

REPUBLICAN news



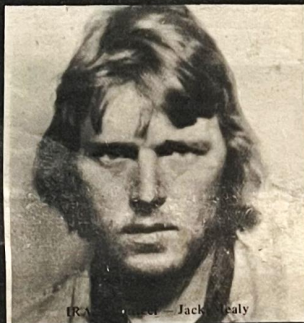
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UNARMED VOLUNTEERS SLAUGHTERED



IRA Volunteer - Dennis Brown



IRA Volunteer - Jack Mealy



IRA Volunteer

IN THE EARLY hours of last Wednesday morning (21st June) a three-man active service unit of the Irish Republican Army was surprised and captured while on a bombing sabotage operation against Ballysillan Post Office Telecommunications Depot in Belfast. The unarmed volunteers having been surrounded by British soldiers and RUC men were summarily killed, also shot were two passers-by, one fatally.

In a supplied statement to the media the Belfast Brigade of the IRA said:

"The three men killed last night were volunteers Jack Mealy, Jim Mulvenna and Dennis Brown, all married men from North Belfast. They were on active service at the time of their deaths.

"All of the Volunteers were unarmed and were in no position to resist the British Army challenge when called upon to halt. The entire active service unit were surrounded and outnumbered, and could only

have surrendered.

"Having effectively captured the men they were summarily shot in an orgy of British Army and RUC concentrated fire. (By their own admission the Brits have said that over 200 rounds of ammunition were fired).

"We believe that an examination of the bodies including that of Mr William Hanna, an innocent passerby, will show that they have been mutilated with multiple gunshot wounds.

"Death is no stranger or deterrent to the Volunteers of

the Irish Republican Army: it is a risk they take at each operation. But the British forces who show no humanity or mercy can raise a chorus of protest at our operations.

"Belfast Brigade Irish Republican Army offer our sincerest sympathy to the wives and families of our dead comrades, and to the relatives of Mr William Hanna."

"Republican News" would also like to extend its deepest sympathy to the wives, families and friends of volunteers Jack Mealy (28), Jim Mulvenna (30) and Dennis Brown (28), also to the relatives of William Hanna.

A British Army statement claimed that the volunteers had been called upon to halt but had opened fire on them. Yet no Republican weapons were later found! The volunteers were in

fact shot down in cold blood.

British Army fire was so intense and indiscriminate that two civilians were also shot. The shooting of these civilians is merely a minor distraction to the Brits who attempt to brush it away with talk of "cross-fire." Victims of British Army shooting are notoriously caught in such "cross-fire" according to the liars of Thiepval Barracks.

British Army shooting such as this can only bring home to us the barbarity and hypocrisy of British rule. They denounce Republican resistance, they denounce the so-called "men of violence" yet when they get vulnerable Republicans in their sights their indiscriminate use of massive fire-power blows to shreds all pretence at anything other than intimidation through bloody slaughter.

BELFAST PROTEST POSTPONED

Belfast Sinn Fein have decided that due to the killing of three IRA volunteers by the British Army that next Sunday's political status protest should be postponed one week to Sunday 2nd July

Republican News attacked

EVEN on the crest of their "victory" of killing three IRA volunteers the Brits chose to use the occasion to spearhead an attack against "Republican News."

They made the ridiculous claim that we had given them valuable "intelligence" by referring to the recent shift in IRA bombing policy away from commercial targets towards prestigious and communications targets. In fact "Republican News" was only preaching what the IRA had been obviously and publicly practising for months previously.

The opening of numerous town centres including Derry, Limavady and Newry shocked Brit-awareness of the decrease in commercial bombing long before any "revelations" in "Republican News." Brit military "counter-insurgency" operations are based on what the IRA do, not what "Republican News" says.

This attack on "Republican News" is in fact a naked attempt by the Brits to discredit the paper in the eyes of the people, plus it is a doomed attempt to get the Republican Movement to censor its own newspaper - Mason and his minions having failed so miserably in recent weeks.

If "Republican News" was so valuable to the Brits as they claim, as an "intelligence source" then they would hardly have put us on our guard by telling us so; nor would they have taken the repressive measures of recent weeks against us.

INTERCEPTED BRIT MAIL

LAST WEEK we carried on our front page supplied details of Brit mail intercepted by the IRA. We claimed: "Low Brit Morale Exposed." On Tuesday 20/6/78 of this week "The Belfast Telegraph" and "The Newsletter" carried stories doubting the authenticity of the letters. A Post Office spokesman claimed: "It would be like

moving a haystack to look for a pin for someone to go through the millions of letters we handle to find several from the Army."

"Republican News" has received clarification from the IRA in a further supplied statement:

"The IR have broken the British Military internal mail system. Due to the potential

military use to us of many of the letters we have only released details of two letters to the media; one of which contains typical remarks reflecting the widespread low morale of the occupation forces."

We print alongside another of the envelopes with which we were supplied.

On Her Majesty's Service

Captain Robby Riddell.
1. This letter.
2. Report weapons being
sent of importance.
3. Volunteer.
4. As above.

ENQUIRY INTO AMNESTY ALLEGATIONS

A CLOAK OF DECENCY

A SURPRISINGLY honest assessment of Mason's 'enquiry' into RUC torture came from Official Unionist hack John Taylor on BBC TV's 'Tonight' programme last Tuesday. He concluded: 'We welcome a form of enquiry which will clear the RUC.'

Certainly Mason is taking no chances with his three-man team who are to conduct the Brits' 'private independent enquiry' into Amnesty's allegations of RUC torture.

Judge Harry Bennet is a former Brit, having served with the Royal Artillery; Professor John Marshall is also a former Brit having reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps and Sir James Haughton has forty-two years service behind him in the Birmingham and Liverpool police.

The background and training of these three members of the English middle-class ensures the results of the enquiry will be a sound piece of Brit-speak, along the following lines:

"A few plain-clothes RUC men (Special Branch) may have

regrettably over-stepped the mark in their creditable pursuit of terrorists. But the RUC as a whole is a fine upstanding body of men fully deserving the whole-hearted support of the public. Regrettably Amnesty International by refusing to name their informants rendered it impossible to investigate any particular case of alleged ill-treatment."

Basically the report will be full of the typical hypocrisy of the occupation forces and will comprise a tissue of lies based upon half-truths. The gentlemen investigators will very much

regret the over-enthusiasm of a few 'bad apples' who might bring the fine traditions of British democracy into disrepute.

A cloak of decency will be drawn across the horrors of Castlereagh. None of the brutes and torturers will be brought to the dock. Instead in a few months time the most expert (at leaving no marks) will receive promotion, whilst their senior officers will be invited to afternoon tea and medals at the residence of "Her Majesty the Queen of England."

Any suggestion that systematic brutality and torture are an absolute necessity for the Brits to maintain their 6-county statelet will be carefully avoided. And there will not be the slightest hint that Mason, Greasey and Newman are as bloody-handed as English mercenaries and pirates of old who established



their 'glorious Empire through straight-forward theft and cold-blooded murder. After all British democracy and civilisation must

be brought to the unruly natives'. The master-race always knows best.

RUC burgle Belfast

Workers' Resource Centre

ON ARRIVAL at the Workers' Resource Centre, 52 Broadway this morning, 16th June, voluntary workers found this centre had been forcibly entered, left in upheaval, and a number of articles including telephone index cards, cheques and other written material had been stolen. A number of people from the neighbourhood informed the workers that the R.U.C. uniformed branch, supported by the British Army, had smashed in the door and rifled the premises at 5.15 a.m. This was later confirmed by the R.U.C. at Springfield Road Police barracks when representatives from the centre went to file theft and breaking and entry charges. On being asked why the centre could not have been searched

during opening hours instead of being broken into and ransacked the R.U.C. were unable to give any answer.

The Workers' Resource Centre is an independent centre which provides resources for community groups, for employed and unemployed workers, which services individuals generally in the community generally through its advice centre and Claimants Union and which is used as a postal address by a number of Trade Union and political organisations.

Because of its wide role in the community and work place the Workers' Resource Centre feels that this breach and defiance of its rights to organise of what we predicted would happen following the recent attempts to deny Prov-

isional Sinn Fein their right to organise as a political entity. At that time we said it was the beginning of an asserted attempt to destroy all forms of community, political and working-class organisation which opposed social, economic and political repression in all the many forms which the working-class in Ireland are subjected to.

We are concerned, not only at the intrusion of private rights, as evidenced by the examination of private and personal files belonging to the Advice Centre and Claimants Union, but also by the fact that the R.U.C. were unable to state who or what office had authorised the forcible entry, that

no one was prepared to take responsibility or to be answerable for it, and that the R.U.C. have not given us a list of what was stolen, nor have we been given any indication of when anything will be returned to us.

We are asking all those organisations who oppose the systematic use of repression by the state against all those who in the slightest way disagree with it, to condemn this harassment and

to organise to defeat the legislation which allows it to continue.

We are waiting to see what action will be taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions to our allegations and will be considering what further eroding of our so-called democratic right to organise.

—Sean Loughlin

(Secretary)
52 Broadway, Belfast
Telephone 28487

RUC TORTURE VICTIM ACQUITTED

A 26-year-old Belfast man Patrick Kelly of Springfield Road, Belfast, was acquitted of 7 political charges, including possession of arms and IRA membership at the City Commission on the 16th June.

At the time of his interrogation last year Mr Kelly was among those who made allegations of RUC brutality in Castlereagh and whose cases were cast aside by Chief Constable Newman who said they were the result of "self-inflicted" injuries and not RUC beatings. The ruling of 'Judge' Chambers who presided set a world record for double-think and confusion, but more importantly whitewashed the RUC torturers.

Was Kelly tortured? Not He was subjected to "unfair conduct", said Chambers. He also said that he didn't think the police witnesses were lying at any stage. So the police are impeccable and though Kelly is "an articulate and intelligent young man", Chambers

believed that "in making up allegations he would be capable of being able to avoid the pitfalls of being a live witness."

One of Kelly's interrogations — of which there were many — lasted for a gruelling 7 hours during which time he had been slapped on the head and face, punched in the legs, stomach and ribs, lifted by the hair, kicked in the stomach and struck with a stick on the soles of his feet.

