

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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2 YEARS 'ON THE BLANKET'

ON THURSDAY Lower Fall Republican, Kieran Nugent, completed two years inside the concret H-Blocks of Long Kesh. The first man 'on the blanket', his unwavering stand has been a shining inspiration throughout the heroic struggle for retention of political status.

In a recent smuggled-out letter he recalls how the protest began.

On entering H-Block he refused to put on prison uniform being a political prisoner and warned that the screws would have to nail the uniform to his back!

He recalls how: *My legs were kicked apart by the screws and blows rained on me whilst all the time a tirade of abuse was directed at me. I was repeatedly ordered to put on the prison uniform. I refused.*

TITLE OF HONOUR

"Then two screws grabbed me by the hair and arms and dragged me thirty yards through a gauntlet of screws who kicked and punched me. I was flung into my cell. My arms were wrenched behind my back and I was forced to the floor. My clothes were then forcibly removed leaving me lying naked in a bare cell. Later, a mattress, blanket and slop-pot were thrown in. I draped the blanket around me and collapsed onto the mattress."

In this way the 'blanket' protest started and the name 'blanket man' was later to become a title of honour.

In his letter Nugent describes how, during different phases of the struggle, screw assaults have been turned on and off to Brit requirements.

He describes how "After a few months solitary confine-

ment having failed to break us, it was coupled with further humiliation. Four times daily we had to walk naked to the canteen to collect our food. Each time we were taunted by the bigoted screws."

STARVATION TACTICS

But it soon became apparent that these tactics were not working as the number of protestors was steadily increasing. So according to Nugent "The next and most trying phase" was starvation tactics and stepped-up assaults.

He recalls how: "Starvation was practised to such an extent that a comrade was told by a doctor that he was suffering from malnutrition! Gnawing hunger was our constant companion and beatings became an everyday occurrence. It was not so much the actual beatings as the constant fear of them. Even worse was the realization that this was no three or seven day spell, this was for years!"

Following the introduction of the 'No wash: No slop out' protest in March Nugent describes how "Highly toxic disinfectant was sprayed through the observation slit causing severe pain to my eyes and stomach."

Today during harassing cell-searches he and his comrades are subject to intimate degrading body searches by gloating screws before being dragged off to the punishment block where they are badly beaten and thrown

semi-conscious into baths of disinfectant.

But Kieran Nugent and his comrades continue without bowing down. At the end of August there were 314 men 'on the blanket' and 24 women protesting in Armagh. (see names on centrespread; we have since received two more names of men 'on the blanket' in H4-Block: Jack Jackson of Andersonstown and Kieran Toal of Armagh.)

In the words of Kieran Nugent: "Despite the misery of our existence, morale is high. The bonds of comradeship, fashioned from our belief in a common ideal, have been inseparably bound by the long months of hardship. We are acutely aware of the justice of our fight. We proceed in full confidence of victory."

'SUPPORT DEMO'

IN ORDER TO SPEED THIS VICTORY WE CALL FOR MASSIVE SUPPORT FOR THIS SUNDAY'S BELFAST SINN FEIN DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PRISONERS' HEROIC STRUGGLE.



Support
the
prisoners!

March
on
Sunday!

BELFAST MARCH AND RALLY Sunday 17th September

Assemble: CLONARD STREET — 2.30 p.m.
Pick-up points: BEECHMOUNT and WHITEROCK/
SAINT JAMES JUNCTION; March to ANDERSONSTOWN.
Organised by Sinn Fein

OUR EDITOR ARRESTED

LAST FRIDAY 8th September, Danny Morrison, Editor of "Republican News" was arrested in a Brit/RUC swoop on his home and taken to Castlereagh 'interrogation' centre under a seven day detention order.

This latest attack on "Republican News" follows numerous raids on our Press Centre and the gaoing of members of the paper's staff in April.

The Brit offensive to smash "Republican News" began last December. In a Scotland Yard directed operation several hundred RUC men backed by Brits, simultaneously arrested fifteen members of Belfast Sinn Fein; ransacked our Press Centre and commercial printing works, seizing the printing plates for the paper. Also raided unsuccessfully was the last known address of our editor. But within two weeks he was arrested and held for three days.

Another round-up of Sinn Fein, members took place in February when among those arrested was Gerry Adams who was released only last week (see page 3).

CONSTANT HARASSMENT

The most serious attack on the paper happened during the raids against Sinn Fein last April, when almost the entire staff were gaoled, (although the editor again eluded their grasp).

The Brits charged our commercial printer with 'membership of the IRA'! Their message rang loud: "DON'T PRINT 'REPUBLICAN NEWS' OR ELSE!"

Brit raids continued on our Press Centre, forcing the editorial team to leave and confining them to the back room of sympathisers' homes. The Brits have raided many homes, in search of us and our material has been confiscated during these raids. In effect "Republican News" is now produced "on the run".

Meanwhile the constant harassment of Sinn Fein has continued with the recent raids on Derry's Advice Centres and the arrest of nearly the entire Derry Comhairle Ceanntair. This constant harassment is positive proof that freedom to express political dissent is only permitted when the Brit's system is not endangered.

This latest arrest exposes once again the double-standard of the British government. They internationally condemn repression against others' dissidents while here in the occupied six counties they seek with a vengeance to silence the Voice of Republican Dissent.

But we are as resilient as ever. "Republican News" will continue to highlight the daily Brit repression including the torture of prisoners, and will continue to support the revolutionary national liberation war, being waged by the IRA.

Despite the arrest of our editor this paper will continue the fight for a Socialist Republic until final victory.

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS!
MARCH ON SUNDAY!

HOT RECEPTION FOR SDLP!

ON Sunday last the people from the Ardoyne area of Belfast left the snivelling collaborators of the S.D.L.P. in no doubt as to how they felt about them and their silence on the H-Block issue.

Flour bombs, rotten eggs and tomatoes were hurled when the S.D.L.P. members refused to answer questions about their position on the conditions inside the H-Blocks. The meeting was organised ostensibly to allow Austin Currie to meet the people from Ardoyne for the "first time" in ten years! But more than likely it was to gauge the feelings of the people from the ghettos towards the S.D.L.P.

From the beginning of the meeting the mood of the people from Ardoyne was an angry one. This could be seen by the numerous people standing about clad in blankets and carrying placards demanding an end to torture in H-Blocks.

When S.D.L.P. bureaucrat, Pascal O'Hare tried to excuse party Chairman, Denis Haughey for being ten minutes late, a member of the audience shouted: "We've waited ten years, we can wait another ten minutes". Another voice from the audience apologised to the platform for the few people present: "The boys and girls were not allowed out of Long Kesh and Armagh".

When he eventually arrived Haughey tried to calm the people by claiming that his party wanted the British out and that they also wanted a free and united Ireland. But people weren't fooled by his hypocrisy. They continued to call out questions regarding the H-Block prisoners.

When Haughey claimed: "We feel the same way about the men in Long

Kesh", a man from the audience shouted: "This is all fairytales, what are you going to do about the men in Long Kesh?" Others shouted: "Did any of you ever visit the prisoners in H-Block?"

When the arch-collaborator stood up to speak people banged the floor and clapped their hands. Shouts of "you're being protected by the torturers of Castle-reagh". "What about the cattle rustling?" and "What about the 25p levy on those on rent and rates strike?" Currie was obviously embarrassed and had to sit down.

When a woman clad in a blanket with a large 'H' on the back approached Currie and tried to wrap the blanket around him, he pushed her away with a look of horror and disgust on his face. The people booed and jeered at him. The meeting ended in a

brief skirmish during which some of the S.D.L.P. were injured as they left the hall.

In a radio interview, the cowardly Fitt, who wasn't even present at the meeting and who hasn't been seen in the ghettos since the last British election called the protestors in the hall "thugs" and "animals" and claimed that no questions were asked about 'H' Block.

Meanwhile Seamus Mallon in another interview at the same time on a different radio channel was contradicting his party boss by saying that questions about 'H' Block were continuously posed.

The contempt that the people of Ardoyne correctly feel for the S.D.L.P. was demonstrated clearly; their collaboration with the Brits over the last ten years will never be forgotten. These notorious hypocrites will surely think twice before going into Ardoyne again.



Publicity-seeking Austin Currie poses for the press last Sunday after the SDLP's unsuccessful attempt to meet the people of Ardoyne.

IRA CLAIM



IN a supplied statement the Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for shooting dead, in Newry, a Major in the British Army Cadet Force.

The statement from the South Down IRA pointed out that "the Major was part of the British war machine".

IRA administer punishment in Belfast

In a supplied statement the Belfast Brigade of the Irish Republican Army report that last week they punished "three youths in the Whiterock Road area, for crimes committed against the people of Iveagh and other areas".

The I.R.A. statement warned that "such behaviour against the people will not be tolerated".

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

SAMMY DINES (20) and TEDDY CRAINE (21). Birthday Greetings from Short Strand RAC.

"We may have brave men but we will never have better".

DINES H5 (on the blanket). Birthday Greetings to our friend and comrade.

"Keep the cell warm Sammy we will be joining you soon". — "Carela" and "Roon" H6.

DINES (H5). Happy Birthday Sammy. We will have a drink to you tonight. Solidarity from Eugene, Eric, Bear and Proinnias.

