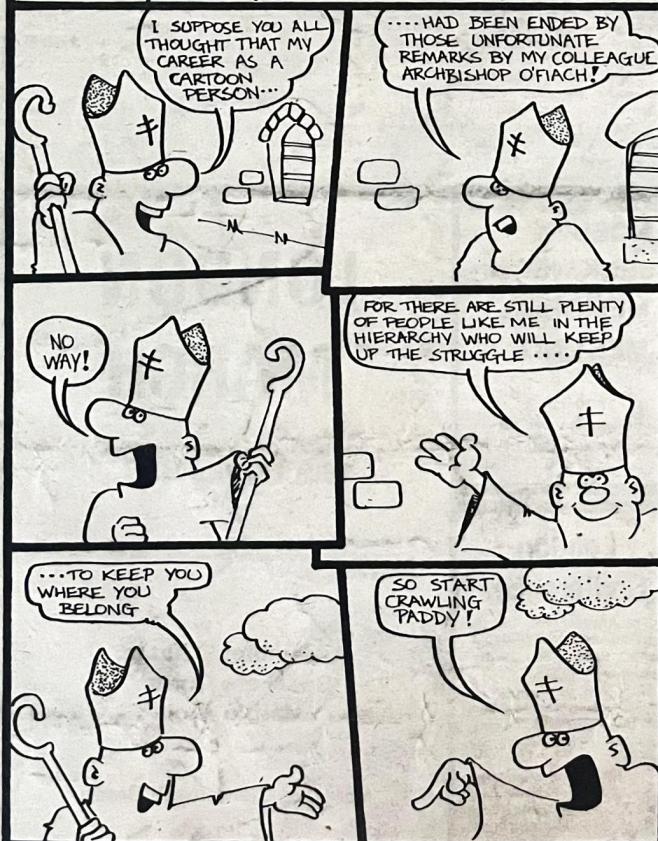
Congratulations to Moya & John on the birth of their baby girl. Well done kids. Also all the best to Matt and Brian and families in Australia. From all the McCrory family at home, Anne & Family. xxx.

★ Wedding ★ Anniversary

ADAMS.

To Gerry & Collette all our love on your 6th Wedding Anniversary. From Eamonn, Anne & Family. xxx.

NOTES by CORMAC



IN MEMORIAM

MULVENNA (6th Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Patrick Mulvenna, 'B' Coy 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Irish Republican Army. Murdered on active service, 31st August, 1973.

In Irish graves lie martyrs, shot down by English guns, but Patrick's life was taken, by so-called Irish sons.

Always remembered by his life long friend, Jim.

McADOREY (6th Anniversary)

In proud memory of Volunteer Patrick McAdorey, Third Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglalaigh na h-Eireann. Died on active service, August 9, 1971.

Always remembered by his comrades in Patrick McAdorey Sinn Fein Cumann, Dublin, North East.

PETTICREW (5th Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of our daughter, Volunteer Ann Marie Petticrew who died on active service 1st September, 1973. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for her.

The date is here with sad regret, it brings back the day we won't forget, the tears we shed are wiped away, but the ache in our hearts is here to stay.

Always remembered by your loving Mother, Father and family circle.

PETTICREW (5th Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of our Sister, Vol. Ann Marie Petticrew, who died on active service, 1st September 1973. St. Anne pray for her.

The world may change from year to year, our lives from day to day, but the thoughts and memories we have of you, will never fade away.

Always remembered by your Sister Katrina (Armagh Gaol) and Brother Brian ('H' 5, Long Kesh).

PETTICREW (5th Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of my friend and comrade Volunteer Ann Marie Petticrew, died on active service, 1st September, 1973. St. Teresa pray for her.

Just a memory silently kept, no words are needed, I'll never forget.

Always remembered by Teresa.

PETTICREW (5th Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of our comrade Volunteer Ann Marie Petticrew, died on active service, 1st September, 1973. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for her.

You left us so suddenly, your thoughts unknown, but you left a memory we're proud to own.

Always remembered by your comrades Liam (Cage 12) Patsy (H5, Long Kesh), and the Holden family.

Sympathy

GATES:

ALL BRANCHES OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT DEEPLY REGRET THE SUDDEN DEATH OF PADDY GATES, FOUNDER MEMBER OF THE TYRONE R.A.C. AND A LEADING POLITICAL ACTIVIST OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS. HE WILL BE BADLY MISSED AS THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM CONTINUES.

Bristol H-Block Picket

PICTURED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE 25 PEOPLE WHO JOINED A PROTEST CALLED BY THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE UNITED TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT IN BRISTOL ON AUGUST 14th.

PLACARDS AND POSTERS WERE DISPLAYED CALLING FOR POLITICAL STATUS. OVER 1500 LEAFLETS WERE HANDED OUT TO PASSING SHOPPERS. ONE LEAFLET DESCRIBED CONDITIONS IN H BLOCK, CRUMLIN ROAD AND ARMAUGH AND ARGUED THE CASE FOR POLITICAL STATUS. THE OTHER, HEADED WOMEN AND THE WAR IN IRELAND, EXPLAINED HOW WOMEN SUFFER PARTICULARLY INTENSELY FROM THE BRITISH PRESENCE, BUT SHOWED ALSO THAT WOMEN ARE NOW PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE.