The doctor who examined him after the interrogations (under pressure of which he eventually signed an incriminating statement) said he found cuts and bruising on one arm, right knee and on the back of his ribs.

The biggest kangaroo courts operating in Ireland are presided over by Brits wearing wigs and gowns, in buildings surrounded by barbed wire, where certificates are hung on the walls to add a scintilla of legality.

Irish News occupied

On Tuesday 13th June Belfast RAC carried out an occupation of the Irish News Office in Donegal Street. They were protesting about the lack of coverage of the political status struggle.

Three members of the RAC discussed the situation with the Irish News editor who informed them attempts would be made to rectify the situation.



Occupation of Irish News by Belfast RAC activists.

RAC condemns ban on Belfast march

THE CENTRAL Relatives Action Committee condemns the banning of the joint R.A.C.-T.U.C.A.R. march from the centre of Belfast on June 16th. In the banning order Mr Mason gave as an excuse for the Ban that he felt that the march might lead to a breach of the peace. We do not accept this excuse. About a month ago a joint R.A.C.-T.U.C.A.R. march passed through the centre of Belfast without any disturbance of the peace.

We believe the real reason for the ban was the howls of protest from the loyalists politicians after the successful march through the centre of Belfast in May organised to call for a Trade Union enquiry into the murder of Brian Maguire. This ban clearly shows that the centre of Belfast is still no-go land for non-loyalist demonstrations. This year sees the tenth anniversary of the start of the Civil Rights campaign, and yet still anti-unionists are still second class citizens in the 6 Cos. When the march was stopped at Castle Street, it was pointed out that the ban did not cover the Castle Street area, and therefore the block at Castle Street was illegal,

but this had no effect on the R.U.C.

A rally was held at the R.U.C. barricade, the meeting was addressed by representatives of T.U.C.A.R. and R.A.C.

The representative of T.U.C.A.R. said that following the result of Amnesty International enquiry, the R.U.C. Special Branch had been exposed as brutal thugs. While people living in anti-unionist areas did not need Amnesty International to tell them of the extent of R.U.C. torture at Castlereagh, most people knew someone who had experienced the horror of Castlereagh. However what has come out of the Amnesty International



Protestors face RUC at Castle Street.

enquiry is the number of people who underwent mock hanging. This makes more important that there is a trade Union enquiry into the murder of Brian Maguire. The T.U.C.A.R. representative ended by saying that the proposed private enquiry being put forward by Mr Mason was totally unacceptable, its only purpose was to whitewash the actions of the R.U.C.

The Representative of the Central Relatives Action Committee said that they were on the streets to protest about the torture now going on at Castlereagh, and to show their solidarity with the men and women fighting for Political Status. The Republican Socialist P.O.W.'s have been fighting to defend their special status for nearly 2 Years now. Since they had stepped up their protest, with the no wash protest, they had broken the wall of silence, which the British Government had managed to erect around the Political Status issue. But, this made even more important that we step-up the struggle in the streets.

— P.R.O.
Central Relatives
Action Committee.



RUC man views Castle Street Protestors with disdain.

CPI on Political Status

THE NATIONAL Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Ireland meeting in Belfast last week issued the following press statement:

"The C.P.I. views with alarm concern the further deterioration of conditions for prisoners held in solitary confinement in the H-Blocks..."

"The C.P.I. considers that the British Government are responsible for creating the present violent situation which has resulted in almost 2,000 deaths and thousands of men and women "Diplocked" away for offences they would never have committed if British policy had been different in Northern Ireland.

The British Government should now cease their policy of petty vindictiveness against political prisoners through the granting of a real and meaningful political prisoner status."

The statement finished:-

"The situation in Long Kesh is all the more urgent in the light of the Amnesty International Report which would mean that many prisoners are totally innocent. Amnesty have concluded that ill-treatment is used at Castlereagh and other centres to force "confessions" from suspects. Many hundreds of prisoners are locked away — having been convicted on such "confession" evidence alone."

Footnote:- Sinn Fein have consistently sent details of the

plight of the political prisoners to the "Morning Star", newspaper of the Communist Party of Britain. The reports, often written by the prisoners themselves have been consistently been ignored. Let's hope C.P.I. can raise this question of press coverage with their comrades.

Support the PoWs

JOIN SINN FEIN

People wishing to join Sinn Fein, please call or contact the following, or contact 2a, Lr. Kevin Street, Dublin 8.

John O'Shea, c/o 88 Kill Ave., Dunlaoghaire;
M. Cleary, 12, St. Patrick's Tce., Monkstown Farn, Co. Dublin;
Mrs. Geoghegan, Garden Flat 84, Pembroke Rd., Dublin 4;
Mrs. Langford, 10 Willbrook Pk., Gallyboden Rd., Rathfarnham, Dublin 14;
Mrs. B. McCormack, 1 Goatstown Ave., Goatstown, Dublin 14;
Tommy O'Neill, 5a Mary Akenhead House, James St., Dublin 8;
Denise Creagan, 77 Palmerstown Rd., Rathmines, Dublin 6;
Michael O'Riain, 3, Effra Rd., Rathmines, Dublin 6;
C. McGlade, 60 Mourne Rd., Drimnagh, Dublin 12;
J. Keely, 100 Windmill Rd., Crumlin, Dublin 12;
J. Quinn, 62, Bluebell Rd., Inchicore, Dublin 8;
M. Caswell, 10 Coolpark Green, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10;
Michael O Mathuna, 13, Ardan Abercorn, Inchicore, Dublin 8;
K. McGrogan, 4, Maple Grove, Bray, Co. Wicklow;
P. Cunningham, 36 Oldbawn Ave., Tallaght, Co. Dublin;
Mairin Delaney, 63, Beechill Dr., Donnybrook, Dublin 4;
Aine Ni Ghabhann, 44, Synge Street, S.C.R. Dublin 8.

RUC ACTING ILLEGALLY

IN A press statement the West Belfast branch of the Trade Union Campaign Against Repression claimed:

"The RUC by law are supposed to give 24 hours notice of the banning of marches, this they did not do; not only that but the banning order states that the march was banned from King St., College Square, Wellington Place, Donagall Sq, North, East,

South and West. Despite this we demanded that the RUC allow us to have a peaceful rally in Castle Street, which was not included in the banning order. They refused, and by doing this they were acting illegally even by their own draconian and corrupt laws."



TUCAR representatives arguing with RUC men at the bottom of the Falls Road, regarding their right to march.

Small protests big demoralisations

SOME MONTHS ago REPUBLICAN NEWS commented on the necessity to organise and mobilise behind big marches in support of political status, and that to do this large scale preparatory work was essential for motivating the people.

Last Friday T.U.C.A.R. and the RAC held a barely announced anti-repression march from Kennedy Way into Belfast city centre, where at Castle Street it was halted by the R.U.C. Due to the lack of work put into organising the march only about 150 people took part; thousands of other activists were unaware of the protest.

Poorly organised marches lead to poor turn-outs and this in turn leads to demoralisation, and in last Friday's case allowed our enemies to treat contemptuously the brave protest of the 150 people. We urge those organisers who believe in "instant mobilisation" to recognise that it is virtually impossible without the temper of the people being raised by an immediate state outrage.

From experience we know that some groups advocate every and any type of protest as contributing to highlight state repression. But this is just not so. The process of demoralisation keeps reducing the number of people prepared to protest, and only well-organised, well-publicised street activity can give people the confidence to mobilise.

TOOME MARCH

ON SATURDAY last almost 2,000 people demonstrated in Toome town centre demanding political status for Republican prisoners in the 'H' Blocks, 'B' wing Crumlin Rd. gaol and Armagh Women's Prison.

The marchers were addressed by Kevin Agnew, Joe Stagg, (Dublin), Miriam Daly (Belfast), Johnny Johnson (Derry) and George Scullion (New Zealand).

DERRY IRA VOLUNTEER ASSASSINATED

ON SATURDAY, 10 June, young Derryman Denis Heaney had his life robbed by British army assassins. As he stood in front of Derry's 7/20 Bar, two cars sped by him and the occupants shot him first in both knees and then pumped two bullets into his chest, killing him. Local people say that they saw only the drivers in the cars, though in the past British Intelligence have photographed out of secret compartments built into unmarked cars. The two cars involved – a red Marina and a chocolate-coloured 4-door – sped off down Chamberlain Street.

Says one eyewitness who works in the bookmaker's only a few feet from where Denis Heaney was murdered: "I was hanging up a newspaper just inside the door, when I heard two shots. I looked out to see a young fellow lying on the ground across the street. I heard four or five more shots while I was still in the doorway. The two cars sped off down Chamberlain Street. I ran over to the young fellow, who was lying just near the door of the 7/20. At first I thought it was a knee-capping, when I saw all the blood on his legs. But then I realised he was dead, from the blood coming from his chest wounds.

"There were only the two drivers in the cars. They came from the other side of the street and sped down Chamberlain St. The young fellow hadn't a chance."

A local resident, also on the scene within seconds of the first crippling shots being fired, was nearly knocked down by the assassin's getaway cars. He states further that "there were two different bursts of fire. One, the first, was two shots. The second was about four or five. They were shooting into the street as well."

Denis Heaney's assassination was the grisly culmination of his interrogation only three weeks previously by the RUC in their infamous Strand Road Barracks. His treatment there horrified a local doctor (Dr. McCabe) enough for him to come out publicly in the press to highlight it. (It is worth noting that the treatment which so horrified Dr. McCabe took the

loaded weapon recovered. The second terrorist ran away. There were no army casualties."

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Street.

form of mental and psychological
torture rather than a physical
beating – which his fellow
prisoner Gerry Meehan received).

Denis Heaney, having sum-
moned the strength to resist his
torture, was told bluntly: "Unless
you sign, we'll shoot you on the
street." The RUC promise was
made good on Saturday.

Riots followed this shooting. Brits and Romans were literally chased up William Street and down the Strand Road by the angry crowd. One UK man on foot patrol in the Strand had a narrow escape after the furious protestors spotted him. He must have been more fit than most, for he was able to run faster than the crowd and just escaped into the high concrete walls of the notorious torture Centre.