BRADLEY (H6 Remand). Birthday Greetings to our friend Gerry. Hope you are sailing on the Lough soon. Best wishes from Eilish and Tony Carlisle.

COREY MARTIN, P.O.W. Cage 9, Long Kesh Concentration Camp. Many happy returns Martin on your Birthday. Although this is the 6th year you haven't spent at home you are still always in our thoughts. Keep your chin up and here's hoping your next will be spent in freedom. God Bless — Mum, Dad and all your brothers and sisters.

COREY MARTIN, P.O.W. Cage 9, Long Kesh Concentration Camp. Here's wish you as happy a birthday as is possible in the Hell Holes of Long Kesh. Keep your chin up we are proud of you and all your comrades. From your many friends in O'Neills Terrace. U.T.P.

COREY, P.O.W. Cage 9. Belated Birthday Greetings.

Happy birthday Darling, hope your next one is spent in freedom.

All my love, Peggy xxxx.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ **One year on the blanket Solidarity Greetings**

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
FUSCO, LOUGHON, McCONVILLE. Congratulations Gerald, Paddy and Gerald, now that you have all done one year on the blanket. Solidarity also to the rest of your comrades lying naked in that hell-hole, Long Kesh. From all your friends on Remand in A. Wing, Crumlin Road Jail — Hutchie, Fradgie, Jap, Mashy, Micky, D. also Liam, D. U.T.P.

LOUGHAN: (H5 Block). One year on the blanket 15th September. To our Son Paddy and the boys on the blanket sentenced with you and all the boys and girls in all prisons. Keep up the fight, victory will be ours. God Bless all of you. — Mum, Dad, Christy, Barney, Margaret, Gerard, Theresa, Barbara and John. Also Ann & Grainne.

LAVERY; (H Block "on the blanket"). Solidarity Greetings on completing your first year. From Gerard, Terry and kids.

LAVERY; "One year on the blanket". Greetings Son, I hope your protest is successful in the near future. All my love, Mother.

LAVERY; "One year on the blanket". Keep your spirits high, we're winning. — Thomas, Patrick, Crumlin Road Gaol.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ **Solidarity Greetings**

EUGENE McCOMB BILLY McDONAGH, CORMAC McART, BILLY CAMPBELL, JERRY WARD. Short Strand R.A.C. salute these men who have now completed 15 months "on the blanket". Solidarity Greetings to all the P.O.Ws from the area and also the remand prisoners.
YOUR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

A political charge: A political verdict

ADAMS FREED

ON Wednesday 6th September, the Orange Judge, Robert Lowry, dismissed the trumped up charges against Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle Member, Gerry Adams. The charges were "IRA membership" and "professing IRA membership".

The first hearing started at 11.00 a.m. in a court room packed by armed Brits and crowded with about thirty plain clothes RUC men. In court, to observe the trial, at Sinn Féins request were the French judge Etienne Bloc, the Belgian lawyer Mireille Jourdan, the English barrister Alister Logan, and the Dublin barrister, Michael Connelly.

During the morning session, Appleton, the Crown prosecutor was faced with the problem of trying to bring some kind of 'reasonable' evidence for Gerry Adams' conviction. Also uneasy were the RUC men, who knew that their case was farcical, and that their job of perjury would

be much more difficult because of the media's interest and foreign interest in the case.

The supposed evidence related to three events: The first one was Adams taking part in a Republican parade in Long Kesh at Easter 1976, in honour of Ireland's dead. The Crown prosecutors relied solely on the statement of the only witness — a Brit, Sergeant Major Grant.

He claimed that Gerry Adams was standing in a parade in the cage at Long Kesh in 'a position that pointed him out as a Senior Officer of the Irish Republican Army'!

In addition to this was a charge based on a televised scene of Gerry Adams speaking at the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis in October, 1977.

In that speech, which the RUC videotaped off T.V., Gerry Adams, said "We could not have survived without the support of the people who had provided 'billets' in the 'war zone'".

The Crown said that Adams was speaking "in the role of a man engaged in a war". He claimed Adams used "we" in reference to the IRA; "billets" in reference to arms dumps, and the certainty of the membership charge was proven by the use of the term "war zone". (This is



why the RUC used the charge of "professing membership", which according to the international observers, is "one of the most insane type of accusations under which anybody can be charged".)

The Crown claimed: "Acting or speaking as a member of the IRA, is enough evidence to prove your membership."

Given such ridiculous evidence, the RUC had to find something else. And they found it, four days before the trial. The single fact that Adams was very often in the Republican press centre on the Falls Road, in Belfast, and that posters "glorifying the

IRA" were hanging on the walls of these premises, meant that he had something to do with the content of the posters!

The charging of Gerry Adams was politically motivated. The RUC used the occasion of the La Mon bombing disaster for his arrest. This ensured the maximum political pressure would be brought to bear to have him charged.

The fact that no evidence existed was immaterial. The RUC probably thought they could by railroad Adams and have him convicted on their terms.

In dismissing the case, the comments by the Judge, on the nature of the evidence, was in effect a "rap on the knuckles" for the Crown Prosecutor, and the RUC; the political nature of the trial was publicly obvious, and Lowry was annoyed that this was in no small way due to the bungling of the case by the RUC in offering up no worthwhile

morsel of evidence.

In other words Lowry was telling the RUC on future occasions, at least have some 'evidence' even if it is only based on their usual perjury and signed statements.

In fact the RUC had been using this case as a test case to establish a link between membership of Sinn Féin and the IRA. The Crown claimed that: "Provisional Sinn Féin and the IRA have the same objectives; the withdrawal of British rule in Ireland; the means used by the IRA are supported by members of Sinn Féin, therefore all members of Sinn Féin are members of the IRA".

The Judge under pressure from international observers, in the court room and the publicity campaign about the case organised by Sinn Féin (which included the distribution of 20,000 leaflets), given the complete lack of evidence could not find any way to convict.

The political price of such an internationally observed frame-up for the Brits would have been too high. Therefore the Judge released Adams and used his verdict to attempt to whitewash the Diplock courts.

His comment that the courts do not pass sentences when the evidence is based on "speculation" is a sick joke. Daily the courts are used to gaoil people on the sole basis of RUC 'speculation'.

A "revolutionary organisation"

In future Roy Mason should ensure that his comrades-in-arms are better briefed on his propaganda requirements for the supposed defeat and 'criminalisation' of the IRA.

On 1st September the British Army Commander of their 'land forces', Major General Richard Trant, publicly described the IRA as both "very effective" and as a "revolutionary organisation".

We can but agree.

Two of the International observers who helped gain Adams' release.



Judge Etienne Bloc



Mr. Alistair Logan

PRESS POISONERS AND MCGURK'S BAR

LAST WEEK Robert James Campbell pleaded guilty to bombing McGurk's Bar on December 4th 1971 and the cowardly murder of 15 innocent people. He did not allege police torture, frame up or intimidation. Indeed, he claimed that "it had been on his conscience" ever since it happened, a claim somewhat suspect since he also pleaded guilty to another sectarian killing in 1973.

His son, Robert junior, had been sentenced some months ago for two other sectarian murders. Both were in the UVF. So far so good. The press had a field day, reprinting photos of the wreckage of McGurk's, and praising the RUC for their great detective work. The message came over loud and clear — the books are always open, the RUC is impartial and will bring the guilty to book etc. etc.

Those readers of the Sun, Express, Mail, Times and Mirror however should perhaps refresh their memories about what those papers said at the time about the McGurk bombing.

Immediately after the bombing the Army propaganda squad had gone into action. Lt-Col Jeremy Reilly, c/o 2nd Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers summoned the press

and made the following statement:— "This is the tragic consequence of totally inept people trying to use power outside their ability to handle. It is absolutely tragic that so many

innocent people were killed and mutilated by a planned act of folly, even if the final result was an accident." "Off the record" he then proceeded to tell all the pressmen present that it was "definitely an own goal". "It was about an 80 pounder and obviously well inside the pub. We believe that it was in transit. While deploring such a terrible loss of life we hope that this will finally sicken the local people with the Provos."

All this ignored the eye witness, the newspaper boy who had seen the bomb being planted by Campbell and his UVF team and the call to the papers which Campbell made claiming the bombing on behalf of "the League of Empire Loyalists". (Campbell was to confess, seven years later that in fact the target that night had been the Gem bar but that they had switched targets at the last

moment.

The bomb was a ten pounder and that they had been amazed by the extent of the damage and the number of deaths — in fact the bomb fractured a gas main and brought the entire pub crashing down. The phone call was, he said, made to "cause confusion.")

Campbell was picked up by the RUC and interrogated two days after the bombing because he fitted the eyewitness's description. It would seem that even then they knew in which direction to search for suspects. None of this suited the Army or politicians however. Campbell was quietly released and John Taylor came out with a statement that "the police are quite satisfied that the bomb was inside the bar and not placed at the door". The press went to town.

Worst of all was John

Chartress of the Times.

"Police and Army intelligence believe that Ulster's worst outrage, the killing of 15 people, including two children and three women, in an explosion in a Belfast bar was caused by an IRA plan that went wrong.... The theory is that a large IRA operation was planned for last night involving a bomb attack on a police station or an Army HQ in the North Queen Street area of the city. An ambush on troops who would have had to move into the district would have followed. Word had been passed to several people in the Catholic community to 'keep out of North Queen St' last night. This got back to the security forces who were alerted. The Army's theory is that the bomb in McGurk's was 'in transit', that it had been left by

(Continued on page 11)

Willie Gallagher



ON SEPTEMBER 4th a Brit patrol stationed in Mourne Bridge Barracks, Strabane, attacked and beat unconscious the 18-year-old brother of Willie Gallagher, who recently ended a 46-day hunger strike in Long Kesh.

Mr. Brendan Gallagher (the boys' father), talking about the latest attack on his family said: "Andy was set upon and beaten severely. He was knocked to the ground and kicked in the head and body. He was dragged off the ground and bungled into the back of a Landrover."

"Inside the Landrover they ripped his clothes. Even after he was out cold they still kicked and beat him."

Mr. Brendan Gallagher also said that the Brits were shouting about Willie Gallagher during the attack on his son.

As we know only too well such intimidation of a family is typical of the way the Brits carry on.

Meanwhile the campaign to secure Willie Gallagher's release from prison continues. Last Saturday a successful picket organised by the "Gallagher Defence Committee" took place outside Springfield Road Barracks, in Belfast.

A spokesman for the protesters said the campaign would continue until the Brits released Gallagher, and that the Gallagher case would be used to highlight the injustices of the Diplock sentencing tribunals.

"Republican News" would like to point out that the position of the Trade Union Campaign Against Repression (TUCAR) is to call for the release of Willie Gallagher and all the other political prisoners.

Last week we incorrectly reported that the TUCAR picket at Transport House on 1st September had demanded his re-trial.

Our position also, of course, is to demand his release and not his re-trial at the hands of the Brits.



AN CUMANN CABHRACH
DUNDALK PDF

SOCIAL

Imperial Hotel Dundalk
Friday September 22nd 1978

"Travelling Johns"
Ruddy Dancers, and Johnney Norton

LATE BAR SUPPER
ADMISSION £2.00



DIVIS FLATS MUST COME DOWN!

LAST WEEK, in an article on Divis flats, we outlined a few recent incidents which highlighted the hazardous conditions under which the residents of the complex lived; such as a huge pile of timber going on fire under an arch in the Whitehall Block causing twelve families to be evacuated.

One other incident which shocked Divis residents was the accidental death of Sean Healy (44) on July 24th. He fell off the Whitehall Row balcony while awaiting a friend. He was a former remand prisoner in Crumlin Road Gaol and a longtime Republican activist. He sat on the parapet of the balcony and lost his balance, falling sixty feet to his death.

Sean Healy had seen Divis Flats rising up to replace the old, redbrick terraced houses of the 'Pound Loney' where he was born and reared. He had lived since marriage in a house in the Andersonstown Estate and had been strongly opposed to Divis as a solution to overcrowded housing conditions. He had militantly fought British Imperialism in all its forms and had

cheated their non-jury courts in 1975 on a charge of shooting at four soldiers. But if the Brits didn't get him, Divis Flats did. Divis killed him just as effectively as it is killing the old age pensioners imprisoned in Divis Tower and the housewives with half a dozen young kids to mind alone most of the day.

The third recent major incident occurred in the early hours of Tuesday 22nd August. A gas explosion ripped through several of the flats causing damage to a total of thirty-six of them but miraculously nobody was injured.

Total confusion reigned as all electricity and gas was cut off. As residents were evacuating Whitehall Row, another explosion took place which caused people on the stairs to panic. Old and young alike



Gaping hole in Divis Flats

were gripped with fear and chaos followed. Meanwhile the Brits and RUC refused to approach the scene, as according to one eye-witness "They thought they were being lured into an ambush."

Housing executive officials and the Lord Mayor visited the scene later on in the day to see the damage for themselves but typically to date no permanent alternative accommodation has been offered to the occupants of the destroyed flats.

There is only one prac-

tical solution to this whole problem of the terrible conditions in the Divis Flats

The Flats must come down! There must be no compromise this time! Action must be taken! Action must be taken before another fall, fire or explosion kills anybody else!

The bulk of this article is an edited version of an article which first appeared in the Belfast news-sheet "Irish Free Press" dated August 15th.

Garda Vice-Squad Frame-Up

MARIE Mac MAHON a political activist based in Dublin was in court last week framed on a prostitution charge. Many long-serving activists in Belfast will know Marie and know a little of her record of political involvement which began in 1968.

She has been continuously active in militant politics since. In 1970, she was one of the founder members of the women's liberation movement in this country. She was also one of the leading members of the Murray Defence Committee.

Her militancy on controversial political issues has led her into conflict with the Garda on several occasions, such as her arrest last year during the campaign over the censorship of "Spare Rib", the British feminist magazine.

Recently she has been involved in assisting with research on the RTE series 'Day by Day' concerning feminist issues including a programme on prostitution.

Marie's arrest comes a short while after one of these programmes became the subject of a court case between the Garda and R.T.E.

On the day Marie was in Court, a picket of over 100 people gathered outside to protest at her frame up. The Garda obviously taken aback by such a large protest asked for the case to be adjourned for a week. A request the judge was only too glad to comply with.

Marie is in court again on Thursday 14, this time an even bigger picket will show the Garda they cannot get away with this type of blatant framing of a political militant.

(Report courtesy of 'Women Against Imperialism' group, Belfast).

Brits raid West Belfast Women's Centre

LAST WEEK the 'Women Against Imperialism' group in Belfast, discovered their premises in Ballymurphy Bullring had been raided by the Brits. Several posters were stolen and literature and leaflets destroyed. Duplicators were smashed and duplicating ink was spread all over the floor.

In a statement the group claimed that: "We will be shortly opening these premises up as a women's centre for the West Belfast area to be used as a meeting place and advice centre and this type of senseless vandalism by the Brits is not going to stop us."

South Dundalk schools

AFTER A public meeting held in the Bay Estate Hall in Dundalk, on September 3rd, the organisers of the meeting, the Duffey-Downey Sinn Féin Cumann issued the following statement:

"We would like to point out the total lack of adequate educational and bus facilities within the South Dundalk area, for young children.

"There are approximately one thousand houses in this area but only one school, the Regional Technical College, which caters for the over eleven year olds and upwards. Children under this age have to travel to the other end of town in buses. This is an extra and unnecessary burden on the parents of these children who have to pay the exorbitant busfares which they can't afford.

"A large crowd of parents attended the meeting and voiced their protest about the need for another school and for an urgent review of charging under eleven year old children fares when travelling to school."

The parents were visibly angry at the lack of interest shown by establishment political parties, on both these issues, and Sinn Féin assured the people that they would work tirelessly to gain these basic facilities.



TWO YEARS 'ON THE BLANKET'

ON SEPTEMBER 14th Kieran Nugent, the first Republican to go on the protest for political status began his third year on the blanket. Since beginning his protest, he has not once received a visit nor a letter from his family. He has steadfastly refused (as have his comrades) to wear the prison uniform.

The necessity for the prison protest was dictated by an offensive by the Brits designed to isolate the Republican Movement from its massive base of support inside the nationalist community.

The main thrust of the Brit offensive (spelt out in a report produced by an English Lord called Gardner) was 'The Criminalisation' of the Republican Movement. This began during 1975 when Merlyn Rees announced that from March 1st 1976, anyone convicted of a "bombing, or shooting offence" would be treated as a criminal. Simultaneously he announced that new blocks were being built to house those convicted. In effect he threw down a gauntlet which was taken up, firstly by Kieran Nugent and then by hundreds of other Republicans.

BLACK PROPAGANDA

As part of their criminalisation plan the Brits launched a massive black propaganda campaign against Republicans. Almost daily, full page adverts appeared in Northern newspapers portraying Republicans as gangsters and urging people to inform.

The misnamed "Peace People" were to temporarily assist the Brits in their criminalisation policy: as did the SDLP and all other pro-Brit parasites, who mouthed the Brit terms of "Godfathers" against the Republican struggle.

On the military front the arrests and torture of suspects intensified to unprecedented proportions. The conveyor belt from Castlereagh to Crumlin Road Gaol turned over ceaselessly. By the time the first prisoner was diplocked away in September '76, almost four hundred Republicans were on remand.

BLANKET-PROTEST

Discussion among the prisoners took place on how best to combat the Brit propaganda, and it was agreed that the first prisoner sentenced would refuse to wear the prison uniform or do prison work.

Kieran Nugent, from the Lower Falls was the first to be sentenced. He set an example which inspired confidence and determination in those prisoners who were to follow him. For six long weeks he was alone, refusing to comply with the prison system. Next to join him was Ned Flynn, from Andersonstown, and then six Republicans from the Kashmir Road, Beechmount Area of Belfast.

By Christmas 1976 the numbers of protestors had risen to over forty. The prisoners began smuggling out notes, scribbled on pieces of toilet paper; graphically describing the savage beatings they were experiencing daily, and the rigorous existence they were forced to conform to.

They were not permitted to sit or lie on their bed between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m.; they didn't have reading material of any description; or radio or television. They received no exercise, they had to go to the toilet in their cells, and they were half-starved with cold and inedible food. It became immediately obvious that Mason had unleashed the sectarian hatred of Loyalist screws on defenceless prisoners.