Feeling over this brutal slaughter ran high. After chasing the Brits and RUC up Strand Road, the rioters turned their attention to the Guildhall Square, where only a fortnight previous the Mayor at Civic Week had been proclaiming "normality" returning. The Portacabin serving as "Festival Office" was burnt down, and heavy tiered benches were dragged away from their place in front of the walls and down the street toward William Street, to be used as a barricade by the rioters, who smashed shop windows as well.

loaded weapon recovered. The second terrorist ran away. There were no army casualties."

Eyewitnesses to Denis's assassination state emphatically that there were two cars of assassins, and that the only occupant in the cars was the driver of each. "There was no way any weapon could have been recovered," states a local resident. "I was out of my front door directly after hearing the

first set of shots. The cars were on the other side of the street from the young fellow, and they nearly knocked me down in the speed of their getaway after the shooting. There would have been no time for them to have stopped their car, get out, and pick up a loaded weapon as they claim. There were people around immediately; I was right next to the boy after another man who works at the bookies, and no

one saw any gun."

The Derry Brigade of the IRA stated that "at no time was any gun produced", after investigating the circumstances of the shooting. The statement of the Brits that he was "shot while attempting to hijack a car with plainclothes soldiers in it," is obviously intended to replace their other old favourite justification for murder: "shot, while trying to escape."

Recent assassination attempts in Derry

THE ACTUAL assassinations of Colm McNutt and Denis Heaney were only among a number of attempted killings in recent months in Derry. In November, on a quiet and lonely country road on the outskirts of Derry near the Border, a carload of drunken Brits pulled out in front of a car driven by two Derry-men returning from Buncrana. The Brits pulled weapons, one holding a short and another a shotgun, and ordered the Derry-men out of their car, spreadgaged them and frisked them. Then the Brits, laughing like maniacs, took the spare wheel from the boot of the men's car and threw it into the roadside ditch.

"Go get it," they ordered the young man at gunpoint. To get the tyre he would have to turn his back on the Brits and go into the ditch. The likelihood that he would be shot in the back while doing this was high. Suddenly, another car appeared, full of a crowd of Derry people returning also from Buncrana. At the approach of this car, the Brits jumped into their car and drove off at breakneck speed.

In December, we saw Colm McNutt's assassination, only 100 years or so from the spot

where young Heaney was shot down on Saturday. Again, the Brits claimed he produced a gun, where eye-witnesses insist there was no gun produced.

In January, a young man walking in the Bogside-Brandywell area was chased by a car whose occupants waved a short-arm out at him. His evasive action succeeded and no shots were fired.

In March, a young man was walking along Iniscarn Road when he saw a car on the other side of the street slow down and fire a shot at another young man 50 yards in front of this boy. the intended victim ran off, and the car sped away towards Piggery Ridge Brit camp.

In May, a young man, Gerry Collins, was kidnapped at gunpoint on Beechwood Avenue near his home by three men posing at workmates from his factory asking him to do overtime. He was warned to "Sit still, or else" and driven off towards the outskirts of Derry. Only the luck that had a bus pull out in front of the kidnappers car, causing it to slow down, prevented them carrying out their plans. Sensing his opportunity, Gerry threw open the car door and escaped into the pub nearby.

On Wednesday night, the day after Denis Healey's funeral, a group of five women were shot at by a uniformed Brt patrol on the opposite side of the road. The women were down checking out a story by two of their daughters that three men in a car had pulled a gun and followed their daughters earlier that night. As they stood near the scene of the incident, one of the women said, "Oh look, there's the Brits across the street". Four Brits were standing at the flyover just below Long Tower Chapel, crouched down on their hunkers, fully visible despite the late hour (nearly 1 a.m.), because of a powerful street light directly above them.

Just immediately afterwards, shots were fired at the women by these Brits.

This frightening experience was made even more sinister by the fact that one of the crowd of women has been the victim of threats from numerous Brit regiments, including one that "The S.A.S. will get you." Her case for assault on her 14 year old daughter by Brits came up for trial the following Monday.

In the past, Brit-encouraged assassinations were prevented due to the efforts of many organisations and individuals to prevent the Belfast-style tit-for-tat sectarian assassinations.

With the Brits on a big publicity drive to convince the world that "the troubles are over and everything is back to normal", by removing checkpoints and such, are we now going to see the emergence of the plainclothes military assassination squads as a fact of life (or death) of the street of Derry? This is a none-to-subtle attempt to force the people into accepting back the hated RUC, not only by eliminating all political opposition by whatever means necessary, but by creating a reign of terror in the Republican areas.

Such attempts are destined to fail utterly. The Derry people refuse to become intimidated. Such vicious and cold-blooded murders as seen on Saturday last only reinforce their determination to rid their land and their city once and for all of the scourge of assassins paid and directed by the Crown and her agents.



Denis Heaney

21 YEAR OLD Denis Heaney, a volunteer from the 1st Battalion, Derry Brigade, Ogligha hEireann, was buried with full military honours on Tuesday 13th June. Thousands of mourners lined the route from Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Shantallow to the City Cemetery. Thousands more followed the sad procession into the City Cemetery, led by a uniformed pipe band, playing laments and a Guard of Honour of Na Fianna hEireann, Cumann na mBan, and Cumann na gCailiní. At the gates of the Cemetery, three volleys were fired from rifles in a last farewell to this young volunteer.

SELECTIVE HYSTERIA

THE IRA kidnapping and subsequent execution last week of RUC man William Turbitt produced howls of moralising from the Gerry Fitts of this world. Like, they couldn't even see through their own inconsistency and hypocrisy when they were calling for an amnesty and for him to be treated specially (dare we say like a political prisoner?) while they were completely opposed to political status for our comrades in H-Block.

When it comes to the taking and killing of prisoners the Brits and the RUC have unsurpassable records — Michael Gaughan, Frank Stagg, Gerard Coney, Peter Cleary, Patrick McIlhone, Danny McCooey and Brian Maguire, to mention but a few. They battered Sammy Devenney to death in his home and then complained about the "unfairness" of the IRA attacking them at home.

They murdered Harry Thornton on his way to work and then screamed about the "immor-

ality" of attacks on bus-driving UDR soldiers.

The RUC enforced the first bannings, carried out the first beatings, the first torturing, did the first jailings and the first killings. And they did it smugly with full "legal" powers.

'Morality' was only heard of the first hour after we began to resist, the first day after our struggle took shape, and the enemy invoked it after each and every act of our resistance.

What were the two RUC men up to, driving about in an

unmarked car, armed with machineguns, and with intelligence files on friends of ours? 'No-good!' is an understatement.

Remember Jake McMahon? He was an unarmed IRA Volunteer who was arrested by the RUC on the 18th January last. We got his badly decomposed body back 4 months later; he had been killed and then dumped in the river Lagan.

Can you recall a time when we ever got burying our dead in peace? Never? Wake-houses have been raided, mourners dragged out of funeral corteges, and soldiers and RUC men have always kept up heavy surveillance and tight security at all our burials of fallen comrades.

While there was selective hysteria about the deaths of the 3 RUC men there was complete silence about the sectarian killing in Glencairn by RUC

followers of Mr. Kevin Dyer, a 26-year-old Catholic, who was beaten to death early on Saturday morning.

IRA killings and captures of Brit imperialist forces in this country are carried out as acts of war.

Those on the Brit side know full well the risks involved when they roam the countryside "armed-to-the-teeth"

Let us hear no more appeals from those individuals whose participation in the politics of compromise with the Brits is prolonging the day when we can all live in peace.

If the Brits and those in "respectable" circles don't like our criteria that's too bad. Our morality grown as it has out of peoples sufferings and experiences of poverty, unemployment, discrimination and national dispossession may be

heresy to them but to us they are the issues which have led to our struggle. We know we are engaged in a struggle in which people suffer and die and we're not hypocrites about it.

WAR NEWS

The Irish Republican Army have issued us with statements claiming the following operations:

Tuesday June 12th
BELFAST

The Smithfield Ulsterbus depot was destroyed (at a cost of £3 million) in an operation carried out at 10.30 p.m. by three volunteers. Ten bombs were placed at strategic points to ensure maximum damage. Twenty one buses were wrecked, as was the main terminal building and the canteen.

Thursday June 15th
BELFAST

Belfast Brigade volunteers carried out a daring attack on the RUC barracks in North Queen Street. An army sanger was destroyed by a bomb, injuring at least one soldier. Although the soldier had to be rescued from beneath the rubble the Brits claimed he was only suffering from shock. They also sealed off the surrounding area claiming that there was another unexploded bomb. In fact the "suspect device" turned out to be the Brits SLR twisted beyond recognition.

Friday June 16th
DERRY

The IRA shot dead an RUC Reserve constable in Foyle Street.

Saturday June 17th
SOUTH ARMAGH

An active service unit carried out an ambush on an unmarked RUC patrol car at Stergary Brae near Camlough Lake. One RUC man was shot dead; another was captured and interrogated about intelligence files on local Republicans which were found in his possession.

The supplied statement read in part: "These forces (the RUC) are totally unacceptable to the nationalist people. We will continue to carry out operations against all British forces."

Monday June 19th
SOUTH ARMAGH

The RUC man who had been captured two days ago was executed.

EAST TYRONE

A remote controlled land-mine blew up a British military jeep which was part of a convoy travelling on the Dungannon to Caledon road. Three members of the occupation forces were injured.



The bombed out shell of Smithfield Bus Depot, destroyed by the IRA last week.



"WE'VE FOUND WAYS ROUND EVERYTHING" — a Blanket Man

REPUBLICAN P.O.W.'s on the blanket protest for Political Status are entering their 22nd month with more determination than ever before. Reports from within the 'H' blocks indicate that the screws are cracking up under the filthy conditions.

The latest conditions and level of morale are well described in a smuggled-out letter just received from a young Belfast Republican:

"Our own PRO's are doing a cracker job this weather over this blanket protest. We get a lot of paper cuttings in here — a good boost to morale. That's one of the best things about this place, morele and spirits have been consistently great.

"We've found ways round everything. At the moment we all have two inch diameter holes punched through the walls of our cells. The cell doors are wrecked, windows broken (over beatings) pools of piss in the corridors, food and dirt covers the walls. The pungent smell is everywhere. The place is infested with maggots and fleas (the screws

are deliberately putting maggots in our food).

Theyards and catwalks are covered in smashed furniture, broken glass, and 'mystery parcels'. The glass in the spyholes is smashed. The screws are demoralised.