At this time Mason gleefully issued weekly statistics claiming that the "prison unrest" was confined to a few "die-hard criminals". He soon stopped his claims as the numbers protesting moved towards the first hundred.

As the protestors grew from strength to strength the savagery of the screws intensified. They began to use the punishment block of the prison (P. Block) to further brutalise and degrade the prisoners. For the most trivial reasons, such as, a cigarette in a cell, a pen in a cell, or singing in the cell, prisoners were put in the P. Block. During the time there they suffered unmerciless beatings and humiliation.

Sinn Fein and the Relatives Action Committee set about organising the people to demonstrate against the inhuman treatment of the prisoners. From one end of Ireland to the other people have travelled speaking

about the prisoners' right. Distributing tens of thousands of leaflets and posters explaining daily life "on the blanket".

But despite the growing protest inside the H-Blocks and on the streets outside the Brits still refused to grant status.

So five months ago the prisoners decided to escalate their protests in the face of increased brutality from the screws.

The Republican P.R.O. in the H-Blocks explains in a smuggled out letter the horrific conditions the blanket men now endure:

"For the past thirteen weeks we have lay upon filthy, damp, water-thin mattresses on the floor of our cells, since our beds and furniture such as chairs and tables were removed by the screws some weeks ago. Therefore, not only are we sleeping on the floor but also eating and living on it. This is made worse by the fact that our cells are littered with massive piles of putrifying rubbish and decaying waste food. The stench from this and our unwashed bodies of 18 weeks is almost overwhelming. When we wake up each morning, our blankets and bodies are covered with white crawling maggots that crawl out of the rubbish piles onto our bodies and bedding. Our mattresses are flea-ridden and the walls of the cells are a black mass of fat bloating flies. We are subjected to continued harassment from the screws who carry out constant cell searches, going into cells and ransacking them, kicking pews full of urine over our already filthy bedding. We are also hosed down with a high-powered hose which the screws push through our cell windows and doors. Our cells have been sprayed with extremely strong disinfectant,

the fumes of which leave us temporarily blinded, choking for air, and vomiting violently.

We continue to put urine and other bodily waste out of our cell windows. We are fed up having the contents of a filthy poe kicked over our bedding, or as happened on several occasions, thrown over us. Our health has deteriorated drastically, due to these conditions under which we are held. Many men are almost physically shattered. We are all alarmingly underweight and undernourished. Our skin is pale and yellowish. This list of medical complaints we suffer from is endless. We are half-starved, beaten, harassed, and tortured relentlessly. I know you already know about the terribly degrading internal body searches prior to visit — in which we are forced to lay across a table while screws poke their fingers up our back passage. This kind of indecent assault, a prerequisite for the visit, caused many of us to refuse our precious monthly visit. All this in order to break our spirit!

But we have resisted! And we will continue to resist! But there is one thing which we will NOT be able to resist! That is the massive outbreak of a serious disease within the H-Blocks. This is easily brought about by the conditions and state of every block. Each cell resembled a pig sty and are unfit for pigs to be kept in, let alone human beings."

P.O.W.s

The physical suffering these prisoners have gone through is a clear statement of their determination to continue.

Is the British government going to let these prisoners die rather than give them what is rightfully theirs? Their demands are legitimate. They are soldiers caught in war, and are entitled to recognition accordingly!

KIERAN NUGENT



Kieran Nugent is now 21 years old, and before being imprisoned he lived with his parents, 5 sisters and 4 brothers in the Lower Falls, Belfast.

On the 20th March 1973, when 15 year old Kieran was standing with a friend talking at the corner of Merrion Street and Grosvenor Road, a car drew up alongside them, and a man asked them street directions. The occupants of this car then opened fire with a submachine gun and Kieran was badly injured, 8 bullets in his chest, arms and back. His young friend, Bernard McErlane, also aged 15 years was killed.

From the time of this shooting the British Forces of Occupation selected Kieran for special attention. The harassment of himself and his family began in earnest. Everywhere he went the Brits chased him, making his life a complete misery. The family home was raided scores of times. On 3 or 4 occasions the house was wrecked by the British raiding parties. In one particular raid the Brits planted 4 live rounds of ammunition, and a second raiding party, coming immediately afterwards, found the ammunition and arrested Kieran's father.

CHARGE WITHDRAWN

When he was 16 years old he was arrested by the British Army and held on remand in Crumlin Road prison for 5 months. When he eventually came to trial the case against him was withdrawn. After release he was again not allowed to pursue a normal life and once more he was on the run from the British Army.

In one particular incident whilst he was being chased by the Brits, Kieran jumped from 5 floors up in the Divis Flats Complex, breaking both legs. He lay in agony for several hours afraid to cry out in case the Brits found him. A passer-by eventually discovered him and he was admitted to hospital. He remained in hospital for 19 days, subsequently spending many months in plaster of paris.

Kieran was interned by Merlyn Rees on 9th February, 1975 and spent 9 months in Cage 4, Long Kesh until his release on 12th November, 1975.

NOT SEEN FAMILY

Kieran was sentenced on the 14th September, 1976 to 3 years imprisonment. From this time he has been deprived of political prisoner status and has been incarcerated in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. On Thursday 16th September 1976 he agreed to a visit with his mother, which meant he had to wear prison clothes. During the visit he removed garments and stated that he was not a criminal and that the Brits would have to nail the clothes on his back. From that day none of his family have seen him.

Kieran Nugent was 11 years old when the British Army arrived here as a so-called 'peace-keeping force' in 1969. He was till only a schoolboy when loyalist killers murdered his friend and badly wounded him. From that time both he and his family have suffered immeasurably from the Brits.

● Kieran Nugent is not a criminal. HE IS A POLITICAL PRISONER'S imprisoned as a direct result of the occupation of this country by foreigners.

● POLITICAL PRISONER STATUS is his by right and is not a privilege.



Our picture shows Maura McCrory (Secretary Belfast Central RAC) speaking at Sinn Fein rally on 30th April at Dunville Park, within a hundred yards of Kieran Nugent's Leeson Street home.

This successful demonstration was one of many huge protests in Northern streets in support of the prisoners; the most recent and most impressive display being the 10-12,000 strong march from Coalisland to Dungannon.

M. Rooney	Short Strand	P. Coyle	Shantallow
H. McQuillan	Turf Lodge	D. McFeely	Creggan
M. McDowell	Short Strand	E. Kelly	Creggan
G. McDaid	New Lodge	N. Neilson	Creggan
J. Puck	Lower Falls	N. Ferguson	Shantallow
G. Devine	Lower Falls	K. Lynch	
P. O'Sullivan	St. James	K. McCluskey	
G. McDonald	St. James	G. Moore	Bogside
A. McCard	Newington	K. Quigley	Creggan
J. Smith	Turf Lodge	P. Devlin	Creggan
J. Delaney	Ardayne	M. Mullin	
L. McCallister	Ballymurphy	C. McIntyre	Creggan
McMullan	Lower Falls	E. Herkin	Creggan
L. McCracken	Turf Lodge	D. Mullinolland	Bogside
J. Lillie	Lower Falls		
K. Kirby	Arday/Town	COUNTY DERRY	
L. McKelanus	Ballymurphy	P. Creelman	South Derry
V. Johnston	Unity Flats	C. Scullion	South Derry
J. Clarke	Ardayne	E. Broily	Dungiven
J. O'Halloran	Ardayne		
T. Clarke	Ardayne	COUNTY ARMAGH	
J. McNeill	Arday/Town	J. Roliah	Lurgan
B. Chillingworth	Turf Lodge	J. Livingstone	Portadown
T. Bradley	Ardayne	F. O'Neill	Armagh City
L. Loudan	Unity Flats	E. McCann	Lurgan
E. Fay	Turf Lodge	E. Toal	Armagh City
P. Butler	Glenamoley	S. Harte	Armagh
S. Kelly	Ballymurphy	N. Quinn	South Armagh
R. O'Riawe	Ballymurphy		
F. Hanney	Lower Falls	COUNTY TYRONE	
J. Crane	Short Strand	A. Slane	South Tyrone
J. McGuire	Cionard	M. Devlin	Ardboe
E. Brown	Short Strand	J. McUlty	Dungannon
F. McCann	Lower Falls	J. Arthur	Dungannon
P. McBride	Turf Lodge	M. Harson	Cappagh
C. Moran	Turf Lodge	P. Kane	Cappagh
L. White	Andy/Town		

H5-BLOCK

ARMAGH

BELFAST		Rita Bateson Rita Black Maureen Gibson	Bone Andy/T'own Falls Rd.
Rosemary Callaghan Peggy Field Breege McCaulley Peggy Field Luna Nellis Patricia McGarry Shirly Devlin Brenda Murphy Married Farrell Sinead Moore Anna Marie McLenaghan Anne Marie Quinn Ellie O'Connor Margaret Nugent	Short-Strand New Lodge Rd. Andy/T'own New Lodge Rd. Andy/T'own Newington Ardoyne Newington Ballymurphy Andy/T'own Andy/T'own Ardoyne Ballymurphy Bone Short Strand A/T'own	Lorraine Halpenny Pauline McLoughlin Bernie Boyle Marie Doherty	Bogside Shantalow Shantalaw Bogsida
COUNTY ARMAGH		DOLores O'Neill Annie Bateson	Ballymaguigan Ballymaguigan
County Down		Rolin Rouse	Craigston



WE PRINT BELOW THE NAMES AND HOME DISTRICTS OF THE 338 REPUBLICAN POW'S WHO AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER ARE ON PROTEST DEMANDING POLITICAL STATUS. (THESE PRISONERS COMPRISE 92 IN H3-BLOCK, 92 IN H4-BLOCK, 130 IN H5-BLOCK AND 24 IN A1A-BLOCK. THE SIX PROTESTING PRISONERS WHO WERE HELD IN CRUMLIN ROAD PAOL HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MOVED TO THE H-BLOCKS OF LONG KESH.)

H-Block: 1978

H3-BLOCK

H4-BLOCK

A. McCreesh	Short Strand
J. Downey	Turf Lodge
J. Gallagher	Turf Lodge
J. Barnes	Bone
S. Campbell	New Lodge
T. Holland	Ardayne
L. Ferrin	Ardayne
L. Collins	Bawmore
M. Collins	New Lodge
T. Rainey	Bawmore
S. O'Neill	L/falls
M. Rooney	Short Strand
M. McCullum	Turf Lodge
G. McDowell	Short Strand
G. McDaid	New Lodge

B. McCool	Creggan
S. Brown	Shantallow
P. O'Carroll	Shantallow
P. Whelan	Creggan
D. Harkin	Creggan
S. Ferguson	Shantallow
D. Clarke	
W. Hogan	Shantallow
E. Wright	Shantallow
P. McCaillon	Shantallow
D. Gallagher	Shantallow
P. Coyne	Shantallow
D. McFeely	Creggan
E. Kelly	Creggan
D. Nellis	Creggan
N. Fennellson	Shantallow

J. Duffy	Ballymurphy
R. McElenghan	Kashmir
E. Donaghy	Lower Falls
J. Conway	Ardoyne
J. Watson	Andy/Town
P. Kane	Andy/Town
E. Burns	Glengormley
J. McGarry	Ardoyne
K. McKeown	Ardoyne
T. Hughes	Bonane
T. Martin	Ardoyne
S. Clarke	Ardoyne
P. Nash	Short Strand
L. Marley	Ardoyne
S. Finnema	Lendaloe
M. Fitzsimmons	Lendaloe

M. Livingstone	Lenadon
K. Smith	Short Strand
B. Flynn	Andy/Tow
M. Kavanagh	Turf Lodge
M. Lundy	Turf Lodge
B. McLarnon	Ardoynne
G. Fusco	Lower Falls
S. Kearney	Lenadon
G. Roberts	Andy/Tow
J. Bradley	Turf Lodge
P. Cunningham	Short Strand
N. Collins	Turf Lodge
J. Gough	Andy/Tow
F. McDonald	Andy/Tow
D. McInagennis	Andy/Tow
J. Pearse	New Lodge

M. McCann	Bogside
M. Campbell	Craggan
C. McKnight	Bogside
COUNTY DERRY	
T. McIlwaine	South Derry
S. McIlhorne	South Derry
M. Colohan	South Derry
B. McIlwaine	South Derry
S. O'Connor	South Derry
K. McKenna	South Derry
S. McReynolds	Dunglough
J. Bonner	Strabane
COUNTY TYRONE	

COUNTY TYRONE

COUNTY T

The harvest Britain has sown"

by
P.R.O. H-Blocks
3,4 & 5

A STRETCH of tarmac surrounded by barbed wire and steel is the only view from my cell window. I'm told it is an exercise yard, I wouldn't know. In my fourteen months in H-Block 5 I haven't been allowed to walk in the fresh air.

I'm on 'cellular confinement' (c.c.) Today. C.C. is the three days out of every fourteen when my only possessions, three blankets and a mattress are removed, leaving a blanket and a chamber pot.

I'm left to pass the day like this, from 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.; How I spend my day is determined by the weather. If it's reasonably warm, it's possible to sit on the floor, stare at the white

wall and pass a few hours day dreaming.

But otherwise I must spend my day continuously pacing the cell to prevent the cold chilling through to my bones. Even after my

bedding is returned at 8.30 p.m. hours will pass before the circulation returns to my feet and legs.

Methods of passing the time are few and far between, so I am left with many hours of contemplation: good times, bad times,

how I got here, but most importantly why I am here.

During moments of weakness I try to convince myself that a prison uniform and conforming wouldn't be that bad; but the will to resist burns too strong within.

To accept the status of criminal would be to degrade myself and to admit that the cause that I believe in and cherish is wrong; when thinking of the men and women who sacrificed life itself my suffering seems insignificant.

MORE DETERMINED

There have been many attempts to break my will but each one has made me more determined. I know my place is here with my comrades.

I think of the only break in the monotony, the forty minutes I spend at Mass each Sunday, "turn the other cheek", "Love thy neighbour", and I wonder because over the months I know that bitterness has

grown inside me. A hatred so intensive that it frightens me.

I see it also in the faces of my comrades at Mass; the hatred in their eyes. One day these young men will be fathers and these attitudes will inevitably be passed on to their children.

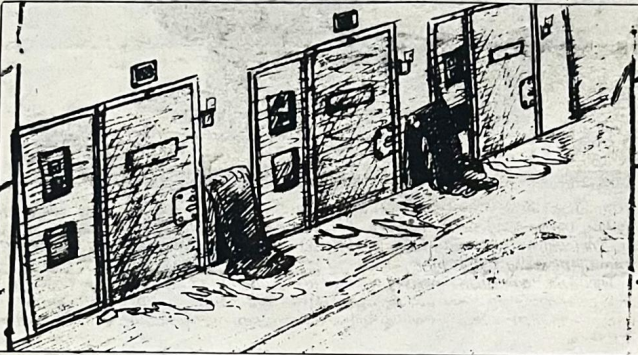
This is the harvest Britain has sown; her actions will eventually seal the fate of her rule in Ireland.

It is frightening to see men become aged at eighteen and nineteen.

Young men who were fit and strong in mind and body a year ago, now resemble shrunken shells of human beings.

Every aspect of H-Block life, from cold empty cells and denial of every comfort, to refusal of medical treatment is designed to grind down our resistance but it will not succeed. They may hold our bodies in the most inhuman conditions but while our minds remain free, our victory is assured!

Drawing on toilet paper smuggled out from H-Blocks



THE GLOVES HAVE BEEN REMOVED

by P.R.O. H-Blocks 3,4,5

THE GLOVES have been removed here, and for two long years the policy of anything goes, has prevailed as far as the British Government is concerned. They and their hired mercenaries have attempted to break us in mind and in body.

We have been held in solitary confinement and deprived of every basic human comfort; in fact, according to the British Government we have no human rights.

SADISTIC

The indignities, brutalities and torture practised upon us are sadistic, callous and all too numerous to mention.

At present we are forcefully subjected to degrading and intimate body searches. Each P.O.W. is held down and forcibly bent over a table or chair by several bully-boy screws and his back passage physically probed and examined.

This degrading treatment does not only take place on going to or coming from our monthly visit, but takes

place every day during harassing cell searches and cell moves, whose only purpose is to provide excuses for further torture.

How many times have we heard hysterical outcries from the British government pertaining to torture in such places as Uganda and the U.S.S.R.? Those fine upholders of human rights, the British government have ensured that the British public know and don't forget what happened to Dr. Sheila Cassidy, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Sir Garfield Todd and the recent Russian dissidents; while here in Ireland British torture goes on in the Castlereaghs and H-Blocks.

Those same so called 'humanitarians' have attempted to turn 338 human beings into machines, who, when asked if they are criminals, will answer 'yes'. But we shall never answer 'yes'. We are political prisoners of war who are prepared to die rather than to allow ourselves to be criminalised.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS...

by Parker (H5)

PEOPLE TEND to have short memories and the more one has to lose the shorter ones memory is, especially if it's a political one.

The classic example of this is Gerry Fitt. Of course, there are others, lots of them: The British government, Whitelaw, Rees and Mason!

"Ireland belongs to the Irish" — that should jolt a few memories! Or try this one: "Britain has political prisoners, hundreds of them in H-Blocks".

Now according to what I hear there were ten or fifteen thousand perfectly good memories on the road between Coalisland and Dungannon on Sunday August 1978. They remembered that they still have no civil rights, and better still, neither have their sons and daughters. Maybe that's because many of them are now in Armagh gaol, and the cages and H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

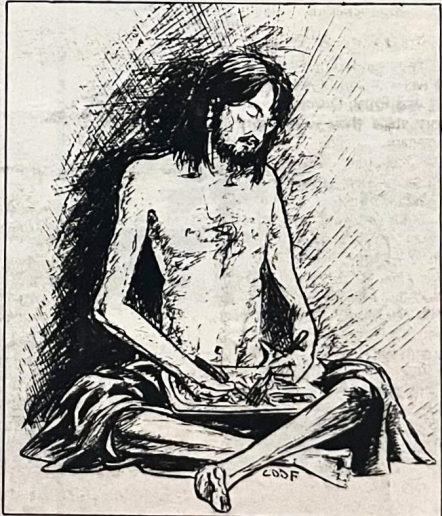
There are also those who were not so lucky, those who were murdered by sectarian bigots, the RUC and UDR and by British murder squads. Bad things are best forgotten! Like Bloody Sunday, Majella O'Hare, Brian Maguire, Castlereagh and these H-Blocks.