"These 'H' Blocks are crumbling — literally. Million pound blocks, worth three pence halfpenny. It's magic to watch the screws faces. They are convinced we are all crazy. They are terrified. When I first came here over a year ago it was us who got beat up now the screws are not having it all their own way. Beatings are actively resisted and in two separate attacks by screws, five screws have themselves been injured.

"We were all moved to H4 the other day. The word is it's a temporary move

although we heard that a delegation from Amnesty International are coming. This would explain the screws cleaning the cells and painting the place."

It is obvious that with increasing support for the 350 Republican (and more than 50 Loyalist) prisoners protesting that the Brits are being gradually pushed into a corner from which there is no escape. Sooner or later Roy Mason (or his replacement) will be forced by continuing protests into conceding political prisoner of war status.

Meanwhile the brutality inside the 'H' blocks continues. A report we have received confirms rumours that several prisoners have been seriously injured again by screws. One of those injured is Pearse McMahon

from Tyrone who is in H4. He received a broken nose, two black eyes and needed three stitches in a face wound.

Other petty restrictions are being imposed on the prisoners in an attempt to break them. Now they are being refused their issue of toothpaste. "The screws are making them request it daily if they want to clean their teeth. Medical treatment is non-existent and many prisoners are suffering headaches, skin rashes and some are loosing their hair in handfulls.

One wonders how these men and women are withstanding the deprivations of the 'H' blocks but as can be clearly seen from the latest communications (which we print below) from both the 'H' blocks, and Armagh the resistance continues undaunted.



THE VISIT

by *Protesting P.o.W.,
B Wing,
Armagh Gaol*

TIME PASSES slowly when you're protesting for Political Status. Everyone says that time passes slowly when you're in gaol, but when you're sitting in a cell with nowhere to go and nothing to do the minutes seem to drag just that little longer. You get up in the morning and you find this day is just the same as yesterday, and will be the same as tomorrow. Routine and boring. But there's one consolation, each day that passes brings you closer to your monthly visit, every twenty-eight days, regular as clockwork, the one thing we all have to look forward to. Thirty minutes in a little room with your family and occasionally a friend.

I've been on this protest for a year and four months and in that time I've had seventeen half hour visits, a total of eight and a half hours spent with my family. It doesn't seem much when you say it like that but it means a lot to me; any break in the daily routine means

something, but a visit is the highlight of the month. You keep counting the days, every one the same; until you wake up one morning with a funny feeling in your stomach a sort of elatio. For a few minutes you may not realise what has you so excited then as you become fully awake the thought enters your mind that you've another twenty-eight days done and today you've got a visit. So now you're up and dressed, the day was started and in only a few hours you'll be seeing those familiar faces again. You'll hear a bit of seal, have a laugh, a serious discussion and all in the space of half an hour. You don't think of what happens afterwards, just keep looking forward to those precious thirty minutes and hope that your nervousness doesn't show too much this time. You don't want to give your family something to worry about, they worry enough. And boy are you

nervous? Everyone tries to laugh about it but when the time comes we're all the same. Your emotions get so jumbled-up that you don't know what way you feel. It's called nervous tension, everything so confused, you feel like laughing and crying, happy and sad all at the same time; yes that's nervous tension, but to us it's visiting day jitters. It's only a few more hours now and the nervousness is rally beginning to show, you can't sit still and your mind keeps whirling. "Will they think I've changed? Will they have changed? What am I going to say?" They're all such senseless questions but when your visit is drawing near they seem important. There are so many things you want to say, so many questions to be asked and your mind can't hold them all. It keeps jumping about from one thing to another. It's going so fast that you don't even know what you're thinking about half the time.

Last month was the same as every other, I was a nervous wreck; It sounds soft but it's the truth. It happens every month, every twenty-eight days. So I started to get ready for my visit and as every minute passed the tension kept building up, I couldn't control my hands, every nerve in my body was jumping and my thoughts refused to be straightened out. Then I heard my name called and the screw was there with the docket. It's only a few yards from the wing to the visiting box but to me it seemed like miles. I walked down the steps and along the visiting box, just like every other month; only this month there was something different.

When I got into the box the first thing the screw said to me was, "You're not allowed to sit beside your visitors. They're on one side of the table and you're on the other." I couldn't believe it, after waiting so long and looking forward so much; and I couldn't even sit beside them. I just thought "he's got to be kidding", but I knew she wasn't; the screws don't kid you, everything's for real. Then I thought, "well what can they do to me that can be worse than what they're already doing?" So I just stood there, waiting. Then I saw them coming. The people I'd waited twenty eight days to see and I knew that no matter what the screw said I wasn't sitting at the other side of that table. Not after what I'd been through. I waited until the had sat down and I moved the

chair round beside my sister. There was no way I was going to move. So then the screw started demanding that I move my chair, but she soon realised that she wasn't getting anywhere so she started on her sister. It didn't work on her either.

The screw gave up after a while and I had a great visit; but when you've looked forward to a visit as much as we do every one is great. Just as always that thirty minutes passed all too quickly and without even realising it I was back on the wing; back to another twenty-eight days of waiting and counting. But this month has been different because I've spent five of those twenty-eight days in solitary confinement. You see the screw didn't forget, and she wasn't about to let me. I was charged with a "breach" of prison discipline, refusing to obey an order and subsequently sentenced to five days solitary confinement. I got a break in the routine alright; five days alone with no exercise, therefore no chance to see any of the other girls, noone to talk to about the great visit, no one to tell the seal to. But that's over now, it happened over two weeks ago and I've only got another nine days to wait, and when I wake tomorrow morning it will only be eight days because this one is almost over. Eight more days and I'll be walking through that gate again, I'll be standing waiting for them to come in and I'll have much to say and

to many probably days in so what's five to sitting load once to p five days to normal it will only three day again.

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"QUENCH THE FLAMES OF TORTURE"

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

"It has been through your marching and contant street protesting that the lid of silence covering the horrors of the 'H' Blocks has finally been blown off."

WE THE Republican Prisoners of War on the Blanket Protest in H 5, 3 and 4 Long Kesh, in Armagh and in 'B' Wing, Crumlin Road, take this opportunity to thank you our relatives, friends and supporters for the continual unselfish support that you have shown to us over the past twenty months and in particular over the last eleven years.

It has been through your marching, and constant street protesting that the lid of silence covering the horrors of the 'H' Blocks has finally been blown off; once again laying before the eyes of the world the unceasing oppression that has been practiced by Britain not only in Ireland but in every nation she has ever set her imperialist foot.

The tortures we have endured during the past twenty months have been almost unbearable. It has been the intention of the Brits to break our spirit in an attempt to smash the Blanket Protest.

Without you we most surely would not have survived.

At present there are over 350 Republican P.O.W.'s on the Blanket Protest.

For the past five weeks we have lain on filthy, damp, wafer-thin mattresses on the

floor of our cells. Our beds and bits of furniture were removed by the screws several weeks ago. Therefore not only are we sleeping on the floor we are also eating and living on it. This existence is made worse by the piles of putrifying piles of rubbish and decaying food. The stench from this and from our unwashed bodies (now 11 weeks) is almost overwhelming.

When we wake up each morning our bodies and blankets are covered in small white maggots which crawl out of the piles of rubbish. Our bedding and mattress are flea-ridden and the walls of our cells are covered in large black bloating flies.

We are subjected to constant harassment from the screws who carry out cell searches leaving the cell wrecked. Kicking poes filled with urine all over our bedding. We are also hosed down with a high powered jet hose which the screws stick in our broken cell windows and cell doors.

This past 6 weeks the screws have been spraying our cells with an extra strong disinfectant. The fumes from which have left us temporarily blind, choking for air and vomiting violently.

We continue to put urine and other body waste out of our cell



windows. We are fed up with hving the contents of our poes kicked around our cells, as has happened on several occasions.

Our health has deteriorated due to the conditions we are held under. Many men are almot physically shattered. We are all alarmingly underweight and undernourished. Our skin is pale and yellowish. The list of medical complaints we suffer from is endless. We are half starved, harassed, beaten and tortured relentlessly.

But we have resisted and we will continue to resist.

However there is one thing we will not be able to resist and that is a massive outbreak of a serious disease within the 'H' Blocks.

We know only too well that very few of us would survive an outbreak of serious illness, death would be on a large scale.

A recent march for status down the Falls.

It is with this alarming thought that I again call on you our people to continue to escalate your protests, to quench the flames of torture within the 'H'ell blocks of Long Kesh.

But remember there is no use in destroying the hell if the devil is still free to torment and torture us in other ways. Therefore we must pursue the real devils, Roy Mason and the British Government.

We must continue to resist them until once and for all we end British' rule in Ireland.

Then and only then will there be any hope of peace with justice in our country.

Then and only then will we realise our age old dream which we along with you can gain - an Irish Socialist Republic.

DERRY WOMAN VICTIMISED

PAULINE McLAUGHLIN is 21 years old and comes from Derry City. She was arrested on the 23rd October 1976, and spent 16 months on remand. During this time the Special Branch visited her on a number of occasions to supposedly extract "extra evidence".

This process consisted of showing her photos of the soldier whom she was charged with killing. The photos- were explicit, the soldier was lying naked in a morgue. These were the same photos that this girl was shown during her interrogation, along with numerous other photos of dead people.

The photo of the soldier was constantly rubbed up and down her face. The only reason that this girl was given the photo was to produce a reaction of mental strain and tension. This type of approach by the special branch is one of the many examples of their array of torture techniques.

Whilst under interrogation, Pauline supposedly signed a statement admitting respon-

sibility for the death of the soldier.

In actual fact, on one occasion when she want for bail, the police specifically stated that she read over and signed the statement of her own free will. At this time the police were quite obviously unaware that she is illiterate, and therefore showed themselves for what they are, liars and hypocrites.

When Pauline eventually went for trial, the judge accepted that fact that she is illiterate, combined with the fact that there was absolutely no forensic evidence or any other kind of evidence against her. Yet after the police had finished uttering their monstrous lies, out of their foul mouths, the judge sentenced Pauline to deten-

tion under the Secretary of State (S.O.S.) and to 16 years.

The offence for which Pauline was sentenced took place in 1974. Political status was discarded by the Brits on 1st March 1976. However, it was specifically stated that 'any person sentenced for an offence committed before 1st March 1976 would still be entitled to be recognised as a Political Prisoner.

In complete contradiction to this Pauline was refused political status eventhough her supposed offence took place in '74.

Yet another example of callousness and indifference by the N.I.O. towards this girl was when she got news of

her Father's death on 22nd April 1978. It was assumed that she would get parole for her Father's funeral but N.I.O. refused to show any compassion whatsoever and parole was denied.

We believe that part of the reason which contributed to the denial of parole was because she is at present on protest along with the rest of her comrades for Political Status.

The prevailing conditions are fast becoming intolerable in the struggle for political status in this gaol, but we know that in the end we will win.

-PRO 'A' Coy Armagh gaol.

POLITICAL STATUS IS A RIGHT - NOT A PRIVILEGE

PRISONERS IN IRELAND SUBCOMMITTEE

Dear Friends

As you have been informed a Prisoners-in-Ireland subcommittee of the PAC has been formed. It meets weekly and has already held 4 meetings. It has contacted many political, student and TU groups in this country with a view to getting a large turnout for the July 9 Hyde Park march around H block, Long Kesh, POW status for Irish political prisoners and 4th Amnesty. There is also a pre-march meeting in the Conway Hall, London on June 30, at 7pm for final organisation of the march. Meetings are being held up and down the country with P-in-I subcommittee speakers.

A meeting was held in Manchester on May 26 under the auspices of the Revolutionary Communist Group, with speakers from the subcommittee, RCG and Sinn Fein. The next meeting to have taken place, on June 5 at Oxford, includes speakers from these same organisations plus the Relatives Action Ctee. These activities will be increased up to the time of the March on July 9.

- P. Turton, Secretary, P-in-I, Secretary, P.A.C., London.

POST BAG

All letters should be addressed to
the Editor at 170A Falls Road, Belfast.

Mason's stature

Dear Republican News,

I am increasingly distressed by RN's use of the expression "the dwarf" and similar references applied to Roy Mason.

This man is certainly most reactionary and no friend of any Irish person, and indeed deserves the greatest amount of derision and exposure from all Republicans, but I am also sure that these slurs are very hurtful and counter-productive to people who through genetic or medical defects are of a smaller size than the average person.

Many good and hardworking Republicans suffer in this way and to use this blight of nature to ridicule one person, however obnoxious, is both misdirected and insulting to them.

I find the paper most informative and stimulating and indeed I sell it, but I would appreciate on behalf of my other sympathisers that this method of discrediting Mason be dropped.

For heaven's sake, the man has so many other political defects that I'm sure your Editorials & Columns can find other more profitable ways of exposing the tyranny that Mason supports.

— Rose Kennedy
London

EDITOR'S NOTE: We accept this criticism as valid and will be making a conscious effort from now on to drop this type of ridicule.

THE SLP CONFERENCE

To the Editor,

The report on the Socialist Labour Party conference by Peter Arnall (June 3) contained many misleading and unfortunately sectarian comments. One was an attack on myself implying that only Provos can criticise the Free State government.

Though we in the Socialist Workers Tendency support and defend the struggle of the Provos against British Imperialism, we differ with the Provos on how that struggle can be won. We believe that the struggle against imperialism can only be won when it is based on a working class fight to overthrow capitalism throughout Ireland. That's why we place great importance on building a workers movement in the South to overthrow the reactionary government there. That's why we take up every aspect of capitalism — political repression, rotten wages, women's demands, bad housing, etc.

But in the fight against capitalism, we do not think socialists can bury their heads and ignore the question of imperialism which dominates Irish society North and South. That's why I argued against the right wing at the SLP conference. And I say the same thing whether I am speaking in Belfast or Dublin. That is to urge socialists and trade unionists to fight for political status, for Brits Out, and to take up the question of repression in their trade unions and workplaces. For the fight against repression will only be successful when the working class uses its own strength and organisation to lead the struggle.

Because we consider the fight against repression as a necessary and vital part of the struggle against capitalism, we have been involved in campaigns against repressive legislation and special courts and are involved in building the RACs and TUCAR. Peter Arnall considers this to be anti-Provo. We call it anti-imperialist.

Fraternally,
Joan Kelly
Socialist Workers Tendency,
Socialist Labour Party.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our report on the Socialist Labour Party Conference was by Peter Arnall in Dublin, not 'Arnus' as was printed in error.

MEN'S IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT?

A Chara,

As the war moves into its final phases Sinn Féin must reorganise itself and update its image from that of a protest party into what in reality it is or should be and that is a Revolutionary Party prepared and ready to lead Ireland into a 32 County Socialist Republic. Already Sinn Féin is publishing and educating the people in the concept of Federalism but so far people have only the generalities of the system and not a full grasp of how it will affect their own lives.

One aspect which gravely concerns at least 51% of the electorate is the position of Women within this system, and as yet Sinn Féin has no formally worked out Policy in this respect. Many women within the Movement have begun to press for an appraisal of this but so far little concern appears to be shown by the Leadership to this question, the general attitude seems to be that this is something that can be worked out once Freedom is won. It is a spurious viewpoint. We did not enter this Campaign just to win a United Ireland and suppose that the sort of Ireland it would be, could be left to work out afterwards, therefore why should Women's place within that Ireland be left to the vagaries of what could be a fluid situation?

A true revolutionary assumes that women is equal, Cathal Brugha as early as 1922 pressed for extended Franchise for women, a move defeated by erstwhile revolutionaries. It is this assumption of equality that holds back even discussion of the topic and not any antipathy to the idea within the Movement. Yet we should remember that at times it is not hostility that halts the march of any liberation but a paternalistic condescension. In the Fifties the most insidious enemy of African Liberation was not the dyed-in-the wool Colonialist but the kindly 'liberal' white who treated the African while still keeping them in a subject place within his society. These 'liberals' were attacked by Black Freedom Fighters and these attacks being hard for many to understand were a weapon for propagandists who were then able to depict the Mau Mau as blood-thirsty savages.

Women should not have to earn the right to be equal in a Socialist Republic but the women of the Republican Movement have demonstrated their capabilities both as soldiers and as politicians and more importantly as ordinary citizens who have in times of hardship kept the Movement alive with their steadfast support and courage in the face of many assaults on their homes and families. Women, though not directly involved themselves have given succour to our soldiers and ensured that morale was kept high by their demonstrations in Ireland and abroad for Ireland's Cause.

We cannot wait any longer for an examination of Women's Role in Society, there must be a coming together of Women and true Revolutionaries to work out the policy. We will not see our daughters who have fought as soldiers left aside when Freedom is won, as often happens in many Freedom Struggles. Once their usefulness is over too often are they expected to revert to the traditional role of a woman. For some women this will be enough but for many — within whom the Freedom Struggle has awakened an awareness of their own potential — will not be possible to take this step backwards.

The existing Women's Movements in this Country offer no solution; they are dominated by the middle-classes and intellectuals and are too

often British orientated, so there is in them little the working-class Republican can relate to. This image of Irish Women's Liberation has done more to harm women's equality than advance it and there is now a need for a true Movement that will not reflect this 'crank' image the existing Movements have gained for themselves, and the lead must come from the Revolutionary Party, Sinn Féin.

We are in the midst of a Revolution, not just a Liberation Struggle but a Revolution to alter the Society that we live in. The Socialist Republic will put the People of Ireland for the first time in control of the destiny of this island and in control of their own destinies. This has always been the policy of Sinn Féin and now is the time to work out the strategies of that control and that includes the control women, the 51% of the Country, will have over their destinies. Women too have learned the lessons England has so harshly taught us and it will be a sorry day if ever Irish women, like Italian women, have to become a force to be 'respected' before their case is discussed and worked out. We demand equality as a Right, a Right Irish women have earned.

"Most of you know that that enterprise was not received popularly by the Irish public during Easter Week or immediately after. But it was the women, when they organised the public masses and public meetings as far as they could, who kept the spirit alive, who kept the flames alive and the flag flying." — Cathal Brugha, March 1922.

This last part of that quotation has held true during this Campaign, often it has been man's role to suffer and die for Ireland as often it has been the woman's part to suffer and live for Ireland.

— Is Miss Le Meas,

CEN CHAOI

BRITAIN'S ARGENTINA

Dear Sir,

Over the last few weeks we have seen the pro-Brit newspapers report on the world cup in Argentina. Also they have went into some detail to tell us of the set up of the military right wing junta which rules the country.

They told us of the wide-spread torture, terror and murder carried out by the state, the missing persons and the 3,000 people being held without trial. All of this is true, yet they forget to remember the wide-spread torture which takes place all over the six-counties. This torture is being carried out by their own British Government.

The P.O.W.s in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, the murder of Brian Maguire by the RUC Special Branch, the young boy from the Short Strand who went missing and was later found in the River Lagen. Yes all this is taking place in their own little back garden but they only report when it suits them if at all. Everything that has taken place in Argentina has taken place here and is still going on day after day.

The pro-Brit murder gangs roam at will. Only last week a young man was gunned down in the Smithfield area of Belfast in full view of a Brit army post. The P.O.W.s who are fighting to be classed as political prisoners have shown the Brit war machine that they will never be beaten. Reports coming out of the hell holes tell us that things continue to deteriorate.

On the outside down roads are commonplace by the British army and the RUC.

Yes it happens in Argentina and is happening here every-day.

— P.R.O.
Twinbrook R.A.C. Belfast

600 Jobs in E. Belfast 60 Unemployment in W. Belfast

Dear Sir,

The west Belfast branch of the Trade Union Campaign Against Repression condemns the proposed location of the American sear belt factory in the strongly loyalist East Belfast. The opening of this factory which will employ 600 people was announced last week by the N.I.O., and General Motors. The location of this factory is in an area of near full employment, the unemployment rate for East Belfast is 8%. At the same time unemployment in West Belfast is at the deplorable level of 60%. This high level of unemployment has been reinforced by the laying off of 150 workers at Strathern Audio in January of this year. At the time the British Government said that Strathern Audio was not viable.

We in TUCAR see this opening of the said Rolls Royce factory in East Belfast as blatant political discrimination and sectarianism which is

TWINBROOK MAN GAOLED OVER RENT ARREARS

Dear Sir,

I was one of six people arrested in the dawn swoop in Twinbrook Belfast, a few weeks ago because of failure to pay rent arrears.