Now it seems that good old Gerry Fitt forgot the road between Coalisland and Dungannon. Funny he never forgets his way to Westminster! But I'm sure the people on the road from Coalisland to Dungannon won't forget Gerry too.

Now before I forget to finish, I must add that Mason is having a right bad time with his little

memory. It has been nineteen months since he gave us his weekly lies of the number of "non-conformers" in the H-Blocks.

So just for the record and for Roy's and Gerry's memories there are now at the end of August 314 naked POW's in the H-Blocks of the Kesh, and Diplock's little courts will be producing many more, when Roy tells them to go next week! That is, if he doesn't forget.



'JACKBOOT' TACTICS IN ARMAGH GAOL

by P.R.O. 'B' Wing

ONCE again, the Government and screws have used 'jackboot' tactics against the women at present on protest for Political Status in 'B' Wing, Armagh gaol. Not content with subjecting us to 'inhuman' treatment, such as locking us up 21

hours per day like animals; refusing us weekly visits and parcels, they have again resorted to physical attack.

On Tuesday, 29th August, each girl was put on what is known as 'report', for refusal to work. Because we refuse to do so the Governor, had to come to us in our cells. He reads out the charge and the punishment for the so-called 'offence'. On Tuesday, 29th he was accompanied by eight screws and 3 P.O.s. The first two women he went to were Mairead Farrell and Sinead Moore. He told Sinead to get out of the cell. When Sinead refused the screws, under his orders, started to pull and punch her. When Mairead intervened, she was also pulled about. These two girls ran down to the toilet, pursued by the screws. One of the P.O.s. (McClenaghan) pulled and pushed Mairead. At this time Sinead was also attacked; They were eventually dragged back to their cells and locked in.

PRISONER ATTACKED

The next woman who the Governor and screws went to was Eilish O'Connor. By this stage they were more arrogant. The screws (McClenaghan) along with other screws pulled and punched Eilish.

That evening, the Governor, accompanied by his 'body-guards' went around the rest of the girls. On reaching Margaret Nugent's cell, the screws became very aggressive; and attacked Margaret, presumably because she was completely ignoring the Governor.

Once again the P.O. (McClenaghan) decided to flex her muscles. She held Margaret up against the wall and with the help of the other screws pulled and

punched her. Rosemary Callaghan, had at this time managed to get out of her cell and was going to report the situation to the Wing O.C. On realising this, the Governor snapped his fingers and shouted "Get her".

The screws ran after Rosemary, knocked her to the ground, kicked, punched and dragged her on her back down to a cell and threw her into it. During the attack on Rosemary two ordinary prisoners who were on the wing at the time, tried to intervene, on Rosemary's behalf, but were pushed aside by the screws. Rosemary's trousers were ripped right down her leg and her sandals were ripped off. She suffered bruises to her back, a gash on her leg and bruising to different parts of her body.

'NEVER ACCEPT'

The screws know that no matter what type of conditions we have to endure we shall never accept the criminal status. So they have now resorted to physical violence. Their brutality and their obvious delight at inflicting this brutality, can only be termed as sadistic.

P.R.O. 'B' Wing,
Armagh Gaol.



SINN FEIN WEST TYRONE SEMINAR

Date: Sunday, Sept. 17, 1978
Time: 2.30 — 5.00 p.m.
Venue: Inter-County Hotel,
Lifford, Co. Donegal

Speakers:
"Republicanism & Socialism"
by Aindrias O Ceallachain

"The Relevance of the Outside World to the
Irish Struggle"
by Richard Behal

With an Introduction by Christene Ni Elias
Organised by the West Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair,
Sinn Fein

GREEN CROSS BEFAST MEETING



THE QUARTERLY meeting of Green Cross '73 took place in the Lake Glen Hotel, Belfast, on Sunday, 3rd September. The Chairman, Jim McCashin, opened the meeting by thanking all those who had attended, especially those delegates who had travelled from Castlewells and Armagh.

The main point of the meeting was the re-organisation of areas. Plans were discussed, and information on these will be issued in the near future. By this reorganisation, it is hoped that Green Cross '73 will achieve a better working involvement with the people it represents.

Jim McCashin said the increasing number of political prisoners had brought the financial commitment of Green Cross '73 to the staggering sum of £4,500 per week. He added that in order to continue this work, more collectors were needed and he asked those interested to contact their area committees at the Central office, 11a Springfield Road, Belfast.

He concluded by thanking all those who had helped Green Cross '73 in any way and hoped for their continued support in the future.

Brit assault at a Belfast checkpoint

STATEMENT FROM JOHN HALE, NORGLIN DRIVE, TURF LODGE, BELFAST.

'At 10.00 p.m. on Monday 4th September, I was going through the check point at Berry Street, Belfast. I was stopped and searched by the Brits.

During the search, I was treated roughly and I objected to this: they were pushing me against the railings. When I put my hands up to protect myself, I was set upon by three or more Brits. I was hit on the head and was knocked unconscious. I don't remember anything after that, until several hours later I awoke in a cell.

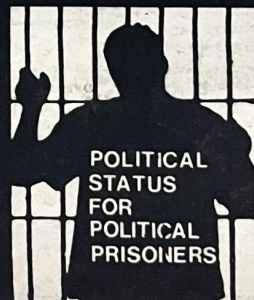
I was sore all over; I had a lump on the back of my head; my hips were so sore that I had trouble standing, my chest and back hurt me so much that I had great difficulty in breathing — (I have been out of work for the past 6 years because of a chest complaint) — and both my elbows were swollen.

I started banging on the cell door and about an hour later an R.I.C. man brought me to a room and told me to sign a bail form. I was told to come back to the R.U.C. station at Queen Street, at 8.00 p.m. that evening. (When I was released from the R.U.C.

barracks I went to the Royal Hospital and I was kept in hospital until 11 o'clock the next morning.

Before leaving Queen Street R.U.C. barracks I was told that I was going to be charged with assaulting members of the British army. This is the third time I have suffered this kind of treatment at the Berry Street gates but this incident was the worst.

Other members of this man's family have suffered harassment at the Brits hands. On no less than twenty occasions his son Eugene has been arrested and questioned, over the last two years.



POLITICAL
STATUS
FOR
POLITICAL
PRISONERS



BRITS OUT NOW



Barnsley Protest

AS PART of the build-up to the coming Barnsley protest last Saturday saw a 'blanket protest' in the centre of Leeds, in support of the H Block POWs. Hundreds of leaflets were distributed; copies of 'Troops Out' and 'PAC News' were sold, and discussions were held with passers by. The leaflet explained, in a cartoon form, why the UTOM demand troops out now, and self-determination for the Irish people as a whole.

The United Troops Out Movement is organising a demonstration for Saturday 7th October, to be held in Barnsley, the South Yorkshire constituency of Roy Mason, at 12.30 p.m. Assemble at Rock Street, of Sackville Street. The demonstrators are demanding:

TROOPS OUT NOW.
SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE.
PRISONER OF WAR STATUS NOW FOR IRISH POWS.

REPEAL THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT.
END MEDIA CENSORSHIP OF BRITAIN'S WAR IN IRELAND.

In the month leading up to the demonstration the UTOM will be carrying out widespread leafletting throughout Yorkshire; touring with the film 'Home Soldier Home'; and holding public meetings and pickets.

Birmingham Conference

MIDLANDS CONFERENCE ON BRITAIN'S INVOLVEMENT IN IRELAND to take place in Birmingham on November 11th.

Progress on the Agenda is so far as follows:-

i) **History of the Irish Question** from partition (speaker to be confirmed). **The Last Ten Years** — Michael Farrell, author of 'Northern Ireland — The Orange State'.

ii) **'Home Soldier Home'** — a recent film showing the role of the army in the six counties, to be introduced by an ex-soldier.

iii) **The Effects of the troubles on British Politics.** — *The Prevention of Terrorism Act* — Bart Milner (NCCL). — *Towards a 'strong' state* — Karen Margolis, co-author *The New Technology of Political Control*.

iv) **Current Activities** — Belfast Relatives Action Committee — The Prisoners Aid Committee — The International Tribunal on Britain's Presence in Ireland — United Troops Out Movement.

Speakers have also been invited from The Better Life For All Campaign, The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association and The Resources Protection Campaign. The Planning Committee has agreed, that in the event of The Better Life For All Campaign not providing a speaker that the Trade Union Campaign Against Repression be asked to address the conference.

If anyone would like more information about the conference please write to The Planning Committee, c/o 65, Woodville Rd. Kings Heath, Birmingham 14.

Quebec fights!

by Eldrida, Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau

"THERE'S a dynamic change taking over in Canada and Quebec and that will not stop", says Rene Levesque whose Parti Quebecois won the 1976 province election. Independence for Quebec is its main goal. Within the next few months a referendum is to be held to decide whether Quebec should move towards secession.

According to Levesque, "Canadian and Quebec democracy are strong enough to go through a democratic process of change. Constitutions are never written for eternity. In the case of Britain and her colonies, when the time came, the time came."