I was asleep in my bed in the early hours of the 3rd of June, when I was awakened by the banging at my front door. I got up and opened it, thinking it was the Brits. A Policeman at the door asked me my name.

I told him, he said "Have you got £200?" I asked him for what reason and he answered me nastily "For your rent". I said "No", and he then told me to get my coat and come with them. I asked him where we were going and he just said "Crumlin Rd. jail". He also told me to hurry up as they hadn't got all day. When I got into the back of the jeep there were some other lads already there.

We were taken to Dunsurry RUC station. There were six of us in all. Two of us got our shoe laces taken out, "just in case you hang yourself like Brian Maguire", said one of the cops with a big grin. The six of us were put in one small cell 6 ft long by 3 ft wide; it was stinking. We were there until 10.30 a.m. During that time 3 of the lads got out, because relatives came to the barracks and paid the money. The other three of us were taken in a 'pig' to Crumlin Rd. jail.

We got a lot of stick from one cop in particular, who wouldn't even give us a drink of water. He was English. We reached Crumlin about 12 noon and were taken to reception. They took our photos and asked us all sorts of questions, and then we were stripped naked, weighed and searched over and they looked in some embarrassing places, too. We were given blue striped shirts, brown coats, trousers, socks and underpants, which were at least 30 yrs. old.

They then marched us to the base and told us our release date of 2nd Dec. 1978, which is 6 months time as our sentence was one year each. We were put into very small cells with just a bible, I had one cigarette but I was not allowed a match so I got no light. When we were called for our dinner we got cold hard potatoes, cold raw cabbage and about one and a half pieces of cold meat, which was like rubber. I was starving so I ate it anyway. The screw opened the door about a half hour later and told me to leave the plate outside, while doing so I got a light from another prisoner. The screw didn't look too pleased. I was locked up again and

directed against the anti-unionist working class by this Multi-National capitalist company who were encouraged by the Northern Ireland Office. Obviously General Motors believe that by opening this factory in the strongly Loyalist East Belfast that their profits will be ensured because of the pro-imperialist stance and low strike record of the Loyalist working class in the last 50 years. While we do not deny anyone the right to work, we in TUCAR are once again pointing out that the anti-unionist working class are being denied that fundamental right by the British Government.

The opening of this factory in East Belfast will only reinforce sectarianism by further strengthening the privileged position in labour of the Loyalist working class. West Belfast is one of the highest unemployment blackspots in western Europe, and British Imperialism, and Multi-National capitalism obviously want to keep it that way despite their crocodile tears about the Nationalist unemployed. In the final analysis it is up to the whole Irish working class to ensure that Ireland's political and economic domination by British Imperialism and Multi-National capitalism is ended forever. Full employment and political freedom can only be guaranteed in a 32 county Workers Republic, this is the only solution for the Irish working class.

— Signed: PRO
W/Belfast Branch
T.U.C.A.R.

spent hours wondering where my wife was going to get £200.

Supertime I got one spoonful of beans and cold meat pie and a mug of tea which was like hot dirty water, I couldn't eat it. When the screw came back he asked me was I on hunger strike "like the other bastards". I said it was uneatable, he punched me on the face and told me to "fuck up". He came round later and told me I was starting work in the woodyard on Monday and that I would be getting a haircut. I didn't know what end of me was up with worry. Thankfully my wife got the £200 and I was released. Now that I'm out I realise what guts those lads on the blanket men have. Some months ago when we went to court everyone said they were willing to pay their rent, but the Housing Executive refused it. So I went down to their office (at crazy prices) and offered them the money over the counter, but they told me they couldn't take it. "If you want to pay it, you will have to go to court in Lisburn". What I want to know is why, if we are willing to pay, will they not accept it? In England or anywhere else in Britain, when you are in arrears, they'll even let you pay it off a few pounds a week, I just think they and the Housing Executive were trying to make an example of us to try and frighten everyone else in arrears. If this happened anywhere else in the world, the Brits would have it in all the papers and all over the T.V.

— signed
Twinbrook Resident.

Support
the
PoWs

WAR ON THE MIND

This week we print part IV of our series of "counter-interrogation articles; these articles are edited extracts from a recently published book "War on the Mind".

Part IV - Psychological and Political and Political Interrogation

We may now turn to those methods in which pain is not necessarily present in the interrogation but in which psychological principles are employed to extract information. These techniques can be roughly divided into those which extract information from the interrogee either without his consent or without his knowledge. In a military context it is highly unlikely that someone being interrogated would consent to give away information easily, but it is still a useful distinction.

Perhaps the most purely psychological interrogation technique is that in which the interrogator uses no aids other than his understanding of human behaviour. He comes to know how to exert influence on his captives so that they comply with his wishes. So his first aim is to exploit the compliance of the interrogee.

Many prisoners of war did not conform to the international convention (of giving names, rank, date of birth and military number ONLY) because of the psychological need to maintain 'a viable social role and an esteemed self-image'. Of 220 air force men repatriated by the Chinese Communists during the Korean war over half the interrogations lasted more than twenty-four hours, 10 per cent for more than a month. 'Coercive' methods (pain) were actually less 'effective' than non-coercive methods, unless the pain was debilitating and self-inflicted (for example, prolonged standing). Whatever their instructions, nearly all the air force men disobeyed them and conversed (in general terms) with their interrogators.

STRESSFUL SILENCE

For many, silence is an interaction is far more stressful than verbal banter, for example. In this situation, the interrogator asks short, simple questions quickly, leaving the prisoner in the role of a silent but COMPLIANT listener since the interrogator already knows the answers to his questions. 'You are from the 351st, right?' 'Based in Okinawa, right?' and so on. In addition, the assumption by the interrogator that silence is incriminating also puts pressure on the prisoner to speak to defend himself. A further technique exploiting the need to comply is to spend hours asking, shouting, questions to which a prisoner cannot possibly know the answer - details of atomic weapons, lists of leading military and political figures. Many prisoners spoke of '...the tremendous feeling of relief you get when he finally asks you something you can answer'. This is one of the more obvious examples, of how the interrogator manipulates the situation so that it is frustrating for the prisoner and his only relaxation is to 'please' the interrogator. Others yielded, 'while I still had my wits about me'. This was not necessarily giving in prematurely, but a way of avoiding full compliance in the situation and of evading guilt after it - it reassures the prisoner that he is still in full control of the situation.

FABRICATION ACCEPTED

The interrogator will often appear to 'accept' a fabricated story. This forces the prisoner into a compliant role and later he can be made to show how 'insignificant' his statement was by giving away more significant material. The artful interrogator will also dodge the prisoner's hostility by never getting angry in return. This could be very frustrating for the prisoners in Korea and was often deflected onto their own colleagues. Also men who had a rigid notion of their own behaviour, that they had, for example, a 'breaking point' beyond which they would collapse, gave in more than men with less rigid attitudes who could 'soak up' an indefinite amount of treatment.

The nature of the threats used were explored. Death threats were remarkably unproductive - they produced information on only 5 per cent of occasions. Far more effective were threats that were vague about time and the degree of physical harm; this disorganized the prisoners more and made them more compliant.

POLITICAL INTERROGATION

Interrogation techniques, according to the evidence, appear to work less well with politically motivated individuals than with others. Police and other security forces have, therefore, developed new ways to break political suspects, for instance, the 'interrogation area', which ideally consists of a reception area and the interrogation room proper which can only be reached via the reception area. The area is usually selected for its remoteness, suspects or prisoners being taken there by the most roundabout way possible to increase the sense of isolation. The prisoner will normally be taken to the area by a uniformed guard who will then leave. This is to highlight the sense that the episode is out of the ordinary. The suspect is not left alone to 'sweat it out'; the interrogator is usually in the room when the prisoner/suspect arrives, so gaining the psychological advantage. The interrogator will endeavour to look as business-like as possible: neat, clean, composed, in control. The suspect/prisoner will be given a chair that will make him sit upright, but not too comfortably, and most probably fixed to the floor, just far enough away from the desk for him NOT to be able to rest his elbows on it. The interrogator, in contrast, will have a comfortable chair, well padded, and with a swivel, so that his movements can continually emphasize his freedom.

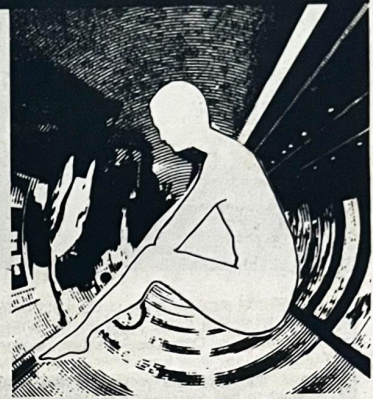
THREE-STAGE PLAN

The interrogator will work to a three-stage plan. First comes the friendly interviewer stage, used partly to get basic information about the suspect and his movements and to establish in the mind of the suspect that the interrogator is no ordinary policeman/guard and that he does not have the common attitude to criminals/prisoners. At first any mention of the alleged crime or sensitive information is general enough. The aim is to get across the personality of the interrogator, his professionalism, his humanity. If the suspect does not clap up the interrogator is doing his job properly.

After a while, however, and when the suspect/prisoner is talking readily enough, the situation is dramatically and suddenly changed. The interrogator himself may suddenly change his manner. He may have a hidden buzzer with which he can signal to the reception area so that someone will enter with, say, some official-looking papers which the suspect prisoner is not allowed to see. The interrogator reads the papers and his attitude changes - he acts as though the whole thing is sewn up, an eyewitness has been found, one of the suspect's accomplices has talked. The suspect may as well give himself up. It is a bluff, but often it works. If it does not work, then the interrogator will be changed: he will be 'called away' to be replaced by someone who is a totally different figure - a verbal bully. This sudden-change tactic works often enough for it to be the most common technique.

BUFFER ZONE

When this technique does not work the third phase is put into operation. The suspect/prisoner is removed from the room and when he returns the desk has gone and the original interrogator is back with just two chairs. The interrogator moves in close, changes regularly from a



friendly to an unfriendly attitude. In this phase he may make use of psychological findings which show that many people have a body 'buffer zone' - an area inside which we do not like other people to come. In most of us it is a circle around us, two or three feet in radius. Some people, however, have a differently shaped zone. They can stand people coming closer to them at the front but do not like anyone to come at all close to them when they stand behind, out of sight. So rather than the conventional eyeball-to-eyeball interrogation, the modern interrogator may ask many questions sitting or standing behind the suspect, out of sight. All this, of course, is part of a series of 'interviews', not a one-off affair.

A technique used in Korea that applied perhaps more to brainwashing than interrogation has been called 'ideational bullets'. This means the insertion into the interrogation of ideological assumptions designed to re-align the interrogator and prisoner so that they appear to be on the same side, working against a common enemy. It must be at the level of ASSUMPTION not explicit statement if it is to work. The interrogator will, for example, 'let slip' his feeling towards the prison camp commander or his feelings that neither capitalism nor communism works. Over time the suspect does the same and starts revealing things he would not otherwise.

The interrogator's skill lies in the degree to which he can trick the prisoner into giving away information, while the prisoner is usually fully aware that these tricks are likely to be played. There are, however, two methods in which it may not be obvious to the prisoner that he is being manipulated. In one, the interrogee's behaviour is 'conditioned'; in the other a 'stool pigeon' is used to elicit information.

CONDITIONING

Using the technique of instrumental conditioning, a prisoner's behaviour may be modified by rewarding or punishing him according to principles laid down by the captors. These principles are not necessarily readily apparent to the captive. For example, a prisoner may be fed only when he talks about the general area in which the interrogators are interested. This way the prisoner 'finds it easier' to talk about some topics rather than others. Every time the prisoner says something of which the guard approves, the guard says 'right' or offers some form of encouragement. Gradually, imperceptibly, the field is narrowed down so that the prisoner is talking about what the guard wants. Even if successful, however, this method is a slow one.

STOOL PIGEONS

The use of a stool pigeon is a variant of the 'hidden microphone' technique used, for example, by the Portuguese political police. Someone, a confederate, even a fellow prisoner, may appear to the interrogee to be a sympathetic listener in whom the interrogee can confide in an unguarded moment. There is the story of the German pilot in the Second World War who baled out over the Channel

(Continued on page 11)

HANG ABOUT WITH THE BRIGADIER



"BARRING ACCIDENTS, arrest or assassinations the Brigadier will be back on the streets of Belfast in the pages of Republican News this week", so wrote the English hacks of Time Out, London's premier weekly, last week. Well, they were wrong! And, I can tell you, I was jolly annoyed. No Brigadier for a whole two weeks! How would the oppressed masses of the RUC/UDR/BRITARMY/ASSORTED TOUTS survive? In fact, my inadvertent absence has not been due to any of the above explanations, but due to what I can only call malicious theft carried out by some of my incompetent minions who stole, without my imprimatur, I hasten to add, copy from the newspaper. This I find most reprehensible! I am used to idiots like Kenny Newboy and Roy overruling some of my more imaginative flights of fancy, but this is going a bit far.

Just because I referred to Det Sgt Wesley Johnston (RIP) the RUC man at Castlereagh who committed suicide on day of Brian Maguire's funeral and implied that the two events might be related, they have chosen to censor this! How shortsighted! I have already assured all my loyal readers in Castlereagh that there is no way that Roy's 'inquiry' will result in any of my loyal 'torturers' ever serving a single day in the pokey. Even the lads who were too enthusiastic and accidentally choked Brian Maguire to death and then hanged him up from a fake ventilator — a bit silly this because even I, from my last in visit to Castlereagh spotted that it was quite impossible to hang oneself such a joke cell — know that there is not a beagle's ghoul's

(sic) chance of any of them suffering as a result of their 'excesses'.

Not only that, but on my desk next day I find a copy of the complete works of Percy Bysshe Shelley, the late Brit, with the following lines underlined: "I met murder on the way, it had the mask of Castle-reagh". Personally, I regard this as in the worst possible taste! It should be stressed that, as boy Roy puts it, "we've only had one suicide here whereas we've had dozens in England". Not much of an advertisement for Brit jalls!

Anyway, apart from all the juicy that my loyal readers have missed in the past two weeks, one should mention the case of Marshall Borland. Marshall, who, alas, I've had to dismiss from the UDR was

convicted of beating up a Derry journalist and fined £50. Boreland, of Stirling St, Antrim has had to be sacked for silliness — he didn't check out that it was a journalist he was beating up. Pity! And talking about pity, what about Trevor Craig (28) from Kells, Co. Antrim and the UDR who was given a suspended sentence by Judge Roy Flasher Watt for what was described as "an amateurish attempt at robbery (armed)". I know he's too pathetic even to have back in 5th Batt, but it is really necessary for wellknown perverts like chopper Watt to castigate misguided youths like Trevor — I mean, there but for the grace etc!

And finally, a word about the mystery of lovely Elsie Kelsey's table. For those who live on the moon and have not

been following this immensely entertaining saga — sorry, saga — the ingredients of this stirring tale are the Lovely Elsie Kelsey, a charming person and a very lovely person (sic), two tables, two drunken pigs, by name Willie John McCaughy and John Bond, and former Min of Home Affairs John Taylor. Well, anyway, Elsie Kelsey-Elsie Kelsey, I love it! was elected by the mentally retarded citizenry of Lisburn to be their lovely lady mayoress.

Not surprisingly she held a drunken party chez Elsie to celebrate — sorry, only sherry was served to her sober guests, and we have Elsie's word under oath for that and that's jolly well good enough for me — and as a result the drunken pig McCaughy has been charged with nicking two of EK's tables. I have to admit it's a sordid tale, what with Taylor accusing his two bodyguards of being drunk as skunks and the bodyguards (McCaughy and Bond) countering by alleging that Taylor was full as a po. Spectators were even regaled with the sight of Taylor, hand on heart and bible declaring that he never drank spirits, while a muffled titter ran round the court. Eventually

the jury couldn't reach a decision and so McCaughy lives to be tried again. The only thing that bothers me is that this verdict implies that at least three members of this loyal little jury think that their former min of home affairs is a perjurer and drunk. Tsk, tsk!

Finally, vis-a-vis last week's bust and the confiscation of my articles, could it be that some dummy didn't want me to sing the praises of UDR murderer. Robert Norman Davis (27) of Aughrim Road, Castledawson who got life for murdering old Sammy Millar on January 14th '76? Could it be that they didn't want me to retell the story of how the UDR dug up old Sammy's corpse and dressed it in a UDR uniform and transferred it to its new grave in a UDR truck, propped up between 5 stalwarts of 5 UDR? Did they want me to forget the four army rapists of Campsie, Derry or Stevie Barrett, security officer of Tildarg Ave., Suffolk who is accused of Arson, No, I can't believe it. It must be some silly mistake.

Pip Pip!
I'm off to help Roy's white-wash.

Your old chum,
The Brigadier.

H-Block protestors at Dublin Charismatic Mass

LAST SUNDAY a political status protest organised jointly by Sinn Fein and the Belfast Relatives Action Committee took place at the Royal Dublin Society jumpent enclosure.

The event taking place was the International Conference on Charismatic Renewal where last Sunday a Mass attended by almost 25,000 people was celebrated.

The demonstrators distributed almost 40,000 Sinn Fein and RAC leaflets. The leaflets questioned the role of the Catholic hierarchy regarding their silence about the

prison conditions in the occupied six counties.

The leaflet also highlighted that the Catholic church in South American countries such as Chile, and Europe where political prisoners are being ill-treated engaged in positive work to help those imprisoned.

Eight mothers whose sons are on the blanket protest, dressed themselves in blankets and attempted to gain admission to the Charismatic conference. They were refused on the grounds that they were engaged in a political protest.

Answering this criticism Maura McCrory, Chairwoman of the Central RAC told one of those refusing the group admission, "We are Christians, as you are, even though we come from the North. We are not engaged in a violent protest. We simply want to receive communion in the same manner as almost 350 prisoners in the 'H' blocks do weekly. We want to bring reality into this conference by showing those people especially foreign visitors the true side of the situation in this country and highlight the silence of the Catholic hierarchy."

After being refused admission the gardai and plain clothes detectives arrived on the scene and began questioning the blanket-clad women.

Later on some members did get into the hall and walked quietly among the 25,000 strong crowd carrying placards calling on the Catholic church to do something about the prisoners plight.

Two Belfast activists climbed onto a raised platform overlooking the vast crowd and displayed 'H' block placards.

Other protestors lined the entrance of the building distributing leaflets and calling on those attending the conference to show concern about the prisoners.

The protestors reported that some of those attending the conference were sympathetic and many of them said they would pray for the prisoners at the Mass.

Madge McConville from Turr Lodge RAC speaking to a foreign journalist summoned up the reason why she was there, "Sunday 18th June is regarded as a family occasion namely Father's Day. Thousands of people are celebrating today but there are hundreds of Fathers in the hell holes of Long Kesh who have not seen their children for almost 2 years. It is this message we want to get across here to-day".



Upper Springfield people against repression

LAST MONDAY night in West Belfast the "Upper Springfield People against Repression" organised their first public protest.

The protest (supported by Sinn Fein and the RAC) was to highlight the plight of local people suffering under the tightened fist of Brit military repression.

In the past fortnight people have had to suffer increased raids on their homes, arrests of young people and daily brutality by the Brits in the streets.

In a press statement the new committee claimed "the area was under a mini-siege as

British Army stormtroopers invaded the area, raiding whole streets, restricting movement and dishing out severe punishment to innocent men, women and children."

A two-hundred-strong public meeting at the corner of Whitecourt and Springfield Road listened to calls from speakers to unite and fight back against the Brits on a community basis.

One speaker said: "The time is now to build up area resistance committees; to display solidarity with each other. This is the only practical way to oppose Brit harassment."

TRENDY LEFTIES in Britain are busy recalling the tenth anniversary of the barricades in Paris in May 1968 and the Tet offensive of the Viet Cong. No one seems to be mentioning Ireland but then we're not too surprised at that!