Although eighty-one per cent of Quebec's population are French speaking, elsewhere in Canada the proportion with that language is diminishing in the face of the dominance of English in North America generally. Even in Quebec, among the 105 largest firms only 14 have a majority of French speaking directors. French speakers, meanwhile hold a disproportionate number of low paid jobs.

In the 1960s the province underwent an expansion of educational and state enterprises that French speakers call la Revolution Tranquille (quiet revolution). Suddenly, with these new opportunities, rural conservative Catholic French speakers became absorbed into the urban North American milieu. Their expectations of no longer being second class citizens in their own country were raised, but at the price of their cultural identity.

Children of French speakers had to turn to English in order to gain jobs and advancement. Their predicament, similar to that of Gaelgeoiri in Ireland, led

Quebecois poet Ferdinand Quéllette to state that this was no linguistic coexistence, but only "continuous aggression of the language of the majority." And while English has made inroads in Quebec, little effort has been made elsewhere in Canada to preserve French where it is a minority language.

RACIAL SEPARATISM

Against this background resentment by Quebecois against Anglophone domination lead to the radical separatism of the Quebec Liberation Front (FLO). In 1967 Charles de Gaulle was acclaimed for his "Vive la Quebec Libre!" (long live free Quebec) speech in Montreal. Around the same time many of Quebec's trade unionists launched widespread strikes and demonstrations. Militancy increased, and by autumn 1970 the whole of Canada was under martial law, with armed soldiers on Quebec streets.

The Parti Quebecois, which only ten years ago was a fringe splinter group, steadily gained ground, to come to power in the

province in 1976, drawing its greatest support from younger voters.

Since taking office, the Levesque government has made French the official language in which all business with the Quebec government must be conducted. Corporations must ensure French is the language of work. The only exceptions are big business with head offices in Montreal. All school students except those with English speaking parents, must learn through French. These are de facto moves towards separation.

CONQUERED PEOPLE

Could Quebec go it alone? The Province is rich in iron, copper, zinc, timber and asbestos. Vast hydroelectric resources have made it one of the world's major aluminium producers. Quebec provides 23% of total Canadian gross national product.

Separatism is reflected in Quebec's cultural life. Dozens of novelists, playwrights and song writers describe the unhappy history of a conquered people. One of the most popular plays in Quebec City, *La Complainte des Hivers Rogues* (The Red Winters' Lament) by Roland LePage, salutes the leaders of an unsuccessful 1837 rising against the British with the lines:

"You taught us to climb towards the heights,
It took us a while, but now we are following you."

'NEW STATESMAN'S' ENGLISH BLINDNESS

WITH CROSS-CHANNEL arrests of Irish people under the *Prevention of Terrorism Act* becoming more numerous, a British weekly 'New Statesman' reports that a new computer is shortly to enter service with the Metropolitan police to collate the political and criminal intelligence files of five branches of the force, including the Special Branch. In all, about 1.5 million people will be on it. By 1985 the number will have topped 2 million.

The *Home Office* has said the new system will store information about 'crime, criminals and their associates, and matters relating to national security'. Doubtless some part of this phrase refers to Irish people. Most of the files to be processed do not concern criminals at all, but "dissidents" or just "persons of interest". The Special Branch holds 1,230,000 files, which represents about five per cent of the adult population. This new computer will be sited at Jubilee House, Putney.

New Statesman also gives an insight into the legal system operating in South Africa. South African police are compared according to the New Statesman, to the Russian KGB, but I should think a more appropriate

comparison would be with the hated RUC since all the methods of the South African police have been pioneered by them.

The South African Special Branch are very fond of 'confessions' extracted under duress from political prisoners to prove them guilty of offences. South Africa proudly boasts that its legal system is the finest and most independent on the continent (shades of Masons claims in occupied Ireland)! South Africa has introduced new 'draconian' anti-terrorist laws which has made the use of 'confessions' in court much easier and stiffened the length of sentences. The new Criminal Procedure Act 1977 says broadly that the mere production of a 'confession' raises the presumption that it was made freely. The Prisoner is held in solitary and has no access to legal representation. He is subjected to the attentions of

the Special Branch. Defendants come to court alleging they were assaulted, tortured, induced, intimidated, influenced and generally forced to make confessions by their interrogators. Seventy per cent of those before the courts are convicted on the strength of signed confessions. Should the prisoner claim assault, a legal charade begins where the judge dismisses the claim as "an attempt to discredit the good name of the police/security forces" and the defendant is sent down.

How often have you read the above? It can be read every morning in Irish newspapers and does not concern South African security forces? But British... It's about time the New Statesman took a closer look to home and exposed the so-called 'democratic' rule of this nation by another!

NI SIOCHAIN GO SAOIRSE.

H-BLOCK ENQUIRY CALL BY ENGLISH TU

IN WEST London the Ealing branch of the AUEW (one of the two largest and most important unions in Britain) have passed the following motion:

"This branch calls for a public impartial inquiry into prisoners held in Long Kesh Internment Camp in Northern Ireland, especially the prisoners held in 'H' Block. We call upon "Executive Council" and "District Committee" also Ealing Trades Union Council and M.P. to press the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to set up such an inquiry."

England: Ray Mac Laughlin

RAY MacLAUGHLIN, who is serving a 12 year sentence in England is now entering his third week "on the blanket" in Wakefield jail.

He is demanding a transfer to an Irish prison to serve the rest of his sentence. Since his imprisonment in 1974 Ray has suffered numerous assaults. He was badly beaten while on remand in Winslow Green and following the Hull prison riot in 1976.

While in Wakefield he has been subjected to harassment and victimisation of himself and his visitors, including screened visits, body searches, refusal of educational and recreational facilities and has spent months in solitary under Rule 43. Now he is held in "F" wing Wakefield in a cell which was built originally as part of the notorious "control unit" system.

The conditions of sensory deprivation which operate in "F" wing are intensified in Ray's case because he is cut off from the outside world — he is refused any exercise, newspapers, books, T.V. or radio.

Every British soldier convicted of a criminal offence in Ireland has been transferred to an English jail.



BIRMINGHAM SHOW PROTEST

ON SUNDAY, September 3rd, a member of the Birmingham Branch of the United Troops Out Movement, had a phone call from a 'Birmingham Post' reporter. He said that there had been allegations by officials of the Birmingham Show that UTOM members had tampered with equipment on the Irish Guards stand which lead to

the fatal electrification of a two-year-old child. This hysterical reaction was an unsuccessful attempt to smear a peaceful protest against the British Army's presence at the show.

As a protest against the British Army's involvement in Ireland, UTOM had called for a picket outside the Show and mass leafletting inside. The idea was to put to spectators the real role of the British Army as opposed to the glamorous one they were portraying.

The picket at the gates was well received by the public as they accepted leaflets, and some were sympathetic. The attitude of the soldiers, however, on seeing the "Troops Out Movement" banner was "You've got no chance" and "We'll get more of you yet." One placard on the picket caused a lot of comments and questions. It said "THEY SHOOT CHILDREN DON'T THEY — R.I.P." and listed the names of children murdered by the British Army.

Inside the grounds the Brits were displaying their latest equipment and weapons mostly to youngsters. All the Brits stalls were leafleted. Following an argument the Brits lost their "respectability" shouting "We use the guns to shoot the likes of you".

At this point two plain clothes policemen took hold of a UTOM member threatening "If you don't get out of here we'll break your fucking neck".

Similar reactions came from the Brits when they were asked why photographs of Belfast and Derry were not on display.... "How come we missed you when we were in Derry?" and "We had a good time on the 30th when we got 13 of them, hadn't we?" were typical remarks from the soldiers, especially the officers.

Despite the attitudes of the soldiers, this was a real opportunity to bring to the attention of the British public the true facts about what the military are doing in Ireland and why people should not be tricked into signing up.



Birmingham UTOM member at the Birmingham show last Sunday, attempting to discuss with British soldiers their armies role in Ireland. Although most of the Brits were typically childishly abusive, the ones pictured above looked at the pamphlet 'British soldiers speak out on Ireland', with interest.

PRESS POISONERS AND McGURK'S BAR

(Continued from page 3)

a carrier for another person to pick up, and that the second person was unable to keep his rendezvous because of the security operation mounted because of the rumours." (This was all designed to fit in with the follow-up story next week when it was reported that "there are strong rumours from normally reliable sources — i.e. the Brits — that a well known IRA man from the Markets has been shot by the Provos for failing to pick up the bomb in McGurk's as ordered.)

Other papers weren't much better. The Sun, in an hysterical piece of hypocrisy "grieved for the victims" and asked "who could have put it there? Could it have been an accident? Was the bomb left there to change hands, destined to bring havoc somewhere else in Fear City?" Their centre spread carried two pictures of the ruins and the headlines: "This was McGurk's bar" and "Was it murder by mistake?" The Express ignored the newsboy's eyewitness account and carried the Army's "theories", although it did mention the phone call.

The Telegraph, as would be expected, took Lt-Col Reilly's statements verbatim.

The Mail was 'ambiguous' although it did carry an interview with the newsboy with his description of how one man had got out of the car with a grocery box with a fizzing fuse.

The Mirror just confused its readers with a garbled account of all the "theories".