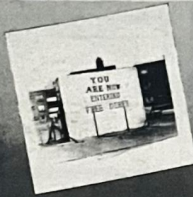
This bulletin (Workers' Research Unit Bulletin No. 4) fills this gap in looking at Derry ten years after the early civil rights days. A detailed analysis is made of the economic and social problems of Derry and we see how little things have changed since 1968. Unemployment in particular is looked at very closely and we see that unionist-capitalist mis-rule can never provide steady jobs for the people of Derry.

Only a united Ireland under a Socialist Republic can begin to resolve the North-West which, even in Belfast we tend to forget about. This struggle is today being waged heroically by the Republican people of Derry.

Closer to home as it were there is an exclusive and very revealing analysis of the great Strathearn rip-off. But I won't tell you about that — you'll have to buy yourself a copy of the bulletin! The mercenary trail from Belfast to Southern Africa is also featured, as well as a close look at a monstrous frame up of the Conlon family by the Brits legal machine. More "technical" articles look at state investment in the North (and how it won't help us) and some of the arguments around the prospects of an "independent Ulster".

**Support
the
PoWs**

WORKERS' RESEARCH UNIT BULLETIN NO.4



**derry:
10 years
after**

**the great
strathearn
rip-off**



**ALSO: Mercenaries; Independence;
State Investment; Frame-Ups**

**£50 (50p)
£250 (25p)**

One can only say that it is a good thing when "intellectuals" come down from their ivory-towers and try to contribute to the struggle for national liberation.

Power grows out of the barrel of a gun sure enough, but a sound understanding of our exploiters and oppressors means that the gun is better directed.

WAR ON THE MIND

(Continued from page 9)

while flying a new type of fighter aircraft. The usual interrogation methods failed to elicit any information about the aircraft; but when the pilot was later admitted to hospital, he was put into a bed next to a British pilot who was able to discuss technical details of various aircraft. It was not long before the German pilot was discussing the technical merits of his own plane.

A similar technique was used in Korea. It is based on a rare psychiatric abnormality in which two people come to share the same mental illness, usually the same set of delusional beliefs. A stool pigeon is placed in the compound with the prisoners and he tries to 'infect' their thoughts with well-placed suggestions. In time, and if well done, this can apparently so confuse a prisoner that he may come to believe the stool pigeon and give information away without realizing it.



ORGANISE, AGITATE AND FIGHT TO WIN

They steal our sweat and labour — we try to fight back
When we fight back they try to steal and screw some more
We organise and they get scared
A scared and wounded animal is dangerous.

They build prisons, train special police, make steel forts
March armies, tanks and guns
To protect profits, mansions, factories, banks and ranches
Which they built stealing our labour.

They tell us to work, in order to screw some more
Get thrown on the streets when profits are down
In schools to listen to rubbish — at home to survive
In fear and anger
Paying rent to the State, ignored by the State
And attacked and brutalised by the same State

2 Armies too many — 2 States too many
Countless prisons too many
Prisons for women, prisons for kids
Prisons for men young and old
For those who fight back
Alone or together prisoners of capital
Whether you call it crime or resistance
Prisoners of the States all the same.

A Hell Block up North — over 300 men in blankets
And women in Armagh
That shouldn't be there.
The same struggle inside and outside
Against British degradation and repression —
Against capital
The Brits are still there — the Yanks are coming
Irish people fighting for the right to be human
Alive and free.

Loughan House — junior Portlaoise in the south
For the working class young who are angry
With little to do except fight.

A divided country of locked and unlocked prisons
Work prisons, factory prisons, home prisons
School prisons and mind prisons
Big prisons where men and women you find

Savaged by the State in body and mind.

2 choices only: repression or organisation
Surrender or fight back
Take it easy and be nice or fight whatever it takes
Be with it or against it
For we are very much without it

Empty the prisons, free all prisoners, organise
Agitate and fight to win
Attack the State.

ORGANISE, AGITATE AND FIGHT TO WIN

STATEMENT BY RUAIRI O'BRAIDAIGH, PRESIDENT, SINN FEIN, ON AMNESTY REPORT

"Torture as an instrument of British rule in the six counties has never ceased"

THE FINDINGS by Amnesty International on allegations of torture of political prisoners by British Crown Forces in the Six Counties come as a vindication of the work of many dedicated human rights and legal justice bodies as well as of concerned individuals motivated by humanitarian considerations.

Despite the indictment of the British Government by the European Commission and Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg in February 1977 and again in January last for torture and inhuman and degrading treatment of political prisoners, and flying in the face of guarantees given by two British Attorney Generals that such practices would be discontinued, torture as an instrument of British rule in the Six Counties has never ceased.

With the phasing out of the 1970s period of internment without trial in 1975, seven day detention incommunicado was extended to the Six Counties under the British Prevention of Terrorism Act. This was the first stage in a new conveyorbelt system — as an alternative to internment — which led through interroga-

tion and torture, forced confessions, appearances before the non-jury Diplock courts with special rules of evidence which encourage torture, special long sentences of imprisonment and finally the degradation of the Long Kesh H-Blocks with denial, since 1976, of prisoner-of-war status.

Mr. Mason's offer of an inquiry behind closed doors is not acceptable and Sinn Fein would not co-operate with it. Experience of the Widgery inquiry into the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry and other British inquiries show

that this is merely another face saving exercise. For the British Government and that the practitioners of torture have been given an amnesty in advance.

Any such inquiry to be meaningful would need to be public with wide powers to compel attendance of witnesses and production of documents for scrutiny, and in the final analysis would have to be constituted on an international basis by a body such as the United Nations or the Conference of Non-Aligned Nations in order to be truly independent and to gain public

confidence.

The politicians of the 26 County State are inhibited in commenting on this matter of course, because the Coalition parties of Fine Gael and Labour were found wanting by a similar Amnesty investigation south of the Border last year and this Fianna Fail party has done nothing worthwhile to respond to the call by the prestigious human rights body for an independent public inquiry into Garda brutality, Portlaoise Prison and the operation of the Special Non-Jury Court.

BELFAST MARCH

Sunday 25th June

DEMAND POLITICAL STATUS FOR POW'S

Organised by Belfast Sinn Fein

All anti-imperialist groups welcome

SEE LOCAL PRESS FOR DETAILS

RUC intimidate Lurgan mourners

LAST WEEK in Lurgan saw the remains of Long Kesh's oldest Republican Henry Heaney of Milltown being interred in St. Coleman's cemetery Lurgan amidst one of the most provocative and intimidatory four days witnessed in the Lurgan area since the start of the present struggle. The Brits and R.U.C. not satisfied with virtually permanent road-checks a few hundred yards from the wake house, in their attempt to intimidate people from paying their last respects, even went to the extreme of photographing many persons whom they stopped and interrogated.

Then on Tuesday 6th, two senior R.U.C. personnel had the audacity to approach the wake house and tell the relatives that if a military funeral with persons wearing uniforms took place they in their capacity as so-called upholders of their law and order would interfere with it and not allow it to take place under any circumstances.

Then a few hours later a contingent of Brits arrived. They mockingly gave relatives a mass card supposedly from the chaplain of his torturers in Musgrave Park Hospital which was not accepted by the family of the deceased.

BODENSTOWN BUSES HELD UP

THE BRITISH Army and R.U.C. were out in full strength on Sunday morning last (11th June) in a blatant attempt to intimidate and harass all those leaving from Lurgan for the Annual Bodenstown Commemoration.

Two buses travelling from Lurgan were stopped a short distance out of the town and

taken off the main road. Everyone was taken off the buses and their names and addresses documented. After this all the occupants were photographed individually by the British Army. Even the children in the band had their photographs taken.

The buses were eventually allowed to proceed after being held up for over an hour.

We see this as sheer intimidation on the part of the Brits and R.U.C. in their attempts to scare off popular support for the Republican Movement. They don't seem to grasp that intimidation and harassment such as this does not deter us but only strengthens our resolve to see that this final stage in the struggle for Irish Freedom is brought to a successful conclusion.

P.R.O. Lurgan Sinn Fein

Newry & South Down Comhairle Ceanntair

Joint Sinn Fein and R.A.C.

PROTEST MARCH AND RALLY in Support of Political Status

Assemble Camlough Grove at 3.00 pm
Saturday 24th June

END SILENCE ON TORTURE OF IRISH PRISONERS OF WAR

Demonstration

Sunday 9th July Assemble 2.30pm
Speakers Corner Marble Arch

Prisoners Aid Committee

P.O. Box 182 Upper Street London N1

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

☆☆☆

O'HAGAN (FELIM) Birthday greetings to our dear son Felim on the blanket in H Block. God bless you Felim. We are proud of you and your comrades and are behind you all the way, U.T.P. From Daddy, Mummy and Dara.

Brian Petticrew, 23rd Birthday 24th June. H-Block. Happy Birthday Brian on this your 23rd Birthday. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Mary Mother of God wrap him in your mantle of blue and protect him and all his comrades Love from his Mother, Father, Sisters and Brothers, also Katrina, Armagh Prison.

To Felim O'HAGAN (Lurgan) on the blanket, H-Block, Long Kesh. Wishing you all the best on your 23rd Birthday. Hope your next one is spent in more human conditions. Always thinking of you and all your comrades. May God give you strength. Lots of Love, Eilish, Leonard and Children.

Felim O'HAGAN (Lurgan) on the blanket, H-Block, Long Kesh. Happy 23rd Birthday Felim (Tom). Hope your next is spent in freedom. Good luck and God bless from all your friends in Lurgan.

Brit spy-post discovered in Derry City cemetery

ON WEDNESDAY, a Brit spy post was discovered hidden in a large tree in the City Cemetery, Derry. From it, Brits had visual access to the backs of houses in Iniscarn Road, to Kildrum Gardens, and to parts of the Brandywell.

The spy-post was subsequently destroyed. We cannot stress too much the danger of such spy-posts and we urge local residents to be on the alert for such undercover activity. In the recent past, a large observation post was discovered in the Bogside, fully equipped with sensitive directional microphones a sophisticated camera set-up, and other spying apparatus.

In the past, Brit murder squads have operated from such spy-posts. Especially in light of the events of recent weeks - assassination attempts and the latest murder - we warn everyone to take extra precautions to avoid becoming the SAS's next victim.

Social night

SOCIAL NIGHT in Andersonstown Social Club, Belfast on Friday 23rd June. Music by "The Batterin' Ram", plus guest artiste. Taille 75p.

NOTES

BY CORMAC