In fact, the only reporter to emerge with any degree of credit from the whole sordid affair was Simon Winchester of The Guardian who clearly discounted the Army's statements as "highly improbable", laid the blame firmly at the Loyalist paramilitaries' door and attacked John Taylor for claiming that "it was an undoubted fact that it was an own goal."

Today, seven years later, not one of these newspapers had the guts to admit that they were wrong nor to recall the Army's lies. But then, what do you expect from a pig but a grunt?

EUROPEAN WIDE ANTI-EEC CAMPAIGN

FURTHER TO our article of last week entitled "Building a united opposition to the EEC throughout Europe" we print below a draft copy of an Anti-EEC programme.

This draft programme will be submitted to a conference in Paris in September by the newly formed 'Ad Hoc Committee for an anti-imperialist campaign in the elections to the European Parliament.'

Draft programme will be discussed by Sinn Fein, regarding amendments or additions, before their representatives attend the September conference.

Elections to the European Parliament are to take place next year. The setting up of an elected parliament is to give an apparent legitimisation to the European institutions, which are to-day dominated by American imperialism and by West Germany in order to re-inforce their control over the peoples of Europe and to co-ordinate the external actions of European imperialism, in particular in Africa, since European Imperialism is monitored by the U.S.

This action (i.e. the elections) is counter balanced by a will to strengthen the Soviet Union's domination on the peoples of Eastern Europe and these two policies should be understood within the dynamic scale of rivalry and collusion between the two super powers on a world scale.

It is within this framework that the European elections set a problem to all those who oppose the Germano-American Europe and its lackey pseudo-parliament. Are we to boycott elections to an assembly the principle of which we denounce? Are we on the contrary to seize the opportunity to develop an international campaign against imperialism?

We think that such a campaign is necessary and possible. We think that European anti-imperialists while preserving their own autonomy of action within each country can and must co-ordinate their action within the framework of a European Front of Anti-imperialist Resistance, the international aspect of which will exclude any chauvinistic interpretation of our opposition to present European institutions.

Such a front, such a campaign should be articulated around a few priorities. As a basis of discussion

we propose the following five points.

1. Denunciation of E.E.C. structures, political economic and financial, as an instrument at the service of imperialism. In particular denunciation of the role imposed on the European Parliament by the U.S. and W. Germany governments and their allies in other countries as a means to legitimise intervention by the ruling class against the working class and the masses of Europe.

2. Struggle against the policy of austerity, implemented in Europe to subject the workers to a new international division of labour, a policy masterminded by the U.S. for the profit of the big multinational companies. Denunciation of the consequences of this policy: unemployment, inflation, increased exploitation of Third World countries, a worsening of the crisis in industrialised countries, difficulties in the forming world due to the "Green Europe", the plight of migrant workers and the erosion of national and cultural identities.

3. Struggle against the generalisation of the "German Model" particularly in the arena of human rights (professional discrimination and banning, emergency laws, attacks on the rights of defence, computers being used for policing and oppression). Denunciation of a Europe of police forces, of the European Convention for the repression of terrorism, of common European jurisdiction.

4. Denunciation of foreign intervention, particularly European intervention in Africa, spearheaded by the French military expeditions to-day.
5. No to the nuclear Europe which would be used as a base to set up new police states.

RELATIVES ACTION COMMITTEE Tour in Britain

GLASGOW	Sunday	17	LIVERPOOL	Thursday	21	CRICKLEWOOD	Wednesday	27	September
September.			September						
BARNESLEY	Monday	18	BIRMINGHAM	Friday	22	BETHNAL GREEN	Thursday		
September			September,	Saturday	23	28 September			
LEEDS	Tuesday	19							
September									
MANCHESTER			SOUTHAMPTON	Tuesday	26	ACTON	Friday	29	
Wednesday	20	September	September			September.			

End the silence on Irish Political Prisoners!

Tour sponsored by Socialist Workers Party

I am honoured to speak at this First Commemoration for our fallen comrades from the First Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglaiha na h-Eireann.

Those whose memory we honour here have a very special place in our hearts — They are our very own. We have seen them grow up in the best traditions of Irish Republicanism.

They sacrificed everything that their young lives could offer in selfless dedication to their country. They took on the might of the enemy — to free us from British and Orange supremacy. They took a struggling nation off its knees.

In the streets of Belfast they fought for the re-establishment of the 32 County Socialist Republic as proclaimed by the blood of the signatories of the Proclamation of Easter 1916.

These Volunteers were proud of the history of their country. They learned it from you and their families. They followed the example set by Irish martyrs from the time of Wolfe Tone — to Connolly, Pearse and Mellows. Ireland has produced many great fighters, but none have been greater or more steadfast than the men and women of this campaign.

These Volunteers did not beg for freedom. They treated their British overlords with scorn and contempt. They did not want the crumbs from the masters table. They wanted freedom and were prepared to achieve it using whatever methods were necessary. They realised that while many are devoid of dignity there are others who have themselves the dignity of many.

They rebelled with a terrible strength against those who for centuries had robbed us of our freedom and inflicted on us misery and death. They did not fear the armed forces of the Crown nor the uniformed murderers of the RUC.

They did not count the cost — They paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

THE DEAD Volunteers of the First Battalion, Belfast Brigade, were honoured at a ceremony held last Sunday, September 10th in Milltown cemetery, Belfast. A decade of the Rosary was recited in Gaelic by Father Damien Caulfield. The oration was delivered by Belfast Republican Malachy McNally. We print here a shortened version.

ANDERSONSTOWN DEAD VOLUNTEERS HONOURED

We must pledge ourselves to continue to fight and keep alive the ideals for which these martyrs died. It is not enough just to come here once a year to a commemoration such as this. But let us not be under any illusions — National liberation will not be won easily.

Nothing will be achieved without hard work. Many of us who have been the comrades of

the dead Volunteers must ask ourselves what we intend to do to hasten the day when we will have freedom.

We must fight on with dogged determination, until the last vestige of British Imperialism has vanished from our shores.

The high ideals and selfless political motivation of the men and women of Oglaiha na h-Eireann shines out to us like a

gleaming light from the darkness.

Their courage and determination should be an inspiration to us to strive to make our country free — A land where all can live with dignity not crawl as slaves. We owe it to them who have given us so much — not to let this country fall into the hands of gommeen political hacks.

They did not die so that their country could be carved up between the power sharing monsters that sully the face of the Irish political scene today.

The best tribute that we can pay to them — Irelands soldier sons and daughters, is to bring this struggle to a successful conclusion. Then we can say that the blood of these martyrs has not been shed in vain.

AT A FUND-RAISING SOCIAL ON THE SUNDAY EVENING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS READ OUT FROM THE O/C OF 'A' COMPANY, ARMAGH GAOL.

Tribute from Armagh Gaol

ON THIS solemn occasion the women of 'A' Company Armagh gaol pay tribute to our fallen comrades of 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade.

For hundreds of years men and women in Ireland have taken up arms to fight against British imperialism; the freedom struggle has been passed down from generation to generation and it still continues to this day.

In the 1st Battalion alone, one can see fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, old and young, united in the struggle for Irish Freedom. It is true to say that the spirit of resistance has no age limit.

Many of us here in Armagh Gaol, knew these brave Volunteers, not only as comrades, but also as friends and in some cases as relatives.

We have fought alongside them; we have laughed with them and at all times their determination to liberate Ireland has shone through.

Their bravery knew no bounds. They all faced danger many times, showing the strength and courage of true Revolutionaries, continuing until they paid the ultimate price, laying down their lives for Ireland.

In our hearts we will always remember those brave Volunteers, and the cause for which they died will be strenuously carried on until every last British soldier is driven from Irish soil. While we live, their aims will live with us.

Comrades of 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, We of 'A' Coy. Armagh Gaol, salute you.



Relatives of dead volunteers and members of the Andersonstown Martyrs Commemoration Committee laying wreaths in Milltown cemetery at last Sunday's ceremony.



IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAMS. In proud and fond memory of Vol. Tom Williams, Oglaiha na h-Eireann, who was hanged in Crumlin Rd. gaol on the 2nd of September 1942.

The fools, the fools, they have left us our fenian dead, But whilst Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.
Remembered always by the Tom Williams Cumann Sinn Fein, Lurgan.

HARTE. Vol. Thomas Harte, Oglaiha na h-Eireann, who was shot by a Free State firing squad on the 6th. of September 1940.

Six counties are in bondage still, those men who died was this their will,

Until they are free and oppressions cease only then will they rest in peace."

Remembered always by the Thomas Harte Cumann Sinn Fein, Lurgan.

GATES. The committee and members of Sean Haughey Sinn Fein Cumann, Coalisland wish to express deep regret at the death of one of their members, and most tireless worker, Paddy Gates. They extend their deepest condolences to his wife and family circle.

Queen of the Gael pray for him.

★★★★★★★★

DUNDALK

AN CUMANN CABHRACH

Result of Eight £200 Draw

1st	£100.00	Ticket No. 54
2nd	£30.00	Ticket No. 28
3rd	£20.00	Ticket No. 449
	£10.00	Ticket No. 282
	£10.00	Ticket No. 111
	£10.00	Ticket No. 440
	£10.00	Ticket No. 145
	£10.00	Ticket No. 201

